World Occupational Therapy Day 2016 Round-up

Celebrations were held around the world and on social media to mark World Occupational Therapy Day 2016. Examples of how people promoted the global profile of the profession are presented in this document.
Today, 27th October 2016, is World Occupational Therapy Day. There are 92 countries celebrating this day. In Bangladesh there are many hospitals and NGO’s celebrating the day with different programmes. The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital also celebrated the day. The programme started at 12:30pm with a welcome presentation. A presentation was shown about the overall occupational therapy services in Bangladesh.

One of the donor The Ex-Cadet Forum also joins today in our programme and they donate different types of toy for occupational therapy services. After handover of the toys a discussion programme was held. Joint Director of Neurosciences and Hospital (NINS) Professor Dr. Badrul Alam, Head of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department Associate, Professor Dr. Khurshid Mahmud and other doctors, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech therapists were present at the discussion programme. The programme was facilitated by Occupational Therapist Rabeya Ferdous and Popy Sarkar.
A Group Photo session with Joint Director of NINS after completing program

Rabeya Ferdous
Occupational Therapist
Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital (NINS & H)
Sher-e-bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Email: rabeya1988@gmail.com
Historically, Bermuda’s occupational therapists have celebrated Occupational Therapy (OT) month in April. However, this year we joined our colleagues around the world in October to promote the profession and recognise one of our own.

On Saturday, October 22nd the Bermuda Occupational Therapy Association (BOTA) had their annual tag day. Occupational Therapists and other volunteers were stationed at six locations island wide. Locations included supermarkets and pharmacies where volunteers solicited for donations. The funds gathered will be used to support the bi-annual OT student bursary and help to send Bermuda’s WFOT delegates to international council meetings and congresses. Although the primary objective of this activity was to raise funds, the secondary objective was to inform the community about the role of OT and their benefits to the public.

On World OT Day, Thursday, October 27th, BOTA issued a press release through the two major online and print news outlets. The press release highlighted the role of OT and the services they provide to our community.
The last and final event, The Long Service Award Brunch, was held on Sunday October 30th at Blu Bar & Grill. There were 16 occupational therapists in attendance to celebrate the close of World OT Day events and to recognise Angela Mocklow, our first long service award recipient. Angela Mocklow was officially the second OT registered in Bermuda in 1961. She is known for developing the vocational rehabilitation programme within mental health services and for her over fifty-five years of service as an exemplary occupational therapist in Bermuda.
World OT Day 2016

We invited our colleagues from the Croatian Association of Occupational Therapists to support us, and one of them held a lecture about Evidence Based Practice in Occupational Therapy and also promoted her book "Assessment in OT".

There were about 60 participants, occupational therapy practitioners and students, physiotherapists and other professionals that closely work with occupational therapy.

A video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcJ4BA7R7eg

Lidija Slunjski
In our University (Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro in the Uberaba city) we changing our cover art on Facebook (see in https://www.facebook.com/alessandra.cavalcanti.9, shared posts on social media, organising a local event and used a T-Shirt (attached) with world Occupational Therapy Day logo. We were really enjoy the day and we celebrated with local community. We loved!

More photos: https://www.facebook.com/ufitm/sc/photos/?tab=album&album_id=12385902872871526&hc_location=ufi are available.

We also did a story on local television calling the people to celebrate with us in activities. What is the link: http://g1.globo.com/minas-gerais/triangulo-mineiro/integracao-noticia/videos/v/terapeutas-ocupacionais-fazem-acoes-em-uberaba/5406750/

Our action was a partnership of the University project (PET GraduaSUS the Ministry of Education) with the Municipality of the City of Uberaba/MG.

Profa Dra Alessandra Cavalcanti A. Souza
Departamento de Terapia Ocupacional - ICS
Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro - UFTM
October was National Occupational Therapy month in Canada, and we had a great time celebrating and promoting occupational therapy! We engaged occupational therapists, clients, organisations and the public online once again with the CAOT #31dayOTchallenge. This campaign was taken up by many on social media and grew significantly in its second year - we gained over 15 million impressions and more than 1,000 people got involved! We also received over 160 photo entries for our photo contest and took the #31dayOTchallenge global to help promote World OT Day on October 27, 2016.

In addition to the online campaign, CAOT and Members of Parliament Mark Warawa, Alistair MacGregor and Bruce Stanton hosted a reception on Parliament Hill to celebrate occupational therapy month on October 26, 2016. Thirty-five (35) MPs and Senators (including Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries) attended, and commended occupational therapy for its valuable contributions to the health and wellbeing of older Canadians.

CAOT’s President, Nicola MacNaughton, and Executive Director, Janet Craik, addressed the audience and emphasised how occupational therapy is part of the solution to Canada’s current demographic pressures and fiscal realities. As a result of this event and the actions of many of our members, we have commitments from a number of the elected officials to bring occupational therapists into the conversation on health matters. For example, MP Mark Warawa expressed his intent to invite us to an All-Party Parliamentary Caucus on Seniors. There were also expressions of interest for CAOT to appear before the Health Caucus.

CAOT is eager to serve this profession through appearances at the seniors’ and health caucuses and standing committee meetings to work towards a better health system and better health outcomes for Canadians. We are grateful to the CAOT contingent of occupational therapists and students of occupational therapy who lent their time, expertise, and passion to this important parliamentary event.

Thank you to everyone who got involved and for celebrating, promoting, and advocating for our wonderful and important profession. We are looking forward to next year already!

Chantal Houde
Communications Coordinator/Coordonnatrice de la communication
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists / Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes
CARIBBEAN REGION & TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT)
Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA)

Photographs from the Caribbean Region and TTOTA celebrating World OT Day 2016.

Photographs of the activities by the University of Southern Caribbean MSOT class: Ice-cream social with faculty, Movie Night and sale of snacks to raise funds for a TTOTA/Habitat for Humanity Project.
Our association, decided to clean up Public Park neighbourhood in Tbilisi where people walk, rest, bicycle and play - this is how Occupational Therapy World Day was celebrated by occupational therapists and occupational therapy students in Georgia.

Happy OT day to you all 😊

“Occupational Therapy, Tbilisi State University”
World OT Day provides us an opportunity to reach to the masses for promotion of OT. World OT Day initiated by WFOT is celebrated on October 27 since 2010 with great enthusiasm by members of AIOTA, State Branches and institutions throughout the country.

The Theme chosen by All India Occupational Therapists’ Association [AIOTA] for World OT DAY (Oct. 27) and OT Month (Oct. 27-Nov. 26) for the year 2016 is 'Accessibility@OTINDIA'. It aims to focus on participation of occupational therapy professionals to a nation-wide Accessible India Campaign of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with an aim to provide universal accessibility to persons with disabilities. It focuses on developing accessible physical environment, transportation system and information & communication ecosystem. Providing equal opportunity to persons with disabilities to participate in all aspects of life and live independently is one of the significant areas of OT Practice.

AIOTA asserts that occupational therapy practitioners must also take over the responsibility as an Accessibility Consultants, by enhancing their knowledge of how the Persons with Disability Act 1995 can be applied to facilitate therapeutic services and accessible environments for patients with disabilities and dysfunctionsto ensure equal opportunities, protections of rights and their full participation in all walks of life. Occupational therapists can assist individuals with special needs to live as independently as possible in the community, by promoting environments and attitudes to facilitate networking support systems, for participating in day-to-day life in the community, fulfilling a range of social roles, and making decisions that lead to the minimization of physical and psychological dependence on others.

On behalf of AIOTA & ACOT Executives I congratulate members, OT Colleges, State Branches of AIOTA and the institutions with OT set up in government and private set up on OT India Day 2016 and wish that this year too, it will be celebrated for whole month with more zeal and enthusiasm for multidimensional growth of the profession in the country.

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava
President AIOTA & WFOT Delegate
Executive Chairman-Academic Council of OT
Editor-in-Chief IJOT
Tel: + 91 522 2350482, 9415405095, 7380607488
E-mail: president@aiota.org
Website: www.aiota.org

Visit WFOT website www.wfot.org-resource centre > world OT Day for promotion materials
CELEBRATION REPORT of WORLD OT DAY and OT INDIA MONTH

L.T.M. Medical College & Hospital, Sion, Mumbai

Specially made Badges of World OT Day were worn by staff, students and also Dean of the Med. College. Posters were put up to spread awareness about ACCESS including guidelines specific to India at public place & sensitized medicos by demonstration about the need of an ideal ramp for independent propelling of wheelchairs, 4 railway stations were assessed and photos of inaccessibility were uploaded and sent to Government for necessary action.

Dr. Mrs. R.S. Yeradkar
Associate Prof & In charge
Padamshree Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai

With an aim to brief the students and the staff on OT practice around the world, and global views on different issues in OT practice through recent advances in technology a presentation was made by Dr. Deepa Pradhan, Principal/HOD on the International web conference OT24VX organised by WFOT and OT4OT’s on 28th October 2016 on the title ’Challenges faced by Occupational Therapist in Community Based Rehabilitation and the Scope of OT’ The talk encircled problems related to global OT community like migration of professionals to other countries and rehabilitation of the people suffering from natural calamities and how OT’s can help in such issues. The well appreciated conference was attended by the students, staff, and a representative of the parent in the virtual classroom of the college.

Dr. Deepa Pradhan
Principal/ HOD (In Charge)
World OT Day was celebrated on 27th October, 2016 by poster exhibition reflecting the contribution of Occupational Therapy in the healthcare in the KEM hospital premises.

On 15th November 2016, the OTIndia Month and 66th Foundation Day of First O.T School in Asia – at G.S.Medical College & K.E.M.Hospital Mumbai were celebrated together at the College in collaboration with Mumbai Branch of AIOTA. The program included an overview on “Evolution of Occupational Therapy in India” by - Prof. Dr. Jayashri Kale: Head of O. T Dept. Dr. Ashish Deshpande Consultant Psychiatrist spoke about “Interpreting Occupational Therapy in the Context of Psychiatric Illness”.

A Street Play performance by O.T students aimed to describe the role of O.T in restoring mental health was also one of the highlights of the event. Competitive events like Rangoli, Essay, Slogan and Quiz were also arranged.

Dr. Jayashri Kale
Prof. & HOD

Dr. Alok S. Patil
Convener-Mumbai Branch of AIOTA
OT India Month was celebrated on Nov. 17, 2016 at TNMC Auditorium by screening of short films that highlighted the impact of social acceptance of differently abled. A Panel Discussion the med “The Stories of Living” was organized. The Chief Guest was Dr. Rajani Kelkar – Former Professor & Head of OT department LTM Medical College. Patients and the caregivers were interviewed and encouraged to narrate the stories of their struggles, triumphs and their living.

Dr. Odette Gomes
Prof. & HOD
Dr. Alok S. Patil (O.T)
Convener,
Mumbai Branch of AIOTA
Tamil Nadu Branch of AIOTA

World OT Day 2016 and OTIndia Month was celebrated between Oct 27th - Nov 26 by arranging events like Awareness Program in mainstreaming school for teachers, parents and rehabilitation professionals on basic OT, Inclusion System and importance of Standardized Assessments. Games were arranged for children in special schools.

The Branch representatives met Minister & government officials for creation of posts of OT in early intervention centers & hospitals of the districts, inclusion of OT in comprehensive Health Insurance Schemes and OT Colleges in government health sector in Tamil Nadu. Minister acknowledged and assured for extending all possible help and conveyed best wishes to OT’s on World OT Day and Month.

Dr. Kamaraj Multi-Speciality Hospital at Chennai appreciated TN Branch representatives for their efforts on OT Day and Month and instantly approved and announced opening of a new OT Department with immediate effect in honor of the World OT Day.

A blood donation camp in association with Adayar Cancer Institute, Chennai was organized on 26.11.2016.

Impressed with the OT Day celebration, Director of Monopoly Marketing at Shenoy Nagar, Chennai approved 23.8% discount on MRP on all purchases to the members of TNAIOTA on showing their identity.

Dr. Raghuram P
Convener - TNAIOTA
Santosh OT College, Ghaziabad, Delhi NCR and UP Branch of AIOTA

The World OT Day celebration at Santosh OT College was arranged in collaboration with UP Branch of AIOTA. It included clinical talks & presentations on various areas of OT practice. The Posters, debate, street play focusing the theme “Accessibility@OTIndia” was organised on Oct.27. A free 7 day OT camp was arranged in the hospital premises. The occupational therapy students also formed a human chain outside the Santosh Hospital for spreading awareness about OT.

Dr. R.K. Sharma
Dean Allied Health Sciences & Principal
Co-Convener-UPAIOTA
Women OT's of Tamil Nadu

The enthusiastic women OT's of Tamil Nadu arranged successful fun and awareness program comprising of flash Mob, Leaflet distribution in public at two of the Prime Malls in Chennai on World OT Day on Oct. 26 focusing the theme Accessibility@OTIndia.

They also arranged Coffee with OT’s Peer Support Group on Beasent Nagar Beach, Chennai on 26th November and held discussions to share the updates on current trends of practice for providing quality OT intervention to the suffering humanity to commemorate OTIndia Month.

Dr. Shobana Moorthy,
Director, Smart Sensory Kids Therapy Centre, Chennai& EC Member T.N. Branch of AIOTA
Kerala Branch of AIOTA

Kerala Branch of AIOTA in Association with Prayatna Centre for Child development performed a Flash Mob on World OT Day at Lulu Mall Cochin, one of the biggest malls in Asia.

The program was very much appreciated and we were able to raise the awareness and importance of Occupational Therapy among people. Support and cooperation from the audience and media were really encouraging. The news was covered by many channels and newspapers across Kerala. Convener of the branch Dr. Joseph Sunny also gave a brief talk on importance of OT for general public on Radio Mirchy on World OT Day.

Dr. Joseph Sunny
Convener-KBAIOTA
School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal

World OT Day and OT India Month were celebrated by organizing many events by the department. A two days Workshop on Learning Disability for sensitizing the teachers on 5-6 October in collaboration with Rotary International, and the Department of Education, Government of Karnataka was convened. 72 teachers from government and private schools of Udupi District attended it. The mini-movie titled “Poorvi”, in collaboration with St. Mary's English Medium School, Udupi depicting the challenges of a child with LD was prepared. Each school of the district was provided with a CD of the mini-movie and handbooks on Learning Disability. The leading newspapers covered the program.

OT EUPHORIA-2016 an annual feature was arranged on 17 November 2016 on the theme 'Accessibility'. Dr. Sebestina Dsouza HOD delivered talk focusing the role of OT in evaluating the environment for safety and access and suggesting environmental modifications of the home and outdoor environment. Street-plays were arranged by the students on the theme “Accessibility” at public places and public waiting areas in the hospital at Manipal to spread awareness in the community. They also surveyed public places such as railway stations, shopping areas, recreation centers, parks, commercial and bank centers for accessibility and presented reports identifying the architectural barriers and strategies to remove the same.

To commemorate the day an e-newsletter 'The OT Chronicle' was released. Students of the department also actively participated in debate and poster presentations on occupational therapy related topics.

Dr. Sebestina A. Dsouza
Prof. & Head
Government Medical College & Hospital, Aurangabad

World OT Day was celebrated in the Medical College campus on October 28 with poster presentation on role of OT in variety of medical conditions viz Orthopedics, pediatrics, Medicine mental health, ergonomics etc with an aim to sensitize the medical fraternity on the unique role OT's are offering to restore functions and rehabilitation. This program was inaugurated by the Dean of medical college in presence of faculties of the clinical departments.

Dr. Satish Maslekar
Sr. OT

SRM College of Occupational Therapy, Kattankulathur, Chennai

A Workshop on 'Organizing support Groups for Caregivers' was convened which was attended by staff, students and faculties of various departments of the university by an eminent senior OT from Chennai.

Dr. D. Suresh
Dean
Indore Institute of Medical Sciences, Indore

Ramp walk was performed by the disabled children to develop confidence in the children and their parents. A poster exhibition by students was arranged in the college campus on the theme: ‘Journey of OT’ depicting the history of OT, Diagnostic tools & working areas. The celebration also included a guest lecture on the topic Advancements in Burn Rehabilitation and a seminar on the topic “OT in Environmental Modification”.

Dr. Bhavinder Singh
HOD & Vice Principal
Mahatma Gandhi Occupational Therapy College, Jaipur & Rajasthan Branch of AIOTA

Rajasthan Branch of AIOTA had celebrated World OT day in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Occupational Therapy College, Jaipur and students and professionals from various institutions of Jaipur and other places on the theme Accessibility@OTIndia.

OT Day was celebrated with about 200 gathering of special children, parents, hospital, staff of special schools & general public. A PowerPoint presentation on awareness of OT followed with open discussion, display of posters and street play by students were also arranged. Media coverage was there throughout the program.

Dr. S.K Meena
Convener, Rajasthan Branch of AIOTA
Kovai Medical Center & Hospital, Coimbatore

College of OT at Kovai Medical Center& Hospital celebrated World OT Day by organizing free camp for assessment and guidance to persons with disabilities. Street Play and poster sessions by students to promote OT awareness were also arranged on the occasion.

Dr. Sujata Missal
Principal/HOD
Government Medical College & Hospital, Nagpur

A video presentation on functioning of O.T. School and Centre was projected on World OT Day for outdoor patients of the hospital. Variety of hand splints and assistive devices were displayed.

A series of competitive poster presentation from O.T. units from departments of Orthopedics, Neurology, Pediatrics, Mental health and Hand therapy was displayed. All the staff and students of OT School and Centre enthusiastically worked for the success of the program.

Dr. Sofia Aazad  
Prof./Principal

Smt. Kamlaben P. Patel Institute of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Anand, Gujrat

Smt. Kamlaben P. Patel Institute of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, managed by Anand People’s Medicare Society, affiliated to Sardar Patel University, recognized by Govt. of Gujarat and All India Occupational Therapist’s Association (A.I.O.T.A) have celebrated “World Occupational Therapy Day 2016” on the theme of “Accessibility@OTINDIA”.

On this occasion, we have organized the poster competition on the topic of “Accessibility@OTINDIA”. More than 100 O.T students have participated in this competition; we have encouraged them by providing prizes.

Dr. Brajesh Kumar M.Mishra,  
I/C. Principal
Multi-specialty Therapy Centre, New Delhi

On 27th of October 2016, a free screening camp was organized by Health Factor Multi-specialty Therapy Centre, New Delhi. Also an interactive session was held among professionals and parents regarding the need of early intervention and how occupational therapy plays a significant role in multidisciplinary team. The special educators, physicians, and teachers interacted in the discussion. Information:

Dr. Arpan Kumar
OT

Puducherry

The World OT day was observed at P. G. R. Vasavi English Preliminary School in Puducherry. A general physical assessment and pre-writing skill assessment were performed for the children with the age group 3-5 years. The effectiveness of simplified teaching method of dot-dot was explained to them and Parents & Principal of the school.

Dr M. Ramakrishnan
Occupational Therapist,
JIPMER Hospital, Pondy.

13 December 2016

Dear Anil,

Thank you for this information and for the support and commitment of AIOTA in promoting World Occupational Therapy Day 2016. The information provided in this summary is fantastic and my sincere appreciation to colleagues in India. I look forward to sharing this information with the international community,

With best wishes,

Ritchard Ledgerd
Executive Director, WFOT
Essex, 1G3 8XJ, United Kingdom
admin@wfot.org
OTGD 2016 at Maccabi Healthcare Services, Israel

Maccabi Healthcare Services Israel is keeping its traditional yearly activity of book donation to people coping with mental conditions together with Rebooks project.
International Occupational Therapy day was marked at the Emek Medical Center by an exhibition of the activities of the OT unit.

Two displays were set up in central areas of the ground floor entrance to the hospital. The occasion was advertised in Facebook as part of the “Development fund of the Emek Medical Center”.

One stand displayed the activities of the occupational therapists in the following areas: technological aids for the hand in particular Activity of Daily Living (ADL) accessories. Many different accessories for the hand, (diagnostic and advanced tools) and aids for the management of day to day activities.

The other stand presented the activity of the occupational therapy staff in the area of cognition. Relevant information leaflets about cognitive problems, cognitive diagnostic tests and different activities that develop cognitive skills including encouraging the local population to take part in memory improvement groups.

Participation included patients their families and staff.

Ruty Sagiv
WFOT Delegate
Summary of activities marking International Occupational Therapy at Clalit Health Services, Israel

International Occupational Therapy Day was celebrated throughout Clalit Health Services for the second consecutive year. Special activities were organized throughout Clalit’s hospitals and regional districts. It is the hope of the OT staff to continue in the future with many innovative therapeutic interventions.

Regional Districts

Sharon Shomron Region

- The day began with a celebratory staff meeting in which the ethical code and new professional interventions were discussed.
- The medical staff received informative pamphlets that explained the unique interventions conducted by the OT staff, including health promoting activities.
- A lecture concerning the use of games to promote parent child interactions was presented to the multidisciplinary staff in one of the child development centers. In addition the staff participated in a trivia quiz that introduced basic OT concepts to the staff.
Dan Region

Several activities in child development centers were conducted in this region including:

- In-service to early childhood nurses concerning involvement in game playing for children ages 0-3, development of graphomotor skills for ages 3-5

- A special event was conducted for parents of children on waiting lists to begin the evaluation process. During the event the parents were given tips on therapeutic activities they could play with their children during the waiting period. Each family received a magnet that had therapeutic messages appropriate to children
All employees of the region received a letter describing proper use of computer touch screens.

In the child development center of the city Carmiel there was an event organized for children on waiting list to begin therapy, the parents and children were given ideas of therapeutic games they could play until they began their series of treatments.
Northern Region

During the OT international Day the northern region organized "exposure hour".

Various staff members of the clinics throughout the region, participated in an experiential exposure to OT modalities: including use of kitchen adaptations, dressing devices etc..

One of the staff occupational therapist, who specializes in child development, gave an in depth presentation on a radio talk show. The talk was about OT interventions in child development

A staff member from the home health care division, spoke to an audience of senior citizens concerning fall prevention in the home setting
Jerusalem region

- Stalls were set up in various clinics where there exist OT treatments. The OT's handed out flyers concerning: school readiness, fall prevention, and ergonomics for computer stands.
- There was a workshop for parents and children about how to build educational games from materials available in the home.
- During the regularly scheduled staff meeting, the therapists received an update about the OT activities that Clalit Health Services have undertaken, and the valued activities of WFOT.
- The OT staff from the Jerusalem region were updated on referral procedures throughout all the various intervention sites in the region.
Southern Region

The international OT day began with much awaited celebrations. The therapist presented "goodies" to all clinics that have OT staff members. The "goodies included educational flyers, educational games, and innovative therapeutic modalities.

The day ended with blessings of congratulations from the regional medical administrator
The clients from one of the clinics were asked to answer a survey concerning early symptoms of memory decline, those whose results were abnormal were given instruction on where they can receive therapeutic intervention.

In the various child development clinics a number of different training sessions occurred:

- Instruction on sleep disturbances
- Past time activities for parent and child
- Explanations on diagnostic testing and children
Medical Centers

Geha Center for Mental Health

Patients and their family members were invited to participate and experience the varied treatment options at the Ofer center for "life skills development". The various modalities included, use of VR, mobile library, and for a finale the guests were invited to taste the baked goods made by the special cooking group.

Schneider Childrens Medical Center

The OT staff greeted family members and visitors to the hospital with a huge word search game on the floor of the lobby. The word search included basic concepts of pediatric OT.

Interested family members were given in depth explanations about the activities conducted within the hospital, in the end the same family members were given delicious ice cream as a souvenir.

As a tribute to international OT day the Schneider staff visited a local day care center for underprivileged families and children. There they presented an in service concerning normal development with an emphasis on sensory development. The OT's also showed the day care staff some intervention techniques to encourage normal development.
Lowenstien Rehabilitation Center

Throughout the day family members and visitors were encouraged to visit a stall set up in the lobby of the hospital. The stall handed out informative flyers, and showed examples of OT intervention modalities available in the different units of the hospital.

The OT staff provided guided tours of the various special treatment areas such as "supermarket", snoezelen, driving rehabilitation, and "mind gym".

There were in services conducted concerning use of electronic notebooks to expand function, and strategies for memory improvement.

At the end of the day there was a special screening of a movie made by the staff in honor of the day's celebrations.
**Meir Medical Center**

The hospital staff was invited to visit the OT treatment centers throughout the hospital, including the satellite geriatric rehabilitation center.

In cooperation with the MILBAT foundation (a foundation that specializes in adaptive equipment world wide) the staff presented an in service on the subject of "Building your own personal adaptive equipment"
**Carmel Medical Center**

The day was celebrated by promoting OT awareness amongst staff members. Stalls were arranged, flyers were sent out, and the medical staff was encouraged to try different treatment modalities.

**Soroka Medical Center**

The Soroka Medical Center is spread out over many sites. Each building was decorated with information concerning the various OT activities conducted throughout the facility. Staff members received, in their personal mail, OT “tips” including safe cell phone usage, and school preparedness… Throughout the week several informative lectures were conducted including:

- Sensory modulation for young children
- The use of educational forums for occupational therapists
- Nursing staff participated in lectures concerning neurology on the neurology unit
- Educational in service to the social work staff
**Haemek Medical Center**

Two impressive stalls were set up to explain OT activities throughout the hospital

1. The hand therapy clinic displayed use of technologies in treatment, and use of adaptive equipment to improve and promote function

2. The cognitive treatment clinic displayed several diagnostic tests, informative flyers related to memory and cognition, and different treatment strategies

**Beilinson Medical Center**

A video clip was presented explaining the profession of occupational therapy.

Informative flyers were handed out.

Stalls were set up showing the varied activities conducted in the hospital including making hand orthoses, use of computerized driving rehabilitation, MILBAT representative showed adaptations available for promoting past time activity participation.
The festive day began with a gathering of the OT staff in which they were read a letter from the head of occupational therapy in Clalit Health Services. They also received greetings from the hospital administration. The day continued with several more activities:

- Participation in a festive breakfast
- The staff received specially designed stickers that they put on their uniforms
- Staff members and families received sweets that had a note attached explaining the important contributions of occupational therapy
- All public computers throughout the medical facility screened a greeting to the occupational therapy staff.

Hope you all had a meaningful International OT day

We know we did!

Sincerely,

The OT staff of Clalit Health Services
Associazione Italiana di Terapia Occupazionale (AITO) celebrated the World OT day this year with an event to inform, acknowledge and spread the awareness of Occupational Therapy giving the opportunity to different occupational therapists to report in front of health professionals and citizens.

This event was held in Ancona and was supported by the Region and a lot of political institutions and health professional associations.

Ancona is in Marche region in the centre of Italy, it is a part of Italy where Occupational Therapy is not very widespread.

Here some themes and interventions:

- therapeutic education
- primary prevention – Health and Safety
- Reablement, recovery thought activity and lifestyle redesign
- Communication- take off physical and mental barriers for a correct integration
- Help factors: Home and Caregivers

The World OT day was full of joy, ideas, good practice examples and exchanges and it was even a way to make people know what we practically do every day for our clients and what we can do to help them help themselves.
The Jordanian Society for Occupational Therapy (JSOT)  
Celebrating World OT Day 2016

A series of events and activities took place in Jordan under the supervision, guidance, cooperation, and initiation of the JSOT celebrating the World OT Day.

The Occupational Therapy Department of Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and Different Hospital celebrated the World OT day and raised awareness about the value of OT services in the community during October, and November 2016:

- The celebration at the JUST was attended by University presidents, faculty and staff, students, as well as public figures and clients from the community.
- JUST celebration was under the Title “Occupational Therapy Giving with meaning for better life”.
- The Exhibition represented all the occupational therapy fields through booths. Dialogue between 3 students showed how the OT plays essential role in changing any disable person vision, and a flash mob acting summarize the occupational therapy process in a nice way.
- Logo of the World OT day was adopted from the WFOT.
- Celebrating also took place in different hospitals where OT students and professionals are involved.
- King Abdullah University Hospital in Irbid city celebrated OT Day by conducted activities for children with disabilities.
Hashem Abu Tariah, PhD, OTR
Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy
Jordan Delegate to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)
A story

Evelien Visser

Jadakar (for privacy reasons, name has been changed) is a little boy with a paralyzed arm. By the time I met him, he was 7 years old, living together with his parents, grandparents and sister in a village in south-east Kazakhstan.

He used to ignore his left arm. If he needed two hands he would just wait for help. My challenge was to change this habit.

One goal during therapy was to teach him how to dress himself. It was more his parents’ desire than his own, he was very happy to be helped with everything.

We started off playing a lot together. Play is fun, but when it is used with the right intentions it is very beneficial and even necessary for children’s development. Jadakar enjoyed playing together, but he didn’t realize that in the meanwhile he was working hard to use his left arm and increase his muscle strength! Slowly we progressed towards dressing. It was a tough job, doing something he had never had to do before, with his arm that he didn’t like to use. But he realized that he was learning to get his clothes on by himself.

In the end, we had a boy that knew how to dress himself and a happy grandmother! And the whole family was proud of their boy. For all of them it was a revelation that he could do things himself. And this revelation of occupation continued to influence the boy’s life and his family further.

Word from the President

Evelien Visser

This month we celebrate World OT day. It is also the first anniversary of the Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association (KEA). After several years of pioneering Occupational Therapy, it is great to have formed an association and to be ready for the further development of our profession.

This year we look back on 10 years of pioneering Occupational Therapy in Kazakhstan. In 2006 there was only one Occupational Therapist practising in the villages in the Panvilov area, Almaty oblast. When we started this association two years ago, we had six OT’s working in three different cities. But with a population of 17 million people in Kazakhstan, it’s still our aim to see many more trained OT’s.

For me, as founder and president of KEA, it is time to say goodbye to Kazakhstan. My family and I are moving back to the Netherlands. But the start of KEA has been one of the highlights of our OT work here. And there’s a great team of OT’s continuing the work. From now on Gerdine Lok will be interim president.

I hope Kazakhstan will open the way for Occupational Therapy education to be of benefit in all the opportunities that Occupational Therapists provide!

World Occupational Therapy Day

Linda Beadle – Occupational Therapist in Almaty

World Occupational Therapy Day is celebrated every year on the 27th of October. Since it was first launched on 27th October 2010, Occupational Therapy Day has become an important date in the occupational therapy calendar to promote and celebrate the profession internationally.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is the international voice of the occupational therapy profession which consists of 92 national occupational therapy professional organisations.

World Occupational Therapy Day is the opportunity to heighten the visibility of the profession’s development work and to promote the activities of WFOT locally, nationally, and internationally. World Occupational Therapy Day will help to increase the awareness of occupational therapists and society of the truly global impact of occupational therapy – hopefully including the impact it has in Kazakhstan! (Taken from: http://www.wfot.org/AboutUs/WorldOTDay.aspx)
Training opportunities

Gerdine Lok – Occupational Therapist in Shymkent

In September, three of our OT’s in Kazakhstan gathered and organized a 5-day training for mainly social workers in the city of Taraz. We were invited by a locally registered Public Fund, in partnership with different clinics and organizations, who are working with children and young people with special needs. It was hopefully the start of continuing training. During the week, we focused mainly on basic observation skills, setting goals and using equipment for interventions.

Once again we have seen the impact of OT in the life of children with Cerebral Paresis. The morning sessions were mainly theory, supported by videos, case studies and (personal) stories. After lunch children would come in and a group of social workers would work with the child and his/her family on the goals that had been set. And that’s when the excitement began!

- Children who weren’t able to sit by themselves experienced the support of a special chair and started to play with both hands (a great fine-motor skill exercise!).
- Children who couldn’t walk by themselves started to use a walker and were able to play football with other kids, without having to ask someone to hold them.
- Children who had never been able to stand in a good position tried with a standing frame. This gave them great opportunities to look around, interact with others, and play with the toys in front of them.

Besides all the excitement that the children and their parents experienced, there were a lot of goals they were working on – without knowing it (i.e. avoiding the risk of hip displacement). Again, this is the strength of Occupational Therapy: evidence based therapy, where, through practical and daily life activities, the quality of life of a child and his family is increased.
This OT Run 2.0 2016 was held on 26th November 2016 in conjunction with World Occupational Therapy Day 2016. It was organised by the Occupational Student Association (OTSA) UiTM and Malaysian Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA). It kicked off in a grand fashion, gathering about 550 people in Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Selangor Puncak Alam Campus in Selangor as early as 6am. The run which was divided into three categories – 10km, 5km and Fun Run has successfully attracted alumni and students of occupational therapy from various institutions in Malaysia, including College of Allied Health Sciences Sungai Buloh (KSKB), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Perdana University School of Occupational Therapy (PUScOT), Pusrawi College as participants. It was also participated by local residents from all walks of life. The aims of the run were to promote the field of occupational therapy services to various communities in Malaysia on the roles of occupational therapists as well as services offered in various facilities, including public and private hospitals, old folk’s homes, community and private rehabilitation centres, schools etc. It also encouraged all occupational therapists to involve in sports actively, so that they can stay fit and productive. As the adviser of this run, I am confident that event like this not only increase public awareness of the existence and importance of rehabilitation services in Malaysia, it also strengthen the ties and cooperation between occupational therapists.

By: Ahmad Zamir Che Daud, Ph.D
Celebration of World Occupational Therapy Day

On 27th October 2016 Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC) celebrated World Occupational Therapy by having cake cutting ceremony and making aware of the entire staff on the importance of the occupational therapy. Keshab Prasad Sitaula, Head of Occupational Therapy Department gave a power-point presentation on the history of occupational therapy in the world, in Nepal and role of occupational therapy in rehabilitation. He also highlighted on how occupational therapy department was successfully established in 2004 at SIRC. Dipesh Pradhan, Admin Director of SIRC congratulated occupational therapists and talked about their important contribution for enhancing SIRC services.

Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre (SIRC- Run by Spinal Injury Sangh Nepal) is the non-profit charitable organisation. It was inaugurated in April, 2002 by the late Sir Edmund Hillary, at Jorpati, Kathmandu, Nepal. It shifted to its current custom-built facility at Saanga village, Kavre District, in November 2008. Over nearly a decade of work, the Spinal Centre has developed a range of facilities to support the spinal injured people of Nepal, who come from the most marginalised bracket of society. The Centre offers holistic rehabilitation services to spinal cord injured patients so that they are able to rebuild their lives within the limits of their ability when they go back to the society. Occupational therapy department has an important contribution to improve the lives of people with spinal injury.

The celebration was an opportunity to strengthen the visibility of the occupational therapists’ work and promote their mission and goals.
In the Netherlands there were a lot of activities with regard to World OT Day. Occupational Therapists in hospitals, rehab centres, private practices and especially at the four universities were active.

The Association collected some pictures from the activities.

The students from Amsterdam received a prize from the Association because they had a very nice idea (see picture below). They went to the centre and made pictures from people and ask them what they know about Occupational Therapy and when they did not…. of course they explained. More than 100 students were involved.

Mieke le Granse
WFOT Delegate

Photographs of the Activities during World OT Day 2016 in the Netherlands
Wereld Ergotherapie Dag

Steenwijkerwold - Op donderdag 27 oktober is het Wereld Ergotherapie Dag. Het doel van ergotherapie is om mensen van alle leeftijden zo zelfstandig mogelijk te laten functioneren, zowel thuis, op school als op het werk. Eén van de aandachtsgebieden is het stimuleren van zelfredzaamheid en het verbeteren van de dagelijkse handelingen. Ergotherapeut Liesbeth Loderus nodigt iedereen uit op 27 oktober tussen 10.00 en 12.00 uur uit in haar praktijk in MFC Hoogthij om kennis te maken met ergotherapie.
World OT Day 2016
OTAN Celebrates in Grand Style

World Occupational Therapy day 2016, must have come and gone, but the memory will forever remain fresh in our minds. The day appeared to have started like every other day at the Occupational Therapy Department, University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Benin city, Nigeria, until about 10am when the whole atmosphere became electrified with beautiful colours of promotional wears and Euphoric staff, students, clients and the members of the Occupational Therapists in Nigeria Association, OTAN in Benin city.

This year celebration (though relatively, at a low-key level owing to economic challenges in the country) was a unique one as it focused on the theme of OT4OTVisual Exchange Programme - “Making it Together”. The uniqueness is better appreciated in what seems to be more than ‘just a mere coincidence’ between the theme and the ongoing, unity, rebranding and restructuring project of the OTAN, initiated by the National President, Mrs. Victoria Amu. Tagged “Further-together”, the initiative which is aimed at building a formidable association with a strong relevance in the Nigeria health sector through integration and the collaborative efforts of all Occupational Therapy practitioners and students, has been emphasizing “Making it Together” even before October 27th. Therefore, the focus of 2016 celebration which was more than timely, was another opportunity for us in Nigeria to drive home the OT message.

The activities started with the gathering of OT, non-OT Professionals, clients and students who were beautifully adorned in Green and White, a colour which is quite symbolic to Nigeria (national flag) as a country and to our dear profession - Occupational Therapy, whose goal is enhancing life and optimal productivity. After the opening prayer (by Mr Dopamu Kehinde, OT), there was the opening remark by Mr. Emore Vincent (Occupational Therapist) which centered on the essence of the World O.T. day Celebration that is; to heighten the visibility of the profession’s development work and to promote the activities of WFOT locally, nationally and internationally.

Following this, was the commemoration speech by the Head of Department Mr. Eleyinde S. Temitayo. The speech titled making it together: our collective role in advancing Occupational Therapy, was a wake-up call for all OT practitioners, to harmonise their individual talents, skills, abilities and unique opportunities to promote and advance the professional as no other professionals will do it for occupational therapists. Next, was the interactive sessions in which both OT and non-OT Professionals bore their minds on why they love Occupational Therapy. Their reason range from the possibilities through OT, to its prospects. The participants were further enlightened on the opportunities in O.T both as a career and as a service. After this session was the cake-cutting to mark the day. The cake was decorated to project the logo of the World O.T. Day to the admiration of the participants as Miss Lashmann Deborah (Occupational Therapist.) later elucidated on the significance of each of the colours. The activities were later rounded off with, photo sessions with all the participants in different admirable poses and posture.

The programme which was anchored by Mr. Arowolo Femi (Occupational Therapist.) also had in attendance other therapists like Mr. Dopamu Kehinde, Mr. Adediji Ebenezer, Mrs. Emore Oluwashola and Miss. Oladipupo Adebola. It was indeed a memorable day for us at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Benin City, Nigeria, and we sincerely appreciate the National President, (OTAN), the Chief Medical Director, UBTH, Staff and Students of the school and the department of O.T, UBTH for their supports in different capacities. Many thanks also to my co-therapists and everybody that made the day a huge success. While we will continue to bask in the euphoria of the 2016 celebration, we eagerly look forward to 2017 World OT day. Long live our dear profession, Occupational Therapy.
Eleyinde Sunday Tayo  
Head of Department, Occupational Therapy  
Course Coordinator, School of Occupational Therapy  
University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City  
Edo State, Nigeria.
Capampangan Occupational Therapy Students Assembly (COTSA)

In celebration of the World Occupational Therapy Day, the Capampangan Occupational Therapy Students Assembly (COTSA) of Angeles University Foundation organised a teambuilding event which aimed to unite all the BSOT students of the university and celebrate the beauty of our profession. With that, we have prepared a short video that covered the small event.

COTSA also prepared a photo "handprint" contest which showcased the ability of OTs to create beautiful things using only our hands.

Happy World OT Day and God Bless from AUF-COTSA, Philippines :)

Here's the link to the video:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1448139931881179&id=916739531687891

And this is the COTSA handprint Photo Challenge:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1447619201933252&substory_index=0&id=916739531687891
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1447620315266474&substory_index=0&id=916739531687891
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1447622928599546&substory_index=0&id=916739531687891
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1447599105268595&substory_index=0&id=916739531687891
Warm greetings from the Occupational Therapy Students Assembly (OTSA), the official student arm of the Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists, Inc. (PAOT). OTSA was first convened in 2008, and since then have been making collaborative projects among the students of various schools in the Philippines that offer Occupational Therapy (OT) degree program. Through its annual collaborative projects, OTSA aims to promote the OT profession to the public, and foster camaraderie among the OT students in the Philippines.

This year, OTSA celebrated the World Occupational Therapy Day by creating an informative video, with the help of various college/university-level OT student organizations in the Philippines, which focuses on the 8 areas of Occupation (ADLs, IADLs, Rest and Sleep, Education, Work, Play, Leisure, and Social Participation) according to the American Occupational Therapy Association’s practice framework. The video contains brief descriptions of each area of occupation, and a few examples as well. The project aimed to promote the profession by informing the public on the definition and domain of occupational therapy as well as to encourage the students from different organizations and universities to collaborate in working towards the goal of advocating for the profession. Social media was used as a medium to reach the general public. It was posted in the OTSA’s Facebook page and was shared by the students. The video may be viewed through this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0z5cg6jyUs&feature=youtu.be

Thank you and congratulations on the successful celebration of World Occupational Therapy Day!

For the greater local and global relevance of occupational therapy,

Charles Marion R. Francisco
President
Occupational Therapy Students Assembly

Arden Panotes, OTRP
Adviser
Occupational Therapy Students Assembly
In Portugal, the World Day of Occupational Therapy was celebrated in different parts of the country. From the north to the south, the Portuguese Occupational Therapists cooperated with their national association, the Portuguese Association of Occupational Therapists, in a national action on Facebook, using the WFOT promotional images. Some colleagues shared with us their initiatives and activities. All the schools of Occupational Therapy in Portugal celebrated this day with their students.

In the city of Viseu, World Occupational Therapy Day celebrations included the making of the WFOT symbol, along with souvenirs and cookies, shared by professionals and patients.

Elisabete Roldão,
Delegate
Doha, 27 October, 2016: More than 100 occupational therapists from Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Shafallah Center for Children with Disabilities, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Qatar Foundation and other private centers participated in a one-day symposium to highlight this year’s World Occupational Therapy Day.

The symposium was titled “Professional Identity and Advocacy”. The symposium was organised by the Occupational Therapy Department’s Education Committee chaired by the Chief of Occupational Therapy Mr. Sultan Salim Hammam Al Abdulla and Mr. Hussain Ali H J Bu Hazaa.

The symposium started with the welcome address by Mr. Alaa Festok followed by a presentation on the Occupational Therapy Services in Hamad Medical Corporation. Ms. Julie Melville from Sidra Medical and Research Center delivered a presentation on Professional Identity and Advocacy. This was followed by presentations about Occupational Therapy services in Shafallah Center for Children with Disabilities and Sidra Medical and Research Center by Ms. Fatima Sisan and Ms. Constance Eggert respectively.

The last session for the morning was conducted by Mr. Alaa Al Sheikh Hussein to launch an Occupational Therapy group which served as a forum to create a network of Occupational Therapists working in Qatar. This session was moderated by two of our Qatari Occupational Therapists, Mr. Hussain Ali H J Bu Hazaa and Mr. Alaa Festok.

A core committee was formed with representatives from various organizations providing occupational therapy services in Qatar to coordinate future joint efforts aimed at advocating for the profession in Qatar.

There was an evening program conducted for all Occupational Therapy Staff in the department which included quiz and video competitions followed by a gala dinner.
The Occupational Therapy Department at Hamad Medical Corporation recognized outstanding staff in each of its specialty units on the eve of World Occupational Therapy Day.

Mr. Sultan Salim Hammam Al Abdulla, Chief of Occupational Therapy Department
Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar

Brightlin Nithis Dhas, OTR
On behalf of organizing committee for World OT Day event
In collaboration with Handicap International, Rwanda and the University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy Department, the Rwanda Occupational Therapy Association was honored to celebrate World OT Day on 27th October 2016.

General Objective of the Event:
It was to raise the awareness of the occupational therapy profession to Rwandans, such as: medical doctors, insurances company representatives, people performing OT-like services in different centers, and the media.

The OT Day celebration was launched at Heroes School for children with severe disabilities on 27th October 2016. During this event, OTs and OT students showed practically the role of OT in working with children with disabilities.

Three categories of activities were demonstrated. These included:
- Play activity
- Functional mobility activity
- Positioning

The ceremony started at 9:30am and end at 1:30pm,
People present at the site: The local government representative, children and their parents, the representative of the school, teachers, physiotherapists and a speech therapist working at Heroes School, occupational therapists from Rwanda Military Hospital and Gahini Hospital, OT lecturer from UR, coordinator of OT program at the University and OT students from Year 2 and Year 3.

A brief orientation of the site

A welcomed note from the school representative, the school coordinator from UR and modulator of the day introduced the group and explained why we selected the Heroes School to celebrate the day with them. Since the school helps Rwandan community to care for children with disabilities, and in order to show the need of occupational therapy services as part of rehabilitation services in helping children with disabilities to live independent lives. In addition, to inform the management of Heroes School that the University of Rwanda is training occupational therapists to fill the need.

The chair person of Rwanda Occupational Therapy Association (RWOTA) welcomed all people were present to the theme of this year’s OT Day: “MAKING IT TOGETHER”

The health professionals work in multidisciplinary approach, to give the best service to the community.
Heroes School began in 2014 under the cooperation of parents of children with disabilities and it is now serving more than 50 children, and 12 of them a day by day are receiving care services to help them improve independence. The school has two speech therapists, one physiotherapist and the parent's committee who are working in collaboration to develop the children's independence. The school reported that there is still a gap for occupational therapy to strengthen the team.

Furthermore, Mrs. NIYITEGEKA Sixteen said, “the challenges we have are a small space, and difficulty in community motivation and marshalling or mobilisation most especially to those families whose children with difficulties to be aware of these difficulties and take care of their children”. Additionally, the parent’s representative said that the main challenge is the parent’s ability to afford payments to this school and child's health insurance and finally gave gratitude to the audience especially the University of Rwanda that is teaching occupational therapy students who will be delivering rehabilitation services in the future.

The OTs gathered activities and involved OT students, parents and teachers.

The Leader of the first group, Occupational Therapist BYARUHANGA Diaz from Gahini hospital demonstrated a normal sitting position in a special chair. He also explained more about proper sitting posture even while using a wheelchair.

Group two was led by MUREBWAYIRE Epiphanie an occupational therapist from Rwanda Military Hospital. She explained the important of play in children with disabilities in practical involved parents and teachers.
Group three worked on functional mobility by using a modified chair in toileting and a walker, and the group leader was an occupational therapist Lydia Burd, Lecturer and Head of Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Rwanda.

Finally, we shared lunch with parents and children and thereafter, the modulator Mr. KANYONI Maurice closed the session and thanks giving to the school and other participants who has attended the ceremony as well.

On 28th October 2016 a workshop was held at Lemigo Hotel with different presentations from OTs: The history of OT, the scope of practice of OTs, who needs OT services, a presentation from the Rwandan Allied Health Professions Council about regulation of allied health services, and a presentation from a local pediatrician and speech therapist.

Occupational Therapists also held a 2-day training workshop delivered to non-OT mentors at Gatagara /Gikondo Rehabilitation Hospital. This workshop aimed at providing occupational therapy intervention skills to mentors who work at centers of children with disabilities in the country.

Epiphanie Murebwayire
President
Rwanda Occupational Therapy Association
The occupational therapists at Frere Hospital in East London, in the Eastern Cape celebrated OT Awareness Day on 27 October 2016 in style. They organised and hosted an all-inclusive Talent Show called the ‘O- Factor Show’, which was supported by hospital staff members, patients, local non-governmental organisations (NGO’s), children from the surrounding schools and members of the public.

The goal of the O-Factor show was to showcase the talent of all the participants - to emphasise that all people, irrespective of disability or not, have talents which need to be shown-off and celebrated. The participants showcased their talents, which included, singing, poetry, storytelling, piano playing and dancing. The Border Wheelchair Rugby team fascinated the audience with a demonstration of this highly dexterous game.

The event also aimed to create awareness about the Occupational Therapy profession and the importance of re-integration of the patients of the hospital back into the East London community. Many people visited the information table at the event, where therapists educated the public about the profession and the services offered by hospital occupational therapists to improve patients’ quality of life. NGO’s and community-based organisations manned their own information tables, which provided the opportunity for networking with organisations and the community. It is hoped that that the relationship between health professionals and these organisation will be strengthened, to ensure that the valuable rehabilitation work that professional start in hospital extends beyond discharge, with the support of community networks.

The occupational therapists learned a lot from the event, through the sharing of personal experiences of discharged patients, empowered community members with disabilities, and organisations in the community. This gave them a better understanding of the challenges that groups and communities face on a daily basis. This learning experience will assist in planning the most appropriate service delivery, with community networking, to improve the lives of the people in the East London community.

Tanita Smith and Anastacia Scholtz
Celebrating World Occupational Therapy Day 2016
Occupational Therapy students and academics at Mahidol University created the following videos, in remembrance and respect for the late HM King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej. The King provided great inspiration for well-being through occupational performance – his many areas of skills and interests are reflected in these videos:

https://youtu.be/XMwAqAuQOtk
https://youtu.be/7CnMLyPl4_0
https://youtu.be/NwEgxl8iu890
https://youtu.be/bn0r31i04oc
https://youtu.be/8dGHgHRoEeo
https://youtu.be/EKYZF8ZrFQA
https://youtu.be/LkMa2EgYs0E
https://youtu.be/y26ivkdpQPkU
https://youtu.be/miFErqHuuAE
In honour of World Occupational Therapy Day 2016, University of Scranton (Pennsylvania, USA) occupational therapy students held a table sit in the main student centre. During the table sit, students educated their peers and faculty on the mission of the AFYA Foundation and the importance of World OT Day. Educational flyers were handed out and an occupational therapy student constructed the trifold poster shown in the attached picture. Additionally, students donated used or new medical supplies to be sent to the AFYA foundation. The students recognise the importance of advancing the profession and advocating for its core values. We look forward to celebrating World OT Day in future years to come!

Lauren Armenti
President
Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) at The University of Scranton

About the AFYA Foundation (http://afyafoundation.org/)
- AFYA aims to provide an environmentally responsible solution to the dire shortage of healthcare supplies in underserved communities globally.
- AFYA collects and delivers critically needed surplus medical supplies, hospital