

In November 1999 SOI convened a meeting to discuss the expansion of its Healthy Athletes initiative. APTA, in attendance at that meeting, realized the opportunity for physical therapists to work with athletes with intellectual disabilities and agreed to develop **FUNfitness** as a physical therapy component of Special Olympic *Healthy Athletes*®.

**FUNfitness** was piloted and revised in 2000. **FUNfitness** was premiered at the Special Olympics Winter World Games in Anchorage, Alaska in March 2001. Since that time, FUNfitness has been present at five Special Olympics World Games events, as well as Regional events in the following Special Olympics regions: Europe Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East-North Africa, North America. FUNfitness has a presence in 47 United States, 3 provinces in Canada, 6 Caribbean islands, and 74 other countries around the globe (see specific country list of active FF Programs).

Training sessions are held each year to train physiotherapists from around the world in the development of the even in their countries. Since 2000, we have held 26 Train the Trainer sessions that trained over 135 physical therapists in the North American region to become Clinical Directors for their states. We had additionally trained over 150 Clinical Directors at 24 Train the Trainer sessions in other parts of the world.

We continue to improve our FUNfitness screening materials, and to update and refine our tests and measures. Beginning in 2011, we are developing year-round community based fitness programs for athletes that will encourage and promote a habitual healthy lifestyle.