

## **NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

**MARCH 2016**

### **DENMARK**

The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists welcomes new President Tina Nør Langager:

'Brief details of my background

I have twenty years of experience in occupational therapy but, at the age of 43, I am still young.

I have worked as an occupational therapist with rehabilitation and provision of assistive technology at hospitals and in local authorities. As an employee of the Association of Occupational Therapists for the past eight years, I have devoted my time to our profession, salaries and terms and conditions, our education and management development.

I began my union career as a trade union representative back in 1999 in the City of Copenhagen. My commitment to occupational therapy and the desire to improve conditions for occupational therapists resulted in seats on the board of the Association's East Region and on the central board of the Association of Occupational Therapists until I took up employment with the Association.

I am outgoing and good at connecting with people. I am a team player and love community, open dialogue and debate. However, I am also able to make decisions. I have developed a broad network among the Association's members, and due to my current job I know a great many of the players with which the Association cooperates and negotiates.

I have supplemented my qualification as an occupational therapist with a Diploma in Health Promotion and Prevention and a Master's degree in Social Entrepreneurship with two very interesting specialist areas. The first concerned the collaboration between the public, private and civil sectors and cross-sector partnerships. The second concerned management and development of voluntary organisations, member involvement and the structure of organisations for voluntary work. In my Master's dissertation, I chose to deal with the interface between voluntary workers and occupational and physical therapists in a case study on cross-sector rehabilitation in daily life (Municipality of Fredericia).

I was born and grew up in Broager, South Jutland, and trained as an occupational therapist in Aarhus (1994)'

Source URL:

<http://www.etf.dk/cv-tina-noer-langager>

*Inger Marie Jessen*

*Danish Association of Occupational Therapists*

### Plan for the establishment of a College of Occupational Therapy in Hong Kong

It is estimated that 80% of occupational therapists in Hong Kong have obtained a post graduate master degree in a specialized field, so specialization has been practiced informally in Hong Kong by occupational therapists for some years. On 1st June 2015, the first meeting of the Organization Committee of the Provisional Hong Kong College of Occupational Therapy was held under the auspices of the Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association (HKOTA). In the view of the core organizing group, specialization promotes public recognition and accountability, advancement of the professional standing and career development of occupational therapists in our society. The present terms of reference include: 1) To establish a communication platform among occupational therapists with similar professional aspirations so as to facilitate research and development in different specialty areas; 2) To promote professional development of occupational therapy in different specialty areas by setting standards and organizing advanced specialty training; and 3) To facilitate the public's access to information on registered occupational therapy specialists. Preparations for the establishment of the College are underway with the initial setting up of colleges in at least eight specialty areas under The College: (a) children and adolescents; (b) mental health; (c) elderly; (d) medical rehabilitation; (e) musculoskeletal rehabilitation; (f) work disability management; (g) assistive technology; and (h) developmental disability. The core group will be working on determining the criteria for listing as occupational therapy specialists, setting preliminary criteria, and proposing a framework for the formation of colleges in different specialty areas for members' consultation. (Taken from the Editorial by Stella Wai Chee Cheng and Kenneth N. K. Fong. *Hong Kong Journal of Occupational Therapy* (2015) 25, A1)

### Special Interest Group

A Special Interest Group in DementiAbilty: the Montessori Way™ was established by the HKOTA in 2012. Montessori Certified trainers conduct training workshops on Dementiabilty Methods the Montessori Way with a certification programme under HKOTA. One hundred and thirty occupational therapists completed the 2-day workshops in the past few years. Approximately 60% of them are working in hospitals and about 40% working in non-government settings including elderly homes, day care centres and dementia training centres. More than 70 occupational therapists have passed the certification requirement, while around 50 occupational therapists are still undergoing the certification process. The aim of using the Model of Dementiabilty Methods: the Montessori Way is to enable the engagement of persons with dementia in daily life & empower them to enjoy life with meaning, purpose and dignity. The Special Interest Group organizes regular sharing sessions to enhance the standard and practice of Montessori Programs for people with dementia in Hong Kong.



Ms Gail Elliot and Certified Montessori Trainers of DementiAbilty Methods: the Montessori Way™ in Hong Kong

## Cynthia Tang Memorial Seminar on 10 December 2015

Cynthia Tang is always warmly remembered as our mentor since we were once her OT students, our supervisor as she was the occupational therapy boss for those working in Hospital Authority at the time, and our dear friend. Twelve years have lapsed since she left us in Christmas in 2003. Cynthia had contributed a lot in the early years of development of Occupational Therapy in Hong Kong especially in the area of hospital services.

In memory of Cynthia, the Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association organized a one day seminar on 10 December 2015. The date of the seminar bore a special significance as it was Cynthia's birthday. The theme of the seminar was 'Advancing Occupational Therapy Practices: Reflection and Innovation.' Dr. York Chow, Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission and a long-time friend of occupational therapists, gave a keynote speech on 'Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities' in the opening session. It was followed by concurrent sessions focused on different areas – elderly services, mental health, paediatrics, use of virtual reality and occupational lifestyle redesign. Many local experts contributed in this seminar and there were a total of 140 participants. Cynthia's husband and daughter were also amongst the participants and this made the event very meaningful. The seminar provided a valuable occasion for educational update and information exchange. And perhaps more importantly, it served as a wonderful gathering for old friends. The day was very memorable and fruitful for all.



Participants of the Cynthia Tang Memorial Seminar Dec 10, 2016

*Kit Sinclair*  
*1<sup>ST</sup> Alternate Delegate*

## ITALY

The Italian Association of Occupational Therapists (A.I.T.O) is glad to update you with some 2016 news from Italy and Italian OTs.

In February 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Executive Council met and accepted the voluntary resignation of the President and elected the new AITO President till the end of his term of office in 2017. The name of the new AITO President is Michele Senatore.

A lot of work in this year had been done due to our last President who worked hard till February representing our profession during political committees. The website has been improved and it will be completed at the end of March. One of our implementations is the creation of a point of the website for foreign occupational therapists to ask questions and information about occupational therapy in Italy and to cooperate with us.

We will be very happy to get in contact, communicate, collaborate and help foreign occupational therapists that come to Italy to teach and create courses; let us know and we will work together!

Our website is: [www.aito.it](http://www.aito.it)

During this year we will continue to work on four main topics and goals:

- Increase the relationship and cooperation between the National Association and directors of studies
- Information campaigns about occupational therapy and the importance of occupational therapists in a multidisciplinary team; open to institutions, population and healthcare system
- Improve the university guidance and orientation
- Enhance the collaboration between occupational therapists from different Italian territories.

This year we are organising a lot of events, from the end of 2015 the occupational therapy international day in an occupational therapy university, to 2016 with a big event and workshops about occupational therapy inside a national exposition for Rehabilitation professionals and about rehab and medical sciences. In June we will be part of an event talking about 3D print that is a brand new theme and opportunity for occupational therapists work.

In March there will be a congress organized by the Italian Scientific Society of Occupational Therapy (SITO) in which we will have our member's general assembly.

Here is a short presentation of the congress written by Yann Bertholom (SITO *President*):

*"It is with great pleasure that we announce that on March 18 and 19, 2016, the Italian Scientific Society of Occupational Therapy will be holding the 5th National Congress, "Dal pensare all'agire: l'identità e la pratica in terapia occupazionale" (From thinking to doing, the identity and practice of occupational therapy) in Padova, Italy. One of the primary objectives is conceptual occupational therapy models and the congress will host various international occupational therapists, Dr. Ann Fisher, Dr. Dido Green, Dr. Micheal Iwama, and Dr. Maud Graff. In addition, the congress will hold the first ever session for Student Dissertations, awarding the best dissertation presented."*

Thanks for your interest

Giulia Zanaboni

Delegate

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

Ergotherapy is a name for Occupational Therapy (OT) used in many countries of Eurasia and Europe, for example Latvia. It would be consistent to use this same, internationally well-established term.

One of our aims is that Kazakhstan will have an internationally recognized Occupational Therapy degree. This will ensure that therapists who call themselves 'Ergotherapist', will also provide the quality that one may expect from an international Occupational Therapist.

Talking about Ergotherapy in Kazakh and Russian, we decided to call ourselves the Kazakh Ergotherapy Association (in short KEA). Or in local language: Қазақстан Эрготерапия Ассоциациясы (ҚЭА).

We consider that using this term in our name will enable a better understanding of our association both in Kazakhstan and abroad.

In 2014 at World Occupational Therapy Day (27th of October) we were asked to consider starting an association of Occupational Therapists working in Kazakhstan. We can now proudly say that our constitutions are under review of the World Federation of Occupational Therapist (WFOT). We expect their approval soon and thereby the official start of KEA will be a fact. With Occupational Therapists working in Astana, Almaty and Shymkent, three of the main cities of Kazakhstan are already able to receive Occupational Therapy.

We have close ties to many different projects and share the desire that Occupational Therapy will be extended over the country in the years ahead. Let me conclude with congratulating our Occupational Therapists and Kazakhstan with this first newsletter (please contact [info@ergotherapy.kz](mailto:info@ergotherapy.kz))!

*Evelien Visser*  
*President*  
*Kazakh Ergotherapy Association*

Note from Ritchard Ledgerd, Executive Director WFOT:

WFOT is pleased to announce that the Kazakh Ergotherapy Association (KEA) was admitted as an Associate Member at the Council Meeting, Medellin Colombia, 7 – 11 March.

## **KENYA**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Scientific conference and Annual general meeting took place on the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Eldoret, Kenya.
- The theme for the conference was 'TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE IN KENYA- A MOVE TOWARDS OCCUPATION.'
- Occupational Therapy Bill proposal is at the advanced legislature level
- Revised KOTA constitution is in use
- Revised standards of practice document is in use.
- In the process of developing of a Kenyan Occupational Therapy practice framework (ongoing)
- Still pursuing the introduction of the Occupational Therapy degree /Diploma 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)
- Occupational Therapy program in Kenya medical training college, Mombasa Campus in progress since September 2015
- Occupational Therapy program in Kenya Medical Training College, Machakos in progress since January 2016 which will be the 5th school to offer Occupational Therapy education in Kenya.
- Election of new KOTA officials in November 2015.

- KOTA county branch elections finalized in 2015 and offices are now fully running as part of the KOTA constitution.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Coast KOTA branch consultative forum was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 and the theme was: ORIF AND FUNCTIONAL BRACING FOLLOWING HUMERAL MID SHAFT FRACTURE.
- Next scientific conference and AGM to be held in Kisii County, Kenya in November 2016.

*Erastus Shuma*  
*Delegate*

## MALTA

### THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANADIAN MODEL OF OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE – ENGAGEMENT (CMOP\_E) IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

For many years the Occupational Therapy profession has felt the need to have a model of practice to underpin the service. This was brought about by the fact that occupational therapists in Malta used a variety of approaches and models of practice based on the different therapists' perspectives and knowledge. Following a national exercise held in 2011 on the vision of the Occupational Therapy Services, during which all occupational therapists were invited to reflect on their practice, a consensus was reached whereby one model of practice would be selected in order to align the services. This was one of national strategies of the profession.

For this purpose a steering group, made up of 4 occupational therapists together with the Professional Lead, was set up to work on this vision. Following some research, the team identified the Canadian Model of Occupational Performance and Engagement (CMOP-E) as the most appropriate model that would fit the needs of all service users.

At this point, the steering group organized the first phase of training for staff by giving a presentation of the model in various departments. The second phase of training was coordinated by Dr. Gail Boniface from Cardiff University. Dr Boniface has been involved in the implementation of other models with a number of services in the UK, and specifically with the implementation of the CMOP in Gloucestershire. A number of training workshops were held for all staff to discuss the use of the model in practice using a number of case studies. The workshops included an explanation of the process and experiences in adapting this model in Gloucestershire. Since staff needed further familiarisation with the model and measure (The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure - COPM), it was decided that the steering group would hold a number of other workshops in each OT setting in Malta and Gozo for the occupational therapists to further understand the specific terminology of the CMOP-E and how the model can be integrated into our assessments and intervention. From these workshops feedback from staff was gathered and compiled into reports.

This led to investigating the opportunity to invite one of the main authors of this measure (COPM) and someone who had been involved in writing Enabling Occupation II in which the CMOP-E was an important component. Professor Sue Baptiste was contacted and kindly accepted to come to Malta. This led to the organization of 5 days training for occupational therapy staff and senior staff. All occupational therapists attended a two day workshop in two groups. The fifth day was dedicated to a train the trainer workshop.

During the train the trainer session it was agreed that:

1. The client-centred approach and occupationally based philosophy would be applied across all services.

2. The Person Occupation Environment (POE) model would be used as a framework for practice and for documentation of sessions.
3. A strategy for education would be adopted: students would be trained on CMOP-E in preparation for practice, the clinicians and support staff would have ongoing training and other professionals and management would become aware of the new model and approach being used by occupational therapists through information sessions and articles.
4. The COPM would be used as the document for initial interview, goal-setting tool and outcome measure and this would be translated into the Maltese language by a student through the consent and permission of the Canadian authors.

From this point on, the project will continue to be coordinated by the steering group and professional lead together with the senior staff in order to support occupational therapists in the implementation of the model through on-going training. The entire process has proved to be a challenge. However, positive outcomes emerged from this experience and has brought a shift in outlook amongst staff on method of practice to move towards a more client-centred and occupation-based approach. This initiative was supported by the Directorate Allied Health Care Services.

Project coordinated by: Professor Sue Baptiste  
Assisted and supervised by: Dr. Gail Boniface  
Supported by: Director Ms. Joanna Chetcuti (Allied Health Care Services)  
Professional Lead: Ms. Cynthia Scerri  
Steering Group: Ms. Maria Daniela Farrugia  
Ms. Theresien Mizzi  
Ms. Maria Meilak  
Mr. Demis Cachia

*Demis Cachia*  
*President*

## SWEDEN

The Council of The Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists (The Swedish Association) elected a new Board and President in November 2015. Lena Haglund resigned as President after seven years, and Ida Kåhlin, WFOT Delegate and former Vice President of The Swedish Association, was elected to take over the chair. The Council also adopted a new vision and strategy for The Swedish Association, stressing the importance of occupational therapy in well-established as well as in new scopes of practice. Another main focus is to pursue a zero tolerance approach against an unhealthy work environment for our members.

Furthermore, the Council adopted a new version of Descriptions of professional requirements for occupational therapists.

We have also launched a publication on disaster preparedness and response based on the work being done within the WFOT regarding this area of practice.

To make it easier for newly arrived immigrants to establish themselves in the labour market, The Swedish Association has signed for a fast track agreement for professions requiring registration in health and medical care. The fast track program is administered by the Swedish Public Employment Service. More information on the fast track program can be found on the Government's webpage:

<http://www.government.se/articles/2015/12/fast-track---a-quicker-introduction-of-newly-arrived-immigrants/>

*Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists*

## SWITZERLAND

On the 12 and 13 of June 2015 the 4th National Swiss Occupational Therapy Congress, “to be, to belong, to become“, was held in Berne with great success. In order to satisfy the request of many Swiss occupational therapists for more frequent congresses, a new format has been designed. Between the two congresses held every 4 years, we will in the first year have a delegate’s day with an evening event. The second year will be a 2-Day Symposium and the 3rd year will revert to a delegate’s day with an evening event. The 4th year will see the return of the Occupational Therapy Congress.

As public relations in occupational therapy gets more and more important, many occupational therapists are attending fairs, congresses, conferences etc. The Swiss Occupational Therapy Association (EVS) is involved in promoting a corporate identity for such events and is developing relevant papers and products for this purpose. Furthermore a pool is being initiated in order to be able to staff events with occupational therapist volunteers aimed at attracting interest in the profession.

In 2015 EVS chose “Dementia“ as the theme for the year. The intention was to highlight a topic of widespread interest to the public and to emphasise the occupational therapy services offered in this specific field. In collaboration with the German Occupational Therapy Association (DVE), EVS designed an attractive postcard in German, Italian and French, attracting attention to occupational therapy. In accordance with the Swiss National Strategy for the Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) will be our topic for 2016.

In 2016 EVS celebrates its 60th anniversary with an evening event following the delegate’s meeting. EVS successfully nominated a member from Switzerland for the participation in the inaugural online WFOT course in Disaster Management for Occupational Therapists (DMOT).

*Theresa Witschi*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Delegate*

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO / CARIBBEAN

### **Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA)**

TTOTA now a Full Member of WFOT. At the 32nd Council Meeting recently concluded in Medellin, Colombia the Council voted in favour of approving the curriculum of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy at The University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago. Consequently, the TTOTA became eligible for and was unanimously granted full member status.

*Lesley Garcia*  
*Delegate*

## Caribbean

Greetings Fellow OTs from the sunny Caribbean!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to view the electronic newsletter produced by the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT).

ACOT represents occupational therapists from five countries in the region- Barbados, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. In its pages you will find information on what is happening in the profession in each country, including job opportunities. You will also find information on our biennial conference being held in Jamaica October 2017.

Do browse through and give us your feedback. ....you may even be interested in membership! Thanks for sharing, especially with your Caribbean colleagues. The publication for this quarter is complimentary, send us a request at [caribbeanotassociation@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanotassociation@gmail.com) and we'll send you out a copy.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,  
*Fleur Minott Nembhard*  
*President*  
*Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists*

### ACOT now a Regional Group Member of the WFOT

The Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT) which has been a Contributing Member of the WFOT since 1994 has become a Regional Member owing to the changes in membership categories approved at the recent Council Meeting. This evolution also reflects both the development of ACOT as an organization and the growth of the profession in the region.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Plans for a new COT website

We are starting a major digital transformation project which will culminate in a new website. The project will take around 18 months to complete and we have appointed a joint venture agency partnership – Precedent/CTi Digital – to work with for the duration. Precedent will project manage the initial discovery phase where we identify our key audiences, the current strengths and weaknesses for the current online offering and carry out consultation across a range of stakeholders. CTi Digital will project manage the second stage in which they build the new website in response to the research and investigation carried out in the initial discovery phase.

### 2016 College of Occupational Therapists (COT) Annual Conference



The College of Occupational Therapists 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition takes place on 28-30 June in Harrogate, England. 2016 is a significant anniversary year so conference will be a celebration

of the occupational therapy profession by reflecting on all that has made the profession what it is now, and predict how the profession should adapt and form to meet future demands. For the first time ever, the College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section -Trauma and Orthopaedic will be running their annual conference alongside.

Speakers include:

Professor Sheila Baroness Hollins of Wimbledon and Grenoside. Sheila is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry of Disability at St George's University of London and since 2010, a cross bench peer sitting in the House of Lords.

Professor Sue Baptiste, Professor at the School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, Canada.

The Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture: Dr Wendy Bryant, Professional Lead for occupational therapy, University of Essex

Professor Simon Kay, Consultant Plastic Surgeon and Head of Hand Transplant Team, Leeds General Infirmary

There will be a dedicated World Federation of Occupational Therapists session, *World Federation of Occupational Therapists and the global health agenda – towards 2015* Speakers are: Marilyn Pattison, WFOT President; Sue Baptiste, Vice President and Samantha Shann, Vice President Finance.

Listen to the Annual Conference 40th anniversary podcast at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhR9Mo5iZyE&app=desktop> . Use the twitter hashtag #COT2016 to follow the development of the 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

Early bird conference discount is available up to 8 April 2016. Register for conference at: <http://cotannualconference.org.uk/>

### New Publication

The new College of Occupational Therapists' publication '*Hand and wrist orthoses for adults with rheumatological conditions: practice guideline for occupational therapists*' is now available.

**A V A I L A B L E   N O W**



**Hand and wrist orthoses for adults with rheumatological conditions**  
*Practice guideline for occupational therapists*  
College of Occupational Therapists

This publication 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. Physiotherapists, hand therapists, orthotists and others who prescribe or use orthoses may also wish to refer to the guideline to inform their practice.

**Implementation tools available:**

- Quick reference guide
- Audit form
- CPD session

This publication is endorsed by

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