

Global dance/movement therapy growth and development

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“I believe we are in a great profession which allows us to discover new parts in ourselves all the time.”

Yael Barkai, Israel

We begin this report with the statement above because it seems representative of the positive vision expressed by so many of the dance/movement therapists we contacted around the world. In order to gain a better understanding of the growth and development of the profession of dance/movement therapy (DMT) internationally, we collected data through surveying respondents from 37 countries. We were interested in understanding the process of the development as well as the personal experiences of these dance/movement therapists across the globe, and we thank the representatives of all the countries who graciously contributed to the survey. A comprehensive list of them is included in [Appendix A](#). Inevitably there were those we could not include—those we could not reach or find, but it is our hope they will write to us and add to our knowledge.

The respondents were discovered through several channels. Some had been members of the ADTA and the ADTA International Committee and Panel for many years; some we met and worked with in our travels; and some were found by inquiries and referrals through contacts and friends in different countries. In a few cases this took much investigation, and we believe that we developed a comprehensive knowledge of the DMT situation in all the countries covered.

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Table 1

Countries of survey respondents grouped by estimated number of dance/movement therapists countries with associations

| Group A, 100+ (<i>N</i> =7) | Group B, 50–100 (<i>N</i> =5) | Group C, below 50 (<i>N</i> =24) | Countries with dance or creative arts therapy associations (<i>N</i> =19) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Australia | Finland | Argentina | Argentina |
| Germany | France | Brazil | Australia |
| Israel | Canada | Belgium | Canada |
| Italy | Mexico | Croatia | Czech Republic |
| Japan | Spain | Czech Republic | England |
| England | | Greece | Finland |
| US | | Hong Kong | Germany |
| | | Hungary | Greece |
| | | India | Hungary |
| | | Ireland | Ireland |
| | | Korea | Israel |
| | | Netherlands | Italy |
| | | Nigeria | Japan |
| | | Norway | Korea |
| | | Philippines | Netherlands |
| | | Poland | Norway |
| | | Russia | Poland |
| | | Slovakia | Sweden |
| | | Slovenia | Taiwan |
| | | South Africa | |
| | | Sweden | |
| | | Taiwan | |
| | | Scotland | |
| | | China | |

The headings in the report reflect all the questions in our survey. The questions were sent to our respondents, mainly by email, some by regular mail. We were surprised and gratified by the richness of the responses, and have tried to include a fair sampling of these personal statements. We regret that these responses could not be included in their totality.

Data accumulated are represented in tables and as much as possible, by including the personal experiences of respondents in their own words. Section headings represent the questions that were asked of respondents.

How many dance/movement therapists are working in your country? Do you have a dance/movement therapy association, study group or some informal group?

Table 1 displays data on working dance/movement therapists in different countries, but there are many caveats to the numbers. Where there is no organization, it is more difficult to know the number of therapists working in the country. Some numbers represent students rather than working dance/movement therapists. Some therapists are working under other mental health titles and with other credentials but have been counted for the survey. Countries were organized into three groups for display in Table 1; Group A represents countries that had 100 or more individuals involved with the practice of DMT, Group B contains those with 50–100, and those countries in Group C had 50 or fewer. In addition, countries in which

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