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Confederation and since 2007 she is Chairperson of the German Olympic Academy Willi Daume. In 2005 she received a doctor of laws honoris causa from the Memorial University of Newfoundland and in 2008 from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). She was awarded with several prestigious international and national awards, including the FIEP Gold Cross of Honor of Physical Education and the Paralympic Order of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The Current Trends and Future Directions of Physical Education and Sports Science: An International Perspective

From a global perspective, issues related to physical education and sport are receiving growing attention. Increased efforts are undertaken by researchers and practitioners to improve the quality of physical education and sport in education, both within school and outside the school setting. There is an emerging focus on health and well-being, inclusive approaches and the importance of physical activity throughout the lifespan.

During the last decade a number of policies and declarations have attracted the attention of governments and decision makers around the world. It is widely accepted that sport and physical education can play a unique role in contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, there remains a great divide between international policy and practice in schools and communities around the world.

There is increasing diversity in research efforts related to sport science and physical education covering a broad spectrum of areas; including athletes with and without disability, gender and cultural differences, sport for all and traditional games and high performance sport. The International Olympic Committee has recently launched a new initiative "Youth Olympic Games" which are to be held for the first time in history in 2010 in Singapore. This has stimulated increased international research in talent identification and development of young athletes, overall athlete development, along with retirement and career transition for high performance athletes.

Institutions of higher learning as well as sport organisations offer new opportunities for qualification and specialisation which cover a broad spectrum of topics such as doping, Olympic studies and cross-cultural impacts on sport science and physical education. Communication and technology are having enormous impacts internationally on the development of sport science and physical education and will continue to provide challenges into the future. Professional training and education of teachers, coaches and instructors have great potential to influence the quality of service delivery and research well into the future.