News from Member Organisations

September 2019
Argentina

X ARGENTINE CONGRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
XIII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The motto of the Congress, defined as “Living in Diversity: Building Occupational Justice from the Latin American Perspective”, invites the organizers to reflect on the concept of “Occupational Justice”, placing themselves in a historical, political, social and cultural context that crosses Latin America from the colonization to the present day.

We believe that the encounter with others transforms scenarios from diversity and respect, accompaniment and empowerment. In turn, this diversity is also reflected in the spectrum of scenarios where our profession takes place, and, as we have already mentioned, the new areas of intervention of the discipline in the communities. It is essential for ATOTUC and the Organizing Commission, to provide spaces for discussion and dissemination of professional reality, within the Congress, that make us rethink our professional practice from traditional places of physical-mental rehabilitation, to other scenarios of empowerment of the subjects of Occupational Therapy care and expand the possibilities of practice progress.

The 60 years of Occupational Therapy in Argentina are celebrated this year. In 1969 the first year of the National School of Occupational Therapy began in our country, so different activities are being organized to celebrate it.
July 12th 2019  
HONORABLE DELIBERATING LOBERÍA COUNCIL

By the provisions of articles 24, 77 subsection c) and in accordance with the organic law of municipalities, and considering:

- That the degree in occupational therapy is a career whose origin has 60 years of existence in our country;
- That the profession is of university degree and is dictated in national universities of state and private management;
- That there is currently a registry of professionals in the field of the ministry of health of the province of Buenos Aires but it is not enough to exercise full regulation of professional practice or keep an accurate record of professionals;
- That in this framework it is necessary a law that regulates the professional practice and that creates a collegiate scope for the registration and registration of professionals;

For this reason, the honorable deliberative council of Lobería asks the honorable chamber of deputies and the honorable senate of the province of Buenos Aires to treat and endorse the provincial law project for professional practice and the professional college for occupational therapy in the province of Buenos Aires.
Austria

**New regulations in the Austrian professional rights:** Since July 1st it is obligatory for occupational therapists to be registered in a national wide registry for healthcare professionals. This should ensure high quality care since it requires health care professionals to prove attended training courses. Furthermore, the registration makes it easier for employees to switch jobs nationally and internationally.

**Image video:** Ergotherapie Austria produced an image video, which explains the work of an occupational therapist. The video can be shown mute and is perfect for showing it in patients’ waiting areas. Have a look at the video’s short form here: [https://youtu.be/lA9ypqsPRhU](https://youtu.be/lA9ypqsPRhU)

Australia

A very successful Occupational Therapy Australia national conference was held in Sydney from 10-12 July 2019.

Over 1,400 people (from 14 countries) descended on Sydney’s International Convention Centre across three big days to learn, discuss and network about all things occupational therapy.

The conference proved incredibly enriching for all involved and was OTA’s largest yet in terms of delegates, exhibitors and tweets. OTA would like to offer its sincere gratitude to the many speakers, delegates, volunteers, exhibitors and sponsors who, through their tireless energy and enthusiasm, made this year’s Conference an overwhelming success.

**Key Conference Stats**

**Delegates**
- 1419 Registrations (a record number!)
- 915 OTA Members
- 283 Students & New Graduates
- 14 Countries
  - Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam

**Program**
- 642 Abstract Submissions
- 347 Oral Presentations
- 168 ePosters

**Exhibition & Media**
- 18 Organisations Sponsoring
- 120 Organisations Exhibiting
- 40+ First Time Exhibitors

Dr. Angela Berndt – OTA president

Lynette Mackenzie (Aus delegate) and Adam Lo (first alternate delegate) hosting the WFOT delegates booth.
OTA is also hosting the OT Exchange 2020 in Melbourne on June 22-23, 2020, an interactive event where participants are encouraged to contribute, share and employ ideas of value. Themed around three key concepts, Learn, Practise and Enrich, it is a first step for those who are keen to present at scientific conferences.

The 2021 OTA National Conference will be held in Cairns on June 23-25, 2021.

Canada

Focus on Indigenous peoples’ health and well-being

The July/August 2019 issue of Occupational Therapy Now, the practice magazine provided to members of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), is a special issue accessible to all. We invite you to read a series of articles focused on the Canadian occupational therapy community’s work to date on responding to the 94 ‘calls to action’ set out in the seminal 2015 report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
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(TRC). The TRC calls to action provide specific guidance for health care practitioners, including occupational therapists, on the need to confront hard truths about our personal and professional positions within Canadian society and the requisite shift of our occupational therapy models to approaches that embody a more mutually respectful relationship between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Canadians. Guest editors Kaarina Valavaara (Alberta) and Angie Phenix (Saskatchewan) co-chair the CAOT Occupational Therapy and Aboriginal Health Network. They are Métis women advocating for inclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing in occupational therapy education, research, and practice. This special issue of OT Now offers a compelling and purposeful discussion on steps we can take toward culturally safe and anti-oppressive practice. We are proud to share these reflections with occupational therapists around the globe. (French language version also available).

English link: https://caot.ca/company/roster/companyRosterDetails.html?companyId=103563&companyRosterId=107


New Zealand

The OTNZ-WNA national conference will focus on te kaihautu / leaders and is titled “Leaders: Stand, be seen and shine. Tu mai e nga rangatira, tu mai hei mataariki, tu tei tirohanga mo te ao.” Presentations will be based on a variety of themes all linked to leadership including: Te ārahi i te tangata ke/Leading others; Te ārahi i ngā mahi tiaki/Leading practice; Te ārahi rangahau/leading research; Te ārahi auahatanga/Leading
innovation amongst many more. Keynote speakers will include Marilyn Patterson, Dr Chontel Gibson and Professor Hinemoa Elder.

The Whakaora Ngangahau Tangata Whenua Hui will be held immediately prior to the conference enabling an opportunity for networking, education and strengthening the pathway for Māori occupational therapists.

The Linda Wilson’s Private Practitioner’s toolkit will be launched on the 23rd September at the “Leaders: Stand, be seen and shine. Tu mai e nga rangatira, tu mai hei mataariki, tu tei tirohanga mo te ao” conference. The association is aware there are increasing opportunities for Occupational Therapists to work in private practice in conventional as well as less traditional roles. This toolkit has been designed to assist occupational therapists working in this area or those considering a transition into it. Its name is in recognition of Linda Wilson’s extensive and diverse career at the forefront of occupational therapy.

OTNZ-WNA recently met with Occupational Therapy Australia and both associations are motivated to develop a closer working relationship in terms of sharing resources and addressing common areas of need and development.


Advocacy and representation - OTNZ-WNA has been actively working with Ministry of Health senior leaders to lift the profile of allied health practitioners regarding the future workforce, with emphasis on multidisciplinary workforce. Projects are under way by the Ministry of Education to identify and treat early conditions in children that affect pathways to education. OTNZ-WNA is focusing on raising the profile of the profession via stories.

Smart communications Systems - OTNZ-WNA launched a new insurance provision in June which has led to an increase in occupational therapists insuring themselves. The new OTNZ-WNA Database continues to have gradual improvements to further increase reporting capability and reduce chances for error.

Tracey Partridge | WFOT Delegate - Tangata Tiriti

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Saudi Arabia

#OTAroundTheWorld

On July 3rd, 2019 the hashtag #OTAroundTheWorld was launched by the delegate team of the Saudi Occupational Therapy Association on its official twitter platform @SOTA_Media to promote occupational therapy related workshops, events, and conferences around the world.

Please refer to the following link

https://twitter.com/SOTA_Media/status/1146459353182085121?s=20

Membership Premium Pricing Option agreement

On July 23rd, 2019 the PPM memorandum has been signed by both WFOT and SOTA executive board members, thus facilitating the process of SOTA’s members in becoming WFOT individual members.

Continuing education

The Amputee rehabilitation course was organized and conducted by the continuing education division of the scientific committee on July 27th, 2019. The course was presented by OT Mostafa Bu Khmseen, BSc, MSc who is passionate and specialized in this area of practice working in Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Humanitarian City (SBAHC).

Attendees included occupational therapy undergraduate students, interns, and practicing therapists.

The course consisted of both theoretical and practical aspects to further enhance the learning process. Kindly refer to the following link for a video demonstration

https://twitter.com/SOTA_Media/status/1155017854460280832?s=20
Community service projects and initiatives

On July 28th, 2019 the community service committee of the Saudi Occupational Therapy Association has launched a campaign named Mohaya, an Arabic word that means “accessible”. This campaign aims to screen restaurants’ and coffee shops’ physical environment and their level of accessibility for individuals with disabilities in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The screening process is done by completing an electronic checklist adapted from the 2010 ADA standards for accessible design. Please refer to the following link of the checklist

https://docs.google.com/forms/u/3/d/e1BDVDCNXd3W7jNm7u_8vtj4dhd7YkQi1dR2A612eOeUM/edit?usp=forms_home&ths=true

The data gathered in this campaign will be used to create a large free electronic database of restaurants’ and coffee shops' accessibility level. It will be made available on SOTA’s official website http://sota.org.sa/.

This campaign aims to empower individuals with disabilities and advocate for their right to easily access service providers. The campaign has gained attention since its launch reaching 11.9 thousand views of its introductory video on Twitter. Various means of promoting this campaign were used such as polls, legislative documents, references, and infographics.

Reference:
Taiwan

Dear colleagues and friends,
On behalf of the Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA), the International Conference Organizing Committee sincerely invites you to join the TOTA 2019 Annual Meeting and International Conference to be held in the National Taiwan University at Taipei, Taiwan from November 2nd to 3rd, 2019.
Registration open now!! Please visit the following site:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1PyMoQIfXkfZnmQ53jalFoVMQmW4LBZH5ytKavzE