
50 Years of History

The Netherlands

Name of organisation: Nederlandse Vereniging voor Manuele Therapy (NVMT) / Dutch Association for Manual Therapy

Year organisation started: 1981

Member of IFOMPT since: 1992

Key influencers of OMPT through the years: The following persons are honorary members and have won multiple prizes: Prof. dr. Rob Oostendorp was the first manual therapist in the Netherlands who received his PhD. He has had an exceptional career in manual therapy with groundbreaking academic research and dedicated clinical practice. Dr. Anton de Wijer has been influential in guiding the direction and activities of the association. He served as chairman of NVMT's Executive and a member of the NVMT's congress committee.

The following persons have been recipients of a prestigious NVMT award: James Gerlag, Klaas Huismans, Aad van der El, Henk van Mameren, Will Bonneveld, Henk Mohr.

Developments over the years: The NVMT's journey with IFOMPT has seen significant evolution. The NVMT was established in 1974, yet it was not until 1992 that it became a full member. This delay was largely due to differences among various manual therapy groups, such as NAOMT, NVOMT-Maitland Concept, and the NVMT itself, and the challenge of representing all MT members effectively, a process that didn't immediately yield a consensus.

The NVMT has played a substantial role in numerous facets of IFOMPT, ranging from management roles to active participation in various committees. Dr. Jan Pool has been a long-term member of the standards committee and was awarded the prestigious David Lamb Memorial Award in October. Peter Boelens, Erik Thoomes and Annelies Pool have served on the executive committee. NVMT organized the IFOMPT conference in Rotterdam in 2008, a key event that underscored its deep commitment and integral role within IFOMPT.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years: Over the nearly 50-year history of the NVMT, there have indeed been significant changes and challenges. Initially, the NVMT was a union of various streams within manual therapy. Over time, there has been a progressive professionalization of the field. Key developments include the establishment of an up-to-date professional competency profile, elevating educational programs to a Master of Science level, and fostering a more scientific approach within the profession. One ongoing challenge is ensuring that the practical aspects of manual therapy are sufficiently supported and enhanced by scientific insights and critical reflection. This balance between practice and science is crucial for the continued evolution and effectiveness of the manual therapy profession.

Current status and challenges: The NVMT continues to play a vital role within the IFOMPT, with Dr. Marloes de Graaf serving as the Member Organization delegate and Dr. Nathan Hutting and Dr. Jan Pool actively involved in one of the IFOMPT's working groups.

The future of the organisation: The NVMT's goal is to further strengthen our role as a leading musculoskeletal specialist within the healthcare landscape; advocating for members on areas as income and bridging the gap between scientific research and practical application. This dual focus ensures that our members are well-represented and remain at the forefront of professional and academic advancements in manual therapy.
