

## Press release

*For immediate release*

9 May 2019

### Physical therapy member organisations elect WCPT's President and Vice President

Emma Stokes has been elected as President and Melissa Locke has been elected as Vice President of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT).

Voting delegates from 107 WCPT member organisations took part in the election at WCPT's General Meeting on Thursday 9 May at the Starling Hotel Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Election for President

Total votes cast	107
Votes cast for Alain Belanger	17
Votes cast for Emma K Stokes	89
Invalid vote	1

#### Election for Vice President

There were three candidates for the position of Vice President: Alain Belanger, Melissa Locke, John Xerri de Caro. In line with WCPT's Articles of Association, any candidate who is unsuccessful in the election for President may put themselves forward for election as Vice President. After two rounds of voting, Melissa Locke was elected.

#### Round one

Total votes cast	107
Votes cast for Alain Belanger	10
Votes cast for Melissa Locke	51
Votes cast for John Xerri de Caro	45
Abstentions	1



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### **Round two**

Total votes cast	107
Votes cast for Melissa Locke	58
Votes cast for John Xerri de Caro	48
Abstentions	1

### **Regional board members**

In separate meetings, voting delegates also elected four regional board members who will join the President, Vice President, and the previously-elected board member for the European region John Xerri de Caro, on WCPT's Executive Board.

#### **Africa Region of WCPT**

Jean Damascene Gasherebuka was unopposed and elected

#### **Asia Western Pacific Region of WCPT**

Yasushi Uchiyama was unopposed and elected

#### **North America Caribbean Region of WCPT**

Candidates: Tony Chang  
Stacy de Gale

Stacy de Gale was elected

#### **South America Region of WCPT**

Candidates: Karim Alvis  
Daniel Wappenstein

Daniel Wappenstein was elected

### **About the WCPT General Meeting and Congress**

The WCPT General Meeting took place on 8 and 9 May, and the WCPT Congress was due to take place on 10-13 May. More than 4,300 physical therapists are expected at the WCPT Congress.

Further details about WCPT Congress 2019: <https://www.wcpt.org/wcpt2019>

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## Note to WCPT member organisations

Please use this information in your magazine, journal, newsletter or social media channels. It may also be forwarded to your local or national media.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### About physical therapy

Physical therapists (also known as physiotherapists) are experts in developing and maintaining people's ability to move and function throughout their lives. With an advanced understanding of how the body moves and what keeps it from moving well, they promote wellness, mobility and independence. They treat and prevent many problems caused by pain, illness, disability and disease, sport and work related injuries, ageing and inactivity.

Physical therapists are educated over several years, giving them a full knowledge of the body's systems and the skills to treat a wide range of problems. This education is usually university-based, at a level that allows physical therapists to practise independently. Continuing education ensures that they keep up to date with the latest advances in research and practice. Many physical therapists are engaged in research themselves.

### About WCPT

WCPT is the profession's global body representing over 450,000 physical therapists/physiotherapists from member organisations in 121 countries. More information: [www.wcpt.org](http://www.wcpt.org).



**World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy**