



AFRICA REGION OF WCPT

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South Africa*

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Dear members

African greetings to you all!

It is now two months since some of us met in Swaziland. I have been receiving lots of positive feedback about the event and I would like to thank you for making it work. It was a great opportunity for us as African Physiotherapists to refine our knowledge and skills in the management of Musculo-skeletal problems. It was also an opportunity to socialise and network – something we need to encourage amongst members. Congratulations to the Association of Physiotherapists for a job well done! The region is proud of you.

The year 2002 has been a relatively busy one for the region, especially the regional executive. A lot has happened, both good and not so well. I am happy to inform you that our exiled Ethiopian friends have finally been granted political asylum in the US. I received a letter from Desalegn (EPTA President) wherein he informed of the good news. He is currently working hard to ensure that he will be in Barcelona next year – I think this is quite a challenge!

I am therefore appealing to all members to start making arrangements to send a delegate to the Barcelona meeting. Remember the closing date to apply for the Development fund of WCPT is the 1st of February 2003. Please apply if you have not already done so. We need as many of you there as possible. Regarding affordable accommodation during the meeting, please contact Group Pacifico by fax at +34 93 2328 7488 or e-mail them at wcpt2003@pacifico-meetings.com. They have details regarding reasonable university accommodation, which I understand is very limited. I am going to try and book for the regional executive committee.

The region will also have a special meeting before the general meeting of WCPT. The main purpose is to elect a regional representative to be presented at the General meeting. Nomination forms were e-mailed to all member countries and also distributed at the Swaziland conference. So far only South Africa and Uganda have submitted nominations. Kindly be reminded that the closing date for nominations is the end of January 2003, as the regional EC need to go through the list at their meeting in February in preparation for Barcelona meeting. *Please remember to submit articles for our newsletter – the next edition is the **BARCELONA BUMPER** – make it happen!*

For every WCPT General meeting, regions are requested to submit reports on their activities, plans finances etc. In my previously mentioned correspondence, forms were sent to members regarding their associations' status, so this report can be completed and sent to WCPT. So far, I have only received a response from South Africa (it is easy to pressure them because I am here!). Some members contacted me to say the information I requested is contained in the subscription forms they submitted. Unfortunately that is not entirely true – the form asks for more than just numbers of members. Please check it – it is also attached.

Regarding the issue of subscriptions, you will soon be receiving reminders from the treasurers about these. Subs are due on the 1st of January 2003. The rate is 1.5 US Dollars per capita. In my January 2002 communication, I had informed members that the rate needed to be reviewed and would be discussed at the Kenya meeting in April.

Members had an option of paying the new rate of 1.5 USD or the old one of 1 USD and waiting for the outcome of the Kenya meeting. The rate was heavily debated at the Kenya meeting in April and the region felt it must be maintained at 1,5 USD. We brought up the issue again at the Swaziland meeting because a number of you had not paid their subs and we thought maybe the new rate was too heavy for members. Even there it was decided that the rate should be kept at 1.5 USD.

I am therefore appealing to those members that have paid the old rate for 2002 to pay the difference. A number of you have fees outstanding for 2002, others as far back as 2000! Constitutionally, you cease to be a member if your fees are outstanding and you have made no arrangement for a special concession. Come members; let us reason together! Talk to the treasurer and make arrangements. We do not want to lose anybody – however it is not fair on those members who are responsible by either updating their payments or explaining their situations if they cannot pay.

Finally after all these seriously intense ***BUT VERY NECESSARY*** reminders, I would like to end on a lighter note by thanking all of you for your efforts towards developing our region. We all have the same goal - to move Africa forward, and together we will overcome obstacle and achieve the goal.

I wish everybody a BLESSED festive time. Enjoy yourselves and your families and please come back safely into 2003, with even more vim, vigour and vitality for Physiotherapy in Africa.

God bless you all.

Regards
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