

**EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS**



NEWSLETTER

September-October 2014

General Assembly 2014 Hamburg (page 2-3)

New Executive Committee and Working
groups/News (page 4-5)

UK conference (page 5-6)

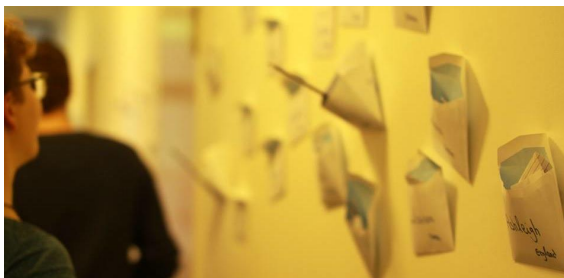
Interesting Events (page 7)

ECPTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

Located beside the calming expanse of Außenalster Lake, but not too far from the bustle of Hamburg city, Hochschule Fresenius, University of Applied Sciences, opened its doors to physiotherapy students from across 16 European countries for ECPTS' annual general assembly.



The gathering was the fifth of its kind with local students hosting the event. Across the weekend engaging discussions took place, friendships formed and experiences shared. There was much to look forward to and, for some, all to think about as positions for the Executive board and Working Group needed to be filled on the final day.



A charming touch: students exchange kind words through the popular letterbox system

The first day was very much a social day with lots of meet-and-greets that continued on into a sight-seeing tour of Hamburg and a fun evening of classic Bavarian food, music and drink; a taste of the true Oktoberfest. The buzz of conversation and laughter perfectly captured the spirit of ECPTS and set the tone for the weekend ahead.



On Saturday, ECPTS was down to business. Dr. Schirrmacher officially welcomed delegates on behalf of the

University followed by a few words from Mrs. Sibylle Görg of the national union, Physio Deutschland, and our sponsors. Interactive workshops included a thought-provoking debate on the respective national guidelines for the rehabilitation of ACL reconstruction and hip replacement protocols which highlighted the diversity of physiotherapy between countries, while the next day everyone had the opportunity to speak their mind on the working structure within ECPTS, which the outgoing executive board explained was open to reorganisation to better suit new goals.

When the day was over, some people stayed behind to relax, while most of the Europeans went strolling in the Hamburg sunset, preparing themselves to dine at a waterfront restaurant before a night of dancing in the famous Reeperbahn in St. Pauli.

Sunday was election-day with in-depth presentations of the various roles of the executive board. Those who put themselves forward delivered impressive speeches to try and win a place on the team, not of course without some stiff competition for the role of Vice President. After some deliberation, the Executive Board re-emerged as a complete team with well-suited roles to match.

Roisin Houghton's final duty as President was to unveil the new ECPTS logo, which features the traditional graduate mortarboard hat in blue that symbolises education, a wave in the middle to signify creativity, and the parts above and below to represent unity and harmony between its members, all of which is wrapped in the colours of Europe. Its meaning certainly seemed to fit with the weekend that had passed.



The new logo unveiled:

The Mortarboard of Education,

Unity & Harmony,

With the assembly drawn to a close and the delegates coming away beaming, there was time for one final goodbye on the water's edge before we parted ways to begin another exciting year ahead for the ECPTS and the European student physiotherapy community.



Written by Piers Baker & Mathias Pederson

A Physio Footsteps publication

New Executive Committee and Working groups/News

After the speeches, the election begun and a new team was formed **for the executive committee**. There was strong representation from the University of Central Lancashire (UK) with Daniel Roberts elected as President, Ashleigh Nicholson for Secretary General and Rachel O Mahoney for Treasurer, while Dimos Petrou (Greece) and Klára Kucerová (Czech Republic) were elected as Vice Presidents for development and communications and Student mobility respectively.



The Working Groups also took shape as volunteers signed up to various projects that help run the ECPTS such as social media, communication and student mobility projects. The groups were agreed as follows;

Communications

Dimos (Greece)
Piers Baker (England)
Mathias Pedersen (Denmark)

Student Welcome

Ozgun Uysal (Turkey)

Student Mobility

Klara Kucerova (Czech Republic) (Vice President)
Mira Ruhl (Germany)

Facebook and Twitter

Daniel Roberts (England) (President)
Aoife Hennelly (Ireland)
Kamile Petrauskaite (Lithuania)

Website

Hanna Kalajas (Estonia)

The New Executive Board and Working Groups are fastly getting accustomed to their jobs and they are trying to reach the level of their predecessors. There has been many unofficial skype meetings with the previous board members .The new executive board has done two official skype meetings, one every two weeks. There are many discussions for the future of ECPTS and structure of this organization. Furthermore, the collaboration between the members of E. B and W. Gs is going very well and this is the a great chance for creating new friendships all around Europe.

Last but not least, a survey was created and sent out by the new General secretary, Ashleigh Nicholson, to determine people's opinions on what was successful at the general assembly in Hamburg and what could be improved on for next year so that we can organise an even better event.

UK conference 10-11 October 2014

LINK: <http://www.physiotherapyuk.org.uk/>

Physiotherapy UK welcomed 1,200 physiotherapy staff from more than 20 countries to Birmingham in October 2014.

More than 200 speakers and poster presenters from the UK and worldwide presented a two-day programmes across four main themes:

- **Community rehabilitation**
- **Learning and development**
- **Musculoskeletal**
- **Neurology**



The ECPTS team was in the UK conference and was represented by members of the new and old Executive Committee including the current president Daniel Roberts and the previous one Roisin Houghton. Also, two Portuguese physio students who won the video competition, were part of the team. Many new connections and friendships were made. Daniel spent some time with Emma Stokes (Vice president of WCPT) and there were some great discussions. This whole event was a great experience for learning new things and sharing ideas. But mostly, this was an opportunity for promoting physiotherapy as a necessity in the healthcare system and showing physio students that they should be proud of their profession.



INTERESTING EVENTS

ECPTS is in collaboration with **WHSS** (WORLD HEALTHCARE STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM) which will host an event at Skopje, FYROM and for the first time there will be physiotherapy students.

Also, in Nijmegen, Netherlands will take place the **Physiocouch** event at 19-20 March

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/physiocouch>

Written by **Dimos Petrou**

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