BANGLADESH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (BOTA)

First ever Journal of BOTA
Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association published its first ever scientific journal named Bangladesh Journal of Occupational Therapy & Rehabilitation on October 2016. Dr. Illias Mahmud, OT, PhD, is the editor in chief and Md. Shamim Miah, OT, PhD Fellow, is the executive editor. This journal is the official journal of Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association. Next issue is in progress. Interested persons can submit his/her manuscript/article through the year round (http://bota-bd.org/NewsEvents.aspx).
Professional Promotion
BOTA is happy to be an implementing partner of "Dialogue on Strengthening the Health and Rehabilitation Sector for person with Disabilities" with the other Rehabilitation Professional's Association of Bangladesh. These activities are under the project named “Towards Global Health: strengthening the rehabilitation sector through civil society” funded by Handicap International and European Commission. Our clinical therapists successfully participated in the Dialogue between medical and rehab professionals in Tangail and Narsingdi District of Bangladesh. Following the dialogue, they also took part in the Health and Rehabilitation Camp.

Annual General Meeting-2017
Annual General Meeting- 2017 of BOTA was held on May, 2017. On that day BOTA expressed its activity description of last year and presented the future plan with expenditure for next year. There were some open discussion about the challenges and possible solution for rolling ahead for the wellbeing of Occupational Therapy profession in Bangladesh. Following the event, an annual get together program was held where new OT students met with senior professionals and celebrated the evening with full of participation.

Photos: Dialogue on Strengthening the Health and Rehabilitation Sector for person with Disabilities
Photos: EC member and professionals participate in AGM.
Continuous Professional Education
BOTA arranged a Training of Trainers on “Advanced Occupational Therapy intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)” on December, 2016. Twenty OTs participated and successfully completed two days long module (representing the first two photos). Later the trainers conducted the training too with the professionals.

The Honorable Vice President of BOTA Mr. Mostak Ahmed, Promotion and Marketing Secretary Mr. Sumanta Ray and Office Secretary Arifa Jahan Ema participated in a three days Continuous Professional Education Training Program on “Principles of comprehensive and multidisciplinary management of amputation including surgery, prosthetics and functional rehabilitation” on December 2016. The purpose of the course is for the better engagement in interdisciplinary practice of rehabilitation and medical professionals. The training was conducted by an international consultant, Mr. Anthony Rombach. With the cooperation of Handicap International Bangladesh, after the training, the trainees were disseminated, learning within the other Interdisciplinary team members (Representing the photo from 2nd row).

Md. Mostak Ahmed, BSOT, MS in Disaster Management. Vice-President and Delegate BOTA
The last ten years were marked by slow, but stable evolvement of occupational therapy as an academic education and profession in Bulgaria.

**Academic education**

In 2014, at the Council Meeting in Japan, the bachelor programme of Occupational Therapy was approved by the WFOT and the Association of Bulgarian Ergotherapists (ABET) became a full member of the federation.

The University of Ruse is still the only one providing education in occupational therapy in Bulgaria. In 2013 a master programme in Community-based Occupational Therapy was launched with the aim to meet the need of specialists in the expanding area of community based services in Bulgaria. The master degree programme contributes to deepening the knowledge and the critical understanding of strategies for community development, developing skills for self-improvement and lifelong learning, as well as professional responsibility for the specifics of occupational therapy for children and people with psychosocial problems in the community. The programme is developed on two levels – for graduates in Occupational Therapy and for related specialists. For those with a bachelor or master degree in another degree programme, the curriculum provides additional training in the course of one year, ensuring basic preparation in the field of occupational therapy.

**10th anniversary of the Bulgarian occupational therapy education**

2016 was marked by the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the first Bachelor programme in occupational therapy in the country. On 16th December, students, lecturers, partners and practicing OTs celebrated this achievement. Until now 8 cohorts with altogether 103 bachelors and 4 cohorts with 21 masters have graduated. The University of Ruse provides attractive and challenging placement opportunities for students from partner institutions – it has hosted 68 incoming students from the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands and Armenia.

Hanneke van Brugen, former Executive Director of ENOTHE, was the special guest at the celebration. She highlighted the role of Ruse University team in promoting the profession. The event was honored by the academic management, local government representatives, non-government and social services providers. The founders received recognition in person and letters of congratulation from local, national and international organizations, partners and colleagues.

**Service development**

Since 2013 ABET is running a small service for children and families, opened with the financial support of an international trust. The main objective is building sustainable community services for children with disabilities living with their families or in group homes, as well as supporting school inclusion and participation in local community. From May 2013 to December 2016 services were provided to 259 children and 179 families. The centre aims to establish a model of good practice for occupational therapy services in Bulgaria.

**International collaboration**

**Hosting 21st ENOTHE Annual Meeting**

In October 2015 the University of Ruse in cooperation with ABET hosted the 21st Annual Meeting of ENOTHE, attended by over 260 teachers and students from 61 higher education institutions and organizations from 21 European countries, Canada and the USA. The event was an exceptional opportunity for the promotion of occupational therapy in Bulgaria as an important profession in the area of social inclusion. For this reason, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Ivajlo Kalfin was invited as a key speaker at the opening ceremony. Being selected for hosting the
ENOTHE meeting is a significant recognition of our achievements in the establishment of occupational therapy in Bulgaria.

1st International Scientific Conference in Occupational Therapy
The development of occupational therapy in Bulgaria and Romania share the same history by participation in the European project Facilitation and Participation of Young Persons with Disabilities in an Enlarged Europe (FPYPDEE). In this project the first OT teachers were trained and the foundation of both professional organizations was prepared. The strong partnership between the two national associations and the academic institutions in the countries led to the 1st International Scientific Conference on Occupational Therapy “Present State and Future Prospects”, held on the 16th and 17th of June 2017, in Bacau, Romania. The conference was organized by “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau in collaboration with “Angel Kanchev” University of Ruse, the Romanian Professional Association of Occupational Therapists (RPAOT) and ABET. The event was attended by more than 150 specialists from partner universities, local government and service providers in Bacau. Special guests of the conference were representatives from WFOT, ENOTHE and COTEC Executive. The conference reflected the aim of the organising committee to go beyond developing the academic education and focus on implementing the profession.

Collaboration on European level
Elitsa Velikova, board member of ABET, was elected in the Executive committee of COTEC in 2015 during the 3rd General Assembly in Riga, Latvia. The opportunity to collaborate with national associations and organizations across Europe brings about building relationships and gaining information and knowledge.

Liliya Todorova, WFOT delegate
Petya Mincheva, WFOT alternate
Elitsa Velikova, ABET board member

CANADA
A new National Blueprint for Injury Prevention in Drivers with Arthritis has been launched as a guiding document for teams interested in advancing research, training curricula, practices and policies to support drivers with arthritis. This blueprint is directed towards the health and wellness needs of the over 4.6 million Canadians diagnosed with arthritis who want to maintain their occupation of driving.

October is occupational therapy month in Canada, and CAOT’s #31dayOTchallenge is back and better than ever! With over 10 million social media impressions made in October 2015 and over 15 million in October 2016, we are growing global awareness of occupational therapy. Let’s do even more this year!

Participating in the #31dayOTchallenge is simple: starting on October 1 2017, talk to one person in your community each day about occupational therapy - in person, online, or by phone - and then share your interaction and maybe a picture 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.

Julie Lapointe, erg., OT Reg. (Ont.), PhD
Director of Knowledge Translation Programs

Pat Underwood
Director of Communications

CARIBBEAN

Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT)

The 13th Biennial ACOT Scientific Conference will be held in beautiful Kingston, Jamaica from November 2nd to 4th 2017. The theme: “25 Years of Making Waves and Building Bridges” will highlight the vibrancy and opportunities in Caribbean Occupational Therapy. The Keynote Speaker is the renowned Dr Sue Baptiste Vice President of WFOT who will headline this conference. The conference enjoys the support and collaboration of the Pan American Health Organization and potential employers and regional universities offering occupational therapy programmes will be present.

Prior to the conference on November 1st there will be an “OT Blast” where occupational therapists will reach out to the local community and offer free OT screens and services. All are invited to join us at the OT Blast and Conference. Request a registration form by sending an email to acotconference@gmail.com

The Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists was started by and is run by members of the national OT Associations in Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago and OTs who have lived/worked in the Caribbean. We are now expanding our embrace to occupational Therapists in the wider region and are looking forward to meeting occupational therapists from The Bahamas, Bermuda and Guyana! Find out more and get conference details at www.caribbeanot.com.

Lesley Garcia OTD (OT Reg)
WFOT Delegate, ACOT, TTOTA
DENMARK

The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists (Ergoterapeutforeningen) has been working politically on the subject "Dementia" in the last 2 years. The aim is to get occupational therapists employed in every nursing home in Denmark.

The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists decided to join the alliance in February 2016. The Danish Association of Occupational Therapists could not stand apart on this important matter - and there are also many jobs for Danish OTs in the dementia area. Recently the alliance has initiated a people’s action on dementia.

The government’s challenge on dementia 2025 is of a high level of political interest and 500,000 Dkr. has been allocated to the area after the Danish national plan on Dementia was published around 1st October 2016. Before and afterwards, the Danish Association of Occupational Therapists has been taking on advice due to the action planned and engagements taken.

As a partner in the Dementia alliance the goal for the Danish Association of Occupational Therapists is to realize the vision which include a high focus on rehabilitation for example ADL activities in nursing homes but also an improvement of the environmental modifications which should accomplish the previous lifestyle for the person and lead to a higher level of life quality. Not only for the person suffering of dementia but also for the caregivers this matters.

In April 2017 the Danish Association of Occupational Therapists held a conference on the Theme: "Occupational therapy and dementia" and there was a large interests in participating in the conference.

Tom Klein
Konsulent, Afd. Profession, Politik & Kommunikation

INDIA

The 55th Annual National Conference of All India Occupational Therapists Association (AIOTA), Nagpur

OTICON’2018: The 55th Annual National Conference of AIOTA is being organized by OT School & Center, Government Medical College, Nagpur, in collaboration with Nagpur Branch of AIOTA from 16-18 February 2018. OT School and Center at Government Medical College, Nagpur, is completing its 60th year of its beginning, therefore the long awaited occasion is the Diamond Jubilee of the OT College. It is also information of historical significance that Nagpur was the first OT Education Program to start the Bachelor Degree in occupational therapy in India. The occasion is great and hence celebration will be enriched with zeal and enthusiasm of the faculty, students and alumni of OT College, Nagpur.

The Theme of the conference is ‘Occupational Therapy–Independence, Empowerment, and Inclusion’. Without disability, the occupational therapy profession would not exist. Occupational therapists believe that each one has a respectable place in the society including persons with disabilities. The theme
signifies the significant contribution of occupational therapy in comprehensive rehabilitation of the challenged population of the country. We are looking forward to welcome the faculties and students from each of the OT Educational institutions and delegates from all part of India and WFOT Member Organisations’ countries at Nagpur. For more information may visit websites: www.aiotanagpur.in/oticon18, http://aiota.org/COTE/Conference

**Industrial Health & Occupational Therapy**
(Environment, Ergonomics, Safety and Wellness at Work place)
Academic Council of OT of AIOTA will conduct Pre Conference Continuing OT Education Program on 16 February, 2018 at Nagpur, on the topic ‘Industrial Health & Occupational Therapy’. Following are the resource faculties-

1. Dr. Nandu Nandoskar (OT), Founder & Director of Occupational Health, Adelaide, Australia and Founder & Director of Fit 4 Health, India
2. Dr. Paresh Chandra Ghosh, Ergo-physiologist & Former Director of Central Labor Institute, Mumbai. & Consultant in Tata Steel & many other industries.

**NEW OT Colleges**

AIOTA is pleased to inform the opening of new OT Colleges in India in recent years:

1. Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Jaipur
2. Goa Medical College, Goa
3. National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai
4. Sri Ramachandran Medical College, Chennai

Following temporarily discontinued BOT education programs which were duly approved by AIOTA/WFOT are also re-started in the state of Tamil Nadu from the academic session 2017:

1. Saveetha University, Chennai
2. Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai
3. Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava
President AIOTA
WFOT Delegate

**IRELAND**

**News from the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI)**

**Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy (IJOT):**
On behalf of the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland, we wish to announce that the Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy (IJOT), the professional journal of the AOTI since January 2017, is now available online published by Emerald Publishing Services Ltd:
This is a fantastic development for our Association, and brings us in line with our fellow Associations around the world. Please see the AOTI website www.aoti.ie/research-page.aspx?contentid=4172 for details regarding Submissions, Editorial Board etc.

Details can be found at: http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/services/publishing/ijot/index.htm. All articles published in IJOT are published Open Access under a CCBY 4.0 licence.
This is an exciting time for the AOTI, especially in terms of dissemination of research and publications. Submissions for publication are invited for consideration. Submissions can be made through https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijot. The AOTI welcome international submissions. Details on submitting are available at: http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/services/publishing/ijot/index.htm.

On a bi-annual basis, IJOT publishes quality articles that further debate and evidence-based practice within occupational therapy, both in Ireland and abroad.

**AOTI conference:**
The AOTI hosted their annual conference on 21st April 2017 and 22nd April 2017 at the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Limerick, Ireland. The conference theme was “Looking Back, Moving Forward”, which highlighted the progression and development of occupational therapy in Ireland. It highlighted the work of occupational therapists working to promote health and wellbeing through occupation. There was a range of practical, and research applications, of innovative occupational therapy practices presented the conference. The AOTI launched their 2017 – 2022 Strategy at the conference. Also, the IJOT was officially launched as an online journal.

The 2016 Ann Beckett Award was presented at the conference gala dinner. This award was won by Mairead Connaughton (Occupational Therapist), Paula Lowney (Occupational Therapist) and Niall O’Muiri (Community Mental Health Nurse). Their winning project was “The Discover Recover Theatre Project in Wexford”. The Ann Beckett award is presented annually by AOTI with a commissioned sculpture presented as part of the award to the winners.

The Ann Beckett award is not an academic exercise, but rather an enriching process for occupational therapists to demonstrate the core principles of occupational therapy in practice. Members of AOTI can apply or be nominated for the award by their colleagues and clients. The award is in memory of Ann Beckett (1927-2002) who was one of the first occupational therapists in Ireland. She was devoted to people, nature, music and her profession. Ann was an outstanding occupational therapist, who through her work enriched many lives by her humanity, humour and her practical approach to life.

**AOTI Chief Strategic Officer:**
The AOTI recently appointment Mr. Odhrán Allen as AOTI Chief Strategic Officer to implement the AOTI Strategy (2017-2022). Odhrán was a previous chairperson of AOTI and is a CORU (the Irish Health and Social Care Professionals Council) board member. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this exciting role.

Patrick Hynes
AOTI Alternate Delegate to WFOT

**ITALY**

The 7th May 2017, the new National executive team of the Italian Association of Occupational Therapists (IAOT) was elected.

The new executive team will be in charge for three years and a number 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 (S.I.T.O)
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

On 24th May 2018, 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 deeply linked to the changing needs of society, to offer an appropriate service to the person and to the National Health Service. During the event a lot of politicians were invited and participated as relators. The event in Rome was accessible from everywhere in live streaming and on you tube AITO channel. The same day, organized in other parts of Italy, a lot of other celebrating events about OT in Italy to increase the knowledge of our profession among the population and be together in this happy moment. It was a great day full of satisfactions and joy!

Now we are looking forward to participate to the COTEC GA in October in Vienna.

Giulia Zanaboni
WFOT Delegate IAOT
ROMANIA

Professional Association of Occupational Therapists from Romania

1st International Scientific Conference on Occupational Therapy

On 16th and 17th June 2017, the "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău, «Faculty of Movement, Sports and Health Sciences (FMSHS)» - Department of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy hosted for two days the Conference with "Present state and future prospects for Occupational Therapy profession in Romania" topic. That important event for the development of the profession in Romania gathered representatives of local authorities and institutions (City Hall, County, Academics, Directorate for social protection and assistance, Hospitals and Penitentiary), European and international professional bodies and universities (WFOT, ENOTHE, ABET and "Anghel Kanchev" University of Ruse from Bulgaria, Academics from "University of Applied Sciences" at Oulu/ Finland and Rotterdam/ Netherlands), NGOs as well Occupational Therapists (professionals from USA and UK), students and graduates of "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău and "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba-Iulia.

The message that the Conference wanted to convey is that the challenges of the initial stage for the development of the profession (10 - 15 years of history in Romania) will strengthen our willingness to deal with them and our ability to change together with a larger professional community.

In the week that followed the Conference, 19th to 23rd of June, in the same venue a translation workshop for the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI, W. Coster, 1992) started its phase I of the V, focusing on English-Romanian translation of the PEDI Score Form and test administration chapters from the Manual. We have chosen to translate and adapt the PEDI because currently, there is no valid assessment in Romania that allows occupational therapists to evaluate the inclusive domains: Functional Skills, Caregiver Assistance, and Modifications (measured by the PEDI). The novelty of the Phase I within the translation process lies in the fact that the Romanian version of the PEDI Score Form is done by the Occupational Therapy students and graduates from University of Bacău and Alba-Iulia, coordinated by Dr. Mary-Margaret Windsor (SCD, OTR/L. USA.) as project manager, Marinela Raţă (BScOT, Assoc. Prof., PhD. M, FMSHS) and Mirela Burlău (BScOT) as translation managers.
Mirela-Carmen Burlău
WFOT Delegate PAOTR

TAIWAN

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Invitation

THE 1ST ASIA-PACIFIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SYMPOSIUM

Friday, 20th - Sunday 22nd, October, 2017

Plenary Hall, the Second Medical Science Building
Chang Gung University

Invited By

Chang Gung University (CGU)
No. 221, Wenhua 1st Rd., Guishan Dist., Taoyuan City, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

By Metro Taoyuan
Take Metro Taoyuan to A3 then walk to CGU (about 15 minutes) or take the bus 5017 or 502 to CGU.

By Taxi
Please show the following address to the taxi driver:

Chang Gung University (CGU)
No. 221, Wenhua 1st Rd., Guishan Dist., Taoyuan City, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Secretariat
Mr. Jeremy (Lin)
APOTS 2017 Secretariat
+886 2 8711 3228 / apots2017@taiwnti.com.tw
TTOTA Community Outreach
The Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA) held a Health and Wellness Fair on June 24th in collaboration in a remote hillside community called Paramin in collaboration with the Paramin Development Committee and other private and public sector partners. The fair attracted in excess of 50 members of the Paramin community who otherwise would not have access to Occupational Therapy in their area. The Fair, the first of its kind, was a series of interactive booths focused on Occupational Balance, Falls Prevention, Ergonomics/ Body Mechanics and Adaptive Equipment. It directly impacted the community by showcasing pertinent topics for the population. The fair was also an opportunity to advocate for policy makers to consider making Occupational Therapy a standard component in national healthcare. The life changing effect of Occupational Therapy was brought to life by our guest speaker, a resident of Paramin, Salome Jordan. Ms. Jordan is a testimonial to the benefits of OT as she received treatment for many years and is now able to independently care for herself and obtain a university education. This fair focused on the adult/older adult population. Given its success another installment will focus on the pediatric population and will be held on the 29th & 30th of September.

To view highlights from the Health and Wellness Fair and for more information on the TTOTA visit our Facebook page and website: www.ttota.com

USC Programme
The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy at the University of the Southern Caribbean is in its second year of accepting graduate students. Of the nine students in the first cohort one student, Alicia Francis, was the winner of the Rosemary Green Bursary Award in April 2017. The MSOT programme will be also welcoming a Fulbright scholar, Bill Williams, who will be studying the contextual relevance of the indigenous curriculum. To learn more see www.usc.edu.tt

Rosemary Green Bursary Winner – Alicia Francis
This TT$ 10,000.00 award is given by TTOTA to a national of Trinidad and Tobago studying Occupational Therapy who demonstrates high academic standards, leadership qualities and a commitment to developing Occupational Therapy in Trinidad and Tobago in future.

Fond farewell to Rosemary Green
Originally called the TTOTA Bursary Award when it was first awarded in 2014, the award was recently renamed in honour of Rosemary Green, one of the dedicated and beloved founders of TTOTA. The renaming was done at the AGM in April of this year as a gesture of gratitude and a farewell to Ms. Green who has retired back to the UK.

Lesley Garcia OTD (OT Reg)
WFOT Delegate, ACOT, TTOTA
Occupational therapy maximizes health, well-being, and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities through effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday living.

The AOTA Board of Directors adopted and approved Vision 2025 in February 2016 which builds on the work of the Centennial Vision to guide the profession beyond 2017.

In 2014, AOTA began the new visioning process by retaining McKinley and Associates to solicit and organize input from within the profession and from outside stakeholders. This included broad-based surveys to more than 60,000 member and nonmembers, and interviews with industry leadership, all seeking insight on the profession’s challenges, strengths, and potential goals.

McKinley reported their findings at the AOTA Vision Summit, held in October 2015. The Summit brought together just under 100 AOTA staff and volunteer participants, invited to represent a broad range of age, experience, diversity, and practice settings including the WFOT President, Marilyn Pattison and other international leaders and practitioners. Over 2 days, the group reviewed McKinley’s research, and also discussed pertinent societal trends and potential changes and shifts in health care. The Summit concluded with defined “essential elements” and three drafts of a possible new vision statement. Those drafts were vetted and distilled into a single statement, which was sent to 58,000 practitioners and students, who responded with a 78% approval rating.

Guideposts were created to help further define and communicate the Vision’s core tenets to key stakeholders, including OTs, OTAs, educators, students, consumers, policymakers, and the general public:

- **Accessible:** Occupational therapy provides culturally responsive and customized services.
- **Collaborative:** Occupational therapy excels in working with clients and within systems to produce effective outcomes.
- **Effective:** Occupational therapy is evidence-based, client-centered, and cost-effective.
- **Leaders:** Occupational therapy is influential in changing policies, environments, and complex systems.

The Association will be creating materials to facilitate transition to Vision 2025 through 2017.


**Changes in OT & OTA Entry-Level Degree Requirements in the United States**

At the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education’s (ACOTE®) August 3–6, 2017, meeting, a vote took place regarding the entry-level degrees for the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant. Please visit the following link regarding the entry-level degree for the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant in the United States.

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.
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.

Further, ACOTE and the AOTA Accreditation Department will develop and implement a plan for this transition so the concerns and needs of all affected stakeholders are addressed to facilitate the smoothest transition possible.

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