

13 February 2017

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Dear Dr Suprun

### **Re: Practice of Physical Therapy in Ukraine**

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is the sole international organisation for physical therapy, representing more than 350,000 physical therapists worldwide through its 112 member organizations. WCPT was founded in 1951 and since 1956, it has been a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization.

WCPT is committed to moving physical therapy forward and to promoting the significant role the profession plays globally in improving health and wellbeing. WCPT encourages high standards of physical therapy research, education and practice.

The Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy has been a member of WCPT since 2011, and WCPT recognises the Association as the sole authoritative voice for the physical therapy profession in Ukraine. As a member organisation of WCPT, Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy has the responsibility to establish standards for the education of physical therapists and standards of practice for physical therapists in Ukraine. It is the role of the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy to ensure that processes are in place to implement and monitor education and practice standards and to ensure that those wishing to practise physical therapy in Ukraine meet the standard.

WCPT member organizations vote upon international policy at WCPT General Meetings. Member organizations, such as the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy, have a responsibility to support, promote and advance the role of physical therapists ensuring that standards are in place to deliver quality service to the public. WCPT member organizations accept WCPT policies and work to achieve the standards of practice and education as described in the WCPT's policies and guidelines.

Physical therapists are qualified to undertake a comprehensive examination/assessment of the patient/client to formulate a diagnosis and prognosis/plan of care, implement a therapeutic intervention/treatment program if appropriate, evaluate the outcome of any intervention/treatment, and determine discharge arrangements.

WCPT believes that physical therapist entry level education should equip physical therapists to be first contact autonomous practitioners, able to assess and treat patients/clients without referral from another medical practitioner or other third party. The use of the title of Doctor of Physical Therapy has already been granted to physical therapists in some countries.

WCPT has met with the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy and discussed education and practice of its members in Ukraine. We feel that professional education and practices are consistent with the guidelines of WCPT and the activities of the association are consistent with those of other WCPT member organisations. We believe that physical therapy practice in the Ukraine corresponds to both WCPT's description of physical therapy and the physical therapist heading in the United Nations International Standard Classification of Occupations. Recognising and using the title physical therapist in the Ukraine is consistent with the international profession represented by WCPT.

The WCPT is supportive of any legislation that will empower the Ukrainian physical therapist to cope with the challenges of the health sector locally, regionally, and internationally. I would urge your health ministry to work collaboratively with the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy to address local health needs.

WCPT's policies and guidelines are available in full on our website <http://www.wcpt.org/policies> if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Kruger', written in a cursive style.

Mr Jonathon Kruger  
Chief Executive Officer

*Cc: Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy*