

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

June 2017

ARGENTINA

2016-2018 Strategic Planning Meeting was held on March 11:

- We worked on 5 central items:
- Internal and External Communication.
- Professional practice.
- Impact in the community.
- Federalization.
- Continuous education.

Each chapter of the AATO made a diagnosis of the situation on these axis and then a pooling took place, so each chapter was put into knowledge of the work everybody performs: professional practice, gerontology, mental health, education, communication, WFOT.

Strategic initiatives and actions were proposed and analysed to be carried out in the next two years.



We made presentations in the Ministry of Education and Health, for irregular educational offers made to OTs, technicians of OT, in the provinces of Corrientes, Tucuman, Formosa and a project of La Pampa, not contemplated by the legislation of our country.

As well, a presentation was made to the Ministry of Labor for the omission of Occupational Therapists within the call for competition of professionals for the area of Disability and Employment.

Argentine Occupational Therapists are working on the Quality Standards projects and the Disability Action Plan for WHO.

Information from the WFOT is permanently translated and disseminated in order to encourage the participation of colleagues in the WFOT World Congress, South Africa 2018.

Representative of the AATO (Asociación Argentina de Terapistas Ocupacionales) professional practice chapter participated in the 3rd National Meeting of the National Occupational Therapy Network ([Re.Na.TO](#)) held on April 21 and 22 in the City of San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca. The same nucleus at country level to the Associations and provincial referents of Terapistas Ocupacionales and works in consonance with the development of public policies and unions that hierarchise the profession and working conditions of the OTs.

Representative of the AATO professional chapter participated in the annual meeting of the OT Mercosur Group in Asunción (Paraguay), which was constituted in July 2015 and is composed of the national OT's organisations from Argentina Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Average sanction was obtained from the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Catamarca to the adherence of National Law No.27.051 of the Professional Exercise of OT and the creation of the Association of OT of that province. The provinces of Río Negro and Neuquén have presented their deputies the projects of adherence to the National Law of the Professional Exercise of OT.

The second issue of the Argentine Journal of Occupational Therapy was published in online format in December 2016. (Year 2, Issue 2 December 2016).

Participated in the XVII Residence in Occupational Therapy's Meeting of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

Agostina Ciampa
WFOT Delegate

AUSTRALIA

The Occupational Therapy Australia (OT Australia) are all working hard to make sure our upcoming National conference is a success:



Registrations are still open at www.otaus2017.com.au

OT Australia is also working on developing a Reconciliation Action Plan for our organisation to better support and enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the profession and throughout Australia. If other member organisations are engaged in similar efforts we would like to hear from you. Please email me on Lynette.Mackenzie@sydney.edu.au

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two very influential occupational therapists from Australia. The first is Professor Sylvia Rodger from Queensland and this is a tribute from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF): Sylvia Anne Rodger, BOcc Thy, MEd St, PhD

“Recently, the OT community lost a consummate scholar, prolific author, and an energetic and creative researcher. Although not as well known in the U.S., Dr Sylvia Rodger was a prominent ASD researcher in Australia and had a significant role in the development of programs for parents of children with autism. Dr Rodger was the Director of Research and Education at the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Emeritus Professor at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland.

Dr Rodger received the Sylvia Docker Award; the highest recognition given to occupational therapists in Australia, and the Freda Jacob Award which acknowledges occupational therapists who contribute significantly to the profession with their vision, advocacy, and innovation.

Dr Rodger was elected to AOTF's Academy of Research; here is one of her replies to the Academy Q and A.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

My research to date has focused on real world issues and real world solutions, such as through leadership in scholarship and capacity building our emerging academic leaders and researching effective mechanisms to address this challenge. My future clinical research will focus on making a difference to the lives of Australians with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) through the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). As CEO I will have the capacity to shape the national research agenda of the CRC over the next 8 years to be coordinated, relevant, end user focused, and embedded into the health, education, community service sectors and to ensure that we tackle the real world issues that are important to our end users.

Dr Rodger created several YouTube videos for caregivers and occupational therapists on topics such as ASD and OT as a profession. In this video, Dr Rodger speaks about her first job as an OT which was in a community health setting.”

The second loss to occupational therapy in Australia is Freda Jacobs, who was a pioneer of the profession, bringing back evidence from the US and integrating it into our Australia healthcare system. She was a cornerstone of our profession.

Lynette Mackenzie
WFOT Delegate

BELGIUM

Let us start this newsletter with a brief explanation of the organisation of the occupational therapy associations in Belgium. Belgium is a federally organised country. The governance with respect to health care is split between the federal governments and the regional Flemish (Dutch speaking) and Wallonian (French speaking) governments. The system is complex and therefore the professional associations for occupational therapy are organised regionally and not federally. The Wallonian association is called Union Professionnelle des Ergothérapeutes (UPE) (this was formally the Association des Ergothérapeutes or AE) and in the Flemish region we have the Vlaams Ergotherapeutenverbond (VE). These two organisations form the FNBE (French acronym) - NBFÉ (dutch acronym). We work together for all federal and international issues, therefore some projects are organised differently, but through continued collaboration, we strive to create the same vision and identity for occupational therapy in Belgium. The language differences are something that adds to our diversity and we do not see it as a problem.

Below you will find the latest “hot off the press” items, which both associations are busy with. We also invite you all to visit our websites and if you have any difficulty with understanding our languages then please ask, we would be happy to help.

Last year, the Belgium government started several reform-projects concerning Public Health governance, ideology and organisation. All these reforms will greatly affect the way in which occupational therapists work in the coming years. These are important challenges that appeal to us, which will also create new opportunities:

- The reform of hospital finance: To increase the efficiency of the use of financials resources, the number of hospital-beds will be reduced and more resources will be used in transmurial and home health care. The number of jobs may decrease in hospitals in favour of the increase of jobs in transmurial and home health care.
- The e-health plan: In the next three years, all health professionals will have to establish a professional electronic file that will be linked to a national e-health platform. The first electronic occupational therapists file has already been designed: this will be tested by a pilot group in the field in the next few months.
- Integrated care for chronically ill persons: In order to cope with the rapidly increasing number of chronically ill citizens, the Belgian government wants to address the effectiveness of the care itself. Multimorbidity is a serious challenge for the medical world, which necessitates a switch from a medical to a bio-psycho-social model. This is good news for the holistic thinking and working occupational therapists!
- The reform of the law regulating the status and implementation of health professions: The current (old) law governing the implementation of health professions is based on a pyramidal hierarchy between care professions, with on top of the all-deciding physician and at the bottom of the "supportive professions" such as the occupational therapist. Our health minister, who herself is a physician, wants to turn this system into a work organisation based on the competencies of healthcare providers. That is really revolutionary. Basic principles include quality of care, interdisciplinary collaboration, lifelong learning, client-centered care. That is real music to the ears of occupational therapists.
- Primary and home health care reform: All the projects mentioned above require a thorough reform of home health care. The government wants to shift the focus of public health from hospitals and institutions to primary and home health care. The territory (initially Dutch speaking Flanders) will be subdivided into home health care areas, where care will be integrated and interdisciplinary organised around the citizen with a need for care. Currently, occupational therapists are not well represented in primary and home health care, for political and financial reasons alone (we do not have enough power in a pyramidal system). The government finally begins to understand that occupational therapists are very effective and particularly in primary and home health care.

The professional associations have had a lot of consultations with the government, and many more to come.

<http://www.ergo-ae.be/>

<http://www.ergobel.be/>

<https://www.ergotherapie.be/NL/>

This report has been made by Pierre Seeuws (President FNBE-NBFE) Marc-Eric Guisset (Vice-President FNBE-NBFE), Thomas Otte (UPE), Marlies Suetens (VE), Mike Jarrey (VE)

CANADA

Canadian National Driver Rehabilitation Conference

Ottawa, Ontario • October 12 & 13, 2017



Co-hosted by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
and the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists



An outstanding educational opportunity!

Register Now: <https://caot.ca/site/pd/CNDRC?nav=sidebar> for the Canadian National Driver Rehabilitation Conference, October 12 and 13 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Join over 250 professionals from the driving assessment and rehabilitation sector for two days of intensive professional development to advance your knowledge and skills and:

- Take home the latest in research, practice, training and policy to apply to your practice,
- Network with clinicians, academics, researchers and regulators,
- Meet industry leaders in adaptive equipment and vehicle modification,
- Select sessions that match your needs - generalist, intermediate or advanced, and
- Share best practices

Co-hosted by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED). Come, be inspired and help to move the practice of driving rehabilitation forward!

See the conference program for more: https://caot.ca/document/4308/CNDRC_program.pdf

Pat Underwood
Director of Communications, CAOT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This is the first article published from Dominican Republic.

History of SODTEO

After several attempts by 2014 a call was made where the Directive Committee that currently forms the Dominican society of Occupational Therapy was elected by vote.

The Occupational Therapy Society (SODTEO) was formally established in 2015. In 2016 it was accepted as an associate member by the WFOT. We attended two extraordinary meetings.



University

Since 2002, the formation of OT career has been made possible in a Bachelor's degree at the Catholic University of Santo Domingo and is the only university that offers the career in the country, actually we have had 32 members with a degree in OT until now.

Because we currently need therapists to supply the services demanded by the population, many students have been trained to work as therapists while attending college.

During the day the members / students work and at the end of their work they proceed to their academic studies. Mostly students go to college for a period of 4 or 6 years approximate until they graduate. Some live outside the city center, occupying a travel time of 2 or 6 hours since the primary method of transportation is by bus and they must return to their city to fulfill their duties.

Celebration of the national day of the Occupational Therapist

On 27 October 2016 was celebrated for the first time as SODTEO the national day of the occupational therapy with various activities.



Our goal as SODTEO

Now we have to achieve the following:

1. Strengthen and expand the curriculum.
2. Expand the practice areas.
3. Continuing education after graduation.
4. Specializations, Postgraduate and masters
5. Train more teachers
6. Expand fields of action of O.T; for example, psychiatrist, generalized developmental disorder etc.

SODTEO

President:

Maribel Paniagua, OT

WFOT Alternate Delegate

Secretary:

Yoselyn Del C. Castillo Díaz, OT

WFOT Delegate.



Fellowship in Advanced Occupational Therapy: Neuro-Developmental Disorders

The AIOTA's innovative academic program "**Fellowship in Advanced Occupational Therapy: Neuro-Developmental Disorders**" **FAOT: NDD (India)** will be commenced by Academic Council of OT [ACOT] from Sept.2017 to enhance the knowledge base of India's dynamic post graduates in the field of Occupational Therapy. The duration of the fellowship program is of 9 months from Sept 18, 2017 to June 17, 2018. The eminent expertise across the globe who with their immense knowledge based on evidence based clinical practice, experience and academic contributions has raised the Paediatric Occupational Therapy Practice to higher standards have been included as resource faculties for the AIOTA's Fellowship program.

This fellowship offers an opportunity to imbibe practical knowledge in the subject through didactic as well as web-based learning and strengthen clinical practice in light of advanced techniques and latest evidences. For more information may contact on aiotafellowship2017@gmail.com

Policy changes in Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy

A welcome change from the year 2017 is that, now four issues of Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy (IJOT) will be published in place of three with more number of research studies and also case reports. The decision has also been taken to publish Abstracts of the oral and poster presentation of the conferences in the issue 2 of IJOT each year.

AIOTA has also decided to go as far as possible paperless in most of its activities. Therefore from 2017 onwards members of AIOTA may access/download IJOT by login to AIOTA Website. It will not be circulated to the members and students. Guidelines to Authors for Submission, Undertaking/Copyright Form and other related documents will also not be published in IJOT. Henceforth all these IJOT related documents and World OT Day/Month Report will be made available on AIOTA Website.

Inclusion of OT's in National Trust for Welfare of Children

National Trust for Welfare of Children of Department of Empowerment of PWD's under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India has accepted AIOTA's request and decided to include one post of OT, in each of the 4 projects of the National Trust namely DISHA (Early intervention and School readiness scheme), SAMARTH (Respite care Residential scheme), VIKAAS (Day care scheme for 10 year and above) and GHARAUNDA (Group home for adults scheme). For more information visit www.thenationaltrust.gov.in .

AIOTA is also working on inclusion of OT's in Autism Medical Certification Board and Disability Evaluation Board under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

OTICON2018: Nagpur

'**M.M. Sangoi Trophy**' for Best Paper on '**Ergonomics, Environment and Access**' will be introduced from 55th Annual National Conference of AIOTA ie OTICON'2018 scheduled for February 2018 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Government Medical College, Nagpur.

Dr Kit Sinclair Honoured
WFOT Bulletin Editor & WFOT Ambassador

OTICON'2017: The 54th Annual National Conference of AIOTA was superbly organised by Mahatma Gandhi Occupational Therapy College in collaboration with Rajasthan Branch of AIOTA at Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences & Technology, Jaipur from February 17-19, 2017. The Theme of the conference was '**Occupational Therapy: Glories of Past and Challenges for the Future**' was chosen to commemorate the centennial year of occupational therapy globally.

OTICON'2017 was very special due to the presence of Former President and now WFOT Ambassador and Editor WFOT Bulletin - Dr Kit Sinclair an internationally acclaimed person in the profession of occupational therapy. She not only delivered Key Note Address on the conference theme but also impressively conducted a Workshop on **'Making a Difference in Disaster Management'** with facilitators Mathan Raj David, Neeraj Mishra and Binoo Berry. The COTE Workshop was organised by Academic Council of OT of AIOTA on February 17 at Jaipur. Presentation by officially deputed Dr Saurabh Dalal, Consultant Medical Preparedness and Biological Disorders at National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi, was an excellent overview of disaster preparedness and response in India. The workshop was appreciated by delegates and the national and international guests. Kit also met with National Disaster Management Authority of Government of India at New Delhi with President AIOTA Dr Anil Srivastava and discussed the inclusion of occupational therapists in national disaster task force for extending the relief services and rehabilitation of disaster survivors, which was agreed upon.

President AIOTA has honoured **Dr Kit Sinclair** with **'President AIOTA's Crown of OT Award'**.



Presentation of 'President AIOTA's Crown of OT Award' to Kit Sinclair.



Anil K. Srivastava
President
WFOT Delegate

ITALY

The 7th of May the new National executive team of the Italian Association of Occupational Therapists (AITO) settled.

This new executive team will be on charge for three years and lots of them were part of the last three years executive team. They are:

- ❖ **Michele Senatore**, President
- ❖ **Litterio Runza**, Vice President
- ❖ **Eleonora Rinaldi**, Secretary and communications manager with the Italian Scientific Society of OT (SITO)
- ❖ **Lorenza D'Arcangelo**, Finance
- ❖ **Gabriella Casu**, Region and district Coordinator ,and communications manager with University
- ❖ **Giulia Zanaboni**, COTEC and WFOT Delegate
- ❖ **Margherita Schiavi**, contact person and representative with the health profession registry
- ❖ **Simonetta Del Signore**, illegal practice Head coordinator
- ❖ **Christian Parone**, events Head coordinator

- ❖ **Elisa Papino**, Past President

During the first official meeting the Executive team identified some starting priorities and goals for the 2017-2020 triennium:

- Spread and increase the culture of occupational therapy
- Increase the number of members and the participation of colleagues in associative work
- Enhance the regional and district sections
- Create contacts and public relations with OT university courses
- Fight Abusivism
- Create bonds and public relations with many different associations (category, health professions, disease)
- OT Census
- Strengthen internal and external policy

The 24th May we organised in Rome a big event at the parliament to celebrate the legal and official recognition of our profession as Occupational Therapists.

In 1997 exactly 20 years ago, the Ministry of Health published the professional profile of the Occupational Therapist, opening up new horizons and rewarding the commitment of the Italian Association of Occupational Therapists.

During the event, we discussed topics about past history, events and achievements of our profession, with a look to the future. Analyzing the education path and our increasing professional skills always linked to the changing needs of society, to offer an appropriate service to the person and to the National Health Service.



Giulia Zanaboni
WFOT Delegate

KAZAKHSTAN

Occupational therapy particularised profiles

Due to positive developments of OT practices within the community, associated with finance streams, the discussion on Occupational Therapists working as generalists and / or as specialists has been part of the Dutch agenda. As reported in earlier news the outcome of that discussion is that besides well recognised generalists, particularised profiles are appreciated by the field of OT, costumers of OT services and insurance companies.

This opened the development of particularised Occupational Therapy profiles. Under the umbrella of the Dutch association, expert groups worked on three profiles: paediatric specialist, hand therapy specialist and elderly specialist. All three profiles are adopted by the general assembly of the association.

Core of these profiles is that the specialist works particularised for the specific field based on core elements of occupational therapy, societal needs, latest insights, evidence.

Next step is the development of specific postgraduate curricula. Based on a need assessment the paediatric curriculum is developed rapidly and has started in January 2017. This curriculum is developed in intense collaboration by a working group of the four-full time Dutch OT programs.

The curriculum is part time and spread over two years. The first year starts with a module on personal professional leadership and continuous education. Followed by four modules, consecutively: evidence based practice, occupation based OT, technology within care and community, community based and population focused OT. The modules are in Dutch, based on (inter)national literature. Participant group size is 12-24 OTs. The second year is open to short specialised courses, workshops, symposia etc.

In the transitional stage till 2020 OT's can claim exemption of modules based on their competences coming from work experiences and Master, PHD programs.

Curricula for hand therapy and elderly specialist will be developed.

The Dutch Occupational Therapy Association (EN) celebrates her 60th anniversary

On 24 March 2017, the Dutch OT Association celebrated her 60th anniversary with a spectacular congress, titled: "Experts in doing, now and in the future". More than 400 participants participated on this sparkling and interesting day.

The day was filled with an impressive list of (keynote) speakers, workshop leaders and poster presentations. Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr. Anne Fisher, Dr. Esther Steultjens, Barbara Aegler, MSc and Dr. Mieke Cardol.

Dr. Anne Fisher (Sweden) included in her lecture an overview of the meaning of the term occupation-centered, occupation-focused and occupation-based. She pleaded for a key focus on evaluating our practice and published research to ensure that we are gathering evidence to support the efficacy of our occupation-based and occupation-focused interventions.

Dr. Esther Steultjens (Netherlands), the next keynote speaker, addressed the unique contribution of occupational therapists at the actual domain of health and wellbeing. She stressed the importance of our professional reasoning, beside our focus on person, occupation and context, to form a strong base for effective, evidence based occupational therapy.

Barbara Aegler (Suisse), focused on empowering resilience in daily life. She introduced an approach to empower clients in strengthening their resilience by focusing on mini activities that can easily be integrated into daily routines. She stressed that a resilience perspective will not only empower clients but also the occupational therapists.

The last keynote speaker, Mieke Cardol (Netherlands), discussed the changes in our society and more specific in health care, which leads to a lot of challenges for the government, professionals and citizens. In her keynote, she made the transfer from these changes to occupational therapy and their field of practice.

Dutch OT Book: “Foundations of Occupational Therapy”

In March 2017, the fifth revised edition of “Foundations of Occupational Therapy” was introduced. This basic Dutch OT textbook is based on the new national and international developments in society, health care and occupational therapy, with a specific focus on the transition from welfare state to participation society. The book stressed both the individual and societal perspective of occupational therapy on the client, the organisation and the population. The textbook focuses on the six basic elements in Dutch OT: client-centered, occupation-based, context-based, evidence-based, technology-based and population-based

The content of the book is built up of four parts:

Part 1 describes the historical development of the profession and its societal position as well in the Netherlands, Flanders as in the international context. Part 2 describes the core elements of occupational therapy: the client, the occupational performance, the context and the occupational therapist. A new chapter about technology shows the importance of technology within occupational therapy. Part 3 underpins the theoretical basis of the profession and introduces several international occupational therapy process and practice models. In part 4 the focus is on the practical application of occupational therapy. This part included chapters about professional reasoning, health promotion and prevention, analysis of daily activities, overview of occupation based assessments, quality at micro, meso and macro level and scientific research with a focus on occupational science.

The textbook (also with an online version) is the standard work for the OT programs at the universities and for occupational therapists in practice. The book is used at 12 universities of OT in the Netherlands and in the Flemish part of Belgium and is being translated in the German language to serve OT programs in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (German version expected in autumn 2018). The authors are: Mieke le Granse, Margo van Hartingsveldt and Astrid Kinébanian, published by Bohn, Stafleu van Loghum (www.bsl.nl) (ISBN 978 90 368 1703 5)

Farewell Mieke le Granse

In February 2017, a symposium was organised for Mieke le Granse WFOT Delegate of The Netherlands, as she was retiring after nearly 40 years' work at Zuyd University (Heerlen).

At this symposium: “Future perspectives on occupation in an international context”, Hanneke van Bruggen did a presentation on “Future international developments in Occupational Therapy / Science, Margo van Hartingsveldt talked about “Implementing current developments in education and practice, new challenges for sharing the richness of Occupation with students, lecturers and practitioners” and Silke Dennhardt presented a lecture about “Crossing borders and boundaries; perspectives on Occupational Science”.

Many colleagues and friends attended this interesting and festive day.

At the symposium Mieke was awarded the honorary membership of EN, the Dutch Association of occupational therapy for her outstanding contribution to the profession and the association.

Mieke le Granse
WFOT Delegate

NEW ZEALAND

Occupational Therapy New Zealand Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa (OTNZ-WNA) has joined the Premium Pricing Model and members are enjoying the benefits of the WFOT membership.

Registrations are now open for the OTNZ-WNA conference titled “Committing to Social Change - Nga tahitanga o te Tangata”. Sub-themes include Bicultural Practice; Practice and Society; Consultation and Engagement; Enacting Occupational Justice; Taking Occupation to Community and Rethinking Mainstream Practice. The conference will be held in Nelson from 13 to 15 September 2017. Keynote speakers include Professor Ana Paula Malfitano from Brazil, speaking about social inclusion and social occupational therapy; Professor Clare Hocking from New Zealand, presenting on Human Rights and social occupational therapy; and Professor Linda Robertson from New Zealand, our most recent Francis Rutherford Lecture Award Winner, who will trace the history of publishing in occupational therapy since she began writing for academia in 1987.

OTNZ-WNA continues to present to different audiences on how to work authentically within a Treaty Relationship Governance Model, for example at the Australasian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE). Positive feedback has been received during these presentations.

The use of seclusion rooms in some schools has been a public topic in New Zealand Aotearoa. OTNZ-WNA targeted a range of education stakeholders and politicians by outlining the role and skills of occupational therapists/kaiwhakaora Ngangahau in finding alternative solutions for supporting students, and seeking opportunities for closer collaboration. This will be followed up with a position paper.

OTNZ-WNA is now a member of the Health and Safety Association NZ (HASANZ). This will enable occupational therapists to promote their profession, and for more workplaces to realise what benefits occupational therapists add to the success of a return to work or maintenance programme.

OTNZ-WNA recently completed a member survey about its current strategic plan and council participated in a facilitated strategic planning day which will lead to a new strategic plan.

OTNZ-WNA has published a range of articles in Occupational Therapy Insight and the New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy - Te Hautaka Whakaora Ngangahau o Aotearoa (NZJOT). Topics have included: Occupation Performance Coaching; Community-Led Development in a Post-Disaster Setting; Practising appropriately for bicultural Aotearoa New Zealand and Putting Well-Being into Practice.

Tracey Partridge
WFOT Delegate

NORWAY

Occupational Therapy Growing in Norway

In October 2015, the Norwegian government decided that occupational therapy needs to be a part of the primary health care in all the Norwegian municipalities, by year 2020. This is going to be defined by law. This policy development is a result of targeted advocacy and argumentation from the Norwegian occupational therapy association, but also a result of the many examples of good work done by occupational therapists doing reablement in the municipalities.

About 100 Norwegian municipalities does not provide occupational therapy today. The Norwegian association is now actively working on getting the municipalities to see that there is no reason to wait until 2020; they should hire occupational therapists now. We argue that occupational therapy provides sustainable health care, and that we help find resources in the person itself – and in that way free resources in the health care system. We are happy to say that occupational therapy lately has been the fastest growing occupation in the Norwegian municipalities – in percentage.

Through advocacy, occupational therapy has become more visibly present, both in the media and in Norwegian policy. The Norwegian association is now being invited to join forums that we earlier have had to work our way into.

The Nordic collaboration has been a big part of the recent Norwegian success. Both the Swedish and Danish associations have generously shared their experiences in working with reablement, and this has provided the Norwegian association with necessary knowledge during advocacy. The collaboration continues as we plan our annual Nordic meeting in August, this time in Iceland.

The Norwegian association recently achieved its 4,000th member, and our organisation continues to focus on growth, promoting occupational therapy and making sure our members have working conditions and salaries that reflect the valuable effort in making everyday life possible.

Tove Holst Skyer
WFOT 1st Alternate Delegate

SOUTH AFRICA



Report from the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA)

We have been very busy with a variety of activities - these are some of the key projects we have been working on.

Branding:

The Association has been engaged in a rebranding exercise to update and refresh its logo and corporate identity. The new logo represents the profession in the different parts of South Africa, and in all its forms. It was designed to reflect the truly South African heritage that OTASA wants to portray. The South African elements were brought in through the different colours of the South African flag and the map contour serving as the base for representing people who have transformed their lives with the help of occupational therapy. We are currently working on a full marketing strategy.

National listening and dialogue campaign:

In 2016, OTASA embarked on a National Listening and Dialogue (NL&D) campaign to provide a platform to bring all sectors within occupational therapy into one dialogue space. The purpose of the campaign is to listen to the voices of occupational therapists, occupational therapy technicians and students, to understand their vision for occupational therapy in South Africa; to have honest conversation; and to seek a mandate to drive a collective mission and vision for occupational therapy in South Africa. Successful workshops have been held in five areas of the country and we are planning to complete these events for the remaining four areas by the end of 2017. The workshops have provided a constructive platform for meaningful discussions about where we want to see OT in South Africa in the next 5 years. Information from these workshops will be used to inform OTASA's strategic vision and planning for 2020 - the 75th anniversary of the profession in South Africa.

Students:

The student Leadership Programme is part of the transformation agenda of OTASA, aimed at increasing the student voice, presence and participation in the Association with the establishment of the student "wing" of the Association called the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa - Students (OTASAS). A student workshop and student leadership camp (SLC) were held in 2016, followed by a webinar in 2017. All these events were facilitated by Fatima Hendricks as part of her doctoral studies. The overwhelming success of these initiatives resulted in deciding to have a second SLC in 2017. The aim of the SLC is to develop leadership skills within the student body to empower students to engage with matters affecting them as students, and also those affecting the profession on a national and international scale. The camp involves various outdoor team building activities as well as group activities and discussions about authentic leadership. The SLP is still in its infancy and the students have taken this initiative on board and are enthusiastically running with it. OTASAS will also have links to each educational institution offering occupational therapy programmes in South Africa and all OTASA branches. Ultimately, through the development of the upcoming leaders of tomorrow, the profession will be well positioned to remain relevant and effective in addressing the needs of the people we aim to serve.

WFOT 2018 Congress:

Abstract submissions for the 2018 WFOT Congress have closed. The Congress Organising Committee was satisfied with the 2,457 abstracts received. Reviewers have been selected from 300 people who made themselves available. Each of the sub-committees (Marketing, Scientific, Social, Local Operations, Students and Sponsorship) are working according to timelines.

Some concerns were raised regarding the financial accessibility of the conference. Responses were formulated to explain the two strategies being focussed on in order to make the conference as accessible as possible:

- Finding sponsorship to support participation in the Congress (through the Congress Participation Fund, but also other avenues).
- Sharing content from the conference (as closely as we can to real time) to those who are not able to attend.

WFOT 2018 Council meeting:

The venue for the 2018 Council meeting has been confirmed and we are currently busy with developing the Council website. Delegates will be advised when the website is available.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Cape Town in May 2018!

Helen Buchanan
WFOT Delegate

SWEDEN

News from Sweden in May 2017

Our national conference Arbetsterapiforum took place May 10 -11, 2017. Arbetsterapiforum is the largest, and most visited, meeting place for Swedish occupational therapists. It is the place where occupational therapists learn from each other and where new research and development are presented. This conference has been held every two years since 1993.

This time, we arranged the conference in the city of Malmö, situated in the south of Sweden, close to Denmark and Copenhagen. Approximately 750 occupational therapists and guests of other professions participated.

The opening ceremony was led by Ida Kåhlin, President of the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists. The key note speakers were Professor Kerstin Tham, occupational therapist and Vice Chancellor of Malmö University, giving the speech "Leadership as an Advocate for Occupational Therapy" and Professor Susanne Iwarsson with the speech "Occupational Therapy and the Ageing Population".

In the afternoon of the first conference day, the Board of Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists arranged a symposium on various aspects of person-centred health care. The participants were practicing occupational therapists, other health care professionals, researchers and client representatives.

The key note speakers for the second day of the conference were Professor Christine Imms from Australia, Lotta Dellve and Magnus Zingmark. Professor Imms' speech: "Participation as Means and Ends: Using the Family of Participation Related Constructs", the only key note speech in English, can be found here: <http://www.arbetsterapeuterna.se/Nyhetsarkiv/Nyhetslista-2017/Arbetsterapiforum-2017/>

Lotta Dellve highlighted the importance of leadership and a satisfying work environment for health care professionals and Magnus Zingmark approached the issue of health economics and occupational therapy.

The next national conference will take place in the spring of 2019.

Ida Kåhlin
President
WFOT Delegate

TAIWAN



The 1st Asia-Pacific Occupational Therapy Symposium ! Early-Bird Discount Extended till August 31st, 2017 ! Call for Registration

Dear distinguished guests, colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Host Organizing Committee, it gives us great pleasure in extending a warm welcome to all the delegates and colleagues to participate in the 1st Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Symposium (APOTS 2017) which will be held from October 20th to 22nd, 2017 in Taoyuan City, Taiwan.

Out of hundreds of received oral/poster abstracts and symposium proposals, **over 400 abstracts and 24 symposia** submitted by the authors from all over the world, including Taiwan, the U.S., United Kingdom, Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Singapore, etc., will be presented in the themes, such as Global Perspectives in Professional Practice, Creative Thinking of Clinical Interventions, Child and Adolescent, Mental Health and more.

In APOTS 2017 conference, we have also invited 4 keynote speakers and 2 plenary speakers, who have outstanding achievements and major impacts in the field of world occupational therapy, to discuss about technologies, development and promotion of occupational therapy. Moreover, two workshops hosted by our prestigious speakers are organised for further practical exchanges.

****Do not hesitate to register before August 31st 2017
& enjoy the discounted early-bird rates!!
Save \$2,000 NTD or more! ****

| Registration Category Rate / per person | Early Bird (Before August 31 st , 2017) | Regular / Onsite (After Sep. 1 st , 2017) | Workshop I or II |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| Full-Registration | NT\$6,000 | NT\$8,000 | NT\$500 |
| Student Registration | NT\$1,500 | NT\$2,000 | |
| Single Day Registration (rate / per day) | NT\$3,500 | | |

For more details, please visit APOTS 2017 official website: <http://www.apots2017.org/>

Yours sincerely,

Ying-Chun Chou
Chairperson, APOTS 2017

Ling-Hui Chang
Co-Chairperson, APOTS 2017
President, Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



*Occupational Therapy:
Living Life To Its Fullest®*

Occupational Therapy Profession Celebrates 100 Years

WFOT participates in International event to mark Centennial

BETHESDA, Md. — The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is proud to announce that the profession of occupational therapy is officially turning 100 years old. The national association, with more than 60,000 members kicked off a year-long celebration as the calendar turned to 2017.

The Association officially celebrated a century of occupational therapy at its Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration March 30 – April 2 in Philadelphia. More than 14,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, educators, and students attended the annual event which focused on research and shaping the next 100 years.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) Executive and Programme Coordinators participated in the AOTA Centennial Conference and Celebration. Members of the Executive Team were the featured speakers at AOTA's annual International Breakfast event as well as several other collaborative educational sessions with the AOTA WFOT Delegate Moses Ikiugu, PhD, OTR/L, and WFOT Alternate Delegate Virginia Stoffel, PhD, OT, BCMH, FAOTA. AOTA welcomed additional guests from more than 25 countries around the world.

“In the past 100 years, occupational therapy practitioners have helped countless children of all abilities access education, facilitated relearning of life skills lost as a result of illness or injury, supported persons with mental illness as they transitioned from institutions to communities, and have helped older adults age in place,” said AOTA President Amy J. Lamb. “As we embark on our next 100 years, occupational therapy will continue to bring meaning to the everyday lives of people through the use of meaningful, necessary and familiar occupations that they want and need to do.”

Occupational therapy practitioners focus on helping clients to perform everyday activities to their highest potential. Some examples: Teaching Wounded Warriors how to hold their children again after limb loss; helping babies in the NICU learn to feed, breathe, and swallow so they can thrive; providing recommendations for assistive technology in the vehicle or home so that older adults can age in place safely; and helping stroke survivors relearn how to bathe, groom, dress, and cook for themselves, among other occupations. An independent study recently found that occupational therapy is the only therapy that reduces hospital readmissions.

From humble beginnings in Clifton Springs, NY, on March 15, 1917, when six founding members organised, the profession of occupational therapy has evolved into a science-driven, evidence-based profession whose goal is to help clients live to their maximum potential through a focus on the mind-body connection and purposeful activity.

Since its founding, AOTA has worked to create a global understanding of the profession through public education and by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations, and serving as an advocate to improve health care.

Today, more than 213,000 occupational therapy practitioners nationwide help people of all ages participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). To learn more about occupational therapy's rich history, visit www.otcentennial.org. For more on AOTA, visit www.aota.org. For more on WFOT, visit www.wfot.org.

Founded in 1917, AOTA represents the professional interests and concerns of more than 213,000 occupational therapists, assistants, and students nationwide. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, visit www.aota.org.



Rebecca E. Argabrite Grove, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Governance, Leadership Development & International Liaison