

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

DECEMBER 2015

KENYA

- 14th Scientific conference and Annual general meeting will take place on the 25th-27th November 2015 in Eldoret, Kenya.
Theme for the conference is **TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE IN KENYA- A MOVE TOWARDS OCCUPATION.**
- Kenyan Scheme of service for occupational therapists (revised) is already in use at national and county government level.
- Occupational Therapy Bill proposal is at the advanced legislature level
- Revision of Kenya Occupational Therapists Association (KOTA) constitution has been finalized, adopted and in use
- Revision of standards of practice document also finalized, adopted and in use.
- In the process of developing of a Kenyan occupational therapy practice framework (ongoing)
- Pursuing introduction of occupational therapy degree courses in other universities in Kenya namely Mount Kenya University, Outspan medical college etc.
- Degree courses being offered at Jomo Kenyatta university of agriculture and technology (JKUAT) and Presbyterian university of east Africa (PUEA)
- Starting an occupational therapy program in Kenya medical training college, Mombasa Campus this September which will be the fourth school to offer occupational therapy education in Kenya.
- Election of new KOTA officials in November 2015.
- Pwani Occupational Therapists Regional Group (PORTG) based in Mombasa County organized 2 hand therapy workshops courtesy of Coast physiotherapy, physical therapy services ltd and the Orfit industries.
- KOTA county branch elections going on in Kenya to establish county branch offices as part of the KOTA constitution. Offices created are Nairobi, Central and Coast region.

Erastus Shuma
Delegate

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Association of Occupational Therapists has created a group of interest in international issues, the GIQI. This interest group was created in June 2015, it has been operational since September and it has already promoted two working meetings. It is an important step for the Portuguese occupational therapists because, most of them don't know what is happening abroad. The main goal is to create a current database on the characteristics of Occupational Therapy in other countries (academic degree, existing schools, recognition of WFOT, name of the National Association, functioning and organization of Occupational Therapy), produce information leaflets for colleagues who want to work abroad, create a support office for occupational therapists who intend to emigrate, create a database for the exodus of Occupational Therapists and translate documents of the WFOT.

With the creation of this group The Portuguese Association of Occupational Therapists want to have informational value for associates, disclose information about Occupational Therapy in other countries and promote the Portuguese Occupational Therapy abroad.

Elisabete Roldao
Delegate

UNITED KINGDOM

2016 College of Occupational Therapists (COT) Annual Conference

Next year we celebrate our 40th annual conference and exhibition. The event is being held in Harrogate, Yorkshire from 28-30 June. The theme for the conference is "It's time for OT" and we will be looking back and looking ahead 40 years as well as addressing today's issues. We are expecting this to be the largest ever conference with the most delegates. We are offering special conference rates for our members including an offer for student members to attend for just £40! Information on the conference can be found at www.cotannualconference.org.uk

OTnews online

2015 has seen the successful launch of a new digital version of the magazine in a page turning PDF format, hosted behind BAOT member login on the COT website. This digital edition allows members to search key words within an issue, click directly through to web links for resources, job adverts, products, services and learning zone events, and offers a strong platform for digital engagement with the magazine.

British Journal of Occupational Therapy (BJOT) special issues

BJOT has a number of special issues in progress, including one on Dementia publishing in 2016, and another on Vocational Rehabilitation (calls are now closed). A call for a special issue on occupational therapy and technology will be announced soon.

College of Occupational Therapists (COT) new publications

In September 2015, the College published two new resources to support occupational therapy practice:

- *Hand and wrist orthoses for adults with rheumatological conditions* – Endorsed by the British Association of Hand Therapists, Arthritis Care and the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists, this practice guideline provides specific evidence-based recommendations which describe the most appropriate care or action to be taken by occupational therapists working with

adults who may benefit from a hand or wrist orthosis as an intervention for a rheumatological condition. The guideline is freely accessible to download from the COT website:

<https://www.cot.co.uk/publication/z-listing/hand-and-wrist-orthoses-adults-rheumatological-conditions-practice-guideline-o>

- *Children and young people with acquired brain injury: current practice in occupational therapy* – This publication is a practical resource to guide occupational therapists new or returning to the field of paediatric neurology and working with children with acquired brain injury. Divided into sections according to the location of the child during the care pathway, it provides information relating to occupational therapy processes from acute presentation in hospital through to long-term community care. Available from the COT website at:
<https://www.cot.co.uk/publication/cot-publications/children-and-young-people-acquired-brain-injury-current-practice-occupa>

British Association and College of Occupational Therapists (BAOT/COT)