

WFMT COUNCIL 2008-2011: STABILIZATION-PRODUCTION-TRANSITION

Petra Kern and Council Members
World Federation of Music Therapy

Introduction

The WFMT roundtable highlights achievements of the 2008-2011 Council, presented in three work phases: stabilization, production, and transition.

Stabilization Phase

First, the newly established Council appointed eight Regional Liaisons to the new WFMT Council to assure representation from all regions of the world. Second, the Council secured non-profit status for WFMT in collaboration with the new attorney who represents the organization on all legal matters. Third, the Council created a new WFMT logo and the slogan, *Supporting Music Therapy Worldwide*, which was incorporated into brochures and posters to increase worldwide visibility of music therapy as a profession. Fourth, the Council set up a new website, www.wfmt.info, to keep members and individuals informed about the work of WFMT. Meanwhile, the WFMT website has become a major platform for information exchange with more than 16,000 monthly visitors. Fifth, as a representative of the WFMT, the Council presented at several prominent, worldwide music therapy events.

Production Phase

Several other tasks were completed over the next three years. The Council established 12 work groups, celebrated WFMT's 25th anniversary with monthly events, and worked on specific tasks supporting WFMT's main goals. Highlights include the opening of the WFMT *Publication Center*, which hosts the Sound Board and WFMT Publications (i.e., articles, Fact Pages, Podcasts, Interviews, and videos produced by WFMT), archives, and the forthcoming new WFMT online journal, *Music Therapy Today*. New innovations include the WFMT online *Education Center* featuring video episodes, the WFMT *Job & Volunteering Center*, and the *International Library of Songs* presently consisting of lullabies commonly used in WFMT's eight regions. The Council also posted *Research FAQs*, an *Introduction to Ethical Practice*, *Guidelines to Create a Code of Ethics*, *Internet and Privacy Issues* related to music therapy, and the newly created *Column on Global Crises Intervention*. New additions related to students included the *WFMT for Students* section (including the Window to the World, Info Cards, and Connection Project), the *Assembly of Students Delegates* representing students from WFMT's eight regions, the new student membership

categories, and the first World Congress of Music Therapy Scholarship for Students. Finally, the Council collaborated in preparations for the 13th World Congress of Music Therapy in Seoul, Korea, planning innovative sessions such as the Spotlight Sessions.

Transition Phase

In preparation for transition to the 2011-2014 WFMT Council and membership, the present Council wrote job descriptions for all Council positions, called for online nominations of candidates, set up online membership renewal, and established a *Council Only* section on the website to archive documents (i.e., Council directories, reports, meeting minutes, and membership lists).

Conclusion

The Council's work ethic has been to be inclusive, transparent, and informative. We have been active in moving one step closer to our vision of *developing and promoting music therapy throughout the world as an art and science*.

References

All WFMT publications, project outcomes, and events are available on the WFMT website at www.wfmt.info. Monthly Spotlights are posted on Facebook.

About the Authors



Figure 1. 2008-2011 WFMT Council

Dr. Petra Kern, MT-DMtG, MT-BC, MTA, NICU-MT is the President of WFMT and owner of *Music Therapy Consulting*.
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2008-2011 Council Members include *Officers* Gabriela Wagner (Past President), Annie Heiderscheit (Secretary/Treasures), and Rose Fienman (Executive Assistant); *Commissioners* Patricia Sabbatella (Education & Training Chair), Deborah Benkovitz (Clinical Practice Chair), Lucanne Magill (Global Crises Intervention Chair), Byungchuel Choi (Accreditation & Certification Chair), Mary Boyle (Research & Ethics Chair), and Joerg Fachner (Publications Chair); *Regional Liaisons* Sunelle Fouche (Africa), Anja Tait (Australia/New Zealand), Gene Ann Behrens (North America), Cybelle Loureiro, (Latin America), Sumathy Sundar (Southeast Asia), Simon Gilbertson (Europe), Marion Tennant (Eastern Mediterranean), and Tian Gao (Western Pacific); and World Congress Organizer Byungchuel Choi (Korea).