

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2015

BANGLADESH

Integrating School education and Occupational Therapy

Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

It has long been recognised that effective team working is essential for meeting the needs of a child who has physical, cognitive impairment or additional needs. The National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity Services Standard (Department of Health & Department for Education and Skills, 2004), states that:

'Responsive, high quality, multi-agency interventions would maximize the child's ability to reach functional potential.'

The integration of therapy and educational targets for functional independence is the key aim of working collaboratively, an innovative charity that helps children with autism to develop their level of arousal, self-esteem, self-concept, sensory skills, independence level by teaching them these things in a systematic way. For achieving these things, collaborative working is very important. Occupational Therapists work closely alongside with school staffs, acting as part of the class team and sharing skills. By combining education and Occupational Therapy, the integrated programme improves children's access to the curriculum and enables them to actively engage with the world around them. An Occupational Therapist assesses a child's skill deficits and work on it. On the other hand, teachers are trying to develop their academic skills. For children with poor attention span and hypo responsive sensory system, an Occupational Therapist will design the environment of the classroom with different types of toys having different textures and the teacher uses that toys to teach the child counting, colour orientation and monitor and record the child and her response according to the therapist's given points. Here with lesson learning, they also enjoy the sensory play and respond to the the teacher either positively or negatively. Then on the basis of a recorded response, the Occupational Therapist grade the stimulation for children in the classroom and provide Sensory Integration treatment by considering the response of the child and provide appropriate home advice for the child. This helps the teacher, child, parents and therapist as well. This is an example of collaborative work.

According to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) 2008, the following are 5 intervention approaches used by Occupational Therapists to work collaboratively with the teachers:

1. **Create, promote.** An occupational therapist may provide services that are likely to improve occupational performance for all students in a school. In educational terminology, this approach is often called a *universal intervention*. Examples are consulting on an ergonomic seating plan, contributing to the design of a playground, developing a backpack awareness program, mentoring teachers in a cognitive-sensory program for self-regulation, and assisting in the development of a school wide handwriting curriculum.
2. **Establish, restore.** With this approach, the occupational therapists intent is to establish or restore a child's performance skills or patterns, or change client factors such as muscle strength.

The occupational therapist uses this type of intervention to prepare the child for more active performance in occupations. Examples are exercise and therapeutic practice of a motor skill.

3. **Maintain.** The purpose of this approach is to ensure that a child's occupational performance remains at a functional level. It is often used when the child is at risk for losing function or when therapeutic goals have been achieved and an intense level of intervention is no longer required.
4. **Modify and Compensate.** In this approach, the occupational therapist develops strategies for task or activity performance by teaching alternative strategies for accomplishing the desired outcome; altering the activity or the activity demands; adapting the context or environment in which the child performs; and proving the child's performance through assistive devices.
5. **Prevent.** Using this approach, the occupational therapist takes action to prevent barriers to occupational performance, such as physical deterioration or emotional distress. These preventive actions frequently include positioning, task adaptation, or modification of the environment. They are often directed toward ensuring physical safety or positive behavior. Teamwork ensures that the child is learning functional skills within meaningful settings-the ecological model- which has recognized as the most effective way for children and young people to learn skills.

Reference

Department of Health & Department for Education & Skills, 2004, UK.
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 2008.

Roksana Hoque, Mohammad Monjurul Karim

BELGIUM

National:

First off all, we would acknowledge the work done as "voluntary" by all the members of the national and regional associations. It is not easy to combine the profession, the family and the work for the association. We take this opportunity to officially thank them for their involvement, the work and the time spent to promote our profession and represent us in the meetings with the various commissions of the Health Ministry.

Pierre Seeuws is the new President of the National Federation and also of the Vlaams Ergotherapeutenverbond.

We continue working with the Health Ministry for registration and evaluation of continuing education. This procedure is valid for all paramedical professions and we are in regular contact and collaboration with all of them.

We are progressing towards a legal national association, for which statutes need to be reviewed and rewritten due to the change of legal statute of both regional associations. They are now "professional unions" and it is an important step to protect the members of the profession. It will give us more power in our discussions with the Health Ministry in the two regions.

Both regional associations are very concerned with continuing education and the main topics are: independent OT practice, assessment, home adaptation and accessibility, geriatric, publications. You can follow the evolution on www.ergobel.be either directly in French and Dutch on each website, or on Facebook.

Dutch-speaking regional association:

The website gives you all the information concerning the past and future seminars, workshops, continuing education programmes.

The association is involved in "Icare4you", first line care, Tetra project, interdisciplinary education programme, professional profiles easy to read for non-professionals, code of ethics, publication of "OT and developmental disorders". More information: www.ergotherapie.be and also on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VlaamsergotherapeutenverbondVZW>

French-speaking regional association:

Marc-Eric Guisset has been elected as President of the "Association des Ergothérapeutes" and the new union will also include the German speaking Occupational Therapists.

The annual publication in French can be ordered from the online store which was renewed and expanded with recently published books. The next publication is in preparation and proposals can be made for 2016 to the publication committee.

The association website is the link for all information: job offers, activities of the different groups (geriatric, neurology, home care, self-employed and private practice).

The access to OTDBase is offered to AE members since January 2015.

More information: www.ergo-ae.be or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/associationergo>

This report has been made by Marlies Suetens, Pauline de Hemptinne and Claire Valentin.

IRELAND

50th Celebration 1965-2015

The Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) is delighted to announce that plans are now much advanced for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary, which will take place on 16 October in the Thomas Prior Hall, Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. The AOTI was founded in 1965, soon after the National Rehabilitation Board set up a training programme for occupational therapists in Ireland. AOTI was established by a small group of dedicated and enterprising Irish based occupational therapists who had trained in Britain and who were supported by the AOT (UK) in establishing the Association. The first committee meeting was held in December 1964, with the election of officers, and In December 1965 the Association was formally established.

The evening promises to be a wonderful celebration of the Association and of the profession, an evening of memories, stories and reminiscences and will feature exhibitions of crafts, memorabilia and photographs. AOTI members have been doing research on significant dates and events from the profession and the Association's history and these archives will be on display on the night and are also available on the AOTI website.

Tickets for the evening can be purchased online, through our website at <https://www.aoti.ie/section.aspx?contentid=14>

An order form can also be downloaded and posted, with the required payment, to:

AOTI
Suite 2.20
Smithfield Business Centre, Distiller's Building
Smithfield, Dublin 7, Ireland

For further information please contact: 50th Committee at: AOTI50Ireland@gmail.com

COTEC ENOTHE Congress 2016

The National University of Ireland, Galway, has successfully tendered to host the First Joint COTEC ENOTHE Congress in Galway, in the beautiful west of Ireland, from 15 to 19 June 2016. The location and venue will give delegates an ideal opportunity to combine the conference with a holiday in Ireland. As part of the Congress programme, there will be a number of tours organised, both before and after the conference.

Among the themes which will be addressed by the conference are Occupational Therapy practice, education and research, policy and contemporary issues in all aspects of Occupational Therapy.

Students are particularly welcome and a number of specific sessions for them will be organised. These will include practice, educational sessions and a number of social events which will be hosted by Irish Occupational Therapy students.

Important Dates:

Deadline for Abstract Submission **31 October 2015**

Notification of Abstract Acceptance **31 January 2016**

Early Registration Deadline **28 February 2016**

As this prestigious Congress is taking place in Ireland next year, the Council of AOTI has decided not to host its annual conference in order to promote the Congress and encourage and facilitate our members to attend.

For full details on submission of abstracts, conference programmes, registration and accommodation, please visit:

<http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=182>

CORU Update - The Irish national Health Professional Regulator

CORU was established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 and is tasked with protecting the interest of the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals.

It is made up of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and twelve Registration Boards, one for each profession named in the Act, Occupational Therapists being one.

CORU currently has registers open for a number of health care professions, including Occupational Therapists.

The Occupational Therapists Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2015(- SI No. 98 of 2015) were published in March 2015 and the Occupational Therapists Registration Board Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015 (SI No. 295 of 2015) was enacted on 14th July 2105.

Full details on the Statutory Instruments for both of the above are available at

http://www.coru.ie/en/about_us/occupational_therapists_registration_board_bye_laws

ROMANIA

American OT School meets and trains the Romanian OT School



Mirela Burlău, OT (postgraduate EU-program), PT, is the president of the Romanian Occupational Therapy Association and provides therapy in neurology through private practice.



Mary-Margaret Windsor, ScD, OTR/L, is an international humanitarian worker who has worked in Romania since 1995.

Ms. Burlău and Dr. Windsor have collaborated in training and treatment for about 10 years.

Since the fall of 2014 and during the 2015 Professional Association of Occupational Therapists from Romania (PAOTR) turns its priorities to the very new generation of graduates in Occupational Therapy in Romania. Relying on the international OT working for years in our country, in February 2015 a first course is presented at the University Vasile Alecsandri of Bacău. The five days training for OT students, coordinated by Mary-Margaret Windsor (ScD, OTR/L – Washington DC, USA) in collaboration with Isabelle Beaudry-Bellefeuille (MScOT, OT(C) – Canada / Spain), Mirela Burlău and Marinela Rata (OT (postgraduate EU-program), PT, Senior Lecturer at the University Vasile Alecsandri of Bacău) introduced the "Domain & Process Framework" (3rd edition, AOTA, 2014) as a model to inform further development of the profession in Romania, and two theories (Model of Human Occupation and Sensory Integration) used in OT practice as theoretical bases for the training. Course modalities included lectures, treatment, and consultation with emphasis on scientific inquiry, assessment, and strategies to improve occupations (activities of daily living, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation). The importance and contributions of a strong national professional organisation were discussed.

Currently, Ms. Burlău and Dr. Windsor in collaboration with Elizabeth Shaffer (OTR/L) and Ms. Andreea Schuster (Psychologist, PhD, Lecturer) from the University "1 Decembrie 1918" of Alba-Iulia, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, Social Sciences Department - Occupational Therapy, are designing a second theory-based assessment and treatment pediatric course to be presented in November, 2015.

As a new profession in Romania, OT has many challenges. One is the definition of Occupational Therapy as a unique and autonomous profession, separate from psychology, social work, physical therapy, and psycho-pedagogy. Some solutions to this problem may be: including the WFOT educational standards in OT curriculums; recognition of the profession within the medical system, and increasing the body of knowledge in occupational therapy. Occupational Therapists in Romania continue their diligent work to address these issues and to further the profession.

Burlău Mirela-Carmen
WFOT Delegate

TAIWAN

Responses to the June 27, 2015 Dust Explosion in Taiwan by Taiwan Occupational Therapists

An explosion induced by flammable powder happened at a recreational water park in Taiwan on 27 June 2015. Over 500 young persons were burned in the accident. The average of burn surface area among all the victims was 44% (22 people had burn surface areas above 80% and 248 people above 40%). This accident posed a tremendous and immediate challenge to the medical system for disaster management and many health care professionals become deeply involved in corresponding medical care.

The occupational therapists in Taiwan (including the Occupational Therapists Union and the Taiwan Occupational Therapy Association, (TOTA)) also immediately and actively embarked on coordinating and preparing occupational therapists for burn care and rehabilitation. Therapists quickly initiated the PSEP (Positioning, Splinting, Exercising and Pressure) program for the patients; and distributed booklets of burn-care guidelines for patients and their caregivers at bedsides. To strengthen clinical therapists' professional competency of burn care and rehabilitation, the Occupation Therapists Union and TOTA quickly organised some 17-hours workshops on occupational therapy interventions for burn injury in the acute phase and the rehabilitation phase. Over 550 occupational therapists have attended the workshops.

Considering that the current occupational therapy manpower in the hospitals may not be able to meet all the added demands brought on by this sudden disaster, the Association also recruited OT volunteers to provide support when needed. Occupational therapists also inaugurated the 'Care for Carers' program to prevent burn-out and secondary post-traumatic stress of medical and health-related professionals. The program contains, but not limited to, education of pressure relief techniques, providing debriefing groups, and holding focus groups of experience sharing.

Taiwan also received various medical supports from international societies including Japan and USA. Most recently, Dr. Stephen Milner, the Director of Burn Center in Johns Hopkins University Hospital of USA, came to Taiwan with three other surgeons, one occupational therapist, and one nurse to offer advices and exchange professional experiences of burn care. Ms. Linda Ware, the Coordinator for Burn Rehabilitation, specifically shared her profound knowledge and experiences of the importance of occupational therapy services for people after burn injury.

Chien-Te Wu
2nd Alternate Delegate
Taiwan

UNITED KINGDOM

British Association and College of Occupational Therapists (BAOT/COT)

The College of Occupational Therapists held its 39th annual conference and exhibition – with the College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section - Work – in Brighton on 30 June to 2 July 2015. Delegates heard from: comedian and mental health campaigner Ruby Wax, who urged OTs to practise mindfulness and called for mental health education in schools; Suzanne Rastrick, chief AHP officer at NHS England, who called on all OTs to get to grips with commissioning priorities; and from service user Karin Turner, who spoke about the life changing support she received from OTs following a car accident in which she sustained a brain injury. Delegate feedback at the event was hugely positive, with most reporting a real 'buzz' around the event, which had served to inspire and reinvigorate them as students

and practitioners. Follow the #COT2015 on Twitter or see the website for further news: <https://www.cot.co.uk/news>.

The College of Occupational Therapists 40th annual conference and exhibition – with the College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Trauma & Orthopaedics – was held in Harrogate, 28-30 June 2016.

In June 2015, the College of Occupational Therapists published its updated **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**. The revised version contains a number of changes which has been introduced to ensure the content reflects current practice and legislation within the UK. With a strong emphasis on professionalism, it highlights the duty of candour, draws attention to the importance of the appropriate use of social media and incorporates the College's *Code of Continuing Professional Development*, which is complementary to the requirements of the Health and Care Professions Council. The Code refocuses practice onto occupation; how it underpins members work and the services they provide. Available in English and Welsh, the document is freely accessible to download from the COT website: <https://www.cot.co.uk/standards-ethics/standards-ethics>

To encourage best practice whilst using social media, the College of Occupational Therapists has produced two new documents:

- [Introduction to social media](#)
- [Social media briefing](#)

The College of Occupational Therapists is hosting a Jobs Fairs on 30 October 2015 to address the shortage of OTs working in the London area, in both health and social care settings.

This is a real opportunity for OTs in the UK and Europe to consider the excellent career opportunities in London.

If working in London is something you would like to consider – visit the British Association of Occupational Therapists' Job Fair and hear direct from employers with respect to present and future job opportunities.

If you are an occupational therapist interested in attending, please visit: www.cot.co.uk/event/baotcot-jobs-fair-london for further details.

Camilla Cox
Delegate, UK