

Brief summary of my experience at the 9th World Congress on Conductive Education

The 9th World Congress on Conductive Education (CE) took place in Budapest. It was well organized by the Andras Peto College, the International Peto Association, and the Andras Peto Foundation. Two days of pre-congress were followed by three days of intensive and remarkable congress sessions. We were all thrilled to meet with each other, listen to and participate in numerous exciting presentations and discussions.

The Congress was very successful. It's diversity really highlights how Conductive Education has spread all over the world. To reflect on the countless positive aspects of the congress could take ages. So, I will highlight the moments the most stood out for me.

The presentations and plenary talks were not just topical but also made us think and wonder. One of these talks was Melanie Brown- "Baby and bathwater." She talked about what elements of CE should be reserved and what can be changed. "The globalisation of CE in the past year has been immense. This has led children and adults being able to access and benefit from services provided. Conductors, the world over, have had to adapt to new social expectations, new environments and new national systems of working- none of this being regulated as perhaps would happen within other professions. This has led to development in the work but has this come at cost?" These are issues that I and other conductors I talk to face every day. Working in the US with Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists in different settings make my everyday work very different. I have to adapt the method and make it work in different circumstances; in a whole different world then what I am used to. I found it very important to discuss what defines CE. What are the parts I can change and what are the components I have to hold onto? I loved how Melanie presented and did not give an answer but gave us homework and challenged our thinking. After this presentation and thinking and talking about it with multiple colleagues, I have a working definition that will constantly evolving.

It was also great to see how CE in different countries works very well with other methods and assistive equipments that mutually improve both practices. Some of these include: Hippotherapy in Germany, the Mollii suit in France, and the iDoctum SEN that uses visual perceptual skills. As conductors, our goal is to assure the growth and improvement of our students, it is extremely important to be informed and open minded about the new practices and changes within our field.

BOOST's main goal for this conference was to learn how Conductive Education is placed in different educational and healthcare systems. Since Boost CE started a year round program only 6 months ago, we wanted to learn how and in what form could CE exist and flourish in Northern California. Being able to connect with professionals (especially in the US). and see what they have done built their practice, gave us several great ideas how we could implement CE and build a successful, intelligent structured year round program that fits well with our population. Our second goal was to develop connections with the community of conductors. We hope to be able to return this favor or pay it forward in the future.

I would like to thank the board of ACENA for giving myself and BOOST such an amazing opportunity by supporting us with the scholarship. Additionally, I would also like to thank the organizers of the congress for setting up such a high quality event. I am looking forward to the 10th Congress and plan to support the CE community in any and every way I can.

Sincerely,

Saskia Kramer, CET

BOOST Conductive Education Director

United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay

skramer@ucpnb.org

718-640-0410

www.boostcamp.org