



CITATION

Honorary Fellow Award – Ritchard Ledgerd



Ritchard Ledgerd is the recipient of the highest award of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) as an Honorary Fellow. He fulfils criteria for this award in all categories of leadership, commitment and service to WFOT, international development of the profession, publications and education of occupational therapists.

Ritchard has been involved with WFOT since 2004, first as an Alternate Delegate for the United Kingdom, then as Delegate. He became the WFOT Programme Coordinator for Promotion and Development in 2008 and assumed the role of WFOT Executive Director in 2014.

Ritchard has consistently maintained strong leadership both within WFOT, as well as with his concurrent work with the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT). Such leadership requires having the ability to build and maintain a strong and collaborative team of individuals, each working toward a common goal. Ritchard communicates effectively, listening openly and with interest, creating passion to inspire others to go the extra mile. He enables constructive problem solving, teaching and mentoring others for success of projects and the organisation as whole. With compassion and humour, Ritchard fosters an atmosphere of positivity, using 'outside the box' thinking to solve the unsolvable. He remains open to feedback, using his strong values to guide his decisions, never putting himself ahead of his team, WFOT or the profession.

Ritchard is dedicated to WFOT and the advancement of occupational therapy worldwide, contributing to every aspect of the profession through his untiring activities. Since becoming Executive Director in 2014 he has been involved with every WFOT project, many of which he designed and developed. His accomplishments include the establishment of the WFOT website, online media presence and the introduction of World Occupational Therapy Day and associated resources. Ritchard has also been involved in modernising many WFOT publications, examples of which include *Definitions of Occupational Therapy* and the *Occupational Therapy International Practice Guide*. Ritchard initiated one of WFOT's most powerful promotional tools, the occupational therapy human resources project. This project generates demographic data about the profession and tracks the statistics across jurisdictions to identify human resource trends in occupational therapy. Ritchard has worked tirelessly with different education programmes and educators around the world to support the approval and reapproval processes and maintain an accurate database of WFOT education programmes on the WFOT website. With a view to increase the visibility, accessibility and quality of the WFOT Bulletin in the most cost effective and cost-efficient manner, Ritchard oversaw the transition of the WFOT Bulletin to an online publication through a well-known publisher. He has also acted as the convenor of the 2018 and 2022 World Congresses, the premier educational event of the Federation. In addition to coordinating the COVID-19 pandemic response, Ritchard worked tirelessly to rearrange the 2022 World Congress dates, renegotiate contracts and make the event as accessible as possible.

Ritchard has represented WFOT and the profession in a broad range of international forums including the World Health Organization where he has been invited to provide expert input as well as organisational representation. He has also been pivotal in establishing and implementing a broad range of mutual agreements with other global professional organisations. Ritchard is a true ambassador for the profession in every one of his communications, whether it be in-person or through the use of online technology.

Ritchard has been a dedicated occupational therapist for almost 30 years and has truly made an outstanding contribution to the profession at a local, regional and international level. Despite his many achievements, Ritchard rarely speaks about his accomplishments; he is a truly humble person and a quiet achiever. His passion and vision for occupational therapy will generate an important legacy for the future generations of occupational therapists.