

## **NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

**December 2016**

### **ARGENTINA**

Our National Association: AATO – Argentinian Association of Occupational Therapists – has a new Executive Board:

President:	Andrea Albino
Vice-President:	Marcelo Esper
Executive Secretary:	Agostina Ciampa.

We are celebrating the first year of our Argentinian journal of occupational therapy: RATO. It is a very exciting project and we hope to make it grow every year.

There is a new Chapter of "OT in Schools" in our Association, and two other chapters are being developed: "OT in clinical practice with children and teenagers" and "Assistive Technology". We are so happy to have them and see other chapters continue growing!

Last but not least, the AATO has signed an agreement of bilateral cooperation with the National Health Service for elderly PAMI, to cooperate for a Healthy Brain, Alzheimer Disease and other Dementias.

Regarding the World OT Day, it is important to consider that we strongly celebrate our National OT Day on September, 10th. However, several posts celebrating the World OT Day have been seen on the social networks, especially Facebook and Twitter.

Agostina Ciampa  
Executive Secretary / Delegate

### **KENYA**

- Kenyatta National Hospital and Coast KOTA branch marked world OT day with various activities of promoting OT profession.
- OT Bill proposal is at the second reading after public participation.
- In the process of developing of a Kenyan OT practice framework (still ongoing).
- Preparations are underway to introduce Master's program in OT at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.
- Still pursuing introduction of OT 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).

- OT program in Kenya medical training college, Mombasa Campus in progress since September 2015 and progressing well.
- OT program in Kenya Medical Training College, Machakos in progress since January 2016 which will be the 5th school to offer OT education in Kenya and progressing well.
- KOTA county branch elections finalized country wide and offices are now fully running as part of the KOTA constitution.
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- The Coast KOTA branch continuous medical education on stroke rehabilitation was held on 2<sup>1st</sup> July 2016 and the theme was: **“Managing Cognitive Impairment”**.

Erastus Shuma  
Delegate

## SOUTH AFRICA

This year the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA) Free State branch, South Africa, was in charge of the annual OTASA media release during OT week. This is the third consecutive year that we have taken up this national event.

This year we published three OT articles on the Rooi Rose facebook page, three articles in newspapers (Media 24, The Issue, The Weekly) across the country and articles in “Baba & Kleuter” and one will also be published in “Rooi Rose” during December 2016.

We also organised a competition during OT week where OT’s could take photos and post it on the Facebook page by making use of hash tag addresses. The winners of the specific days of the OT week competition will still be announced. The “likes” on the Face book page will be counted and winners will be allocated according to the number of “likes” on the specific days.

OTASA Free State organised a social event on the Friday. Although only 18 OT’s attended, we really enjoyed it. It was a “Hop-on, Hop-off” event where coffee, breakfast and dessert were enjoyed at different venues.

Well done to the OTASA Free State branch and a special thanks to the community service Occupational Therapists (OT) who did the media release this year. You are stars!!

Tharina Annandale  
Free State Branch

## ROMANIA

### 2016 Year of the Profession Promotion in Special Education and Rehabilitation Areas

After returning from the 32nd Council Meeting of the WFOT with its’ Member Associations at Medellin/ Columbia where the PAOTR, by the voice of its’ delegate, brought up an important issue for the development of the profession in Romania, namely the “Occupational Standards for Occupational Therapy” relevant for the professional autonomy, the work and local action of PAOTR continued in promoting the profession at the request of professionals coming from two areas: special education and rehabilitation medicine.

In May, three of our OT Association members Liliana Vidican (BScOT), Dawn Hoffman (MOT) and Mirela Burlău (BScOT) answered to the invitation of Faculty of Social Sciences, Psychology Department from Oradea University (RO) and have met and discussed with the master students in "Integrated Education". We challenged their understanding of OT as a therapeutic method knowing that these students have in their curricula included occupational therapy taught by a psychologist, during a whole semester.

Following this meeting, in September, a two days training on "Understanding sensory processing disorders. Intervention strategies" developed by Dawn Hoffman and Liliana Vidican for professionals (teachers in special education, psychologists, speech therapists, educators, PT) working with children with multiple disabilities has been held at "Centrul Scolar de Educatie Incluziva Nr.1 Oradea". In the second day of the course the workshop on practical strategies was carried out in the very recent and newly created "Sensory Room", especially designed by an OT, Dawn Hoffman (MOT), and coordinated in future by an OT, Liliana Vidican (BScOT and teacher in special education), for the children from that school.



Also in May, Ana-Maria Duneş (PAOTR active member) has a powerpoint presentation entitled "Assistive technology for Cerebral Palsy children: case-study" within the conference "News in rehabilitation medicine" held in Băile-Felix (Oradea/ RO).

Between 27th September and 1st October we have been invited at the "39th National Congress in Rehabilitation Medicine" in Sibiu (RO) and given a generous space to talk and write about OT profession both at a global level as well as local context. The space and time has been shared with Samantha Shann, Vice-President Financ, WFOT, invited as key-speaker at the congress.

[http://www.viata-medicala.ro/\\*articleID\\_12259-dArt.html](http://www.viata-medicala.ro/*articleID_12259-dArt.html);  
<http://revistamedicalmarket.ro/articles/issues/pdfd/87> - pg.10 - 12)

This year 27 October "World OT Day" has been constantly promoted on the association online communication tools (Facebook, web page and twitter) and celebrated by the OT students, coordinated by Marinela Rață, associate professor at "Vasile Alecsandri University" from Bacău.



Last but not the least we have published the first issue of the PAOTR Newsletter, with the contribution and effort of the two very new occupational therapists from Alba-Iulia, Octavia Minoiu and Corina Gavrilă.



Mirela Burlau  
President & Delegate

## UNITED KINGDOM

### **Apprenticeships in England**

Following an independent review of apprenticeships in 2012, new government policy seeks to develop a world-class apprenticeship system in England that offers young people an alternative to university education and employers a 'job ready' pipeline of employees. The development of the new apprenticeship standards (that will ultimately replace the current apprenticeship frameworks) is driven by groups of employers reflecting the breadth of areas and sectors in which those apprentices might be employed, working in partnership with professional bodies and training providers. This is a complex, fluid and fast-moving agenda in which the role of the College of Occupational Therapists is to facilitate the development of apprenticeship standards related to occupational therapy (spanning support worker and degree-level apprentices employed within health, social care and the private, voluntary and independent sectors) to ensure that they meet the requirements of the professional and regulatory bodies.

### **The Career Development Framework: guiding principles for occupational therapy**

The College of Occupational Therapists' project team has begun to co-create a new resource: 'The Career Development Framework: Guiding principles for occupational therapy'. Aimed at supporting everyone, from school leavers through to Professors and Chief Executives, the framework will articulate principles relating to four pillars comprising: 1) professional practice, 2) facilitation of learning, 3) leadership, and 4) evidence, research and development. On completion (Autumn 2017) the web-based, open access tool will have multiple uses including to support role development and the writing/revision of job descriptions, active supervision, annual appraisals and identifying and planning learning needs and opportunities.

The project lead is Dr Stephanie Tempest ([Stephanie.tempest@cot.co.uk](mailto:Stephanie.tempest@cot.co.uk) @setG75). A virtual advisory group, comprising 185 key stakeholders with wide ranging experiences and from a variety of work settings are co-creating the resource and will cascade developments to other interested parties in order to seek maximum engagement through the development process.

### **College of Occupational Therapists 2017 Annual Conference** **19-20 June 2017**

**International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham**



### **New location, new venue, new structure**

For the first time The COT Conference will be at the prestigious International Convention Centre (ICC) in the centre of Birmingham. The Conference structure has been compressed into two days, same content for less time away from work or studies: great value for all delegates.

### **Speakers**

Confirmed speakers are Professor Winnie Dunn and Dr Jennifer Creek.

### **Call for papers**

The abstract system will open in November.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 20 January 2017.

Visit [www.cotannualconference.org.uk](http://www.cotannualconference.org.uk)

### **Conference registration fees now published**

Booking system will open by 31 December 2016

**To make sure you are up to date with the conference's latest development, complete the short form at [www.cotannualconference.org.uk](http://www.cotannualconference.org.uk)**

### **College of Occupational Therapists (COT) new publications**

*Entry level occupational therapy core knowledge and practice skills*

This publication builds on information from the College of Occupational Therapist's *Learning and development standards for pre-registration education* (2014), offering a more detailed analysis of the skills of the occupational therapy graduate and their delivery of the occupational therapy process, including:

- A revised framework, developed within the structure of the *International classification of functioning, disability and health*
- Description of the core knowledge and practice skills that can be expected of graduating occupational therapists
- A diagrammatic education framework to demonstrate graduate occupational therapy competencies.

This information will be of particular interest and benefit to education providers, service managers and commissioners/potential commissioners of occupational therapy services.

### **Improving Lives, Saving Money campaign**

The College of Occupational Therapists has launched the Improving Lives, Saving Money campaign in a big drive to promote the value of the profession.

The campaign will make the case for occupational therapists in 3 key areas:

- Keeping people out of hospital
- Reducing pressure on primary care
- Addressing over reliance on social care

NHS and care services have reached a tipping point across the UK with increasing demand and limited funds available. Those who commission care are faced with difficult decisions about which services to buy and how to provide cost effective care that meets the needs of local communities. It is critical in today's climate that occupational therapists can clearly show how they are improving lives and saving money for the public purse.

The first year of the campaign has concentrated on collecting impact data from occupational therapists to demonstrate the value of occupational therapy in improving peoples' lives and saving money. This has culminated in the publications of four reports (one for each UK country) on reducing the pressure on hospitals highlighted the difference having occupational therapy in frontline services can make in terms of reducing admissions and enabling appropriate 'hospital flow'. Each report has been launched in the relevant Parliament and has six key recommendations. For more information please see <https://www.cot.co.uk/homepage/ilsn>

British Association of Occupational Therapists  
College of Occupational Therapists