

May 2009

Dear physical therapy colleagues and policymakers:

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is pleased to be partnering with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) to host the International Summit on Direct Access and Advanced Scope of Practice in Physical Therapy from 22nd to 24th October 2009 in Washington DC.

This Summit will inform future international and national policies and strategies to enhance service delivery through advancing direct access and assess the scope of physical therapy practice. The summit will examine international perspectives, differing national experiences and strategies for developing and implementing future policy. We know there is international variation in how services are delivered and strategies for successfully changing health policy. There is, therefore, much to be gained by learning from each other. Leading physical therapists from policy and practice will share their experiences and inspire others for the benefit of the recipients of our services.

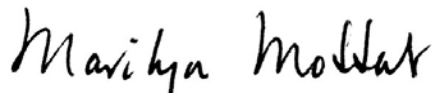
This summit is a must for any national physical therapy association looking to work with their governments to implement direct access and review the scope of physical therapy practice. Such changes require negotiations between the profession and regulatory and legislative bodies often leading to legislative changes. For some of WCPT's member organisations direct access has been in existence for a long time. But for many others a lot of strategic policy work is still required and these efforts will benefit from international collaboration.

All areas of clinical practice continue to see significant changes as the evidence base for practice develops. This summit will therefore look at the evidence for the scope of practice and will be of interest to clinicians and educators wanting to implement changes for the benefit of service users.

An international event, such as this Summit, provides a wonderful opportunity to look beyond national boundaries and examine variations in practice and developments internationally. There is so much that can be learned from sharing experiences and working collaboratively at an international level.

I look forward to welcoming you to Washington.

Yours sincerely



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