

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS – AUGUST 2011

ARGENTINA

1. Occupational Therapy is really growing in our country.
 - Recently we had an important Regional Congress at the south of Argentina called “Jornadas Patagónicas de Terapia Ocupacional.” They were a big success with people at the south wanting to unite and share their different experiences in OT Practice.
 - On the 8th-10th of September the National Congress will be taking place in the Capital City of La Plata. The aim is "to strengthen strategies to make OT practice grow." Last year we had 2000 participants attending, so we are expecting a lot more this year!!!!
 - Also Argentina is part of the CLATO (Latin-American Occupational Therapy Confederation) and on October 11st-14th, The IX Latin American Congress is taking place in San Pablo, Brazil.
2. Our OT Association is working hard in order to change our National Law of Professional Practice, and also in the National Law of Mental Health.
3. For the first time our Association is giving an award to an Occupational therapist that will be elected by our associates. The name of the award is “Liliana Canulli” in honour of an OT who worked really hard in our country to help our profession grow. We are waiting for the results!!!
4. In the last WFOT May Bulletin (#63) there are 2 articles written by OTs from Argentina. We feel really proud of them!!
5. We can add that the ICF, WHO framework document, is a generalized trend in the OT clinical practice and reasoning and in University Programmes in our country

BRITISH

This report comes fresh from the 35th Annual BAOT/COT annual Conference and Exhibition in Brighton June 28th - July 1st 2011. The conference also included two COT specialist sections' conferences: HIV/AIDS, Oncology, Palliative Care and Neurological Practice. The COT annual conference is always a good barometer for how the profession is fairing in the United Kingdom (UK). This year we had 850 people attending and the standard of the papers and presentations was extremely high. Despite the economic climate and the huge changes taking place within both the National Health Service and the local government sector, occupational therapists remain dynamic, creative and active. It was a great pleasure this year to have Sharon Brintnell, President of WFOT, as a VIP guest and contributor. She was able to highlight the World Report on Disability, jointly published by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, having just attended the launch. We look forward to bringing it to the attention of colleagues across the UK.

Rosemary Crouch also came to promote the book she has edited with Vivyan Alers, 'Occupational Therapy –An African perspective'. Professor Mary Law from McMaster University gave the keynote speech 'Occupation, evidence and outcomes: the future of our profession', which was a thought provoking and excellent start to the event.

The profession in the UK is facing significant changes. The restructuring of commissioning arrangements and the market developing on the provider side, means that it will need to remain adaptable and versatile. Legislation in a new Health and Social Care Bill has been subject to a 'pause' while the details are worked out with stakeholders including professional bodies and unions. Unison (the BAOT members' union) has been very active in the workplace supporting colleagues, as cost savings begin to bite in the public sector. As a result of the changes we are seeing occupational therapists working across more diverse settings, and more interest in independent practice a working in industry and commerce and in the third sector.

Research continues to be a high priority for BAOT Council and the UK OT Research Foundation UKOTRF is active in giving research grants and awards and ensuring that the evidence base is there to underpin commissioning intentions.

The organisation has also been developing a new website and is looking forward to having online joining available soon. www.baot.org.uk
www.cot.org.uk

We were delighted to receive news in June 2011 that further to our application for an Impact Factor Rating, the British Journal of Occupational Therapy has been selected for coverage, from the 2009 volume, in Thomson Reuters' products and services

Lastly, do join us for the 36th Annual Conference to be held 12th-14th June 2012 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow. More information is available at: www.cot.org.uk/annualconferences

COLOMBIA

1. Based on the legal dispositions of Colombian Law number 1164 of 2007, mandate for the management of all Human Talent in the Health Field, and which establishes the need of creating the Professional Colleges that will retain all public functions in that particular area (such as the National registry, giving of professional license, and permissions for abroad), the Colombian National Association of Occupational Therapy has changed its name and statutory fundamentals to:

COLOMBIAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

This change was approved in the Assembly that took place in Bogota, April 7 and 8 2011 at Rosario University. This change allows the association as the representative of Occupational Therapists in the country, to continue its trajectory of representation, defense and promotion of our discipline and our professionals, strengthen the directive board structure, give response to the challenges established by the government and society, and

recieve all the public functions and government responsibilities on our profession according to the National Law.

2. On May 10, 2011, Colombia ratified the UN Covention on the rights of persons with disabilities, that had been previously recognized by 1346 act, 2009. This means that all the dispostions contained in this convention have been formally incorporated in the legislative agenda of the country, and are madatory for all private and public institutions in the country, civil organizations, people with disabilities and all members of society.

CANADA

At the June Board meeting of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, there were 2 initiatives that were approved - a Caseload Management Planning Tool and a position statement on Support Personnel in Occupational Therapy Services.

The Caseload Management Planning Tool is designed to be used, primarily, by managers, practice leaders, administrators for workload allocation and human resources planning. Occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech-language pathologists and other health professionals can use it to examine their caseloads and, with managers, discuss strategies to manage workload. It provides a mechanism to model caseloads to determine human resources and time need for effective workload/caseload management by guiding users through a structured process. More information is available at the CAOT website.

The Support Personnel in Occupational Therapy Services Position Statement is a culmination of many initiatives that CAOT has undertaken to support the inclusion of support personnel in supporting occupational therapists in performing their role. CAOT has developed a CAOT Practice Profile for Support Personnel in Occupational Therapy and has been involved in the development and administration of an academic accreditation process for occupational therapists assistant education programs.

FINLAND

In Finland there has been published a new book for occupational therapy students written by Tiina Hautala, Tuula Hämäläinen, Leila Mäkelä and Mari Rusi-Pyykönen. It is also a valid handbook for occupational therapist. The book consists of chapters for example on motivation, the social and sociocultural meaning of occupation and the therapeutic function in groups. Theoretical frames of reference are explained through practical examples. The publisher of the book is Edita. The writers have also worked in collaboration with the Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists (TOI).

Finnish healthcare is creating a national electrical archive of patient documentation. Unified system demands unified titling that has been agreed on nationally. The Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists has published a recommendation for use of the classification of occupational therapy in health care documentation.

The Finnish Association of Occupational Therapists has revised the ethical guidelines for occupational therapists. The ethical guidelines are categorized under four headlines; relationship between the therapist and the client, collaboration between OT's and other professions, the professional development of OT's and occupational therapy as a part of society.

GREECE

A General Assembly was held on June 4th, 2011, under the authority of the Council Board, where the main discussion considered the New Greek Law for the private Health Professionals and Clinics. The next General Assembly will be held at the beginning of December 2011.

Actions of the Hellenic Association include:

- The 4th Meeting of European Programme E.L.S.I.T.O. (Empowering Learning for Social Inclusion Through Occupation) that took place in Athens on 16-20/3/2011 under the coordination of the Hellenic Association of Occupational Therapists. The main goal of E.L.S.I.T.O. is the social inclusion of people with mental health problems, immigrants and refugees. Participants are occupational therapists and users of mental health services from Greece, the Netherlands and Belgium. One of the most important activities during that mobility was **a full day Seminar-Workshop under the title: "Discussion for Social Inclusion"** which was held on March 19th. Aim of that successful seminar - workshop was to help the participants to understand the meaning of social inclusion in community settings and in a personal way through presenting good practice placements. The difference of this seminar among others was that in the organisation and in the presentations were participating service-users who shared their activities of their programmes and also their personal experiences on social inclusion and exclusion. The second part of the seminar was a workshop lead by both service-users and occupational therapists, who all are ELSiTO members.
- One day Conference under the title: "Autistic Spectrum and Occupational Therapy", on May 21st, 2011.
- Seminar under the title: Evidence based Practise" with Mrs Janice Crausac, on June 5th, 2011.
- The first part of the Bobath Course - Neurodevelopmental Treatment-under the authority of E.B.T.A., that took place on July 2011.

On 22-23 October 2011, the 6th Pan-Hellenic OT Congress will be held under the title:"Play for all". The Congress is also an opportunity to celebrate the World Occupational Therapy Day, in Greece. At the same time, 21-22 October 2011, the C.O.T.E.C. (Council of Occupational

Therapists from European Countries) meeting is also taking place in Athens, and the International Affairs team of the Hellenic Association has already started the hard preparations for this event, including the active part of the Delegates at the Opening Ceremony of the Congress. C.O.T.E.C. also celebrates 25 years from its foundation, in 2011.

INDIA

The 49 th national conference of All India Occupational Therapists Association (AIOTA) shall be held in Goa, a destination of tourist attraction all over the world.

This is a rare opportunity for the international delegates to participate as well as to enjoy sea foods and beaches of Goa.

The theme of the conference is **Occupational Therapy an ultimate solution for functional living.**

dates : january 16-18, 2012

venue : Rajendra bhavan madgaon, Goa

conference secretariate

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MAURITIUS

Mauritius is a sparkling island nation off the southeast coast of the African continent in the southwest Indian Ocean. Training in occupational therapy approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists started at the University of Mauritius in 2003.

New scope at the Ministry of Social Security

The National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons which functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions recently advertised for the position of occupational therapists. It should be noted that for more than forty years, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was the sole sector employing occupational therapists. Other Ministries (Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions) as well as Non-Governmental Organizations have already recruited occupational therapists to bring a new approach to services being delivered to the population.

Revision of the Rules of the Association

The Occupational Therapists' Association (OTA) reviewed the Rules of the Association in July 2011. The original version dates back to 1997. Fourteen years later new members will be able to join the OTA; namely overseas qualified occupational therapists and students in occupational therapy. Therefore, we hope ensuring the continuity of the profession in the future.

Web site

The OTA is currently working on a Website on the Internet which is planned to be launched on the 27 October 2011 on the occasion of the Occupational Therapy World Day. Last year, the Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Mauritius with the collaboration of Occupational Therapy students organised a spectacular exhibition on the occasion of the Occupational Therapy World Day. The opening ceremony was done by a local Minister and the acting Chancellor of the University of Mauritius. It was a huge success.

NEW ZEALAND

Communication ~ key to living the OT life

The working year for members of the New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists is punctuated by two key communication resources: twice yearly by the NZ Journal of Occupational Therapy, which circulates current research outcomes that contribute to the grounding of practice and individual professional development; and monthly by the distribution of the magazine, the OT Insight (OTI). As a communication tool, the OTI effectively unites NZAOT members. It is the hub from which individual therapists keep up with what is happening in the practice world. For instance the front page of the June 2011 edition advises that it is time for a review of the constitution; a consultation document outlines the areas identified by NZAOT council in a review workshop and invites members to assist, by feedback, in the drafting of new rules that will be put to the whole membership at the upcoming AGM.

In the same edition NZAOT president Tracey passes on in her President's Letter, her thoughts on attending a workshop about how the central city area of Christchurch (damaged extensively by months of earthquake activity), could be re-designed. She used words common to practice such as "meaningful activities", "enabling", "occupational justice" and "accessibility" and noted that although she was the only occupational therapist there, everyone identified with these concepts, acknowledging the need for a "city that allowed access to all people, regardless of ability or wealth."

Members are kept in touch with what has been happening in the NZAOT at Work section, where executive director Siobhan summarises her activities, the work of council and various other representative forums, as well as events that are coming up such as the NZAOT Clinical Workshops in Waitangi in November. The membership and marketing coordinator, Dael, announces the launch of a new NZAOT issues special interest group (SIG), which will enable issues that are of multi-interest to be posted once, simplifying the dissemination of information and enhancing the reach and power of valuable online discussions. Another new SIG is also

announced, “occupational therapy and sustainability” – a forum for discussion of the role our profession and our practice can take in adopting healthier lifestyles and sustainable environmental solutions that look to the global future.

The NZ Board of Occupational Therapy, the regulatory body for the profession, gives solid information to members of various regulatory activities, changes and projects. Other regular features such as WFOT news, book reviews, Māori information appear and so it goes on... The OTI is packed with information. No doubt such publications are features of occupational therapy life in the associations around the world and a collective hurrah should go up all those editors whose attention to detail and ability to arrange and display information and news is beyond measure.

NORWAY

General assembly

The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists arranged the 23. general assembly in November 2010. Mette Kolsrud was reelected as President and Nils Erik Ness was elected as Vicepresident. The program, by-laws and budget forms a solid basis for intensified focus on professional and political work for the next four years.

The Norwegian Congress of Occupational Therapy 2013

The Norwegian Association is planning for the next Congress of Occupational Therapy 2013 in Oslo. The organizing committee is currently working on the program and the profile, with the overall focus on community based occupational therapy.

Guidelines on Assistive Technology

The Norwegian Association has published Evidence based Guidelines on Prescribing Assistive Technology. The aims of the guidelines are to ensure equal prescriptions and evidence based practice in the field of assistive technology. Target groups are occupational therapists, occupational therapy students, users of assistive technology and professionals in the systems of administering the assistive technology.

Occupational Therapy Competencies

The process of describing Occupational Therapy Competencies in Norway has started. The competencies will be described in the context of local challenges and politics, and in the two levels of general competencies and special competencies. Several changes in the local context influence the demand for Occupational Therapy Competencies, with a health reform and demand for innovation in care as the core topics.

The Health Reform

The Health Reform focus on public health and prevention, and on moving some of the tasks done by the hospitals closer to the homes of the patients. The reform has resulted in changes in the laws and regulations on health care. In general, The Norwegian Association applauds the reform, with its focus on public health, prevention and community care.

PHILIPPINES

Last March 5 and 6, 2011, occupational therapists from all over the Philippines gathered at The Pearl Manila Hotel for the 46th Annual Occupational Therapy Association of the Philippines (OTAP) Convention with the theme "Working Together to Facilitate Research and Children's Educational Participation". In the same event, the Association's members elected a new set of officers who are to serve dutifully for the next two years, with Mr. Anthony S. Grecia, MA (C. Psychol.), OTR, OTRP as the new president.

To mark the beginning of a new term for OTAP, a 2-day Strategic Planning was conducted last April 30 and May 1, 2011 at the Center for Goals, Inc. A Five Point Agenda was developed through concerted efforts from the OTAP board officers, OT Advisory Committee (OTAC), representatives from OT schools, centers and institutions, student representatives, and OTAP members. The Five Point Agenda are as follows:

- 1) *To update and improve the current system of the different OTAP committees*
- 2) *To widen membership and their corresponding benefits*
- 3) *To increase visibility and heighten the role of OTAP, and its members-at-large, in the national and international community*
- 4) *To lobby for legislation that would enhance the practice of Occupational Therapy*
- 5) *To update the organization's objectives, and vision-mission, to further respond to the changes of the needs of Filipino OTs and clients*

To heighten the role of OTAP and its members in the *national* community (Agenda 3), the Association recently organized two seminars that increased the knowledge and skills of Filipino OTs - "Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease: Handle With Care" by Ms. Rosa May Dais, OTR, OTRP, a free seminar for OTAP members, and the "Sensory Integration and Reflex Integration" by Ms. Eufrocina Tomas-Salonga, OTR/L. Furthermore, as an effort to upkeep the OT programs here in the Philippines, the OTAP Education and Research Committee as spearheaded by Ms. Thea Sheila Alonto, recently conducted an on-site visit to evaluate the OT program being offered by the College of Allied Medical Professions, University of the Philippines Manila.

To increase the visibility and heighten the role of OTAP and its members in the *international* community (also Agenda 3), the Association is currently making efforts to increase our country's delegates for the upcoming Asia Pacific OT Congress (2011) in Chiang Mai, Thailand to get our bid for the Asia Pacific OT Congress in 2014.

SWEDEN

A new web portal for newcomers to Sweden

www.saco.se/en/Welcome-to-Sweden - this web portal has been initiated by the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco) with its 23 independent trade unions and professional associations (FSA is one of them). Information to be found is for example Searching for a job, Studying in Sweden and Helpful links.

Position statements adopted by our association

During our General Council Meeting in November 2010 three important position statements were adopted:

• Assessing work ability

Many occupational therapists are practicing in areas where assessing work ability is an essential assignment for the profession and also the research knowledge is growing very fast in Sweden nowadays. The assessments done by the occupational therapist have a great impact on the clients' situation both from a financial, social and legal point of view. However, the concept is complex and in order to support and assist the practitioners, the FSA has identified some issues the occupational therapist has to consider when working with assessing work ability:

- use assessment that assess the work ability from a) the individual function perspective b) the ability to perform different task perspective and c) the individual function capacity perspective to carry out a work position on the common market
- use different information source such as the client him/her self and the employee
- use different method to collect information such as observational, self-reported and interview
- to use assessment that have a theoretical ground with mean that the result of the assessment shall help the occupational therapist to develop a treatment plan.
- to use assessment that a s sound scientific standards such tested validity, reliability and utility
- to use assessment that notes the impact of the environment and the task use (artificial or real) in the assess situation.

• Occupational therapy and sustainable development

Environment, ecology and sustainable development, are terms getting more and more in focus in our society. It is important that the occupational therapist has an awareness and knowledge about how the concept "sustainable development" affects and motivates people's activity and participation. Furthermore, the occupational therapist has to integrate this concept in her/his professional practice. Therefore FSA has decided to work actively for:

- that occupational therapy students during entry level education adopt knowledge about sustainable development in relation to their professional practice,
- that the occupational therapist in her/his contact with client hold an active approach to a sustainable development, and
- that the occupational therapists' knowing will be used in the [community planning](#).

• Occupational therapy at crisis and disaster situations

In the descriptions of professional requirements for occupational therapists (National Board of Health and Welfare, 2001), it is documented that occupational therapists need to be able to adjust their work at crises and disaster situations. These are situations affecting people and their possibility for activity and participation in their everyday life. WFOT has developed the project

called Disaster Preparedness and Response. According to WFOT and the outcome of the project, there are reasons for the national organisations of occupational therapists to work with a national action plan. FSA will work on such an action plan during 2011 and 2012.

New book “Law book for registered occupational therapists”

In October 2010 we launched an important book – “Law book for registered occupational therapists”. The author of the book is Dina Jacobsson, legal adviser at the FSA. This book has been most appreciated among our members and some of the OT programmes has the book as student literature.

Workshops and meetings for our active members

During the first part of 2011, we have held many workshops/network meetings for our active members for example members of our committees of different working areas, local webmasters, the presidents of our local branches and the local ombudsmen. In March we also held an one day conference for the lecturers and students from the eight OT programmes in Sweden. The theme of this conference was Occupational Science.

The COTEC2012 congress

The work with the next COTEC congress in Stockholm in May 2012 is proceeding well. The on-line abstract submission is now open and deadline for submitting an abstract is 5 October 2011. The theme of the congress is “Occupation diversity for the future”. We welcome abstracts from all over the world! For further information, please check the congress website: www.cotec2012.se. Also, you are welcome to join our congress Facebook group. Hope to see you in Stockholm in May 2012!

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Resources for Aging

In response to needs of our aging society The American Occupational Therapy Association is developing gerontology resources. On the AOTA website are links to a range of information. Documents on aging and OT can be found at <http://www.aota.org/Consumers/Professionals/WhatIsOT/PA.aspx>. A variety of articles and evidence based practice resources are located at: <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Research/PA.aspx>

A specialty conference on Adult Cognition will occur in October 28-29, 2011 in St. Louis, MO featuring M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L; Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L; Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR; Laura Gitlin, PhD; Noomi Katz, PhD, OTR
<http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/Cognition2011.aspx?emc=lm&m=653779&l=12&v=2739049>

VENEZUELA

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WITHOUT BORDERS IN VENEZUELA

During April 2011, Venezuela was visited by four Occupational Therapists with ample experience in psychosocial aspects of the profession: Mg. Alejandro Guajardo (Chile, ex-President of the XV WFOT World Congress, Chile, 2010); O.T. Frank Kronenberg (South Africa) and Dr. Salvador Simó, (Barcelona, Spain) both co-authors of "Occupational Therapy without Borders"; and O.T. Daniel Emeric (Madrid, Spain). Their program as foreign visitors included three encounters with graduate O.T.s, students, and researchers, in order to grasp the realities of the country; and their participation as guest speakers at the I International Congress on Psychosocial Intervention and V Encounter of O.T.s in Mental Health. The Coordinator of these events was Roger Ramírez, Bach. O.T., with the support of a small team of colleagues.

The three encounters were held before the Congress, which took place on April 28-30 at the House of Latin American Studies "Rómulo Gallegos" in Caracas. Activities were related and articulated around public policies and intervention, research and social problems, professional challenges in view of present-day realities in the country and a collective scientific, academic reflection on Occupational Therapy and other matters mentioned here.

Three substantive axes for contemporary Occupational Therapy have been articulated: Public Policies, Intervention, and Research and Extension, with a social and human rights approach.

About the encounters: the "Negra Hipólita" program (under the Ministry of Social Development and Communes) introduced us to one of the governmental strategies for vulnerable and excluded populations, which demands new modalities of professional education and intervention. In O.T. education programs, discussions centered on the need to articulate academic knowledge with the real social context: an attempt to open universities to social needs.

In a similar manner, the practice of Occupational Therapy was discussed, with the challenge to go beyond the medical model and to integrate autonomously as a profession and discipline to play an active role in the construction of answers to social problems. All this crystallized in the I International Congress on Psychosocial Intervention.

It is very satisfactory to be able to report the great participation of students of Occupational Therapy in these activities. These young people signaled the need to start a dialogue on practice and to face new demands. There is an open process of construction, with tensions, but with the disposition to construct a solid profession.

Finally, it is necessary to mention an extraordinary organization team, with political and conceptual clarity. The Congress moved forward on the basis of practices and a good connection of Occupational Therapy with the contemporary world.