



Malta Association of
Physiotherapists

Call for Focused Symposia

2nd Maltese Physiotherapy Conference

Submission deadline: 10th January 2020

Submission guidelines

Please read this information carefully before proceeding

The 2nd Maltese Physiotherapy Conference will be held on the 13th and 14th March 2020.

The themes of this conference are as follows:

1. Integrating Science in Physiotherapy Practice
2. Managing complex Cases in Physiotherapy
3. Physiotherapy and Innovation
4. Research in physiotherapy practice

This is the Call for Submission for the organisation of a Focused Symposium*.

Submission process:

All submissions must be addressed to the Chair of the Scientific Committee on www.physiomalta.com

Important dates:

Submission deadline: 10th January 2020

Notification of Outcome: 24th January 2020

* The general call for abstracts for presentations and poster presentations will be available from November 2019 with a submission deadline of February 2020.

Call open to the following topics

The call for focused symposia is open to specific themes that have been identified to be to the physiotherapy profession in Malta. The themes are the following:

1. Integrating Science in Physiotherapy Practice
2. Managing complex Cases in Physiotherapy
3. Physiotherapy and Innovation
4. Research in physiotherapy practice

The Scientific Committee responsible for the programme is particularly interested in seeing proposals that address any of the above-mentioned themes.

Focused symposium format

Each focused symposium should be organised by a chairperson who is a recognised expert in the field. The chairperson will have the responsibility for inviting and leading a group of presenters through a series of evidence based and critically reflective linked presentations, drawing out the relevance, applicability and potential challenges for the audience. It is important to deliver a coherent session with speakers working together thoughtfully. The aim of the session should be to create an insightful learning experience to all attendees. Each focused symposium (90 minutes) shall consist of:

1. An introduction by the chair (10 minutes).
2. Three or four presentations (20 minutes if three and 15 minutes if four)
3. A question and answer session with the audience (10 minutes)
4. A brief summary by the chair highlighting the implications, applicability and relevant key points (10 minutes).

Sample approach for a focused symposium:

- Use of a case study or clinical scenario that is used to structure the presentations;
- Related but conflicting evidence and how to resolve for patient benefit;
- Latest findings in the field from different research perspectives;
- Exploration of complementary skill sets or perspectives to advance an issue.

Requirements

The symposium chair should submit the proposal on behalf of all the presenters, whose agreement to participate must have been obtained prior to submission. The submissions should address the topic from a diverse perspective, including a range of different presentations, in fact it is highly suggested that the proposal is developed between all participants of each focused symposium. Presentations should be delivered in-person.

The following items should be included in the submissions:

1. Title of suggested symposium.
2. Names of the chair and all presenters.
3. Contact details of all presenters to include:
 - full name, organisation/institution and country as you would wish it to appear in the completed programme.
 - e-mail, work telephone, mailing address.
4. Relevance to physiotherapy.
5. Learning Objective and learning outcomes
6. Target audience.
7. Summary of the session focus and structure that will be followed.
8. The completed abstract for the symposium.

Selection principles

The Scientific Committee is seeking sessions that comply with the submission guidelines and deliver against the following principles:

1. Explore: the most recent ideas, evidence, methods and areas of controversy in the literature related to outcomes for people and populations and which help to move the profession forward
2. Inspire: with a clear purpose and applicable outcomes for delegates
3. Connect: related research and innovations through active engagement
4. Include: speakers standing in the topic area, representing a range of global and possibly service user perspectives

5. Impact: practice, education, research and/or policy by making clear the implications arising from the presentations

General information

- The conference language is English and all proposals and presentations must be made in English.
- A symposium chair or presenter may only appear in one symposium proposal submission. This does not affect any abstract presentations submissions.
- Symposium chairs and all presenters must register for the conference.
- Proposals should address the current evidence, areas of controversy in the literature, implications for practice and the need for further research. Any reference to personal experience or hypotheses should be clearly labelled as such.
- All research and studies that involve human participants and animal subjects reported in submitted proposals must comply with general ethical principles.
- All proposals and presentations must adhere to the use of “people-first” language. A person must not be referred to by disability or condition, and terms that could be considered biasing or discriminatory in any way should be removed (e.g. use “person with a stroke” instead of “stroke patients”).
- Any source of funding or support for the work being presented should be acknowledged.
- Presenters are requested to disclose potential conflicts of interest regarding their presentation in the first slide. This will allow the audience to take potential conflicts of interest into account when assessing the objectivity of the presentation.
- In support of green meetings policies no handouts will be produced.
- Focused symposia are not to be used for marketing opportunities for new products, equipment or organisations.
- Descriptions and objectives for each focused symposium will be published in the preliminary and final programmes in all promotional material.
- Conference programme placement will be determined by the Scientific Committee to ensure best fit with the overall programme. Any requests for specific dates and times will though be considered.
- Any changes to an accepted focused symposium must be submitted to the Scientific Committee for review and approval.

- All proposals must be submitted within the described timeframes.

Consent, permissions and copyright

On submitting an abstract you must confirm that:

- You accept responsibility for the accuracy of the submitted abstract and understand that the content cannot be modified or corrected after the abstract submission deadline and that it will be published exactly as submitted.
- All co-authors are aware of and agree to the content of the abstract and support the data presented.
- You accept responsibility as the contact person for all correspondence about the abstract and to share information with co-authors about its status.
- For all studies involving human participants or animal subjects, permission has been obtained from the relevant regulatory authority and properly informed consent given where appropriate.
- Anyone who is identifiable in the abstract and presentation has given their consent to be included.
- The work is original, except for extracts from copyrighted works used with permission from the copyright holders, and that it does not infringe upon any copyright, proprietary, or personal right of any third party.
- You have identified any potential conflicts of interest e.g. financial interest in products or processes described in the abstract.
- Consent to have authors' names, affiliation and biographical material used in connection with the publication of your work.

Dr Anabel Sciriha
Chairperson
Scientific Committee
2nd Maltese Physiotherapy Conference
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