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WELCOME ADDRESS

Advancing physiotherapy through research, collaboration and shared knowledge

The advancement of physiotherapy relies on our collective ability to generate knowledge, critically evaluate evidence, and translate scientific findings into meaningful improvements in clinical practice, education, and professional development. Research is not merely an academic pursuit; it is a fundamental driver of our profession's evolution and our capacity to respond to the changing healthcare needs of society.

The 6th Europe Region Physiotherapy Congress, held in Madrid on 5–6 November 2026, provides an important opportunity to bring together researchers, clinicians, educators, students, and professional leaders from across Europe and beyond. Hosted by the Spanish Association of Physiotherapists (AEF) on behalf of the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy, the congress celebrates the diversity of our profession while reinforcing our shared commitment to evidence-informed, person-centred physiotherapy.

The abstracts presented reflect the scientific curiosity, dedication, and innovative thinking that characterise our professional community. They represent more than individual research projects. Collectively, they contribute to the growing body of knowledge that strengthens physiotherapy as an autonomous, scientifically grounded healthcare profession.

As Chairs of the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy and the 6th Europe Region Physiotherapy Congress, we believe that scientific progress and professional advancement should go hand in hand. High-quality research provides the foundation for effective clinical interventions, supports the development of educational standards and strengthens our position in discussions with policy-makers and other healthcare stakeholders. Equally important is ensuring that scientific knowledge becomes accessible and applicable across different healthcare systems and professional contexts throughout Europe.

Our diversity within Europe is one of our greatest strengths. By exchanging experiences, sharing research findings and encouraging collaboration across national and professional boundaries, we create opportunities to learn from each other and to collectively address challenges.

We sincerely thank all authors, reviewers, members of the Scientific and Organising Committees, and the Spanish Association of Physiotherapy (AEF) for their contributions. We also extend our appreciation to *Archives of Physiotherapy* for providing a platform to disseminate the scientific contributions of this congress to a wider international audience.

We encourage readers to approach these abstracts both as a reflection of current scientific developments and as an invitation to further inquiry, collaboration, and innovation.

Together, through research, knowledge sharing, and professional engagement, we shape the future of physiotherapy in Europe.

Tim Németh
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Chair of the Project Board of the 6th Europe Region Physiotherapy Congress

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