



## World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy

---

Larry J. Leverenz, Ph.D., ATC	Past President
Glen Bergeron, Ph.D., CAT( C)	President
Brian Zeller Ph, D., ATC	Vice President
Chinami Sugiyama, M.Ed., ATC	Vice President
Siobhan O'Connor Ph.D., ARTC	Vice President
Dexter Nelson M.Sc., CAT(C)	Vice President

### President's Report Annual Members Meeting 2018

In October of last year, I was honoured to be elected President of the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy at the World Congress in Madrid. The last nine months have been a steep learning curve. Fortunately for me, our Past President and the other members of the Executive Committee previously developed a new strategic plan that has since served as a beacon for our current efforts. The vision describing where we want to be states that:

*“Athletic Training & Therapy will be recognized as an essential part of multidisciplinary healthcare teams worldwide”*

This vision is the target and it is paramount that we always keep our eyes on the target. We are blessed with what we all consider to be one of the best professions in the health care industry. The passion and dedication to our craft that all of our members demonstrate on a day to day basis speaks volumes to the importance of what we do. It is this passion and dedication that we want to share globally. Currently the WFATT represents 12 voting members from 9 different countries on four different continents. To put that into perspective, there are 206 countries on 7 continents. There is a lot of work to be done.

If our goal is to be *recognized as an essential part of multidisciplinary healthcare teams worldwide*, then ONE of our targets should be the International Olympic Committee. Currently Athletic Training and Therapy is not a recognized profession by the IOC medical and scientific committee. (see chapter 29 of this manual)

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwinnipeg/detail.action?docID=2009838>

Even though we feel that we already play an essential role with the teams that we work with, that is not the case worldwide. If we are to make representation to a global organization like the IOC, it will be important to have a significant global connection to other like minded organizations around the world.

The WFATT can play a pivotal role in the promotion of the profession globally. Our Mission is to:

*“provide leadership to advance the international interests of its members for the common goal of optimal health care for physically active populations.”*

We can serve as a facilitation and reference point for those seeking to develop or promote the profession of Athletic Training and Therapy in their home countries. Through our membership and partnerships, we have the resources to support the development of autonomous organizations that define and regulate the profession in their own country, develop academic programs in Athletic Training and Therapy, establish accreditation and certification policies and procedures and gain domestic credibility through global recognition.

This effort will take “intentionality” on all of our parts. All of our members and partners have a key role to play in achieving this mission. All of our efforts should work toward the empowerment of our current members and the development of new organizations with the capacity to promote the profession within their own countries and ultimately meet a global standard of governance, academia, regulation, and certification.

Our experience in Jordan is a good example of how the WFATT have been able to facilitate the expressed desire to enhance the sport medicine services in that country. The relationship has been very positive . There is a plan with an end goal of establishing Athletic Training and Therapy as a profession in Jordan. It will take time and considerable discussion but the process continues to move in the right direction.

Empowering autonomous yet collaborative organizations around the world will strengthen the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy, as a group globally and each of our individual organizations domestically.

Turning to the WFATT itself, your executive have been working hard to build on all the good work that has gone before us. It is now a time for increased enagement by our members. The most recent example of how powerful that engagement can be was the 2017 World Congress in Madrid. For the first time, our member organizations committed to the Congress by sponsoring speakers. This was a tremendous support to the host group and created a sense of ownership of the Congress on the part of our members. This support will make it much less intimidating for other members interested in hosting the World Congress.

Your executive have been working very hard to develop a new set of By-laws that will take us forward. Included in those By-laws is a new membership structure that clearly articulates the criteria, rights and responsibilities for membership. We are also proposing a new membership fee structure that is intended to provide autonomy, sustainability and an ability to be innovative. Our focus in the short term will be to promote the WFATT to potential members including national, and regional organizations and academic institutions.

We are pleased to have Mueller Sports Medicine as an Official Supplier and we are very pleased with their willingness to facilitate discussions with other potential sponsors. Yet another source of revenue that enhances our capacity to better represent the profession.

I am looking forward to the future and I am excited about what we can accomplish together.

Please feel free to contact me or other members of the executive at any time should you have any comments, recommendations or opportunities.

Yours Sincerely,

Glen Bergeron PhD CAT(C)  
President