

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

September 2016

ARGENTINA

Hello to everyone!

A very important news we want to share is that our national authorities of the Asociacion Argentina de Terapistas Ocupacionales (AATO) is changing this year and we will have a new WFOT Delegate: Agostina CIAMPA, who attended the Council Meeting in Medellín, Colombia in March.

The AATO-WFOT team continues to promote to Universities to get their Education Programs approved. In the last month the Occupational Therapy Education Program of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) has been re-approved for 7 years.

Our National Journal's team is developing a new virtual journal:
(<http://www.revista-terapiaocupacional.org.ar>)

National Association is still working on the regulation of our New National Law for Occupational Therapy Practice.

Also new working groups have started in our Association. The latest is for Occupational Therapists working at Schools.

Best regards,
AATO-WFOT Team

CANADA

October is occupational therapy month in Canada, and CAOT's #31dayOTchallenge is back! With over 10 million impressions made on social media in October 2015, we are encouraging OTs and organizations worldwide to join us in the 2016 campaign to raise global awareness about occupational therapy.

Participating in the #31dayOTchallenge is simple: starting on October 1 2016, talk to one person in your community each day about occupational therapy -in person, online, or by phone- and then share your interaction on Twitter or Facebook, using the hashtag (#) 31dayOTchallenge. Encourage your colleagues to get involved and help spread the word that occupational therapy works!
See www.caot.ca/OTmonth for more information on the challenge.

We are also marking the occasion with outreach to decision-makers and influencers we partner with, like you. We hope you find opportunity to use these resources so that, together, we can raise the profile of occupational therapy.

[Distribute a one-pager](#) about the value that occupational therapy brings to the health care system.

[Post an OT month ad](#) in your communications.

[Share a short student-made video](#) that describes occupational therapy (3 mins). We are reissuing 'Because of Occupational Therapy' from the University of British Columbia student class of 2012 (now in both English and French).

[Use our stories and fact sheets](#) to illustrate how occupational therapy services make a difference.

See our [CAOT OT Month webpage](#) for more information. Occupational therapy works!

Pat Underwood

Director of Communications

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists / Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes

OT LeadershipLive

Want to learn more about OT leadership engagement within an international context? Do you dream of partnering with our OT colleagues in other countries? Join past AOTA president, Dr. Karen Jacobs, and Dr. Susan Burwash as they share their experiences and words of wisdom on the next episode of OTLeadershipLive on Tuesday 18 October, 8-9 EST.

Please follow these instructions to tune in:

You can participate in this dialogue by telephone and/or by computer.

Telephone instructions are as follows:

You can access this call by dialing (724) 444-7444 (Call ID: 139040)

Please mute your phones when you sign on. For best sound and to reduce the potential for echoing during the call, please use either your computer speakers or your phone.

You can also participate in this call on the web by following the link found at <http://www.talkshoe.com/tc/139040>. For best results, please use a web browser other than Safari.

You can just listen to the discussion, but we encourage you to actively participate by typing in a question or comment. You can also live tweet comments by including #OTLeadershipLive.

Midge Hobbs, MA, OTR/L

Interim Staff Liaison, Leadership Development

COLOMBIA

The day we signed the Peace

On June 23rd, 2016, the government of Colombia and the oldest active guerilla in the region, the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), signed the peace agreements that officially ended more than 60 years of internal armed conflict. This is the communication of the President of the Colombian College of Occupational Therapists for therapists across the country and those around the world.

Today, on an ordinary day, Bogota dawned with a sunny blue sky. The hot sun reminded us of the 2,600 meters that we have closer to the stars; the weather began heating up as the day progressed.

As good Colombians, some maybe had the sorrows of the recent defeat of Colombia vs. Chile match in the America soccer cup; others had daily toils; the work day moved along with emails, calls, meetings. Around noon I heard the National Anthem of Colombia, what happened? I wondered. It was the opening of the peace agreement session. This anthem truly had other accords, it was not the same that I had listened to for years; they were the accords of peace and my ears heard it speak of trust, optimism, and equality. I felt a lot of emotion, my eyes filled with tears, tears of happiness, and I started thinking what my country would look like without war and conflict.

I wondered through many places in my mind: I started with those closes to me and I thought that I would not see the Indians of Cauca, the afros who came from Chocó, those of other lands, all those whom I often found sitting near my house, there, in a chair in the cold morning where they sheltered together, fearful, after arriving here because of displacement, when their desolate eyes met mine powerless.

I thought of the dirt roads, the natural parks, the roadways, the small and large villages, the deserts, the beaches, the mountains, the valleys, in every corner of this country; in each of the faces of those who have been hidden, of those who cannot read but they know of weapons, of those who act from rage and revenge, those who walk with sadness. And I thought about all of them with peace and tranquility, maybe forgiveness and trust. Yes, I imagined them with the ability to hope and walk in a world with no more legacy of rage, hatred and war.

It is time, it is our time to take back the stories, to tell the stories of the conflict, the wars, of telling them in the past tense, understanding that the victims of the conflict are all Colombians, with the accumulated pain and rage, with loves and hates. We are a society that excluded us from places, which put our daily lives to the service of fear, insecurity or uncertainty.

It is time to discuss the post-conflict / post-agreement, it is time to open conversations and invite future reflections. Beyond being a subject that appears in speeches, we need reflections of peace and for peace, there, in the place of everyday life, in our daily place.

It is time for peace talks, political reconciliation and citizen participation citizen, to understand armed conflict, to know more stories: the stories of all, of many, of each person, our stories, those that build us with a sense of local relevance.

So I think these paths to peace imply:

To recognized and learn from the history of my country, to understand what happened; how, with what and with whom to retrieve and listen to different versions of this conflict. It means to recognize ourselves as historical subjects, to learn and understand local history in the international context. It implies understanding peace and conflict from the history of those in love and out of love, to move towards forgiveness, reparation and learning how to live community.

To encourage local and personal development; peace is built on the local, in the neighborhood, in the sidewalk, in the commune; in the lives of people, in each place where forgiveness, reconciliation and reconstruction of society and coexistence are encouraged.

To understand the relationships of power between people and places; to understand conflict and peace. Promote research from the perspective of peace, social movements, the settings of war, research between subjects. To develop the competencies to work in peace, for peace, with pace.

We will have more mornings, some with blue skies, perhaps some with gray skies, others will be orang and with every morning we will walk with the hope that the indigenous, the peasant, the man or woman

we meet across the street, or at the movies, or perhaps at school or at a bar, will be here because of his/her own decisions. Or maybe that I can be there, in their territory, also because of my own decisions, but always without fear and with tranquility.

I believe in this peace and I believe in the future that we can start building together. Our actions can be aimed at giving a new meaning to the lives of many people, to the redefinition of the everyday lives, there, where we as occupational therapists can contribute to the understanding of conflicts and their resolutions.

It is time to draw on the proposed occupational therapies without borders, putting on the table the issues of occupational justice, occupational apartheid, to contribute from the different scenarios and from different organizations to the construction of proposals, large and small, to make this country a place where we can enjoy ourselves in every corner, with calm and confidence.

For the end of the conflict, to the beginning of another future.

Solángel García Ruiz
National Board President
Colombian College of Occupational Therapy

INDIA

AIOTA Election

The All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) election results were declared in January 2016 during the General Board Meeting on 29 January 2016 at Chennai. The new Executive Committee was constituted for the years 2016-2020 which took over the responsibility from 1 April 2016. Dr. Anil K Srivastava will continue as President. The other office bearers are: Dr. Shashi Oberai Vice President, Dr. Satish S. Maslekar, Honorary Secretary and Dr. Pratibha M. Vaidya Honorary Treasurer.

OTICON2016 & 2017

OTICON'2016 the 53rd Annual National Conference of AIOTA was organized very successfully by S.R.M. College of Occupational Therapy at S.R.M. University, Chennai from 29-31 January 2016. It was attended by more than 600 participants including members, students and guests from overseas. Dr. Ashley Jayapaul (Singapore) delivered Key Note Address on the Theme -'Innovation in OT- the Key towards Excellence'. Many international faculties from UK, Canada, Singapore and Japan presented their research studies.



Inaugural Function of OTICON2016-Chennai.

Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Geetalakshmi Vice Chancellor T.N. Dr. M.G.R. Medical University inaugurated the conference . Dr. Prabir k. Bagchi VC SRM University, Chennai President AIOTA Dr. Anil Srivastava and Vice President Dr. Zarine D. Ferzandi are also seen.



Helen C. Rebchester (UK) with Dr. Shashi Oberai chairing a session at OTICON2016

The 54th Annual National Conference (OTICON'2017) is being organized by Mahatma Gandhi Occupational Therapy College at Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences & Technology from 19 February 2017 at Pink City of India, Jaipur, world-known for a place of tourist attraction. The theme of the conference is 'Occupational Therapy: Glories of Past and Challenges for the Future'.

Dr. Kit Sinclair, WFOT Ambassador and Editor WFOT Bulletin will deliver Key Note Address on the topic 'Visioning for the Future'. She would also be conducting Pre-Conference COTE Workshop on 'Making a Difference in Disaster Management'

World OT Day 2016

World OT Day 2015 was very enthusiastically celebrated by members of AIOTA, State Branches and Institutions throughout the country. Preparations are on for celebration of World OT Day 2016 and the OT Month India from 27 October to 26 November 2016. The theme for World OT Day India is 'Accessibility@OTIndia'.

Academic Workshops

Continuing OT Education Workshops are regularly organized by Academic Council of OT of AIOTA at various institutions and State Branches to update the members with recent advancements in OT Practice at various institutions at Mumbai, Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Nagpur, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin etc. The key topics were Research Methodology in OT, Physical Agent Modalities, Workshops on Learning Differences Reading Interventions, OT for Dealing with Special Children, Autism, SI & NDT, Hand Splints & Adoptive Devices and Wheel Chair training etc.

OT in Special Schools in Kerala

In a welcome move recently the State Government of Kerala has accorded special status to 278 Special Schools with 50-100 children in the state. It would be mandatory for each school to have one OT Room with not less than 100 Square Feet floor area.

AIOTA Collaboration

AIOTA is supporting partner to 10th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation from 7-10 February 2018 at Mumbai, India and India Rehab & Care Expo by Infinity Exhibition 2016 at Bangalore in December 2016.

Dr Anil Srivastava
President AIOTA

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss OT Association (EVS/ASE) in cooperation with the universities of applied science (UAS) has been working on criteria required to achieve the title of **Advanced Practice in Occupational Therapy (AP)**. The candidate will have to hold the degree of a MSc in OT and at least two years of professional

experience. Additional requirements will be specific expertise, knowledge of quality and project management and of health care policy. The AP will enable occupational therapists increasingly to take on responsibility in professional and inter-professional areas with the aim to fit into job positions not yet in the focus of occupational therapists.

15 - 19 June 2016, four members of the Swiss OT Association (EVS/ASE) have participated in the first congress of **COTEC and ENOTHE in Galway/Ireland**. Mrs. Iris Lüscher Forrer, head of the Swiss OT association (EVS/ASE), presented the current work of quality management in Switzerland. Mrs. Sylvie Meyer of the UAS Lausanne (HES-SO) has delivered the Hanneke van Bruggen Lecture and Mrs. Ursula Gubler Thomann of the UAS Winterthur (ZHAW) was elected to the executive committee of ENOTHE.

May 2016, the **Swiss OT Association (EVS/ASE) celebrated its 60 anniversary** with a festive lunch after its delegate's assembly. 29. October 2016, several activities themed "chronic diseases", e.g. short presentations, will take place in the Swiss capital of Berne with the aim to put a face to occupational therapy. As well, the event will be the main activity of the Swiss OT association for the **World Occupational Therapy Day 2016**.

Urs Mueller
1st Alternate Delegate
July 2016

UNITED KINGDOM

40th Annual Conference & Exhibition:

We held our largest ever attended conference in Harrogate, Yorkshire at the end of June. Some 1,499 attended including 60 exhibitors and over a dozen sponsors. The #COT2016 achieved a huge audience of over 33M and trended at no.1 for large parts during conference. The packed programme was very well received by delegates with an over 95% satisfaction rate. For the first time also The Guardian, national newspaper, was our official media partner. During conference we launched a new guide to occupational therapy supplement which was part of the Guardian issued on 29th June. The conference website www.cotannualconference.org.uk contains the presentations and videos of selected sessions for members to access. We are now planning COT2017 which takes place in Birmingham from 19-20 June 2017.

"Be loud and proud" animation:

We have launched a new animation which shows the role of COT and the benefits available to members. This is getting a lot of interest and can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUfStCCVfVs>

Annual awards 2016:

On 14th July and in the presence of our Patron HRH, The Princess Royal, we held our first ever combined awards ceremony. With 200 invited guests and being held within the prestigious Draper's Hall, the event celebrated the cream of the profession and their achievements in raising the profile of occupational therapy. All award winners received their certificates from HRH and had the opportunity to tell her about their work and experiences. The event also commemorated HRH's 30 years as Patron for the College and we produced a special publication highlighting the vital support she has given to the College during this time.

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