Greetings from the Chair of the IADMS Education Committee

The IADMS Education Committee has been reaching out to teachers across the world, spreading the news of the many resources and opportunities available through IADMS. From our own experience as dance teachers, we are aware of the importance of new, stimulating information to improve our practice. At the same time, we share the need to speak with others about the challenges and discoveries that are part of all dance teachers’ lives. Our initiatives have all arisen from the IADMS Education Committee’s recognition of these needs.

Recently, I was re-reading Joan Lawson’s books, especially *The Principles of Classical Dance* (1980) and *Teaching Young Dancers: Muscular Co-Ordination in Classical Ballet* (1984). I was reminded of my excitement almost thirty years ago when I discovered that Joan was writing “just for me,” illuminating matters of dance science that concerned me daily as a teacher, and in a brilliantly accessible way. I devoured these books and, like Oliver Twist, I wrote to her asking for more. Her generous responses over the years were evidence of her urge to share her knowledge. This is the spirit I see today in IADMS.

The Education Committee is making progress in many of its initiatives. We are constantly increasing our list of teachers who receive the *Bulletin*, as this is often the first step towards a closer involvement with IADMS. Thanks to the editors, Gayanne Grossman and Marlise Kimmerle, the *Bulletin* is always packed with inspiring articles that support and challenge our day-to-day teaching experience.

Some of our resource papers have been translated into Japanese, French, Dutch and Spanish. Translation to other languages is in progress, reflecting the international nature of IADMS. We have just posted a new resource paper on turn-out and hip anatomy; another on supplementary exercises for turn-out should be online shortly. After this will come an invaluable paper on stretching; this is a much needed resource for teachers and their students. Readers have shown a great interest in psychology for teachers, so we will focus on this over the next year or so.

Those enrolled in the Studio Teachers’ Network (STN) are exceptionally pleased with our posters. Comments include “They have proved very popular and are read and discussed and used as lecture content” and “they are simply fantastic and they have been beautifully framed. All three posters are very important to our work and it is wonderful that you have released this information.” Series 3 posters, based on the most recent resource papers, were released at the Annual Meeting in October and are now available in the IADMS Online Store: http://www.iadms.org/storeindex.cfm?findprimarycategory=2306.

The Safe and Effective Dance Practice (SEDP) certification, a partnership between IADMS and Trinity College London, is booming. The qualification is applicable to those working across all sectors of the dance profession and is applicable to all styles of dance, from ballet to ballroom, hip-hop, tap and Bharata Natyam. We are thrilled to report that belly dance and pole dance teachers are now applying for the SEDP certificate. This remarkable growth in numbers and diversity is evidence of the quality of the certification. It also demonstrates that teachers in all genres are increasingly aware of the need for professional development and safe practice.

Surely the most important event of the year for us is the Day for Teachers, held the day following the Annual Meeting. This year’s program, skillfully devised by Donna Krasnow, focused on conditioning for dancers. Lectures and workshops addressed flexibility, muscular strength, aerobic training, fitness and neuromuscular aspects. Delegates were able to experience various conditioning techniques in movement sessions. The opportunity to hear a range of excellent presenters, to experience techniques first-hand, and to discuss common interests with peers from across the world, made A Day for Teachers an exceptionally refreshing experience.

Janet Karin
Chair, IADMS Education Committee