

September 2026



Communicator

Thank You to Our Convention Match Campaign Donors!



Our deep gratitude goes to all who donated over the last few days during our 2026 AMTA Convention Match Campaign! **Together, our supporters raised \$14,544, which will be generously matched by the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), for a total of \$29,088!**

A very special thanks to Books of Discovery for matching \$5,000, and AMTA President Rick Greeley for matching \$1,500 on top of the AMTA match!

The funds we raised together enable MTF to continue providing critical research, education, and community service initiatives for our profession. **We are thankful for all who have contributed to making this fundraiser a success!**

Cal Cates Receives 2026 MTF Humanitarian Award



(L-R) Kerry Jordan, Cal Cates and Dr. Niki Munk

Congratulations to Cal Cates, recipient of the 2026 Massage Therapy Foundation Humanitarian Award! The award is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary, selfless dedication to improving the lives of others through massage therapy.

Cal is the founder and Executive Director of Healwell, Arlington, Va. Cal has dedicated their career to advocacy in healthcare, massage therapy as social justice, and to revolutionizing education for healthcare providers.

MTF is proud to celebrate Cal's tireless efforts and spirit of compassionate service.

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Gordon MacDonald Receives 2026 John Balletto Distinguished Service Award



(L-R) MTF Research Director Dr. Niki Munk and Gordon MacDonald

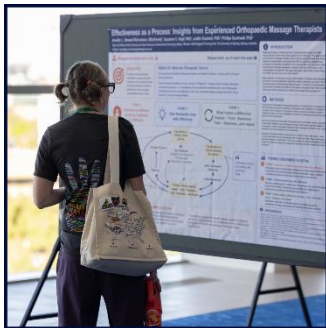
Congratulations to Gordon MacDonald, recipient of the 2026 John Balletto Distinguished Service Award! The award recognizes individuals whose dedication to the massage therapy profession, demonstrated through exceptional volunteer service to MTF, goes above and beyond the ordinary.

Among his accomplishments, Gordon led the Registered Massage Therapists Association of British Columbia (RMTBC) during the establishment and expansion its partnership with MTF in publishing the *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (IJTMB)*.

MTF is honored to celebrate Gordon's devotion to strengthening the massage therapy profession and elevating its standards of care.

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2026 Poster Session Videos



The 2026 MTF Research Poster Session at AMTA Convention featured 26 new and encore posters covering a variety of massage research topics, including MT for pain reduction in pediatric burn patients, for mental health in those with life-limiting physical illness, and impact of MT on pain and anxiety in patients with gynecologic cancer. The majority of the posters feature accompanying video abstracts where you can hear more directly from the authors. **Click below to check out the full list of posters and their accompanying videos.**

[View Poster List](#)

New CE Courses From IMTRC

Expand your knowledge and earn 1CE per course! These sessions were originally presented at MTF's 2025 International Massage Therapy Research Conference:



Massage and the Whole Health Initiative

Today's healthcare system often focuses on treating disease and managing services, which can overlook personal motivation and overall well-being. Dr. Tracy Gaudet invites massage therapists to explore the shift toward Whole Health—an approach that centers care on the whole person. Learn how this model moves beyond symptom management to support purpose-driven care and how massage therapists can play an important role in advancing this approach.

Buy Now



Massage Therapist Turned Researcher: Reports from Practice

Massage therapists can contribute to research and the growing evidence base in many ways. Hear from panelists who share real-world examples of different pathways into research. Learn how clinical curiosity can evolve into meaningful contributions that strengthen the profession and support evidence-informed practice.

- *Facebook: A Versatile Tool for MTs*, Tina Brown, PhD(c), MA, LMT
- *Graduate Research in Massage Therapy: The Journey Towards Dissertation*, Jill Cole, MA, LMT, BCTMB
- *Myofascial Cupping and Burn Scars: A Case Study*, Selena Hagan

Buy Now

New *IJTMB* Released



A new issue of *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (IJTMB)* has been released! In this edition, enjoy 9 open-access articles including an editorial about public trust and credibility for MTs, a case study on massage for musculoskeletal pain in pregnancy, research articles about massage therapy for low back pain and plantar fasciitis, manual lymph drainage for facial function in Bell's palsy patients, and more!

Read *IJTMB* Vol. 19 No.3



www.IJTMB.org

International Journal of
Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork

Call for Papers
IJTMB Special Issue on
Pain Management & Pain Science



Awards and Contests

The following MTF awards and contests are open for applications:

- **2027 Research Grant LOI (Over \$30k):** Open now; deadline is January 13, 2027

- **2027 Research Support Award (Up to \$30k):** application cycle opens November 1, 2026
- **2027 Community Service Award:** application cycle opens November 1, 2026
- **2027 Case Report Contest:** Submit year-round—next deadline June 1, 2027



PAST ISSUES: COMMUNICATOR ARCHIVE

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