

'Facing our future: Physiotherapy at the nexus of tradition and innovation'

Dr. David Walton PT PhD

Associate Professor, School of Physical Therapy, Western University Canada

During this session, researcher, clinician, educator, advocate, and rehabilitation futurist Dr. David (Dave) Walton will invite the audience on a journey of personal and professional reflection as he addresses questions like 'What does physiotherapy look like in 10 years?' and 'What are the major threats and opportunities we should be prepared for, and how can we prepare for them?'. Drawing on his work in both quantitative and qualitative research and theory, including the trans-Canadian Physio Moves Canada project in 2017, Dave will present different possibilities for physiotherapy as a professional practice and Physiotherapists as a professional designation in a world that is dominated by data and artificial intelligence, geopolitical movements and tensions, and an increasing number of other professional and para-professional groups that can provide parts of the traditional domain of Physiotherapists. This session will be structured around participant interaction, whereby questions will be posed by the speaker then explored by the audience towards a shared vision of where we, as a profession, are going.

Bio:

David (Dave) Walton is an Associate Professor with the School of Physical Therapy at Western University (London, Ontario), an Honorary Associate Professor with the Discipline of Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney (Australia), an Associate Scientist with the Lawson Health Research Institute, and Associate Editor of the scientific journal *Musculoskeletal Science and Practice*. He is Director and Lead Researcher of the Pain and Quality of Life Integrative Research Lab (www.pirlresearch.com) at Western, where he supervises 15 thesis-based graduate students with foci including pain measurement, mechanisms of the acute-to-chronic pain transition, and professional education and development in rehabilitation and medicine. A past recipient of the CPA National Mentorship Award, he currently holds the titles of Faculty Scholar, Teaching Fellow, and MayDay Pain and Society Fellow, the first physiotherapist in the history of the MayDay program to hold that title. An international speaker and author of over 80 peer-reviewed papers, he was co-lead of the Global Year for Excellence in Pain Education in 2018 and one of the co-founders of the Pain Science Division of CPA in 2008.