



PHYSIOPEDIA

**TRUSTEES  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2017/18**

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## MISSION

### IMPROVING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PHYSIOTHERAPY KNOWLEDGE

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We educate physiotherapists all over the world.  
Physiotherapy information for anyone, anywhere.

## PHYSIOPEDIA 2007-2017

In 2017 Physiopedia received charitable status in the UK with the objective of improving access to physiotherapy knowledge and improve health globally by advancing knowledge in relation to physiotherapy. This is Physiopedia's first annual report and covers the period of June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018.

Although charitable status was received in 2017, our story began a decade earlier. In 2007 the e-learning community was excited for wikis and it was at an e-learning conference that Rachael Lowe was inspired to build a 'Wikipedia for the physiotherapy profession'. In 2008 work started to implement this idea and the project launched quietly in January 2009 with three web pages of content. It wasn't long before universities were engaging their students to contribute content to grow the resource, and now individual physiotherapists and organisations from all areas of the profession all over the world are taking part in building this resource.



Physiopedia hosts over 2600 evidence-based articles, developed through individual contributions and collaboration with educational institutions, research groups, professional organisations and clinics. With more than 2 million visits from nearly every country in the world each month, Physiopedia is now the most popular physiotherapy related website.

In 2013 Physiopedia ran the world's first free and open online course for the physiotherapy profession. Since then 6 similar courses have been successfully delivered, the most popular attracting over 14,000 registrations from 179 countries. These courses are unique in their global reach delivering education to elevate the physiotherapy profession all over the world.

Physiopedia is a community driven project for the profession that hosts the most widely used physiotherapy resource in the world and delivers the largest online educational courses for physiotherapists. It is a community gift to the global physiotherapy profession and other health care professionals alike; everyone is invited to get involved.

“Wouldn't it be great if all physiotherapists around the world were constantly creating and updating content to build one constantly evolving online textbook for our global profession.

~ Rachael Lowe

## VISION

We strive to reach every physiotherapist in the world.

We aim to foster international collaboration to empower the global physiotherapy profession.



We will give educational opportunities to physiotherapists throughout the world.



We aspire to gather the sum of all physiotherapy knowledge and make this freely available to all.

We will promote the physiotherapy profession among the wider health care community and the public on a global scale.



We aim to improve patient care and make a positive contribution to global health.

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



### RACHAEL LOWE

CO-FOUNDER, TRUSTEE & CHAIR

Rachael qualified as a physiotherapist in 1998 with a first class degree from Sheffield Hallam University, UK. Before turning her attention to providing technology solutions for the physiotherapy profession, she successfully founded a private musculoskeletal physiotherapy service in the UK.

Now, in a voluntary capacity, Rachael oversees the day to day activities at the Physiopedia charity. She is also co-founder and CEO of Physioplus, the supporting online professional development platform which donates resources and funds to the Physiopedia charity.

As another year passes I continue to be amazed at the stories arising from Physiopedia and am delighted to share these in our first annual report as a registered charity.

In the past year, according to Google analytics, 8,525,350 people from every country in the world have used Physiopedia. This is an amazing 45% increase on the previous year! A survey completed this year shows that 75% of these users are physiotherapists. The rest are other health care professionals with a thirst to learn and the health-seeking public. This is a growing population of users who with their messages highlight the value of Physiopedia to empower individuals to take responsibility for their own health as well as providing a valuable advocacy resource for our profession.

This year our annual free online course, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, addressed Clubfoot. Appropriate education of health care professionals in this topic has been demonstrated to have a big impact on the lives of children with clubfoot. Joined in partnership by the Global Clubfoot Initiative and Humanity & Inclusion we were able to develop an entire new section of content on the Physiopedia website, run a parallel course in French and provide a shared learning experience to which 7,277 people from 152 countries registered. Each year I continue to be humbled by our students from Syria, Yemen and other conflict contexts who strive to learn to improve the health of their communities in such challenging circumstances.

Sharing Physiopedia stories at the WCPT Congress in South Africa was a highlight of the year, and the perfect opportunity to meet our colleagues, students and users in that part of the world. In person meetings always motivate and inspire the work that I do. I won't forget the chance meeting with a Physiopedia student from South Sudan who described how important Physiopedia had been to her continuing education and professional development.

I feel privileged to be a part of this ongoing story and thank everyone that has made a contribution. This journey is by no means over, it is the ongoing mission of a small but committed and growing team. I am proud of the shared values that form our community culture, we will have fun and we will make a difference!

## TESTIMONIALS

“ Caution, joining the team at Physiopedia could irreversibly change your professional life. I would strongly recommend to do the same for supporting the development of our global physiotherapy community.

~ Andrea Sturm, physiotherapist, Austria.

“ The team at Physiopedia is doing an excellent job. Information which may not otherwise be available to myself and others is readily available as a result of Physiopedia. I feel like a better prepared physiotherapist as a result of Physiopedia.

~ Claron O'Neale, physiotherapist, Grenada.



## WHAT WE DO

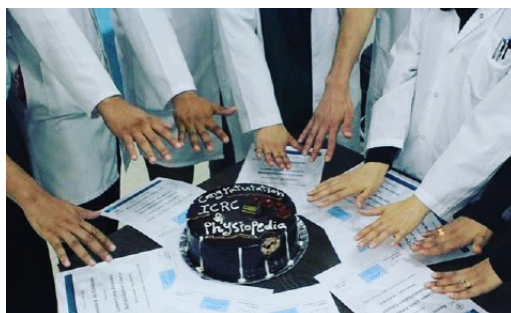
### Having a meaningful impact on the global physiotherapy community

In order to satisfy its mission, Physiopedia focused on three main objectives in 2017/2018: to continue to provide a valued resource that freely shares physiotherapy knowledge globally; develop a sustainable method of elevating the quality of the knowledge shared; and to provide equitable access to educational opportunities for physiotherapists (and other interested health care professionals) all over the world.



#### A valued resource for sharing physiotherapy knowledge

The Physiopedia website currently has over 2,600 pages of evidence based content and receives over 2,000,000 visits from nearly every country in the world every month. Since it was founded, the site has received over 195,000 edits with a current list of 152 active editors. In the past year there have been 9 content development projects in association with external organisations.



#### Free course on Managing Children with Clubfoot

In November 2017, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Handicap International and the Global Clubfoot Initiative, we delivered a free online course on Managing Children with Clubfoot. This course received 7,153 registered participants from 156 countries. A French version of the course had 124 registrations from 13 countries.



#### Developing a volunteer programme

In 2017 we developed our volunteer programme and ran two orientation courses to formally train participants to become trusted editors and part of the content team. 21 volunteers from 17 countries graduated the courses and joined the team. These volunteers benefit from regular mentoring not only in Physiopedia team duties but also in their individual professional practice.

## WHO WE DO IT WITH

### Creating meaningful partnerships to impact on global health

Physiopedia values, respects and encourages collaboration. We invite stakeholders to get involved in everything we do. Over the past few years we have developed relationships with some of the world's most respected humanitarian and non-profit organisations, delivering projects that have a real impact on the physiotherapy profession and consequently global health.



#### The International Committee of the Red Cross

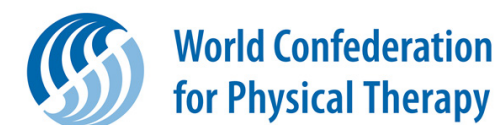
We have collaborated with the International Committee of the Red Cross since 2015 to deliver workforce training solutions for their staff and partners. As a result of this collaboration we have developed and delivered free online courses aimed at the educational needs of physiotherapists in low income countries and challenging contexts.

#### Humanity & Inclusion



Our new partnership with Humanity & Inclusion focuses on providing online courses in French. This provides workforce training for their staff and partners that work with people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, as well as opening up the educational opportunity to any French speaking physiotherapists worldwide.

#### The World Confederation for Physical Therapy

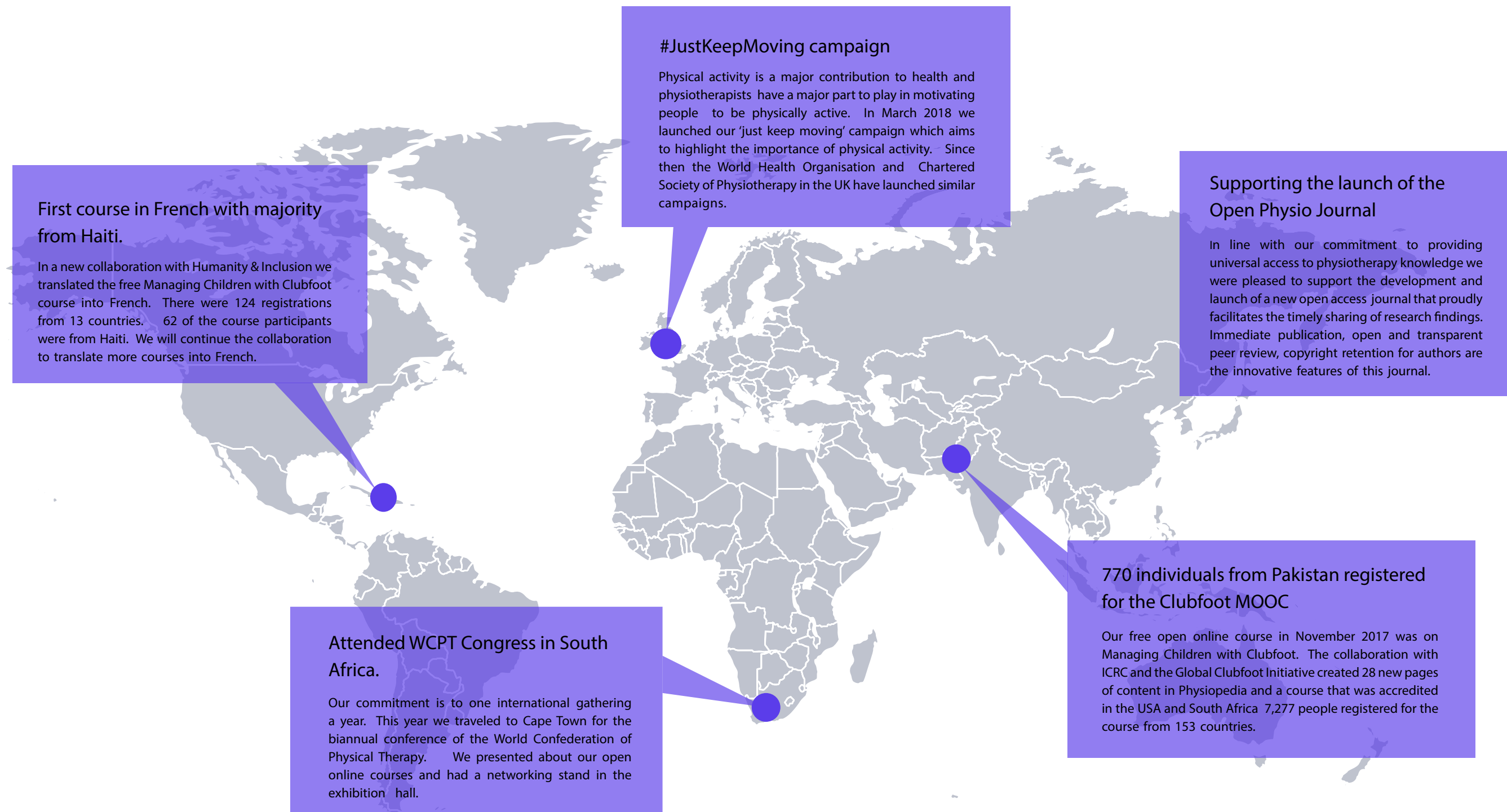


Physiopedia has been a professional partner of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy since 2013. More recently we have become the preferred professional development provider for this organisation.

## GLOBAL BROADCAST

In the 2017/2018 financial year between 1 June 2017 and 31 May 2018 Physiopedia received 20,771,880 page views by 8,525,350 users from every country in the world.

Top ten visiting countries were : United States, United Kingdom, India, Australia, Canada, Philippines, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland.



## GOVERNANCE

Physiopedia is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1173185) and complies with the Charities Act 2011. The objects of the charity are, for the public benefit, to improve health globally by advancing education in relation to physiotherapy and improving access to physiotherapy knowledge.

Under UK law, the Physiopedia Charity is subject to section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and operates as a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital (registration number 08530802). Physiopedia's constitution is set out in the Articles of Association which are filed at Companies House.

The Physiopedia Trustees have responsibility for the control and direction of the affairs of the charity. The Trustees are supported in their governance function by the Advisory Council. The Trustees and Advisory Council receive no remuneration for their duties.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

We have a panel of respected professionals on whose knowledge and experience we draw to further the objects of Physiopedia.

Barbara Rau - Physiotherapy Advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Nancy Kelly - Founder and Executive Director of Health Volunteers Overseas.

Sue Eitel - Rehabilitation Consultant at Eitel Global.

Tim Wright - Lawyer and Partner at Pillsbury Law

## TRUSTEES

The Physiopedia Trustees have responsibility for the control and direction of the affairs of the charity. The following people were Trustees for the 2017/18 financial year.



**Antony Lowe**  
MEng, PhD

Tony has worked as an e-learning consultant for nearly 20 years, he now specialises in health and is co-founder of Physiopedia.



**Brenda Myers**  
BSc, MHSA

Brenda served as the Secretary General of the WCPT from 1995-2016. Prior to this she was Executive Director of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.



**Elaine Lonnemann**  
DPT, OCS, MTC, FAAOMPT

Elaine is programme director at the University of St. Augustine in the USA and currently serves as President of AAOMPT.



**Hilary Weatherstone**  
LLB Hons

Hilary has worked in the finance sector in London for over 20 years, she is an investment director in growth finance at Beringa.



**Michael Rowe**  
BSc, MSc, PhD

Michael is Associate Professor in the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.



**Rachael Lowe**  
BSc Hons

Rachael is a physiotherapist and technology specialist, she is co-founder of Physiopedia.

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Sponsors

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American Physical Therapy Association  
Connect Health  
WebPT

### Content Partners

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Bellarmino University  
Global Clubfoot Initiative  
Queen Margaret University  
Queens University  
University of Brussels  
University of Nottingham

### Strategic Partners

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Humanity & Inclusion  
The International Committee of the Red Cross  
World Confederation of Physical Therapy

### Volunteers

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Adam Valley-Farrell  
Ajeyalemi Simisola  
Ammar Suhail  
Asma Alshehri  
Bridget Ward  
Candace Goh Xiao Huey  
Daniele Barilla  
Eki Fitriendi Tunjung Sari  
Eric Henderson  
Esraa Abdullzaher  
Evan Thomas  
Fasuba Ayobami  
George Prudden  
Gloria Carbonell Villanueva  
Lucy Aird  
Laura Ritchie  
Naomi O'Reilly  
Mariam Hashem  
Mathius Kassagga

Mereena Baby  
Merihan Mahmoud Hussein  
Ilona Malkauskaite  
Jayanti Rai  
Johnathan Fahrner  
Karen Wilson  
Priya Gulla  
Priyanka Chugh  
Rotimi Elisha Alao  
Scott Buxton  
Shaimaa Eldib  
Selena Horner  
Tarina van der Stockt  
Uchechukwu Chukwuemeka  
Venugopal Pawar  
Vidhu Sindwani  
Vidya Acharya  
Wendy Walker

# TO EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO PHYSIOPEEDIA IN 2017/18, THANK YOU!

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

~ Margaret Mead



## FINANCE REPORT

This statement of contributions and expenses relates to the year ending 31 May 2018. As this is the first year of the charity there are no comparative figures for 2017.

	Year end 31 May 2018 £
<b>Income</b>	
Sponsorship	5,000
Online courses	15,000
Marketing services	5,000
Donations - public	805
Donations - Physioplus	15,000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>40,805</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Support and administration costs	15,580
Computer software and consumables	216
Advertising and marketing costs	44
Website costs	197
Professional fees	401
Subscriptions	90
Bank charges	41
Depreciation	333
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>16,902</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>23,903</b>

### Notes

#### General

Physiopedia is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in United Kingdom (registration number 08530802). The registered office address is 10 Queen St Place, London, EC4R 1BE.

#### Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Personnel

As at 31 May 2018, the Charity had no staff members employed. The Trustees receive no remuneration for their duties. Expenses can be reimbursed. In 2017/18, no reimbursements took place.

#### Related Parties

Rachael Lowe and Antony Lowe are directors and shareholders of Physiopedia Plus Ltd, which provides support services to Physiopedia free of charge. The cost of these services, where quantifiable, is included in the accounts both as costs and as a donation. The directors of Physiopedia Plus Ltd also devote a substantial part of their time to the activities of the charity entirely on a voluntary basis. The value of these services has not been quantified.

# £23,903

## FOR THE FUTURE

Surplus funds will be used in the next financial year to forward the Physiopedia mission.

There will be a continued focus on creating a sustainable team structure to manage the content on the Physiopedia website. Our flagship knowledge resource will continue to provide high quality information for the professional development of physiotherapists all over the world.

Additional focus will be on developing existing and new partnerships with universities, clinics and professional organisations. We will create professional development opportunities for their students, staff and members.

An open knowledge translation strategy will be implemented for researchers. We aim to provide new time sensitive avenues to get new knowledge into practice.

The annual free and open online course in late 2018 will be on wheelchair service provision, satisfying the learning needs of many health care professionals in all contexts.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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