



International Organisation of Aquatic Physiotherapists (IOAPT) 3rd General Meeting - Meeting minutes

Date: Friday, 26 May, 2023

Time: 12:00h (Lisbon time, Portugal)

Local: Online (Zoom)

3rd IOAPT General Meeting (online) - 26 May 2023

Meeting Agenda Points:

1. Call to order and welcome

The president César Sá call the meeting to order and welcome everyone. The president was the presiding officer.

IOAPT has had the greatest growth in their first term within World Physiotherapy with a great journey so far in the first 4 years and now at 27 members. Now to consolidate our sub-group and progress our development. We need a strong and committed subgroup to sustainably grow.

2. Roll call

- Portugal César Sá (CS) present
- United Kingdom Julie Dixon (JD) present
- Denmark Sannemarie Daviessborg (SD) present
- Brazil Mauricío Koprowski Garcia (MG)- present
- Argentina Fabiana Giannini (FG) present
- Mexico Karen Morales Soler (KS) present
- South Africa Shirley Eberlein (SE) present
- Australia Sophie Heywood (SH) present
- United States of America Charlotte Norton (CN) present
- Ireland Fiona Pegum (FP) present
- Hong Kong Billy So (BS) present
- Chile Gloria Aravena Okuinghtoons (GAO) present





- Puerto Rico Yara Humaran Martinez (YHM) present
- Georgia Leila Chantladze (LC) present
- Costa Rica Karol Vega (KV) present
- Greece Kostas Chandolias (KC) present
- Malaysia Danaraj (Raj) Gunaratnam (DG) present
- Peru Nohely Rodríguez Zevallos (NZ) present
- Trinidad and Tobago Wynelli Pierre (WP) present
- Canada Alison Bonnyman (AB) present
- Rwanda Etienne Byiringiro (EB) present
- Italy Adriano Coladonato (ACol) present
- Guatemala Abner Samuel Hernandez Callejas (AC) present
- Uruguay Gabriel Sonderegger (GS) present
- Jordan Abdelrahman Haitham (AH) joined later
- Angola Victoria Fortunato (VF) joined later
- Spain António Cuesta apology

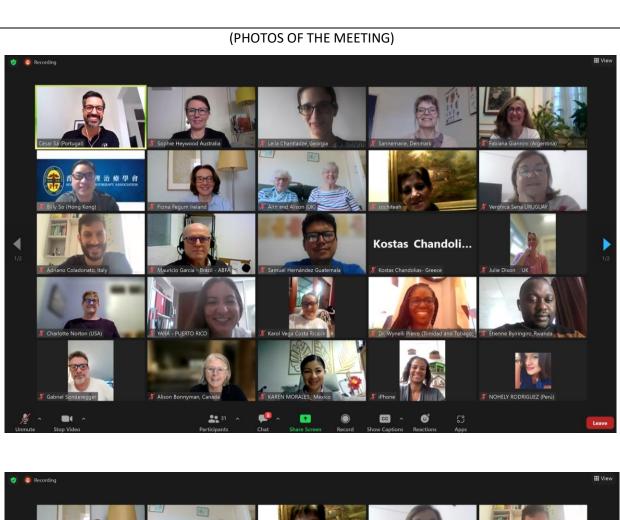
Observers:

- 2 observers from UK Ann Thomson (AT), Alison Skinner (AS) present
- 1 observer from Australia Lily Kochen (Australian National Chair) joined later
- 1 observer from USA Yasser Salem joined later
- 2 observers from Chile Ana Alday present
- 2 observers from Puerto Rico Jose Menendez, Veronica Casal present
- 1 observer from Bolivia Adriana Fuentes present
- 2 observer from IATA-China Ting Zhang (TZ), Xuetong present
- 1 observer from Uruguay Veronica Sena present
- 1 observer from Venezuela Paola Guevara present

Agreement from all the attendees for Zoom meeting to be recorded for members unable to be present (but not for wider distribution).













3. Approval of the agenda

There were no matters arising and the agenda for the 3rd IOAPT General Meeting was approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 2nd IOAPT General Meeting

The minutes of the 2nd IOAPT General Meeting were approved.

5. IOAPT four-year report 2019-2022

The president César made a resume of the IOAPT four-year report, the work of the subgroup over the last four years. Refer to the report for further information including the COVID-19 statements, recommendations and information; Latin-American working group; surveys fulfilled by all the member countries.

6. Reconfirmation of the IOAPT members:

- 1. Portugal Grupo de Interesse em Fisioterapia Aquática Hidroterapia (GIFA) of the Associação Portuguesa de Fisioterapeutas (APFISIO) / Ordem dos Fisioterapeutas de Portugal
- 2. Spain Asociación Española de Fisioterapeutas (AEF)
- 3. United Kingdom Aquatic Therapy Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (ATACP) from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
- 4. Denmark Danish Aquatic Physiotherapy Group from Danske Fysioterapeuter (Danish Physiotherapy Association)
- 5. Brazil Associação Brasileira de Fisioterapia Aquática (ABFA) of the Associação dos Fisioterapeutas do Brasil (AFB)
- 6. Argentina Asociación Argentina de Hidroterapia of the Asociación Argentina de kinesiologia (AAK)
- 7. Mexico Grupo de Interés en Fisioterapia Acuática México (GIFAM) of the Colegio Nacional de Fisioterapia Y Terapia Física (AMEFI)
- 8. South Africa South African Society of Physiotherapy: Aquatic Physiotherapy Group (AQPG)
- 9. Australia Aquatic Physiotherapy Group of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)
- 10. United States of America Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
- 11. Ireland Chartered Physiotherapists in Aquatic Therapy of the Irish Society of Chartered





Physiotherapists (ISCP)

- 12. Hong Kong Aquatic Physiotherapy Specialty Group (APTSG) of Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association (HKPA)
- 13. Chile Sociedad Chilena de Terapia Acuatica e Hidrokinesiterapia (SOCHITEAH) of the Colegio de Kinesiólogos de Chile
- 14. Jordan Jordanian Physiotherapy Society (JPTS)
- 15. Puerto Rico Sección de Fisioterapia Acuática (SFA) de la Asociación Puertorriquenã de Fisioterapia (APF)
- 16. Georgia Georgian Association of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation
- 17. Costa Rica Sociedad Científica de Fisioterapia en Terapia Acuática de Costa Rica of the Physical Therapy Commission of the Therapist Guild of Costa Rica (Colegio de Terapeutas de Costa Rica)
- 18. Greece Scientific department of Aquatic Physical Therapy of the Panhellenic Physiotherapists
 Association

It was reconfirmed these IOAPT member organisations.

ACTION – no objections to the reconfirmation of these member organisations, all were confirmed.

7. Approval of new IOAPT members:

- 1. Malaysia Malaysian Physiotherapy Association
- 2. Peru Asociación Peruana de Fisioterapia
- 3. Trinidad and Tobago Physiotherapy Association of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT)
- 4. Canada Canadian Aquatic Rehab of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA)
- 5. Rwanda Integrity Aquatic Therapy Academy of the Rwanda Physical Therapy Organization (RPTO)
- 6. Italy Network di Interesse Specilistico (NIS) di fisioterapia in acqua of the Associazione Italiana di Fisioterapia (AIFI).
- 7. Angola Associação Nacional dos Fisioterapeutas de Angola (ANFA).
- 8. Guatemala Asociación Guatemalteca de Fisioterapeutas Profesionales (AGFP)
- 9. Uruguay Associación de Fisioterapeutas de Uruguay (AFU)

It was voted the approval of these new IOAPT member organisations.

ACTION – no objections to these new member organisations, all were approved.





8. Suggestion for the creation of a category for individuals and interest groups in Aquatic Physiotherapy that are not World Physiotherapy Members

César Sá gave some ideas for the creation of a category for individuals and interest groups in Aquatic Physiotherapy that are not World Physiotherapy Members but wants to contribute and participate in IOAPT.

Consideration that at least three people to represent the country to improve communication to their communication may be a better option (MG and agreement from YHM); Concerns about how an individual may be linked (and how to find out more about their background) (YHM and agreement from WP); CS confirmed this category would only apply if they did not have a national organization and not if they already had an official membership to the group. GAO concerns about the "individual" nature of this category and that this name would need to change. SE also suggested that the nomination could come from a member country. AB suggested to use a 'Letter of Intent" from the individual non-member who wants to participate. Or a 'contract' such that both parties benefit from the work together. Don't close doors, educate. WP asked about qualifications and CS clarified that they would need to be qualified physiotherapist. FG suggested that the non-member groups could connect together and WP and FG suggested other term. CS suggested other subgroups from World Physiotherapy may have some learnings for this and he will find out in the next meeting with all the subgroups and World Physiotherapy Board.

ACTION – It was agreed that this new category may be useful for the Executive committee to further outline how this could work to ensure a focus on the development of aquatic physiotherapy (and not for an "individual" focus related to the concerns outlined above.

9. Approval the change of the IOAPT nomenclature (from "International Organisation of Aquatic Physical Therapists" to "International Organisation of Aquatic Physiotherapists")

César Sá explained the importance of changing the IOAPT nomenclature (from "International Organisation of Aquatic Physical Therapists" to "International Organisation of Aquatic Physiotherapists") in accordance with the World Physiotherapy nomenclature and the other subgroups. All the IOAPT understand the necessity of changing of the nomenclature and was unanimous the alteration.

ACTION - This alteration of the nomenclature for the IOAPT was approved.





10. Approval of the IOAPT Rules Governing Documents

YHM commented that this document assisted Puerto Rico to join and it was a useful guide to the construction of their own interest group constitution. WP clarified the use of "associate" member, and CS clarified that this category implies that the associative member must belong to a World Physiotherapy member organisation.

ACTION - The new IOAPT Rules Governing Document was approved.

11. Election of the IOAPT Executive Committee 2023-2027

The candidates for the new IOAPT Executive Committee were presented for voting process. (Candidates up for election left the meeting during this time and votes were in the chat)

<u>ACTION – It was voted and selected the members for the new IOAPT Executive Committee to serve the term 2023 – 2027:</u>

President: César Sá (Portugal)

Vice-President: Glória Aravena Okuinghtoons (Chile)

Secretary: Billy So (Hong Kong)

Treasurer: Julie Dixon (UK)

Member at Large: Karen Beatriz Morales Soler (Mexico)

Member at Large: Yara Humarán Martínez (Puerto Rico)

Communications Lead: Konstantinos Chandolias (Greece)

12. 20th World Physiotherapy General Meeting 30 – 31 May 2023 (The Conrad Hotel, Dubai, UAE and online)

César Sá informed that IOAPT will be present in the 20th World Physiotherapy General Meeting 30 – 31 May 2023 (that will occur in the Conrad Hotel, Dubai, UAE and online). The IOAPT President will be present online.

13. World Physiotherapy Congress Dubai 2-4 June 2023

César Sá informed the activities that IOAPT is involved in the World Physiotherapy Congress Dubai 2-4 June 2023.

Aquatic Physiotherapy Networking session (Sunday, 4 June, 11:00h - 12:00h) - CS will chair and GAO will be the co-chair of this meeting – option is to share information and divide groups in language or





research/educational groups after understand the objectives of the people that are attending.

CS and GOA voted on the aquatic physiotherapy award for the congress from the submitted abstracts.

CS discussed that ideally in the future there would be a panel or workshop related to aquatic physiotherapy and this is part of the mission of the group, to motivate colleagues to submit their aquatic physiotherapy abstracts to the next World Physiotherapy Congress.

There will also be an IOAPT stand. CS will be there and open invitation for all representatives to come to the stand.

14. IOAPT meeting during World Physiotherapy Congress in Dubai (Saturday 3rd June, 18:30h 20:30h - for members and non members)

César Sá informed about the IOAPT meeting that will occur during World Physiotherapy Congress in Dubai (Saturday 3rd June, 18:30h – 20:30h - for members and non members) - Dubai World Trade Centre, Abu Dhabi B room - https://wp2023.world.physio/#/programme/session/da7ad0c0-3ed1-4500-1346-0100000000319

This meeting is more to share the objectives of IOAPT and inform/explain about this subgroup to members and non members that would like to know more about us.

15. Motions from IOAPT Members:

A Motion and report have been submitted by the "IOAPT Latin American Aquatic Physiotherapy Working Group", so it was considered at the meeting.

15.1. Motion and report of the "IOAPT Latin American Aquatic Physiotherapy Working Group" ("Grupo de trabajo de Fisioterapia Acuática de America Latina de IOAPT")

The "IOAPT Latin American Aquatic Physiotherapy Working Group" presented their report of the activities made since it started.















(For further information see the full presentation document)

MG read a letter from the president of the Brazilian group about the size of the healthcare system and the physiotherapy workforce, association, specialists and professional development and contribution with qualified professionals who would like to be included in the international organisation to open infomation and ensure it is shared widely. CS clarified that communications from IOAPT come from WhatsApp and emails that often goes to more than one person in some countries and sometimes changes of representatives can be challenging for communcations and it is the responsibility of the representative to share the information. WP mentioned that there was interest in training infomation. SH mentioned that there may be groups that already have these guidelines and shared the Australian Guidelines in the chat in the meeting. FG expressed interest in sharing of this.

16. IOAPT sponsorships/partnerships:

César Sá reported some ideas for sponsorships/partnerships.

16.1. IATA-China request for partnership with IOAPT

The General Secretary Ting Zhang, from IATA-China (International Aquatic Therapy Association of China) shared some of the work done in China in this area of expertise, and reported some ideas for partnership with IOAPT.







CS noted that the group needs to further decide what type of connection or collaboration is possible.

BS commented that Hong Kong may be able to assist with a connection, resources and translations.

ACTION - IATA-China may be a group that share information and cooperation.





17. IOAPT surveys results and publication

César Sá informed that the first and second surveys were completed by all the IOAPT members (for results see the attachement tables).

ACTION - A team was selected to prepare and resume these results in a document, and to publish it during the next term. The team is compose by the following members: Alison Bonnyman, Wynelli Pierre, Sophie Heywood, Billy So, Jefferson Cardoso, Karen Morales, Fabiana Giannini.

18. IOAPT Mission/ Vision / Strategic plan / Objectives / Work Program - 2023-2027

César Sá proposed some ideas for this point.

ACTION - the new IOAPT Executive Committee will elaborate a document with the mission, vision, strategic plan, objectives and work program for this next term (2023-2027) and then will share with all IOAPT members for approval.

19. IOAPT guiding documents proposals / committees/ working groups

- 19.1. Aquatic Physiotherapist's Skills Profile
- 19.2. Good practice standards for the provision of services of Aquatic Physiotherapy (safe practice and operational guidance)
- 19.3. Global guidelines of the intervention of the aquatic physiotherapist (evidence-based practice)
- 19.4. IOAPT Corporate Relations Document
- 19.5. Guidelines for hosting the IOAPT Conference

César Sá share some proposals for official documents that the IOAPT should prepare and publish in the next term (based on survey results and also what other subgroups do).

MG commented on Brazil Educational Committee that could share this information and be part of this group.

ACTION - These documents proposals should be prepared and published during the next term.

20. IOAPT webinars

César Sá shared some ideas for IOAPT webinars (and other subgroups doing webinars) and we could consider this as an option.





CN suggested partnering with other subgroups as a good way to start. CS will suggest this at the next meeting of subgroups.

<u>ACTION - IOAPT webinars should be considered further by the Executive committee and consider organizing these in the future</u>

21. IOAPT Finances report - nothing to declare

César Sá informed that IOAPT don't have fees so no finances report to declare. Maybe in the future the IOAPT could have some kind of membership fees for sustainability.

<u>ACTION - Nothing to declare.</u>

22. IOAPT Google Drive

César Sá shared some ideas for the creation of a IOAPT Google Drive, for all members to have access to certain official IOAPT documents and a library in a virtual and easily accessible folder. Consideration for how this may be able to be built.

<u>ACTION – The creation of a IOAPT google drive was considered important and approved for further</u> work.

23. IOAPT Database

César Sá shared some ideas for the creation of a IOAPT Database (to share information). Already have a database to start with connected to emails.

<u>ACTION – The creation of a IOAPT database was considered important and approved for further development.</u>

24. IOAPT Newsletter

César Sá shared some ideas for the creation of a IOAPT newsletter to share information.

<u>ACTION</u> - The creation of a IOAPT Newsletter was approved for further work and discussion for the <u>Executive committee</u>.

25. IOAPT Awards

César Sá shared some ideas for IOAPT Awards to be given annually. SH suggested broader categories research, innovation, new / junior graduate, contribution to education, contribution to the





international committee. SE suggested that would need to be clear criteria for any awards.

<u>ACTION – The creation of a IOAPT Award category annually was approved. The Executive Committee</u>

<u>have to propose a list of categories and its criteria for the IOAPT awards.</u>

26. Upcoming events

César Sá informed about upcoming events:

- II Congresso Internacional de Fisioterapia Aquática (ABFA Associação Brasileira de Fisioterapia Aquática) 26, 27, 28 May 2023 (online)
- 1º Jornada de Fisioterapia Acuática (GIFAM Grupo de Interés en Fisioterapia Acuática México)
 8 July 2023 (online)

GAO mentioned a proposal for a Latin American congress in 2024/2025 in Chile.

JD outlined dates for next Aquatic International conference with a partnership between IATF and ATACP, and it will be in 21-23 June2024 in the UK.

<u>ACTION – Please post in IOAPT WhatsApp group if you have events to share and see info on communications below.</u>

27. Future meetings and next IOAPT general meeting

César Sá informed that the next IOAPT General Meeeting will be in 2024.

Future meetings may need to be more regular.

ACTION - Next IOAPT meeting - October 2023 (New Executive committee will propose dates).

28. Acknowledgments and announcements

A moment to acknowledge the growing group, support to new members and work to date. To keep the future goals realistic at this challenging time.

To stay motivated, connected and together.

29. Any other business

The following communication rules were also remembered:

- Formal IOAPT business by e-mail and/or Zoom;
- informal business between the IOAPT members WhatsApp group and/or by Zoom;
- Social network via IOAPT Facebook page, IOAPT LinkedIn and IOAPT Twitter;





- Official IOAPT e-mail <u>ioapt.wcpt@gmail.com</u> and/or <u>ft.cesarsa@gmail.com</u> (president). The
 idea is to send to all the executive committee the e-mails that we will receive for all of us be
 inform and comment if necessary;
- IOAPT webpage with all official content in the Website of the World Physiotherapy (we can update some information in a section of the World Physiotherapy website).
- The IOAPT Logo use was clarified <u>cannot be used for individual clinics</u>, <u>only for use for National Association aquatic groups members</u>.

ACTION - Future Communications – consider sharing research and news in the IOAPT WhatsApp group.

JD suggested that the new IOAPT Executive Committee meet tomorrow. CS will send out time.

GAO would like to present on the next Latin American congress tomorrow and also passed on thanks to the group and to CS.

MG shared the Brazilian congress information.

Veronica Sena thanks to the group and congratulates the acceptance of Uruguay as a IOAPT member.

VF thanked the group for Angola joining the group (in translation and support).

AT and AS passed on their the congratulations for the growth of the group.

FG also passed on her thanks to CS.

30. Close of meeting

César Sá as the presiding officer, officially closed the meeting at 15:10h.

IOAPT—International Organisation of Aquatic Physical Therapists (@ioapt.worldphysiotherapy)