

# WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Newsletter

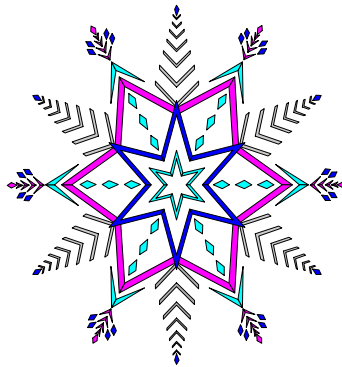
## AMERICAS REGION

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**SENDING OUR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COLLEAGUES  
OVER  
THE LANDS AND SEAS  
BEST WISHES OF THE SEASON  
FOR PEACE AND GOOD WILL IN THE NEW YEAR –  
2004**

**Greetings to all. This Newsletter comes to you in December with contributions received since June 2003.**

**As we go into the year 2004 we see the growing importance of Occupational Therapy as an essential health service throughout the world due to the strong effort of our OTs to provide our services through education and professional practice.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

**Please remember that your colleagues are encouraged by new ideas, new programs, and new challenges you share with them through your participation in Newsletters.**

**Thanks to Venezuela, Brazil, Chile and USA for contributions to this issue.**

**WFOT Americas Region Newsletter,  
December 2003**

**Editors: Anne Spencer, USA  
Enrique Henny, Chile**

**WFOT INTERIM MEETING in Mexico City, Mexico, May 2003**

The American Region had the privilege of having the whole WFOT Management Team in their continent for their Interim Meeting during May 26-31, 2003. The Mexican Association of Occupational Therapists, APTO, supported this meeting with enthusiasm and efficiency. The meeting was a very productive one with the attendance of WFOT Executive members and Program Coordinators. The WFOT Management Team had the unique opportunity to have a close look at Occupational Therapy in Mexico, a profession with a promissory future and an interesting and long history in this country. At the same time it was possible to collaborate with APTO in their efforts to improve OT education. At this moment there are many initiatives to further develop OT education at different levels in Mexico, with APTO and WFOT working together to facilitate this process. For me, it was a great opportunity to perform my role in Mexico by giving some presentations on WFOT organization in Spanish to occupational therapists, students, doctors, and other professionals.

Enrique Henny  
WFOT 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Report: BRAZILIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESSES 2003**

The V Latin American Occupational Therapy Congress and the VIII Brazilian Occupational Therapy Congress were held June 2-6, 2003 in

the city of Foz do Iguazu, state of Parana, Brazil. The venue is the site of the famous Iguazu River Falls. 500 persons attended the Congresses including OTs, students, and other professionals.

The central theme was "Health, Environment, and Quality of Life." WFOT was represented by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Enrique Henny from Chile who participated significantly in the Congress activities.

A special session was held to present eight new books on Occupational Therapy; seven (7) by Brazilian authors and one (1) by a Colombian author.

The present Executive of CLATO is as follows:

**President:** Rosibeth del Carmen M. Palm, Brazil (  
**Vice-President:** Antonieta Rivas de Puche, Venezuela ([antonieta\\_de\\_puche@hotmail.com](mailto:antonieta_de_puche@hotmail.com)).  
**Treasurer:** Rosario Aguirre Martinez, Chile ([rosarioa@mailandnews.com](mailto:rosarioa@mailandnews.com)).  
**Comite Cientifico:** Mariela Narbergoi, Argentina ([mnabergoi@hotmail.com](mailto:mnabergoi@hotmail.com)).

One of the most important features of these Congresses was that they offered the opportunity to hold meetings of the Executive of the Latin American Confederation of O.T., -Schools of OT from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela,- Associations of OT from the same countries,- students from Latin-American schools.

**CLATO projects for 2003-2005 include:**

- Networking of Latin-American OTs and OT organizations.
- To start international cooperation projects
- To update and maintain the data base of Associations and schools
- To perform a situational diagnosis of the profession in member countries
- To hold the VI Latin American O.T. Congress in Colombia 2005
- Argentina was asked to study the possibility of hosting the 2007 Congress

These Congresses served to demonstrate the strength of the profession in Latin America. Brazil was an excellent host.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **V CONGRESO LATINOAMERICANO Y VIII CONGRESO BRASILEIRO DE T.O.**

Durante los días 2 al 6 de junio de 2003 se realizó en la ciudad de Foz Iguazu en Brasil el V Congreso Latinoamericano de T.O. y el VIII Congreso Brasileño de T.O. Los mismos tuvieron la asistencia de 900 participantes entre T.O., estudiantes y otros profesionales. El Tema Central fue “Salud, Medio Ambiente y Calidad de Vida.”

La Federación Mundial de Terapeutas Ocupacionales estuvo representada por el 1er Vice Presidente, Enrique Henny de Chile. Quien tuvo una importante participación en todas las actividades previstas en el Congreso.

También de mucha importancia fue la presentación de 8 nuevos libros de T.O. (7 de autores Brasileños y uno Colombiano).

La CLATO renovó sus autoridades, quedando de la siguiente forma

- **Presidenta:** Rosibeth del C. Munoz Palm, Brasil ([rosibeth@terra.com.br](mailto:rosibeth@terra.com.br))
- **Vice-Presidenta:** Antonieta Rivas de Puche, Venezuela, ([Antonieta\\_de\\_puche@hotmail.com](mailto:Antonieta_de_puche@hotmail.com))
- **Secretaria Administrativa:** Clara Sertzen, Peru ([clarasertzen\\_to@hotmail.com](mailto:clarasertzen_to@hotmail.com))
- **Secretaria del Congreso:** Sylvia Torres Duarte, Colombia ([sylvisco@yahoo.com](mailto:sylvisco@yahoo.com))
- **Tesorera:** Rosario Aguirre Martinez, Chile ([rosarioa@mailandnews.com](mailto:rosarioa@mailandnews.com))
- **Mariela Narbergoi, Argentina** ([mnabergoi@hotmail.com](mailto:mnabergoi@hotmail.com))

Durante el Congreso y previsto en la programación tuvo lugar las siguientes reuniones:

- **Miembros del Comité Directivo de la Confederación Latinoamericana de Terapeutas Ocupacionales (CLATO)**
- **Representantes de las Escuelas de:** Argentina, Brasil, Colombia, Chile, Perú y Venezuela
- **Representante de las Asociaciones Profesionales de esos mismos países.**
- **Representantes Estudiantiles de las Escuelas de Latinoamericanas.**

**Entre los proyectos de la CLATO para el periodo 2003-2005-tenemos:**

- **Crear una red de comunicación latinoamericana de terapeutas ocupacionales.**
- **Divulgar y ampliar proyectos de cooperación internacional.**
- **Actualizar y mantener la base de datos de las Asociaciones y de las instituciones que imparten la carrera de Terapia Ocupacional.**
- **Establecer un diagnostico situacional del desarrollo de la profesión en los países miembros.**
- **COLOMBIA. País Sede del próximo Congreso Latinoamericano Año 2005**

**Se solicito a la Argentina evaluar la posibilidad de constituirse como sede del Congreso del ano 2007.**

**Este Congreso demostró la fuerza de la profesión de Terapia ocupacional en Latinoamérica. Brasil fue un excelente anfitrión.**

**Gracias por llenar nuestras expectativas.**

### **VISIT TO CUBA**

**In March 2003 occupational therapy students and faculty from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania visited Cuba. The focus of the group's visit was to explore the presence and role of occupational therapy in the country's health and educational systems. The group divided their time in Cuba between the cities of Havana and Cardenas. While in Havana the OT students and faculty experienced**

**Cuban culture, food and music and began to identify commonalities and differences between American and Cuban occupations. The OT students commented on the rhythm of daily life, children creating play with common objects, men selling birds in the central plaza and people traveling to work and leisure in vintage American cars, camel -shaped buses and horse drawn carts.**

**The first site the group visited in Havana was the Dora Alonso School for children with autism. The school was opened in 2002 in response to the growing number of children identified as having autistic behaviors. The staff of the Dora Alonso School provide diagnostic testing, individual intervention, family training and participate in national research activities with the goal of preparing the child for integration into his/her community school. The Jefferson group had the opportunity to observe a speech pathologist and special education teacher work with children in the school. Although occupational therapy is currently not provided at Dora Alonso (an OT is expected to join the staff within the year), the philosophy of the program, design of the environment and provision of occupation based intervention by staff members resonate basic concepts of occupational therapy theory and practice. Students of the school receive training in activities of daily living in a cottage that simulates a home environment and develop social behaviors during family style dining in the cafeteria. The staff is dedicated to providing a comprehensive model of intervention that addresses the motor, sensory and psychosocial**

**components that impact on the child's ability to participate in his/her home and school environment.**

**In Cardenas, the Jefferson group visited a family doctor clinic, the Casa de Abuelos, a day program for older adults, the Cardenas Hospital and the Center for Neurology and Rehabilitation, an outpatient clinic and treatment center for children with neurological disability. The group also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women. The visits to the family doctor clinic and Cardenas Hospital provided the group with a basic understanding of the structure of the health care system in Cuba. We learned that community based primary health care is the foundation of the system, although specialty hospitals and services are available in each province. Discussion with members of the Federation of Cuban Women underscored the role of women in supporting the health and educational objectives of the community through activities such as coordination of immunization programs, promotion of child and maternal health, and monitoring the social needs of the elderly and individuals with special needs.**

**During our visit to the Center for Neurology and Rehabilitation, the group was introduced to two occupational therapists and had the opportunity to ask questions regarding occupational therapy education and practice in Cuba. The Jefferson group discovered that occupational therapists in Cuba are trained on the job and typically have an undergraduate degree in**

**psychology or special education. The OTs at the Center generally focus on fine motor, perceptual cognitive and developmental skills.**

**At the Casa de Abuelos, the occupational therapist provides well elderly adults with a variety of leisure, craft and physical activities. The Jefferson group was struck by the warmth of the Casa de Abuelos, vitality of the occupational therapist and the caring sense of community. However, similar to other sites visited by the group the need for supplies and resources was apparent.**

**The visit to Cuba provided the Jefferson occupational therapy students and faculty with an introductory exploration of occupational therapy within an international context. Our exploration revealed the profound influence of culture, economics and social institutions on daily occupational choices and the practice of occupational therapy. Although variations in occupational therapy training and practice exist in the United States and Cuba, the group was intrigued by the similarities in the philosophy of occupation and the keen focus on the community. The Jefferson group, in collaboration with providers in the town of Cardenas, identified opportunities for future educational exchanges. We hope to return to Cuba and develop a partnership with occupational therapists within the coming year.**

Submitted by,  
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## **COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION**

WFOT and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are working together in a joint effort to disseminate and coordinate efforts on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) in Latin America. The project is to organizing a meeting that will gather occupational therapists to discuss and share concepts and initiatives about CBR. The team is developing and includes at this stage occupational therapists from Argentina, Colombia and Chile. WFOT countries are the core of the team. Every other OT interested in this initiative is welcome to be involved. More information can be obtained from:

Enrique Henny, WFOT 1st VP  
[henny-vargas@vtr.net](mailto:henny-vargas@vtr.net)

## **REHABILITACION BASADA EN LA COMUNIDAD (RBC)**

La WFOT y la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) están desarrollando un proyecto en conjunto en el marco de la RBC. La idea es organizar un encuentro de terapeutas ocupacionales latinoamericanos para discutir y compartir conceptos y proyectos en el área en los cuales participen terapeutas ocupacionales. La RBC tiene su historia en el continente, y siempre se ha reconocido el valor de la terapia ocupacional en su realización. En estos momentos se ésta constituyendo el equipo de trabajo con terapeutas ocupacionales de Chile, Colombia y Argentina. Los países miembros de la Federación Mundial conformarán el núcleo central de este

grupo. Otros terapeutas ocupacionales que deseen participar son bienvenidos. Mayor información puede obtenerse con

Enrique Henny  
[Henny-vargas@vtr.net](mailto:Henny-vargas@vtr.net)

## **ARGENTINA**

Las informaciones con las que contamos que el Congreso Argentino de Terapia Ocupacional VI CONGRESO ARGENTINO DE TERAPIA OCUPACIONAL, que se realizó desde el 10 al 13 de septiembre de 2003, y cuyo título fue “Controversias al sur del continente: diversidad, integración y complejidad” se realizó con mucho éxito, tanto en asistencia como en los contenidos y calidad de las presentaciones.

Esta experiencia exitosa de uno de los países miembros de la WFOT, es bienvenida y felicito a los organizadores y participantes, esperando que continúen en este camino de buenas noticias.

Enrique Henny, WFOT 1<sup>st</sup> VP

## **PROGRAMA EDUCATIVO EN URUGUAY**

La Federación Mundial de Terapeutas Ocupacionales envió una carta de apoyo al programa de terapia ocupacional de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de la República en Montevideo, Uruguay. Este Programa se encontraba en riesgo de continuar, por lo que realizaron una serie de acciones dirigidas a obtener apoyo desde Diversos sectores. La carta de Kit Sinclair, Presidenta de la WFOT, hace

**énfasis en la conveniencia de contar con programas en instituciones de educación superior, para estimular la investigación, claves para garantizar una buena atención de salud de los profesionales egresados. El programa de la Universidad de La República no es un programa aprobado por la Federación Mundial de Terapeutas Ocupacionales, debido a que no ha sido aun presentado a la Federación para su revisión.**

**Enrique Henny, WFOT, 1<sup>st</sup> VP**

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**Thank you to the contributors of this Newsletter. I look forward to hearing from more Delegates by February 2004 with regard to what is happening in OT in their countries in the region.**

**When I have articles, Enrique and I will provide a WFOT Americas Newsletter in the Spring of 2004. New email: [easpence@gwi.net](mailto:easpence@gwi.net)**

**Anne Spencer, WFOT Americas Region Ambassador**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!!**