

## Concept Note

### 2024 World Evidence-based Healthcare Day Event (Fireside Chat)

The Evidence-Based Practice Research Group,  
Ghana Physiotherapy Association

#### Title

**Translating Health Research into Action in a Ghanaian Polycrisis Context: a Fireside Chat**

#### Introduction

The 2024 World Evidence-based Healthcare (EBHC) Day campaign theme is [Health and Beyond: From Evidence to Action](#). It focuses on the need for greater evidence-based intersectoral and interdisciplinary actions beyond health to meet the challenges of the global polycrisis for better health. [Polycrisis](#) is described as multiple overlapping and interdependent global threats such as wars, climate crises, political tensions, etc. In taking action during this unprecedented time of polycrisis, the [2024 World EBHC Day campaign](#) stresses the importance of connectivity and believes that one of the greatest actions to addressing the challenging global health issues is the power of Human connections.

#### Focus on Polycrisis in Ghana

While it is important to look at polycrisis through the broader lens of the globe, it is also essential to explore country-specific polycrisis and how it contributes to the global discourse on health. Many countries in Africa such as Ghana face peculiar polycrisis threats such as illegal mining ([Galamsey](#)), [climate change crisis](#), and [dam spillages](#) which affects the health of citizens. Often, rehabilitation professionals including physiotherapists view such challenges as medical concerns and largely unrelated to rehabilitation, however, the conversation is closer to us than we think. For instance, with the ageing population and the presence of co-morbidities, the impact of extreme heat due to the current climate crisis impacts pain management, which is a core focus for Physiotherapy. Discussing the impact of polycrisis on health and rehabilitation is therefore an essential topic worth discussing, not only among the rehabilitation community but with other non-health experts to foster an intersectoral approach to addressing such challenges. Therefore, being a key stakeholder within the global evidence ecosystem with a focus on promoting Evidence-based Practice (EBP) within Physiotherapy, the [EBP Research Group](#) of the [Ghana Physiotherapy Association](#) joins this year's campaign in discussing the use of intersectoral action to address polycrisis within the Ghanaian context by hosting a fireside chat.

## Why the topic?

Despite establishing the importance of intersectoral and multidisciplinary action to addressing health issues within polycrisis times, the “how to” is often unclear in most settings. Within Ghana, there are interdisciplinary collaborations between universities, public institutions, and Civil Society organizations, however, this is not common within Physiotherapy. Rehabilitation experts have been criticized for working in silos and although evidence generation and research conduct can be improved, evidence is still being produced. The challenge is how the evidence is translated into practice to inform sound policy decision-making. Questions often asked are:

- How do we get evidence into practice?
- What are the challenges of translating research into action?
- Who can we partner with to ensure that we translate evidence into action?

To address these questions, and to initiate the conversation on how physiotherapists and other rehabilitation professionals can work with other non-health experts in translating evidence into action, a fireside chat will be hosted as part of the 2024 World EBHC Day celebrations. Within this event, multidisciplinary panellists of experts from Physiotherapy, Environmental science and architecture, climate change and journalism, and information systems will be engaged to share Ghanaian context-specific insights, challenges, and recommendations in translating research into action in Ghana, and by extension Africa.

## Aim of Fireside Chat

To explore ideas on translating health research (focus on rehabilitation) into action in a polycrisis context in Ghana.

## Mode of delivery

A 90-minute Virtual Fireside Chat on ZOOM



18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm

[Click to Register](#)

## Fireside Chat Panelists:

- Physiotherapist and Disability advocate – Ms Adjoa Banson
- Architect - Arc. Ruth Xorladem Ayittey
- Climate expert and journalist – Mr Kofi Adu Domfeh
- Information system analyst and Policy expert - Mr Kirchuff Atengble

## Why a Fireside Chat?

A fireside chat is personal and interactive discussion involving a moderator and a guest, in which the audience gain insights on various topics through the guest's personal stories and experiences. The EBP Group's main aim of using this approach is to ensure that our panellists and guests share their stories and experiences on the

topic freely and the audience leave the session with more information on the topic than they came in.

### **What we hope to achieve**

Upon attending this event, attendees will:

- a. Explore and discuss ways rehabilitation professionals can work with non-health experts to either initiate or strengthen intersectoral collaborations to address issues in health and rehabilitation in Ghana
- b. Gain insights on recommendations and practical steps on how to translate research into action in Ghana and other developing countries.

### **Conclusion**

Together, intersectoral recommendations on how to transfer research into action will be explored, documented, and disseminated towards rehabilitation strengthening in Ghana.

## **Participation is free**

*We look forward to seeing you on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024*

For further enquiries, please contact us here: [EBPresearchgroup\\_gpa@outlook.com](mailto:EBPresearchgroup_gpa@outlook.com)

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