

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

December 2017

ARGENTINA

On October 7, the First Meeting of Occupational Therapists working in schools was organized by the Occupational Therapy Chapter in the school environment of our Association.

Colleagues from CABA, Rosario and from different points of the Buenos Aires participated. The experiences of colleagues from the interior of the country (Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, Río Negro, Santa Cruz and La Rioja) have also been shared. A full day of exchange and collective construction!



Last July, the 3rd number of the Argentinean Journal of Occupational Therapy was launched: http://www.revista.terapia-ocupacional.org.ar/numero_actual.html

September 11th is the Argentine Day of Occupational Therapy, campaigns were made for the month of Occupational Therapy. Promotions were made for new associates and photographs of occupational therapists were collected in their places of study and work. You can see a video with all of them on our Facebook fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/aatoarg/>

In October the scientific cafes returned to the AATO, the first of them, in October, 20th corresponds to the subject of the sexuality.



The second annual meeting of the National Network of Occupational Therapists was declared of interest by the Honorable Municipal Council of the city of Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz. The meeting was held on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September and the organization was in charge of the Occupational Therapists College of Santa Fe. AATO, which was represented by Sara Daneri and Laura Perez, continues to promote federalization of Occupational Therapy

Agostina Ciampa
Delegate
Asociacion Argentina de Terapeutas Ocupacionales

BRAZIL

Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy

The Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy is an open-access journal, which has been publishing in Portuguese, Spanish and English.

We must remember the worldwide occupational therapy dialogue takes place mostly in English and there seems to be little room for interacting with scholarly material in other languages. Another relevant aspect, amongst the occupational therapy journals across the globe, only nine have an impact factor (JCR / Web of Science), with all journals indexed in this base based in Anglophone countries.

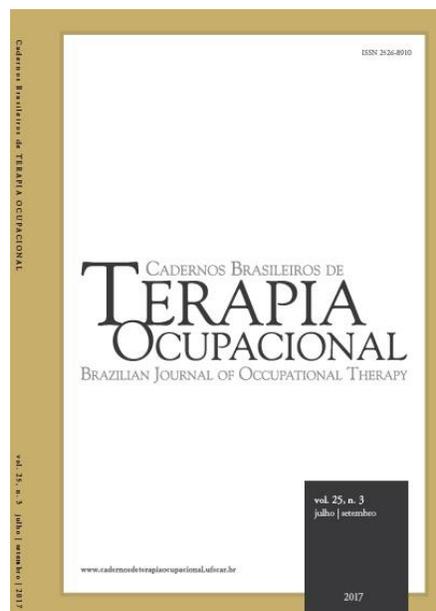
To better enact our scholarly activity and broaden the channels of a global dialogue in occupational therapy, we have been building the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy (Cadernos Brasileiros de Terapia Ocupacional).

We are then pleased to announce that the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy has just been included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, the first level of the Web of Science entry database. Currently, about 45% of the texts have English versions. However, according to the Web of Science rules, the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy consolidation will depend on the support of the international community, through access to the texts, academic appraisal and the consequent citation of work coming from our journal.

We strongly agree that the area of occupational therapy worldwide has much to gain by intensifying dialogue and academic exchanges, valuing quality research, and enabling different ways of thinking and doing occupational therapy. Hence, we encourage everyone to support the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Submissions are accepted all year round. To access the journal:

<http://www.cadernosdeterapiaocupacional.ufscar.br>



Sandra Galheigo
Delegate
Associação Brasileira dos Terapeutas Ocupacionais (ABRATO)

HONG KONG

Occupational Therapy Education in Hong Kong has entered a new milestone

Thirty-five (35) graduates from Tung Wah College, the second tertiary education institution in Hong Kong offering an Occupational Therapy Education Programme, entered the job market in summer, 2017. This timely workforce supply, in addition to the ninety (90) graduates from Bachelor of Science (Honor) Occupational Therapy (OT) programme of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, had helped to ease the pressure of the OT manpower shortage in Hong Kong over the past few years.



A further Step towards School Based OT

The Hong Kong Government had supported OT and OTA establishment in schools for students with moderate and mild grade intellectual disability in 2017. The HKOTA's vision is to have School Based OT for all students with Special Education Needs. A seminar was organized for government officials, school partners and OTs to introduce the work of school based OT service.



Stella Cheng
Delegate
Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association

GEORGIA

For the last period of time, Georgian Occupational Therapist's association –GEOTA, was engaged in productive and educative activities and events, including engagement in World Occupational Therapy Day.

With the support of Tbilisi State University, on September 19th, there were organized lectures on Participatory Occupational Justice Framework and on Practice Based Enquiry (an approach to researching/transforming practice). Lectures were presented by Professor Gail Whitefold, and were open for all Georgian occupational therapists and students. Professor Gail Whitefold also had a lecture for the wider audience – Lecture on Widening Participation for Disadvantaged Students.

On October 1st, the president of GEOTA, Rusudan Lortkipanidze, had an opportunity to represent Georgia, among 25 COTEC Member Associations, at the COTEC 6th General Assembly, in Vienna. That was a great opportunity for GEOTA to share the experience, make new contacts with other associations, and be involved in developing occupational therapy around the World.

Georgian Occupational Therapist's Association prepared their student members for the 23rd ENOTHE Annual Meeting. The theme of the student's project, that will be presented at the Conference, is



“Universal Design” and have few main aims: to share experience between volunteer OT students and students from architecture/design faculty; to design local park in capital city of Georgia, Tbilisi, according to the Seven principles of Universal Design, in order to make local environment inclusive for everyone; to promote Occupational Therapy in Georgia. More information about

https://www.facebook.com/Parks-for-All-430104097355294/?hc_ref=ARTAmUVjyzT25NGatPwOpJ3eRbTpPLSmOeXrdIRQdznjTI5EGkPzHTTB1n3ywzuaZzQ

the project you can find here:

GEOTA had an opportunity to meet the first lady of Georgia, Maka Chichua, in order to discuss occupational therapy development and teaching; GEOTA is also now involved in radio project which will discuss OT profession, benefits and challenges.

As the whole world was, GEOTA too celebrated the World OT Day, on October 27. All association members shared photos with logos on social networks; the students created the video clip “mannequin challenge” at the university, to share with the people the routine of OT students. The Video is shared at GEOTA's Facebook page, you can see it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjJJoGSEAll> . For World OT day, a lot of nongovernmental organization were offering free OT consultation and Lectures for open audience. One of the lecture was organized for high school teachers, in order to promote Occupational Therapy among the graduating students, in friendly cozy environment.

Among all activities that were described, GEOTA is planning to stay active, to renew strategic plan for year 2018, and be involved in activities with WFOT, COTEC and other international associations.

Lusia Oganezovi
President / Delegate
Georgian Occupational Therapists' Association

KAZAKHSTAN

NEW ZEALAND

Advocacy and representation is a focus in our strategic plan and one of our priorities is to advocate for the changes to the description of occupational therapists in the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). We have also been communicating with politicians regarding the role of occupational therapy in school environments and have requested a meeting with our new Prime Minister to discuss how our profession can support her and the Ministers of Health and Education.

Submissions have been made to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) regarding the impact of science, why impact is important, what impact looks like, and how and where impact is generated.

Emerging areas of practice: Members are investigating ways that occupational therapists can have a stronger role in workplace support, particularly in Employment Assistance Programmes where social workers, nurses, psychologists and counsellors are dominant.

New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy – articles have included topics such as: visual impairment following acquired brain injury; the emerging role of occupational therapists in the assessment and treatment of compulsive hoarding; how ethical practice has been shaped for occupational therapists practising in Aotearoa New Zealand and role differentiation in occupational therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The OTNZ WNA conference *Committing to Social Change* was a success with a wide range of presentations and workshops. Biculturalism was woven into the programme with fifty percent carrying a Maori centric essence. Dr Linda Robertson received the Frances Rutherford Lecture Award for being an outstanding role model for occupational therapists and demonstrating excellence in education. The Achievement Award, which recognises exemplary practice and contributions to the development of the profession, was presented to Katrina Wallis.

The first **Whakaora Ngangahau Tangata Whenua Hui** was held the day before the conference and enabled an opportunity for networking, reflection and strengthening for Maori occupational therapists. Following its success, this hui will be incorporated into future conferences and clinical workshops.

At the Annual General Meeting Karen Molyneux was thanked for her enormous contribution to the OTNZ-Council. Previous councillor Tangata Whenua Georgina Davis was welcomed to her new role of President Tangata Whenua.

Honorary membership to OTNZ WNA has been awarded to our tikanga advisors, whaea Iris Pahau and matua Wereta (Rackie) Pahau in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the association.

Te Wiki o Te Whakaora Ngangahau 2017 (Occupational Therapy Week 2017) shined a light on Te Tika i te Wāhi Mahi (Occupational Justice) and Te Panonitanga Pāpori (Social Change). This coincided with **World Occupational Therapy Day** where occupational therapists celebrated the theme Inform, Inspire, Influence.

The Occupational Therapy Key Strategic Stakeholders (OTKSS) is reviewing the Te Umanga Whakaora Accelerated Maori Occupational Therapy Workforce Development document and OTNZ-WNA is responsible for working on the *Best Practice* actions.

Tracey Partridge
Delegate
Occupational Therapy New Zealand / Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa

OTASA Student Leadership Camp Reflective Piece

We dream it possible as the real OTs of OTASA

We lead as we follow, learn as we also teach!

The arrival

We are coming from one of the universities in the Western Cape Province. We had to wake up very early because our flight was leaving at 05:45. It was very cold in the morning and this weather just triggered our nervousness. As we were taking our seats in the flight, we got the opportunity to seat with other students from other universities who were also going to the camp. However, we discovered this later on as the journey continued. The flight then departed and we decided to take some nap as we didn't get proper sleep the night before. When we got to OR Tambo, we formally met those students who were in the same flight as us. Moreover, we met one of the facilitators waiting for us by the arrival area. After waiting for some time, the bus came to pick us up and that's where we bumped into many students who were so energetic and so excited. This increased the levels of nervousness and somehow embarrassment as we were not energetic as they were. We took the road to Limpopo, we did not even feel the distance because we spent time trying to cover up for our sleep routines. During this road trip, we were given several snacks to carry us through this long journey.



First impression

Every event has got its special memories or impressions, so did this one. When we got to camp discovery, we got off the bus as quick as possible because everyone wanted to feel the atmosphere in Limpopo. As soon as we finished unloading our luggages from the bus, we met this passionate man who instructed us to take our bags to the rooms and to meet him by the lecture room/theatre. He then gave us this lovely welcome and mentioned that he will be our facilitator throughout our camping days. Moreover, he also introduced us to a female facilitator who was also energetic and passionate as him. What was impressive in our site was the fact that we actually get to see nature at its fullest and to engage with it. All those lovely animals, and the peacock opening its feathers, it was perfect. The lovely welcome from the facilitators, and to see those lovely natural beings was very impressive.



Overall impressions



We had our expectations as everybody does, but it was more impressive to know that all the activities that we engaged in outclassed those expectations. From each workshop that we did, we got to learn and understand ourselves better. And also, we learned about our fellow students and how to work with one another. As Marcus Quintilianus said, practice without theory is more valuable than theory without practice, we got the opportunity to practice what we learned. We engaged in various activities which were fun but most importantly we practiced our leadership skills. As we were divided into groups, we practiced leadership by leading and following. Moreover, we also listened to each other's ideas and to trust them. In overall, we explored most if not all the

characteristics of an authentic leader practically.

Reflections and what we learned

Before attending the leadership camp, we had this preconceived mentality that leadership has something to do with the position of being superior and obtaining an agent identity. Moreover, we thought that one needs to learn to be a leader from other people. However, the truth or what we learned from the camp is that leadership starts from within and that it grows outwards. As we attended the workshops, we were constantly given the opportunity to reflect about the concepts based on ourselves. As a result, we learned that one of the most important keys to leadership is to self-reflect. The weekend also made us realise the power of self-awareness in leadership. And lastly, the camp equipped us with the appropriate tools to advance as young leaders of today and as students!

Helen Buchanan
President / Delegate
Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa

Seasons' Greetings from ACOT!

Since the last newsletter, ACOT successfully hosted its 13th Biennial Scientific Conference in Kingston, Jamaica on November 2nd -4th, 2017. This marked the association's 25th anniversary with the theme "Occupational Therapy in the Caribbean, Twenty-Five Years of Building Bridges and Making Waves". Our special Keynote Speaker was WFOT Vice President –Professor Susan Baptiste. There were 23 speakers between oral, posters and presentations from persons in the UK, USA and Caribbean. The 14th Scientific Biennial Conference will be hosted in Barbados in 2019.

After the conference, our general meeting was held, where the new members of the executive were elected. Also constitutional amendments were made updating the membership tiers to include National Association Members, with an added distinction of organizational and individual member benefits and a shift in due date for membership fees. We look forward to a bright 2018!

For further information please contact caribbeanotassociation@gmail.com or check out our website at caribbeanot.com

Stephanie Llanos
President (2018-2019)
Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT)

News Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA)

2017 was a big year for TTOTA and occupational therapy in Trinidad and Tobago. Early in the year TTOTA represented the profession at a national consultation on the revision of the *National Policy for Persons with Disabilities*. We carried on our awareness work by developing our first corporate video which received great "hits" on social and national media. In the middle of the year, the TTOTA membership conducted two outreach activities aimed at highlighting the benefits of occupational therapy for older adults and school-age children in an underserved community. To see the response check us out on www.ttota.com.

In Trinidad, The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) enrolled its second cohort of occupational therapy masters students in September 2017. As the only masters-level OT program in the Caribbean, the collaboration of many TTOTA members as clinical instructors and engagement with international scholars has been wonderful. In November, USC welcomed a Fulbright student grantee Bill Roberts to teach and do research for an academic year. As a result, TTOTA sees a great future and we now welcome a new category of student members! In fact, this October, TTOTA awarded the second USC MSOT student with the Rosemary Green Bursary.

In a visionary move last year, the TTOTA Executive made the decision to support continuing education of members in the area of Disaster Preparedness. Thus, the association this year subsidized 50% of the cost of 10 TTOTA members who enrolled in the WFOT online Disaster Preparedness course. Sadly, with the deadly hurricanes this year, we saw first-hand the critical need for this area of professional expertise in our part of the world.

We look forward to continued support and collaboration from the WFOT as we look ahead to 2018! We look forward to seeing many of our colleagues in Cape Town next year!

Lesley Garcia,
Delegate
Trinidad & Tobago Occupational Therapy Association

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The AOTA Board of Directors announced the retirement of its executive director, Frederick P. Somers on October 17, 2017. The Board extends their appreciation to Mr. Somers for his 32 years of service to the Association, serving the last 13 years in the role of Executive Director. Mr. Somers accomplishments in this role include sustained membership growth, eight years of strong financial performance and stability for the organization, and major advocacy successes on legislative and regulatory initiatives at both the federal and state levels. We wish Mr. Somers well in his retirement.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Chuck Partridge will serve as the Interim Executive Director and a national search for a new Executive Director of the American Occupational Therapy Association will begin immediately.

Amy J. Lamb
President
American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

ACOTE Mandate 2027

At the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education's (ACOTE®) August 3–6, 2017, meeting, two motions were presented regarding the entry-level degrees for the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant.

Occupational Therapist

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) has mandated that the entry-level degree requirement for the occupational therapist will move to the doctoral level by July 1, 2027.

Only entry-level doctoral occupational therapy degree programs will be eligible to receive or maintain ACOTE accreditation status as of July 1, 2027.

Occupational Therapy Assistant

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) has mandated that the entry-level degree for the occupational therapy assistant will move to the baccalaureate level by July 1, 2027.

Only entry-level baccalaureate occupational therapy assistant degree programs will be eligible to receive or maintain ACOTE accreditation status as of July 1, 2027.

Important Notice

Since the mandate announcement, ACOTE has heard from various stakeholders expressing concerns about the decision to move the occupational therapy assistant to the baccalaureate degree requirement. As a result of this feedback, ACOTE held a meeting on October 16, 2017, and **decided to hold the OTA mandate decision in abeyance**. In the meantime, ACOTE has held a forum for discussion and solicited feedback.

What does this mean for current students?

The ACOTE mandate will NOT impact occupational therapy students currently enrolled in master's-degree programs or students planning to enroll in the next 6 years. ONLY students graduating after July 1, 2027, would be impacted.

What does it mean for academic programs?

Master's-degree-level programs for the occupational therapist will have ten (10) years to transition to the doctoral level. The policies and procedures for transitioning from master's- to doctoral-level program are currently available online (www.acoteonline.org). Additionally, ACOTE will work with AOTA to prepare free webinars and resource documents to be distributed in 2018 to assist programs with the transition.

What does this mean for practitioners?

This decision will *not* impact occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who have received initial certification by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®).

Current occupational therapists with bachelor's or master's occupational therapy degrees can continue to practice with their current degree and will NOT need a doctorate degree.

Current occupational therapy assistants with associate's degrees can continue to practice with their current degree.

Inquiries may be directed to the AOTA Accreditation Department at acote-transition@aota.org.