

# WCPT-AFRICA

■ by Jo Beenhakker

An executive meeting of the region was held in Harare on the 14 March 1996. We were fortunate to have with us the President of WCPT, David Teager and Brenda Meyers, the Secretary-General who were able to guide us and answer questions that we had.

## Regional Conference

The main thrust of the meeting was to discuss the 1996 regional conference which is to be hosted by the Zimbabwe Physiotherapy Association in Harare. The planning for this second conference is well advanced as regards the social functions and the pre- and post-congress courses, under the leadership of the Congress Chairman, Passion Musa and Gillian Marks, Chairman of the ZPA.

**Pre-congress courses** to be held from 18-20 September include:

- Adult neurology by Mary Riley
- Update on cardio-respiratory management by Sielie Eales
- Advanced sports therapy by Graham Smith
- Introduction to the Nordic approach to manual therapy by Jostein Ellingsen
- Also possible are paediatric CBR by Stephanie Kemp, Acupuncture and the McKenzie approach.

**Post-congress courses** (26-28 September) will include:

- Paediatric neurology by Pam Hansford
- Myofascial release by Marge Steffen
- Introduction to sport therapy by Graham Smith
- Management of the lumbar spine by Jostein Ellingsen

There will thus be something for everyone and a large contingent of South African physiotherapists is expected.

Remember Gauteng is closer to Harare than it is to Cape Town!

**A call for papers/posters** should have been sent with the second flyer, but if any reader would like to present a paper or poster at congress, the closing date for submission of abstracts is 31 May 1996

**An abstract** of not more than 250 words, together with a short CV of the author and presenter, should be sent to Mrs Nheikairo-Musa, 21 Medical Centre, 8th Avenue, J Tongogara Street, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



## The format of the abstract:

- Title of paper/poster
- Name of authors (with surnames in capitals)
- Department/Hospital/Institution/Country of presenting author
- Text of abstract: Purpose of study, Methodology, Results, Conclusions
- References may be included.
- If presenting a single-case study the abstract should describe the assessment, treatment, progression and conclusion.

**Paper presentations:** time allowed will be 15 mins with 5 mins for discussion. Audio-visual equipment will be available on prior request, including overhead projectors, 35mm slide projectors and video playback units.

**Poster presentations:** information should be summarised using brief written statements and graphic materials, mounted on a poster-board measuring 1,8 m wide by 1,2 m high. Posters will be on display throughout the congress, and presenters will be assigned a specific date and time when they should be at their poster to discuss it with participants.

A general meeting of the region will be held on Saturday, 21 September while the conference comprising free papers, clinical presentations and workshops will be held from 23-25 September.

## Other Matters Discussed

- Treatment of torture victims – a report of the follow-up seminar held in Cape Town during November was given by Dorcas Madzivire. A mini workshop on the management of survivors of torture will be included in the conference.
- Physiotherapy for the elderly – Dele Amosun is conferring with members of the region who attended the course held in Malta with the view of setting up an interest group in this field.
- Financial Matters – Most member organisations have paid capitation fees for 1995. As certain countries, namely Egypt and Nigeria have never paid subscriptions, it was agreed that a letter will be sent asking whether they wished to be part of WCPT Africa. It is not compulsory for members of WCPT to be also members of the regions. In view of the expenses involved in holding two executive meetings per annum, it may be necessary in future to hold only one meeting.
- New Executive – as the present President and Secretary have held office for two consecutive terms, the secretariat will probably move to another member-organisation. Nominations will be called for the new executive shortly.
- Funding – The executive requested that funding of the region be given top priority. There is a need to promote workshops and seminars which require starting funds as well as the desirability to support potential member organisations in the region. The President of WCPT once again congratulated the African region on the tremendous progress made but advised that we will have to tailor our expectations and plans according to the funds that we are able to generate ourselves.

The day's proceedings ended with an elegant buffet dinner hosted by the Zimbabwe Physiotherapy Association at which Mr Teager was guest speaker.

The Zimbabwe physiotherapists are to be congratulated on their excellent organisation on behalf of the region and be thanked for their hospitality in accommodating, transporting and feeding members of the executive and delegates to these committee meetings held during the past four years.