

WFATT Action

Newsletter of the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy

President's Message

From Michael Ferrara, PhD, ATC

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *WFATT Action*, designed to keep members informed about the developments occurring within the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy and to serve as a forum for information sharing. The *WFATT Action* is available in both MS Word and Adobe Acrobat for easy downloading. This newsletter will be published three times per year in winter, spring and fall. Please feel free to forward and distribute this newsletter to your members, colleagues and associates.

There have been a number of highlights during our first year as an organization. First, we had a highly successful World Congress 2001, and I thank Dr. Vince Stilger of West Virginia University for his time and dedication in developing an outstanding program and assembling a wonderful scientific program. Specifically, Ms. Kay Copeland and Dr. Toro Fukubayashi were both outstanding keynote speakers sharing their information about manual therapy and soccer injuries.

Since the summer, I have been a speaker at a number of conferences and have had the opportunity to meet with many health care professionals. In September, I was invited by Mr. Antonio Garcia Chain and Mr. Toni Bove to participate at Massaje Expo in Madrid to present a demonstration and lecture on taping. More than 250 attendees learned new lower extremity taping techniques specifically for the ankle, arch and knee. There were many outstanding questions both during and after the session.

While in Madrid, I met with Mr. Carlos Martinez Martinez, president of the Spanish Nurses Association, to discuss the development of athletic training/therapy in Spain. I also met

with Mr. Alessandro Falcioni, president of the Italian Federation of Physical Therapy.

In both cases, we discussed the education of athletic trainers/therapists and methods of developing programs within their countries.

Additionally, I met with Ms. Laetitia Dekker-Bakker, president of the International Federation of Sport Physiotherapy (IFSP). The IFSP is basically a parallel organization of the WFATT, with many of the same goals and objectives. We discussed the devel-

“It has been an exciting year for the WFATT. There have been a number of highlights during our first year as an organization.”

opment of future joint education seminars and congresses and ways to utilize both of our expertise to provide the best health care to active individuals.

In October, I traveled to Birmingham, United Kingdom, to present the globalization concept at the Association of Chartered Sport Physiotherapists (ACSPM) with President Nicky Phillips. The ACSPM hosts a wonderful meeting in conjunction with other subsection or specialty sections of the larger physical therapy organization. I was impressed by the outstanding attendance and the attentiveness of the audience. I learned many new techniques and ideas.

In 2002, I will participate in congresses or seminars in Spain, the United Kingdom, Japan and Korea.

The WFATT Executive Council met in Athens, Georgia, in early December. We discussed many important items that will affect the future development and success of the WFATT.

The priority was to develop a constitution and by-laws to provide a governance structure for the operation of the organization. We anticipate that this document should be available for your review in April/May on the WFATT Web site and in the next edition of *WFATT Action*. A vote on the constitution and by-laws will occur in Dallas, Texas, in June in conjunction with the WFATT business meeting.

Also, we are proud to announce that the 2003 World Congress will be hosted by the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) in Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in May 2003. The theme will be winter sports injuries, and we are excited by the leadership and the program developed by the CATA. We have also received several inquiries for the 2005 World Congress. We are finalizing a Congress Manual to provide specific guidelines and direction to local organization committees.

In closing, it has been an exciting year for the WFATT. I look forward to our continued growth and development. Please contact mike@wfatt.org if you have any questions or items for the next issue of *WFATT Action*.



International Liaisons

From Gene
Elizabeth Verel,
MA, ATC



The WFATT has become a member of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE). This relationship provides exposure of WFATT with ICSSPE members.

Further, we are involved with the FIMS World Congress, scheduled June 5-9 in Budapest, Hungary.

We are developing workshops for the preparticipation physical examination, emergency planning for sporting events and a taping demonstration. More information about the FIMS Congress can be found at www.fims.org/calendar.cfm.

The WFATT will continue its quest to develop and strengthen partnerships with other health care organizations throughout the world. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you in Dallas in June!

Important Dates

- **March 17 •**
JATO Symposium; Tokyo, Japan
- **June 5-9 •**
FIMS World Congress; Budapest, Hungary
- **June 14-18 •**
NATA Annual Meeting; Dallas, Texas
- **June 15 •**
WFATT Business Meeting; Dallas, Texas
- **Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 •**
South African Congress in Sport Science
South Africa
- **Oct. 11-13 •**
ACPSM Congress
Birmingham, United Kingdom
- **May 2003 •**
WFATT World Congress
British Columbia, Canada

WFATT Business Meeting

There will be a business meeting of WFATT members on Saturday, June 15, 2002, in Dallas in conjunction with the NATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposia. Please make every effort to attend, as we will be ratifying the Constitution and bylaws as well as setting future direction for the WFATT.

Canada Hosts World Congress 2003

The Canadian Athletic Therapists Association will host the next WFATT World Congress in 2003.

The location will be scenic Victoria, British Columbia, on the west coast of Canada.

The Congress will take place in May just prior to the CATA annual convention and conference. Delegates

to the World Congress will be able to attend the CATA convention as well as the congress, and they will enjoy two outstanding educational during the same trip.

More information on these events will be circulated through the CATA and WFATT Web sites at www.cata.org and www.wfatt.org.

Information for Members

From Joe Piccininni, MSc, CAT (C)

The WFATT executive council will be working on future directions for the federation. Communication is a priority, and the *WFATT Action* will play a key role in keeping all members and interested individuals informed.

The newsletter schedule will be developed to ensure good communication. All WFATT member associations are encouraged to submit items for the newsletter. News items may include (but are not limited to) conferences, new executive members in your association, important events and other items of interest.

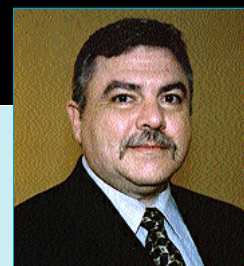
We will also develop a constitution outlining the structure and operation of the WFATT. Drafts will be circulated to the member associations for their input and comments.

As with any major association, funding is always an issue. The WFATT needs to develop some consistent revenue streams to ensure that it has the financial resources to carry out its mission. One way to do this is through the development of corporate sponsor relationships. We have had some

initial discussions on this matter, and we hope to encourage some companies to support our efforts. Suggestions and ideas from the members are most welcome.

We will consider membership from various organizations with similar interests. One group of organizations that might fit well with the mission and goals of the WFATT consists of the colleges and universities that have accredited athletic training and athletic therapy academic programs.

If these schools were to become members, prospective students would be able to visit the WFATT Web site and link to the various educational programs, searching for the ones which would best meet their needs. If we were to have a membership class for educational institutions, it is likely that they would be non-voting members. One advantage of having educational members might be the revenue derived from their membership dues.



First WFATT World Congress, in June 2001, Enjoys High Turnout, Enthusiastic Crowd

A growing interest in sports medicine worldwide was reflected in the high attendance at the first World Congress presented by the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy (WFATT).

The World Congress, held in Los Angeles immediately prior to the NATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposia, focused on the care and prevention of soccer injuries. Speakers from five countries presented lectures and interactive demonstrations during the day-and-a-half long event.

More than 100 people from 15 countries registered for the World Congress, said WFATT President Michael Ferrara, PhD, ATC.

“Over the years we’ve been able to meet people and make some contacts, and that’s helping build interest in the World Federation and in World Federation events,” Ferrara said. “We’re absolutely thrilled with the turnout in Los Angeles. We expected about 40 people, so it’s good to see the interest is there.”

Ferrara said the WFATT will host a World Congress every two years. Plans are underway to organize the 2003 event, although the host country is as yet undetermined, he said.

Nicki Phillips, chair of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine, said the World Congress was well planned and convenient.

“It’s of very good value,” said Phillips, of the United Kingdom. “We like that it’s attached to the NATA convention. We get a week’s long course here, and at the World Congress, we get to hear speakers from all over the world.”

Robert Ogar, ATC, of Cranbrook Schools in Michigan, said the global roster of speakers contributed to a larger perspective on a specific topic.

“I like the atmosphere [of the



Participants attend an interactive lecture during the first WFATT World Congress, held in June 2001.

World Congress],” Ogar said. “They’re very specific with soccer, and I’ve been able to ask a lot of questions and learn a lot of new things. I think sometimes you can come into a national convention and have so many topics that it can scatter your attention a little.”

The focused approach to the conference is one of its benefits, said Dexter Nelson, MSc, CAT.

“I would rather focus and do well on a few things than use the shotgun approach,” said Nelson, past president of the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association. “If the topics build on one another throughout the conference, then people leave with a good understanding of the material.”

Nelson, who has been involved in efforts to promote sports medicine globally for several years, said the turnout at the 2001 World Congress is gratifying.

“I’ve been privileged to see this



grow,” he said. “The fact that we have such a diversity of attendees and such growth speaks to the fact that there’s an unmet need and an interest internationally in what we do as sports medicine professionals and how we do it.”

In addition to the World Congress, international guests at the NATA convention met with the NATA Board of Directors for lunch, attended a WFATT reception and were invited to a breakfast hosted by the Japan Athletic Trainers’ Organization.