

## 50 Years of History

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### United States of America

**Name of organization:** American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (AAOMPT)

**Year organization started:** 1991

**Member of IFOMPT since:** 1992

**Key influencers of OMPT through the years:** Many have influenced the development and advocacy for OMPT, most assuredly AAOMPT's 10 Founding Fellows: Dr. Richard (Dick) Erhard, Dr. Joe Farrell, Dr. Ola Grimsby, Dr. Patricia King, Dr. Kornelia Kulig, Michael Moore, Dr. Stanley Paris, Dr. Michael Rogers, Dr. Bjorn Svendsen and Carol Jo Tichenor.

**Development over the years:** Since its establishment, AAOMPT membership has grown to over 3400 members and 40 accredited OMPT fellowship programs. The American Physical Therapy Association recognizes AAOMPT as the organizational representative of the US to IFOMPT.

**Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:** To maintain and protect educational standards set by IFOMPT, the AAOMPT Standards Committee was developed in the early 1990's and was responsible for the first standards for residency education in the US. The standards were framed after the educational guidelines of IFOMPT. The AAOMPT Standards Committee works collaboratively with the Accreditation Council on Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Education (ACOMPTE) to ensure and maintain the standard of OMPT education.

The AAOMPT has been instrumental in response to legislative challenges surrounding direct access, manual therapy/manipulative procedures in clinical practice, and issues related to procedures performed by supportive personnel. For example, the APTA Manipulation Task Force, a collaborative effort between APTA and the AAOMPT, successfully protected OMPT practice in state chapters, developed consistency in the AAOMPT and APTA documents, and enhanced the level of instruction in OMPT in professional education.

**Current status and challenges:** The AAOMPT is a robust organization that promotes best practice of OMPT through multimedia platforms, internal organizational committees, annual conferences, and research and advocacy sponsorships and funds. One challenge is increasing awareness of OMPT and improving the perception of the practice. We have engaged marketing and communications firms to develop a strategy for communicating our mission and the value of OMPT, as well as inspiring future OMPT leaders. AAOMPT continually strives to improve patient care through research and development opportunities for our practitioners.

**The future of the organization:** Awareness is the future of AAOMPT; an awareness of benefits of orthopaedic manual physical therapy and an awareness of opportunities for research to help practitioners hone their craft. Our students and young professionals are the future of OMPT, and we need to invest in their education and professional development.

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