

## Press release

*For immediate release*

30 July 2024

### **Two physiotherapists from Norway will address World Physiotherapy Congress 2025**

**Two physiotherapists from Norway will be among the main speakers at the profession's largest and most important international gathering, the World Physiotherapy Congress 2025, to be held next year in Tokyo, 29-31 May 2025.**

The physiotherapists are profiled below.

They will be contributing to a focused symposium featuring international speakers from across different World Physiotherapy regions. Focused symposia are core congress sessions where cutting edge relevant topics will be explored from an international and diverse perspective.

A record number of focused symposia were submitted – 164 in total.

The congress programme includes 24 confirmed focused symposia featuring 93 speakers from 39 countries/territories. This includes nine countries/territories represented at a focused symposia for the first time, since 2017: Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

Focused symposia are core sessions where cutting edge relevant topics will be explored from an international and diverse perspective. Speakers will create insightful and engaging learning experiences that inform, inspire, involve and empower participants. Details of the newly announced symposia, including speakers, are provided in the attached sheets.

Catherine Joy Escuadra, chair of World Physiotherapy's congress programme committee (CPC), said: "We were incredibly pleased with the breadth and quality of the many proposals we received. The focused symposia to be presented in Tokyo combine truly global perspectives with content that we believe represents the professional challenges that physiotherapists around the world are facing today. The topics cover a range of timely topics, such as pain management, sustainable developmental models, innovative technology, and health literacy, and are relevant to clinicians, managers, educators, and researchers.

"Focused symposia are a great opportunity to hear from experts in their area and gain a unique global understanding and insight into a particular field.

"The CPC is excited to announce the first confirmed programming for World Physiotherapy Congress 2025 and looks forward to developing it further with relevant and innovative content."

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Each focused symposium is organised by a recognised expert in the field, who leads an international group of speakers working together and engaging with the audience to draw out the relevance, challenges, applicability and take-home messages.

More details about the [focused symposia for World Physiotherapy Congress 2025](#)

*Note to World Physiotherapy member organisations:* please use this information in your magazine, journal, newsletter or social media channels. It may also be forwarded to your local or national media.

**X/Twitter**      [@WorldPhysio1951](#)

**Facebook**      [@WorldPhysio1951](#)

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## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

### **About physiotherapy**

Physiotherapists are experts in developing and maintaining people's ability to move and function throughout their lives. With an advanced understanding of how the body moves and what keeps it from moving well, they promote wellness, mobility and independence. They treat and prevent many problems caused by pain, illness, disability and disease, sport and work-related injuries, ageing and inactivity.

Physiotherapists are educated over several years, giving them a full knowledge of the body's systems and the skills to treat a wide range of problems. This education is usually university-based, at a level that allows physiotherapists to practise independently. Continuing education ensures that they keep up to date with the latest advances in research and practice. Many physiotherapists are engaged in research themselves.

### **About World Physiotherapy**

World Physiotherapy is the profession's global body representing over 600,000 physiotherapists from member organisations in 128 countries/territories. More information: [www.world.physio](http://www.world.physio)

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## Speakers from NORWAY

**Speaker**                      **Kenneth Chance-Larsen**

**Focused symposium**      FIRST CONTACT PHYSIOTHERAPY: ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES  
ACROSS A RANGE OF CULTURAL CONTEXTS

### Biography

Associate Professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences and PhD candidate. Researching skill mix/ task shifting/ task sharing in primary care for people with musculoskeletal conditions, project title: Task shifting in primary care: framework development, workforce training, and opportunities for service improvement. I have an extensive background in both physiotherapy education and musculoskeletal practice, I hold a Master of Science degree in Manual Therapy from Manchester Metropolitan University and I am Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK). With over two decades of academic and professional experience I have contributed to developing the educational landscape in institutions across the UK, Australia, and Norway. I have experience from running a multidisciplinary Masters-level module preparing allied health professionals for the emerging First Contact Practitioner role in the UK. Clinically, I've developed my physiotherapy skills within multidisciplinary teams in both public and private practices, and in occupational health settings.

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**Speaker**                      **Joost van Wijchen**

**Focused symposium**      TRANSFORMING CLINICAL EDUCATION IN PHYSIOTHERAPY: CULTIVATING INHERENT  
AGENCY

### Biography

Joost van Wijchen, at the helm of HVL's Bachelor Physiotherapy Program, exemplifies a fusion of educational philosophy and design, grounded in a physiotherapy background from HAN University, the Netherlands and Brighton University, UK. Beyond his clinical physiotherapeutic expertise in Migrant and Musculoskeletal Health, Joost is celebrated for his innovative approach to curriculum development and pedagogical strategy, which reflects a commitment to inclusive, participatory learning. Recognized for "Critical Emancipative Learning" by the Dutch National COMENIUS Education Innovation fellowship. Joost contributes significantly to the physiotherapy field through roles in World Physiotherapy's education committee and Erasmus+ projects, focusing on health equity and complexity-oriented learning approaches. His work in pedagogical development at HAN University and as an educational advisor at Maastricht University showcases his expertise in fostering diversity and equity in health education. Joost's leadership in transforming clinical education, highlighted in the focused symposium, aims to revolutionize physiotherapy practice by marrying clinical knowledge with pedagogical innovation, emphasizing the critical role of education in advancing the profession.

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