

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2014

ARGENTINA

We would like to share with you some news about OT in our country.

We are really enthusiastic about the WFOT **Interim Executive** Management Meeting that will take place next year here in Buenos Aires, the Capital City of Argentina. We are working to do our best as host country.

Another important news is that occupational therapy was represented in the construction of an instrument to detect children at risk in the National Health Ministry. It has been a very long process, and was done as part of an interdisciplinary board of professionals. We consider that it was very important that our Association was part of that teamwork.

Also to share is that we are still working on the renewal of our “National Law for the Practice of Occupational Therapy”, looking forward to finally reaching the goal. We take this opportunity to express again our gratitude for the support of the WFOT through letters from the past President Sharon Brintnell to our National Congress Representatives.

Carolina Alchouron

WFOT Delegate, Argentina

CANADA

Over the past year, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) has been involved in many activities to support its strategic priority of enabling occupational therapy practice. The following are some CAOT initiatives to support this priority.

Professional Issue Forums

Each year at the CAOT Conference, Professional Issue Forums (PIFs) are presented to address priority health and social issues, and emerging practice areas in occupational therapy. CAOT strives for a broad stakeholder involvement in the PIFs, which include occupational therapists, professional groups, consumers, governments and non-government organisations. In 2014, PIFs included:

- **Interprofessional Education:** This Forum explored how occupational therapists, in their roles as practitioners, educators, researchers and policy developers, have an awareness and understanding of the issues related to interprofessional education and interprofessional collaboration in order to meet the current and future health care needs of Canadians.
- **Suicide Prevention and the Role of Occupational Therapy:** This forum explored the opportunities

and resources available for occupational therapy as a profession to be leaders in the movement towards building suicide safer practices and communities

These reports will be available in December 2014 at: <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=578>

CAOT Position Statements

These are quick reference sheets to help understand CAOT's position on issues that affect occupational therapists and their clients. Free access at: <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=4>

Occupational Therapy Now

Occupational Therapy Now is the Association's practice magazine, published six times a year, which provides occupational therapists with information to meet the challenges of their day-to-day practice. Topics include clinical applications of recent research and theory, evidence-based practice, product reviews, socio-cultural, political and economic influences on occupational therapy as well as other information relevant to the profession at large. Articles appeal to health care practitioners, consumers, policy and decision makers and members of the general public from around the world. Open access issues are produced in September/October each year and can be accessed through the CAOT website.

Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy

This journal has been published with SAGE since 2013, and in October 2014 SAGE has confirmed free access to all its Journals. Further information is available at <http://cjo.sagepub.com/>.

Sandra Bressler

WFOT Delegate, Canada

FINLAND

Reform

Finland's social services and healthcare has been divided into five areas which are responsible for providing all social and healthcare services. This means that some services will be closer to the citizens than before and others will be further away. The goal of this reform will be to provide equal services no matter where the citizen lives. The other focus for this reform will be early prevention, preventative care and services rendered at appropriate times.

Patient information online

Part of the health reform will also include patient information online which will be using the same network in every part of the country. Patients will be able to access their own information as well. They may also decide who will be able to access their own information among different health care providers. On this network, Occupational Therapists will be able to use occupational therapy terms accepted by the Finnish OT Association. Public Health has already joined this national health network and specialized health care will be joining in 2015.

TerVe-network

TerVe-network is a network including 10 different healthcare associations, covering over 32, 000 members. Finnish Association's president Kristina Holmberg was selected as the president for the TerVe-network for 2014-2015. This network has two important jobs: Strengthening the co-operation between these healthcare associations and lobbying for the healthcare and rehabilitation. The different associations have many shared interests and the results will be more effective when working together.

Occupational therapy education

The Ministry of Education has guided small educational programmes to unite nationally. The Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists has attempted to protest this, because of the possible shortage of OTs in certain areas. Two OT schools, Savonia and Saimaa, will be closing their OT programs for reorganisation. Savonia will continue until the year 2016, after which the students who have not completed their programmes may finish their studies in Jyväskylä AMK. However there will be more placements offered in the remaining OT schools: Jyväskylä AMK 20 placements (2015), Metropolia AMK 4 placements (2015) and Turku AMK 5 placements in 2014 and another 5 placements in 2015.

Niina Syri-Kekkonen

WFOT Delegate, Finland

INDIA

OTICON'2015

The 52nd Annual National Conference of AIOTA with International participation, is being organized from March 13-15, 2015 by U.P. Branch of AIOTA and Santosh Occupational Therapy College, Ghaziabad, UP at prestigious Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. The theme of the conference is 'Occupational therapy: Contribution to National Productivity' Visit AIOTA Website: www.aiota.org for updates.

OT Logo Competition

AIOTA has decided to create a logo/iconic symbol for the "Occupational Therapy" profession, which can be used for all occupational therapists in India, as an logo to reflect ta events, professional meetings, official publications, etc. Members of AIOTA may also use the logo as a symbol to generate public awareness of the occupational therapy profession. The OT Logo competition is open for members and student members of AIOTA. The winner of the Best Logo Designer will be awarded along with a Certificate of Appreciation.

MOT accreditation

Academic Council of OT a constituent body of AIOTA is in process of revising Minimum Standards of Education at UG level by incorporating recent trends & advancements in education and clinical practice. It has also developed guidelines on Minimum Standards of MOT Education in India. It is the first time that AIOTA has developed provision for accreditation of MOT programs of different universities in India. On recommendation of ACOT, Santosh OT College, Ghaziabad, UP/NCR/Delhi and S.R.M. College of OT, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu has been granted AIOTA accreditation for three years. Many more MOT Programs of different universities will be considered for approval by ACOT/AIOTA.

Regulatory Conference Meeting

The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy "NBCOT" successfully sponsored the First International Occupational Therapy Regulatory Conference in London on June 11-13, 2014. Forty attendees from nineteen countries were represented. President AIOTA Dr. Anil K. Srivastava and Dr. Mrs. Sujata Malik Vice President, Delhi Council of PT/OT represented India. The purpose and goals of the meeting were to: Gain an understanding of how occupational therapy practice is governed globally, understand key issues that affect practice and regulation, and organize a global regulatory community for the exchange of news, information, and contacts.

Anil K Srivastava

WFOT Delegate, India

JAPAN

Team Japan organised the very successful 16th WFOT Congress in Yokohama in collaboration with the 48th JOT Congress and Expo with record numbers of participants including over 988 members of the Japanese public and volunteers who facilitated the smooth running of the event. In addition, more than 500 occupational therapy students from 33 countries worldwide participated to the student programme.

The report may be viewed in the WFOT Bulletin Volume 70 November issue.

Noriko Tomioka

WFOT Delegate, Japan

KENYA

The 13th Scientific conference and Annual general meeting will be taking place on the 26th-28th November 2014 in Mombasa County with the theme Occupational Therapy in Kenya-Fostering Occupation – Based Practice.

A variety of important actions have been taken recently.

- The Kenyan Scheme of service for OT's (revised) has already been implemented.
- The OT Bill is at the legislature level.
- The revision of the KOTA constitution has been finalized.
- The revision of Standards of Practice document was also finalized
- In the process of developing of a Kenyan OT practice framework (ongoing)
- Pursuing introduction of OT degree courses in other universities in Kenya namely Mount Kenya University
- Occupational Therapy Degree courses are being offered at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA)
- New KOTA officials will be elected in November 2014.
- Pwani Occupational Therapists Regional Group (PORTG) based in Mombasa County organized a CME / learning forum on Autism and public-private OT's partnership strategy to improve on the continuous professional development.

Erastus Shuma

WFOT Delegate, Kenya

MALTA

New Malta Association of Occupational Therapists (MAOT) committee was elected in 2013 to serve until July 2015. Mr Demis Cachia is the new MAOT President. Mr. Cachia will be MAOT's representative during COTEC General Assemblies.

MAOT hosted COTEC's first General Assembly in Malta in October 2013. A meeting with HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta together with a number of meetings with Maltese politicians were held.

Mr Demis Cachia represented the Malta Health Network the annual general meeting of the European Patient's Forum held in Brussels last April. MAOT is a member of the Malta Health Network. Several CPD and social events were organised during the past months.

MAOT provided its reactions about a number of local issues including homes for persons with disability, dementia, and scholarship funding. It plans to make Occupational Therapy visible also on other local issues.

Ms Henriette Baldacchino is representing MAOT on the Malta Association of Supported Employment. We have been accepted to join The Malta Federation of Professional Association as observers as from October 2014. Mr. Cachia is representing the association during monthly meetings.

Issue 17 of the Maltese Journal of Occupational Therapists was recently published.

Demis Cachia

WFOT Delegate, Malta

NETHERLANDS

From 23-25 October, the yearly ENOTHE Congress (European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education) will take place in Nijmegen (HAN: university of applied sciences) the Netherlands. The theme for this year's meeting combines the EU year 2014 theme of "Reconciling Work and Family Life" and the theme "The year of the Brain 2014" by the European Brain Council. The second general assembly of COTEC will also be held in Nijmegen alongside the ENOTHE Annual Meeting which gives participants networking opportunities.

The Dutch OT Congress "Occupational Therapy Matters" takes place at November 7th 2014, in Apeldoorn. The goal of the congress is two-fold: to make external parties (municipalities, health insurances, care providers etc.) conscious about "OT matters", by demonstrating how OT can support a better and healthier functioning of the Dutch society. Secondly, the focus is internal, by challenging and inspiring OT's to raise awareness that OT matters in the current and future society.

At the last General Assembly, the profiles of two specialisations have been accepted. Occupational Therapy for children: based on the client, occupation, context of the child and evidence based. And Occupational Therapy specialized on hands. The description of both specialisms is a first step to establish a protected and recognized specialism at professional master level.

Based on the Guidelines of COTEC, a new code of ethics (in concept) is written. This code will be submitted for approval at the Dutch general assembly in November 2014. Besides a set of behavioral rules, the code also contains a specific conceptual and action model which supports OT's to analyze dilemmas in their work in a methodical way.

The Dutch OT Association started the Ergo academia for continuing professional development with many different courses, workshops, events. Beside the ergo academia, the association also started regional networks in the Netherlands with the goal of organizing meetings at regional level to create opportunities to share knowledge and experiences and to network.

The Dutch OT Association launched her new website: www.ergotherapie.nl

National Transcript Bachelor of Health Ergotherapie (Occupational Therapy) is a document produced jointly by all Higher Education Institutes providing a Bachelor of Health Ergotherapie (Occupational Therapy) programme in the Netherlands. The Transcript has been developed to support the process of recognition of Dutch Occupational Therapy degrees abroad.

Mieke le Granse

WFOT Delegate, Netherlands

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Association of Occupational Therapists is organising the 8th National Congress of Occupational Therapy. The congress will take place next year, 16-18 April, 2015, in Fátima, a small city in the centre of Portugal known for the miracles of the three shepherds and Saint Mary, mother of Jesus.

Pre congress workshops of national and international colleagues will take place on Thursday, the 16th April. Workshops of shorter duration will also continue through the congress. The exhibition area will be open to the public throughout the congress with a diversity of assistive technologies, technical books, and mobility equipment.

On the 17th and 18th we will have several presentations by Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian colleagues. We will also have the participation of two key note speakers including Julliana Arva a Rehabilitation Engineer who specialises in paediatrics. Guided visits to two different institutions nearby will also be provided.

Call for papers is open. For further information, please go to – www.ap-to.pt in the congress area or contact us by e-mail to apto.portugal@gmail.com .

Elisabete Roldão,

WFOT Delegate, Portugal

SLOVENIA

The 20th Anniversary of Slovenian Association of Occupational Therapists

Slovenian Association of Occupational Therapists (SAOT) was established in 1994, and ten years later became a full member of WFOT. Membership in the association has always been voluntary and today we have almost 300 members. With the efforts of founders during these 20 years, the association became widely recognised in Slovenian health care system and it has an important role within the education, services and promotion of occupational therapy.

The 7th Congress of Slovenian occupational therapists will be organised by SAOT from 24th to 25th October 2014 with the theme “With occupational therapy to active life”. The program consists of international plenary session, oral presentations, poster presentations and workshops.

Zdenka Pihlar

WFOT Delegate, Slovenia

SOUTH AFRICA

Strategic visioning and planning: the executive committee continued with our strategic planning. We have refined the vision, mission and values and are planning a national listening and dialogue campaign for 2015. This campaign will be a roadshow to engage with all occupational therapy staff around the country with the purpose of hearing the perspectives of members and non-members of the Association.

WFOT congress 2018: we will soon be setting up meetings to involve all Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA) committees as well as special interest groups and associated organisations in the congress planning.

Position statements: A position statement on 'Therapeutic group work in occupational therapy' was ratified at our Council meeting in April. A position statement on 'Occupational Therapy in Primary Health Care' has been developed and is almost ready for release.

Certificate of Need (CON) – the National Department of Health is working on regulations for a certificate of need (CON). This is a licence that will have to be obtained by all healthcare practices and healthcare facilities. Once the regulations have been finalised, the sections of the National Health Act that create the legal framework for the CON, will be brought into effect. All practices will then have two years from that date, to obtain a CON. OTASA has made a submissions on the CON to the Department of Health, pointing to its unintended consequences and the desirability to incentivise, rather than penalise, as a mechanism to address geographical inequities in OT services.

Special visitor for OT month – In keeping with the WFOT theme 'United in Diversity' and the OT Global Day of Service on 27th October, OTASA in collaboration with members of the South African OT community will be hosting a very special guest from Canada, Professor Rachel Thibeault. Different activities such as CPD workshops, talks and community engagements will be held across several provinces from 15 to 22 October.

Helen Buchanan

WFOT Delegate, South Africa

SWEDEN

The Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists has, during the last couple of years, worked with a project about "Preventing disease by improving lifestyle habits". The project is based upon the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's National Guidelines for Methods of Preventing Disease. The lifestyle habits that the guidelines discuss are tobacco use, hazardous use of alcohol, insufficient physical activity and unhealthy eating habits. An abstract about the project was presented at the WFOT2014 congress in Japan. Our outcomes of the project, highlighting the role of the occupational therapist, are; information leaflet *Walking the dog and cleaning the windows*, workshops, study material, a book *Health and occupations in everyday life* and four short films. The films are available on our website (two of them in English) www.fsa.se/Om-forbundet/Other-languages/

We have, according to the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs' national strategy for prevention and intervention of chronic diseases, compiled a statement clarifying our standpoint when it comes to occupational therapy for persons with chronic diseases. In the statement we emphasize, among other things, that occupational therapy is person-centered and that the National guidelines and registers have to include occupational therapy and rehabilitation.

Also, in connection with the latest years of focus on secure health care, we have launched a study and discussion material "Patient safety – risks when the occupational therapist meets with the patient". The aim is to offer hands-on discussion questions, to illuminate in what way the occupational therapist meets the patient from a patient safety perspective. The material (in Swedish only) can be downloaded from our website www.fsa.se/kvalitet.

Ida Kåhlin

WFOT Delegate, Sweden

UNITED KINGDOM

In 2013, the College of Occupational Therapists (COT) continued the cycle of review and revision of two core documents: *Curriculum Guidance for pre-registration education* (2009a) and *Pre-registration education standards* (2009b). The new learning and development standards for pre-registration education (COT, 2014) brings together the desired outcomes for education programmes in the form of an 'entry-level' profile for the graduating occupational therapist, along with the standards and requirements that educational institutions must achieve in order to assure the College that the programme is fit for purpose to deliver against the profile. These standards will also support and facilitate the development of a programme suitable to meet the requirements of the regulatory body in the UK, as well as the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

The publication can be found here: <http://www.cot.co.uk/publication/z-listing/college-occupational-therapists-learning-and-development-standards-pre-regis-0>

The College of Occupational Therapists Code of Continuing Professional Development has been devised to support the occupational therapy workforce in the UK by setting out clear expectations for all BAOT members' professional development:

<http://www.cot.co.uk/sites/default/files/general/public/COT-CPD-2010.pdf>

The history of the occupational therapy profession in the UK is recounted in the two volume publication 'Occupation for Health' written by Dr. Ann A. Wilcock. The College of Occupational Therapists has a number of copies of the book which we would like to offer to colleagues free of charge. If you would like to receive a copy (either just one volume or the set of both volumes), please contact Lorayne Bromberg: lorayne.bromberg@cot.co.uk

Camilla Cox

WFOT Delegate, United Kingdom

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The American Occupational Therapy Association launched the following events and activities in support of key initiatives to advance as a profession and to increase access to OT services.

- The Emerging Leaders Development Program (ELDP) links new OTs with leaders in the profession for a year-long mentoring experience. This program has fostered professional knowledge, involvement and confidence to lead the profession of the future: <http://www.aota.org/en/Education-Careers/Advance-Career/ELDP.aspx>
- Evidence based practice continues to be central to our advancement, and thus AOTA offers access to research in many practice arenas: <http://www.aota.org/Practice/Researchers.aspx>
- On September 15, AOTA's Capitol Hill Day brought hundreds of OTs, OT assistants and students to Washington D.C. to talk with members of Congress about OT. The primary goal was to advocate for expanding occupational therapists' role in mental health services. The percentage of OTs working in mental health has been declining, and AOTA is committed to meeting this growing societal need. OTs in the United States are learning from international colleagues about advanced and innovative ways to provide community based mental health services.
- On September 17, AOTA promoted its annual School Backpack Awareness Day in which students, parents, educators, school administrators, and community members were taught safety tips to stay protected from back pain throughout life, how to properly choose, pack, lift, and carry various types of bags—including backpacks, purses, briefcases, and suitcases.
- December 1-5, 2014 is AOTA's Older Driver Safety Awareness Week. Check out Older Driver resources: <http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Older-Driver-Safety-Awareness-Week.aspx>
- AOTA Specialty Conferences held in Fall 2014 include *Effective Documentation: The Key to Payment & Articulating Our Distinct Value*; *AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave*; *Improving Health & Participation of Older Adults (Focus on Falls Prevention, Low Vision, and Environmental Modifications)*; and *Adults With Stroke* (scheduled for January 2015).
- AOTA's Annual Conference & Exposition will be held in Nashville, Tennessee April 16-19, 2014. Nashville is referred to as the "Athens of the South" and "Music City" as it is the home of the Country Music Grand Ole Opry. Each year the conference expands its international programs and participants. Our International Breakfast Speaker will be: Liliana Alvarez Jaramillo, PhD, MSc, OT WFOT Delegate from Colombia. More information available at: <http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Annual-Conference.aspx>

Susan Coppola
WFOT Delegate, USA