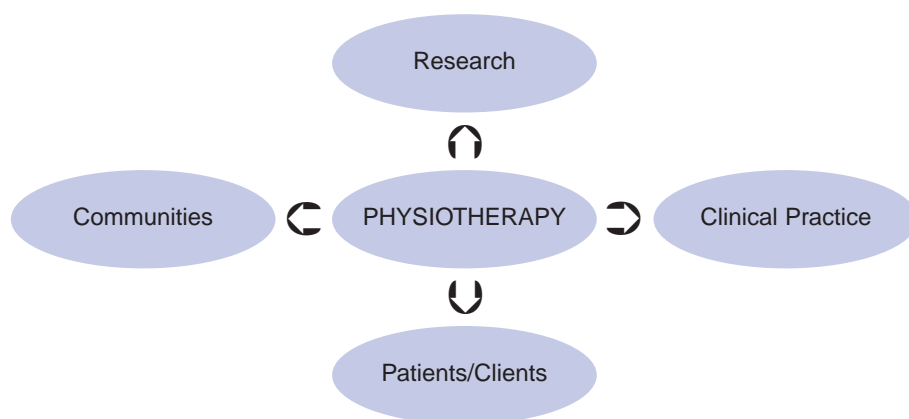


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Research and Clinical Practice

I had the opportunity of attending the Nordic Physiotherapy Congress in Oslo, Norway between 23 and 25 September 2009. The conference theme was: Movement towards better health. One of the main aims of the conference was to improve the relationships between researchers and clinicians and this was achieved in having almost 45% of the participants from the clinical sector. In addition one of the keynote addresses focussed on the transferring of knowledge from research into practice. The diagram below indicates the relationships between the various sectors contributing to physiotherapy. Each aspect is important in physiotherapy practice.



A practical example of how we can transfer knowledge through the various sectors is demonstrated in the table below using “stroke prevention” as an example.

Table 1: The roles of various stakeholders contributing to physiotherapy.

Researcher	Clinician	Clients and their community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theses • Publications • Book chapters • Clinical guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuals and protocols for patients • DVD's for patients • Education and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise prescription booklets • Health promotion activities • NGO's involvement e.g Heart and stroke foundation

It is evident from the diagram above that we all contribute to making the physiotherapy profession a success and we can all contribute into making knowledge available through various resources. Let physiotherapists as innovative, creative health professionals make a difference in the areas of research, clinical practice and the communities from which our clients and students come.

Editor: Prof JM Frantz