



## CITATION

# Honorary Fellow Award – Professor Margarita González



Professor Margarita González is the recipient of the highest award of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) as an Honorary Fellow. Professor Margarita González has had an extraordinary impact on the occupational therapy profession over time in many areas, including service to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and leadership in occupational therapy education, promotion and representation.

Margarita's long-standing service to WFOT started in 1974 with her involvement as the Colombian first alternate and as a member of the WFOT Strategic Planning Group. From 1975 to 2012, Margarita was the Colombian Delegate to WFOT, then serving as the First Alternate from 2012 to 2014. Her commitment continued as WFOT Vice President from 2018. Other roles included serving as a WFOT Bulletin Editorial Committee member, member of the WFOT Standards and Quality Programme, and since 2009, the Spanish translation group. In 2016, Margarita assisted with the coordination of the 2016 WFOT Council Meeting in Colombia and became the Deputy Editor for the WFOT Bulletin. Since 2019, Margarita has represented WFOT in multiple venues and countries, including Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile, Taiwan, and the Latin American Confederation of Occupational Therapists.

Margarita has been deeply committed to developing and advancing education in occupational therapy in her roles as a professor of occupational therapy (1974 - 1998) and dean of the occupational therapy faculty (1991-1995) at the Colombian College of Rehabilitation, Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá, Colombia. She has also been a successful international leader in developing and promoting the profession in roles such as co-coordinator of the Human Resources Department for the Latin American Group for Vocational Rehabilitation (1987 - 1990) and since 1996, co-founder, sub-director, facilitator, and consultant for the

PEYDI Foundation, a Pan-Latin American agency providing strategic planning and organisational development training skills for management and social development.

Margarita has strived to promote access to quality continuing education for the Latin American occupational therapy community, serving as the course director for occupational therapy programmes and advisor to the Vértice Foundation (2000 – 2014), a non-profit entity offering academic, research, and community service programmes for health sciences professionals, educators, and organisations. In 2014, Margarita co-founded OCCUPARE, an organisation that engages in research projects and offers continuing education courses for occupational therapists in Colombia and other Latin American countries. Other roles assumed by Margarita include: serving as a consultant in ergonomics and the co-founder of the Colombian Ergonomics Society (1996- 2003); designing the first Ergonomics Masters Degree Course in South America; being an advisor and trainer for volunteers at Jardín de Los Abuelos, a center for elders in Ibagué Colombia (1992-1996); being the Head of Projects and Fundraiser for Friends of Colombia for Social Aid, a London-based charity (2003- 2006); being a member of the Technical Board for Colombia and representative of the PEYDI organisation in the UK and European countries (2003-2004); and, participating in fund-raising, outreach, and volunteer work with people living with dementia and clients with co-morbid conditions of autism and dyslexia (2010 to 2014). Margarita contributed to several publications, including: creating general ergonomics manuals for small and medium sized businesses; co-editing the *Manual in General Ergonomics and Health and Safety* for the Ministry of Labour in Colombia (2021); co-authoring an editorial for the Colombian occupational therapy journal *Revista Ocupación Humana*; and, co-translating the 2nd Edition of the *WFOT Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists*.

Margarita has a clear record of outstanding national and international professional service and leadership. Her permanent commitment to the development and promotion of occupational therapy through the WFOT, and overall kindness and passion for the advancement of the profession worldwide, embodies the spirit of the Honorary Fellow Award. Her outstanding achievements within her service not only have strengthened the WFOT presence and recognition within Latin America but continue to be a benchmark of commitment and inspiration for new generations of occupational therapists around the world.