

Primary track/topic: Globalisation: health systems, policies & strategies

2nd track/topic: Professional practice: other

3rd track/topic: Professional issues

Abstract title: MOVING BEYOND EUROPE- ENGAGING THE WORLD OF PARKINSON'S PHYSIOTHERAPY

Author(s): Graziano M.¹, Jones D.², Ramaswamy B.³, Lindop F.⁴

Affiliation(s): ¹*self-employed, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg*, ²*Northumbria University, Department of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom*, ³*Independent Physiotherapy Consultant, Visiting Fellow Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, United Kingdom*, ⁴*Specialist assessment and rehabilitation centre, Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS foundation Trust, Derby, United Kingdom*

Background: Since launching in 2000, the Association of Physiotherapists in Parkinson's Disease Europe (APPDE) has expanded its membership further afield than across Europe to encompass global membership. The past 16 years have been witness to the growth of the Association from a small group of enthusiastic physiotherapists into an international network, promoting best practice of physiotherapy for people affected by Parkinson's to professional groups and patient associations welcoming more members to share expertise more widely.

Purpose: To reflect on the process of evolution from a European into an international network, with consideration of the future of the APPDE.

Methods: Social media Tools (Facebook, Twitter) and communication technology (website, Prezi and open access internet projects) provided a virtual Platform from which facilitate the Association's growth.

Strategic collaboration has been sought to create understanding between the APPDE and other organisations, including the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), International Neurological Physical therapy Association (INPA), European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA) ParkinsonNet International, World Parkinson Coalition (WPC) and the Movement Disorder Society (MDS).

Individual members have taken responsibility to contribute ideas and channel energy into the development and future challenges for the APPDE.

Results: The APPDE has reached the world of physiotherapy through different projects, with smart phone availability increasing the Association's networking visibility:
In the past, designed and produced the "Practical Guidelines for Physiotherapy in Parkinson's Disease" DVD educating physiotherapists about management throughout the course of the condition, and collaborated on an internet-based project to create a Physiotherapy in Parkinson's information portal. (www.physio-pedia.com/APPDE_Project)
Acted as a key Partner in the development and implementation of the European Physiotherapy Guideline for Parkinson's in collaboration with ParkinsonNet International. Assisted translation of the Guideline from English into Finnish, Portuguese and German. More recently has pushed continuous Professional development and mentoring opportunities at international congresses and conferences. E.g. As faculty educating health professionals on MDS Allied Health Professional Physiotherapy Summer Schools Faculty (Netherlands 2013, Portugal 2014, Belgium 2016) and INPA Network Session (WCPT Congress Singapore 2015).
Communication in a number of (European) languages continues to facilitate insight into different health care systems, providing the Association with scope to share physiotherapy practice in Parkinson's worldwide.
Find opportunities for continued promotion of shared-management for people with Parkinson's, working in partnership with them through different initiatives, including WPC Leadership Forum 2016: Building a Global Parkinson's Community, in Portland Oregon, USA.

Conclusion(s): Over many years the APPDE has built links with individual physiotherapists and partners with specific expertise in Parkinson's from across the world. Both virtual and face-to-face interconnectivity continues to provide opportunities to discover novel approaches in health systems beyond their own, reaching a global community and opening new shared possibilities.

Implications: The international nature of the APPDE network indicates the WCPT as its natural home, by joining, for example, INPA, neurological WCPT subgroup.

Key-Words: Networks; Interconnectivity; Global

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