



WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons



July 2020

Dear WFMT friends and colleagues,

We are just hours away from the **2020 World Congress of Music Therapy, online from South Africa**. You still can register for the online congress through the [congress website](#). Details of the congress programme are available on the website <https://www.up.ac.za/music-therapy-2020>

I can't believe it has been 3 years since I became the President of the WFMT. I am so proud of the 2017-2020 WFMT Council for the numerous accomplishments made during the past 3 years towards advancing the discipline of music therapy as a science and an art and for the efforts to get closer to our members and colleagues from around the world.

This year we have had to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which has forced us to redesign, with the organizing committee, the **16th World Congress of Music Therapy** to be able to offer it online. I am convinced that crises and difficulties we have to face in life provide opportunity for growth, and this is going to be also true for the World Federation of Music Therapy. I hope to see (at least virtually) many wonderful colleagues at this coming congress on July 7th and 8th.

I look forward to hosting the Triennial WFMT Business Meeting on July 6th and overseeing the election of new 2020-2023 WFMT Council Members.

We hope you enjoy the Congress and will join us for the next term!

Below you will see some of the WFMT highlights from the past three years.

2017-2020 WFMT Council

Officers

President

Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, Spain

Past President

Dr. Amy Clements-Cortés, Canada

Secretary

Dr. Anita Swanson, USA

Treasurer

Dr. Andrea Hunt, USA

Executive Assistant

Ms. Kumi Sato, Japan

Commissioners

Accreditation & Certification

Dr. Krzysztof Stachyra, Poland

Clinical Practice

Dr. Daniel Tague, USA

Education & Training

Dr. Sumathy Sundar, India

Global Crises Intervention

Ms. Mireya González, Chile

Publications

Dr. Annie Heiderscheit, USA

Public Relations

Ms. Angela Harrison, UK

Research & Ethics

Dr. Katrina McFerran, Australia

World Congress Organizer

Dr. Carol Lotter, South Africa

Regional Liaisons

Africa

Dr. Carol Lotter, South Africa

Australia/New Zealand

Dr Daphne Rickson, New Zealand

North America

Ms. Bronwen Landless, USA

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Marcela Lichtensztein, Argentina

Southeast Asia

Dr. Baishali Mukherjee, India

Europe

Ms. Marinella Maggiori, Italy

Eastern Mediterranean

Ms. Kristal Foster, Kuwait

Western Pacific

Ms. Vivian Chan, Hong Kong



Highlights from July 2017 to June 2020 include:

2017

- October** Announcement of new date, March 1st for World Music Therapy Day, from 2018. WFMT collaboration with Music Heals Charitable Foundation to prepare publicity and promote global celebrations.
- December** Publication of WFMT research interviews online.

2018

- February** The Education & Training Commission provided information on all education and training programs in 6 of the 8 regions of the WFMT and is building a digital library based on this information.
- March** World Music Therapy Day, March 1st, with worldwide celebrations.
- April** WFMT Assembly of Student Delegates launch Facebook group for music therapy students around the world.
Logo for 16th World Congress of Music Therapy released.
- July** Publication of 2018 edition of Music Therapy Today.
- August** WFMT was represented at Hong Kong Music Therapy Conference by Ms. Vivian Chan, Regional Liaison for Western Pacific Region.
- September** WFMT represented at 1st Mediterranean Music Therapy Meeting.
- October** WFMT was represented at the II Congress of Mental Health in Moscow, Russia.
- November** Dr. Swanson, Dr. McGraw Hunt, Ms. Landless and Dr. Heiderscheit presented "Spotlight on WFMT initiatives" at the 2018 American Music Therapy Association conference in Dallas, Texas.
- December** Further publication of music therapy student stories in the section of "Window to the World" of the WFMT website.

2019

- January** The Research & Ethics Commission launched a survey to find out a series of issues related to ethics in the profession.
- February** The Education & Training Commission provided information on all education and training programs in 6 of the 8 regions of the WFMT and is building a digital library based on this information. www.wfmt.info/commission-education-training-2017-2020/
WFMT was represented at Online Conference for Music Therapy by Dr. Swanson, WFMT Secretary.
- March** Music Therapy Day celebrations with greetings in 25 languages.
- April** Results from the Survey from the Accreditation and Certification Commission of the WFMT are processed and prepared for presentation.
- May** Applications for student scholarships to attend 2020 WCMT begin. Award nominations for the 2020 WCMT begin.
- July** Clinical Practice Commission starts a working group to revise music therapy models/approaches from around the globe.
- September** Our online journal, *Music Therapy Today*, Volume 15, Issue 1 included a focus on music therapy and trauma.
- November** Begin preparation for the 35th Anniversary of the WFMT.

2020

- January** Public Relations Commissioner: Begins the work in preparing videos for the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the **16th World Congress of Music Therapy**.
- March** Global Crises Interventions Commission: coordinated team collaboration to create an online support flyer "Make Music with the World", in answer to the pandemic crises of covid-19. It has been translated in over 15 languages.
- April** Virtual choir collaboration with International Association for Music and Medicine (IAMM).
- May** Recruitment of new organizational members.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge all the work of the Officers, Commissioners and Regional Liaisons of **WFMT** during the 2017-2020 term. To recognize all their dedication, commitment and contributions to the growth and development of the music therapy profession and of the **World Federation of Music Therapy**. Thank you to everyone. **It has been a pleasure to work with each one of you!**

Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, PhD, MT-BC, SMTAE
President WFMT



Supporting Music Therapy Worldwide