Argentina

August 16th, 17th and 18th. National Meeting of Students and Graduates of Occupational Therapy. It is a horizontal meeting where problems and needs of the training and profession of Occupational Therapy are put into debate. The first meeting was held at the National University of Quilmes in 2012. Complementary spaces are created for university and extra-university training to build and exchange knowledge of Occupational Therapy.

Tuesday, August 20th. The Argentine Association of Occupational Therapists and OT Association of the Government of Buenos Aires working to improve the values of disability support benefits of the national nomenclator. Carrying the voice of the country’s OTs. Single Board Meeting.

**August 23rd.** XVI Argentine Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics. 2019. Table of the Argentine Association of Occupational Therapy, "Occupational Therapy Interventions in the Elderly Adults".

**September 3rd.** Ordinary Annual Assembly, Argentine Association of Occupational Therapists:

1- Election of the Secretary of the Act and election of two partners to endorse the Act.

2- Reading and approval of the Annual Report and Balance of the Financial Year No. 55 from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

3- Review and update of the corporate fee for graduate and student partners.

4- Review and update of the Minimum Ethical Fees.


**September 23rd - 27th.** X ARGENTINE CONGRESS AND XIII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (Latin American Confederation of Occupational Therapists). San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.
**October 5th.** Third Talk of Occupational Therapy, gender and diversity. National University of San Martin.

**October 22nd.** The Argentine Association of Occupational Therapists congratulates the College of Occupational Therapists of La Rioja for its new Board of Directors. We celebrate this new stage that they have started.

**November 2nd.** Third Meeting of OT and Schools. In November we meet again to think about the OT in Schools within the framework of the 60 years of our profession in Argentina. University of Buenos Aires.
Bulgaria

COPILLOT Partnerships: Fostering Innovative Online International and Intercultural Learning Experiences in Occupational Therapy Education
Elisabeth Fattinger¹, Liliya Todorova², Siska Vandemaele³, Maria Prellwitz⁴, Sabine Hendriks⁵, Anja Christopher⁵, Ulla Pott⁶, Claudia Merklein-de Freitas⁶, Helen Strebel⁶

¹FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences, Austria, ²University of Ruse, Bulgaria, ³HOWEST, University College West Flanders, Belgium, ⁴Lulea University of Technology, Sweden, ⁵ZHAW, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, ⁶Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Higher Education plays a pivotal role in contributing to the solution of societal problems, through research, driving innovation and educating the new generations of professionals and experts who will shape Europe's future. New challenges in our societies, such as the information age, internationalization, globalization, and migration movements, require a new set of skills from young professionals all over Europe. There is an increasing demand for highly qualified people, who can process complex information, think creatively, communicate effectively across national and professional cultures, and show entrepreneurial spirit (European Agenda for the Modernisation of Higher Education, 2017¹). In order to prepare graduates adequately for these demands and challenges, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) need innovative teaching and learning methods that foster key and transversal skills together with subject-specific competences.

COPILLOT, "Cooperative Online Peer-assisted and Intercultural Learning in Occupational Therapy", is a higher educational project designed to meet these demands by facilitating international learning and skill building opportunities in the field of Occupational Therapy for all students at the participating institutions, especially for those who are not able to spend a semester or internship abroad.

Learning in an international context does not only develop intercultural skills but works as a catalyst for the acquisition of key skills and subject-specific skills alike, by stimulating comparative, critical thinking, collaboration, creative problem-solving, flexibility and resilience, IT and foreign language skills (e.g. Kniel, 2009²; Deardorff, 2009³; O’Dowd & Lewis, 2018⁴).

A fledgling idea for the project first emerged in 2011, when three universities from Austria (FH JOANNEUM), Belgium (HOWEST) and the Netherlands (HAN) developed the joint online course “International Case Comparison@home”, based on comparative peer-assisted e-learning. The core structure proved successful and relatively easy to implement, grew in scope and partner numbers over the years and showed its potential of creating valuable additional effects for students, institutions, and teachers. So, a much more ambitious and differentiated model was produced and approved for funding by the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD) within the Erasmus+ key action “Strategic partnerships”, from November 2018 to May 2021.

The partnership consortium consists of:
- FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences, Austria
- HOWEST University of Applied Sciences, Belgium
- "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse, Bulgaria
- Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- ZUYD University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands

Associated partners:
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Switzerland
- European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE).

COPILLOT aims to create a sustainable model of embedded international and intercultural learning for any group (2-8) of Occupational Therapy programs, built on three basic principles:
- students can do the e-learning activities within the framework of their regular curricula and receive a number of ECTS (credits) for them;

---


---
students learn together in internationally mixed groups and are tutored by internationally mixed groups of instructors;

learning takes place in a “digital classroom”, making use of e-learning and multi-media tools such as e-learning platforms, conferencing tools, e-lectures, social media, video-making.

On a student level, the project increases the global outlook and employability of graduates by strengthening their qualifications and skills; on an institutional level, the project promotes innovation within OT programs and the profession through ongoing international exchange of good practices.

There are four tangible results of the project:

1. COPILOT Meta-model: a transferable model of intercultural online learning modules for health professions.
2. COPILOT Manual of online learning activities: 7 topics with different learning activities, open to students / instructors from each partner university; intended to be carried out every year so that students can choose several modules during their training.
3. COPILOT LINK-IT: A list of existing OERs related to intercultural and international aspects of health professions, as well as some motivational or theoretical-input mini-lectures on specific topics, developed by the partners in the project.

During the first year of the project, the partners developed a draft of the COPILOT model, and a synopsis of 14 possible online learning activities addressing broad topics such as professional identity, digitalization, reaching out to clients in communities, visions of the future, managing change, or comparing OT approaches across national cultures. Didactical approaches (e.g. “e-activities”, Salmon, 2013; “culturally responsive online design”, Morong & DesBiens, 2016) and useful digital learning tools were identified.

Three activities have been fully developed with study guides and a further three exist in draft versions. The activities “Vision of the future”, “Am I an OT?”, “OT identities across Europe” and “International Case Comparison@home” are running as pilots in 2019/20, with more than 200 students from 8 countries expected to take part. Different versions are being tested, such as with and without e-moderators, involving guest partners, etc.

COPILOT also inspires students to produce “student generated content” within the learning activities, in the form of Open Educational resources that can be shared by students and instructors in the future.

COPILOT is a flexible, low-cost and collaborative model for international and intercultural learning of OT students within a group of partner Higher Education Institutions. All project...

results – the generic framework, the online learning activities and OER materials – will be made accessible as Open Educational Resources in 2021.

Canada

Just released: Two reports from 2019 Professional Issue Forums (PIFs)
CAOT conducted two Professional Issue Forums at CAOT Conference 2019 to address priority health and social issues, and emerging practice areas in occupational therapy. Panelists discussed Aging in Place, providing perspectives on how to integrate design and function to meet the needs of Canadian seniors wanting to age in place. The Addressing Addiction PIF explored occupational therapy responses to client and public concerns surrounding substance use and addiction, identifying strategies to further strengthen OTs’ competence and evidence base in this area. These PIF reports are available to you at www.caot.ca, in Reference Documents.

NEW strategic plan sets CAOT direction
As CAOT moves towards its centennial year in 2026, three strategic priorities have been set out for the Association. The new three-year strategic plan, developed over the past year by the CAOT Board of Directors, staff and with member input, helps to articulate CAOT ambitions and to guide our actions with priority initiatives around AWARENESS, ACCESS and ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH & EXCELLENCE. We are pleased to share our high-level plan with WFOT members, the CAOT 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities, at www.caot.ca, in About CAOT/Who we are What do we do.

You’re invited! Save the date for CAOT Conference 2020
India

OT DAY & AIOTA’S OTINDIA MONTH-2019
Thank you!

President and Executive Committee of AIOTA are pleased to extend heartfelt thanks to the members of AIOTA, OT Colleges, State Branches of AIOTA and the institutions with OT set up in government and private sector for enthusiastic response in celebrating the World OT Day & OTIndia Month-2019 throughout the country during Oct. 27-Nov 26, 2019. The Theme “Improving World Health and Wellbeing” given by WFOT was appreciated and welcomed by all.

We also express thanks to the faculties and students of OT Colleges specifically G. S. Medical College, Mumbai Branch of AIOTA, AIIPM&R and OT Department of Tata Cancer Hospital, Mumbai for their encouraging participation added with full cooperation, in making AIOTA organized OT Day celebration in Mumbai exemplary successful.

The celebration reports received much more in number in 2019 than in past years reveal the need and significance of annual OT Day celebration for generating awareness and promotion of OT for reaching to the unreachd not only to government, fellow medical professionals, and younger generation but ultimately to the masses the ultimate goal. It certainly has helped OT profession in India in achieving results throughout the country in form of recognition in government sector besides opening and reopening of OT colleges in different States of India in past few years.

Dated: November 30, 2019

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava
President AIOTA & WFOT Delegate
Executive Chairman-Academic Council of OT
Editor-in-Chief IUOT
Tel: +91 522 2390482, +91 9415405095, +91 9140879761
Email: president@aiota.org
Website: www.aiota.org

Read the full report
Ireland

The 2nd edition of the Housing Design Guidelines for Occupational Therapists in Ireland was published in April 2019. It reflects the current building regulations and guidelines on universal design in the Irish context.

These guidelines are applicable to both new build and existing dwellings, and refer to different scales of intervention; from low cost, low impact changes to major structural works. The guidelines aim to ensure that people have the choice to live as long as possible in their own homes and in their own communities by creating functional dwellings that support the individual and also his or her family and carers.

As humans we seek to engage with the world around us in a manner that meets our abilities, challenges our capacities and gives us a sense of achievement and satisfaction in our daily lives. The world that we interact with mostly is our home. We eat, sleep, play, make love, entertain, socialise, laugh, cry, learn and share with those important to us. All too often people are limited or inhibited in engaging in these very basic human occupations by the design approach of “one size fits all”. This limitation or inhibition is not always inherent in the individual but an outcome of poorly designed homes.

The 2nd edition of the Housing Design Guidelines for Occupational Therapists aims to consider further the range and diversity of the needs of humans and, more specifically, the range and diversity of the people we are lucky enough to work with daily. Those we work with, challenge us to think outside the box, to consider their needs within the context of their families and the occupations they wish to engage in, in the communities in which they live. They challenge us to assist in creating dwellings that support their needs and the needs of their family and carers. While some of the recommendations contained within these guidelines reflect the needs of specific population groups, the design considerations have the potential to benefit all users of the home.

It is our aim that these guidelines will facilitate the clinical reasoning of both experienced, and new graduate occupational therapists, who provide advice in the area of housing. Other stakeholders that advise on housing can also use them. The overall aim of these guidelines is
to help ensure that people have the choice to live as long as possible in their own homes and in their own communities by creating homes that support the individual and also his or her family and carers.

Ireland’s recent ratification (2018) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) places greater emphasis on the need to consider the design of homes as a rights-based issue. The UNCRPD specifically emphasises the need to create inclusive environments as a rights-based issue. Homes are one such environment that need to be inclusive.

The AOTI Housing Advisory Group are designing Continuing Professional Development educational programmes to accompany these guidelines. It is expected that occupational therapists who work in this area of practice will complete these professional programmes and use the 2nd edition of the Housing Design Guidelines in conjunction with these educational programmes. The contents of these guideline documents are not considered to be all inclusive, thus, attendance at continuing professional development events in relation to this area of practice is advised.

These guidelines are divided into two parts. Part one addresses technical information without reference to any specific occupational performance issues or medical conditions. Part 2 addresses human abilities and design with reference to occupational performance.

Guidelines are a statement, an indication or advice on which to ground a plan of action. They provide assistance when deciding upon and developing bespoke solutions to address specific issues.

It must be emphasised that this guideline document is a statement, an indication or advice on which to ground a plan of action. They provide a guide to what can be achieved when deciding upon and developing bespoke solutions to address specific issues. As practising occupational therapists, you must use your clinical reasoning, knowledge and experience to achieve the best results in partnership with the service user, and other agencies involved.

We are grateful for the contributions made by many practicing occupational therapists around Ireland who have shared their expertise, knowledge and time in the preparation of this guideline document. Some areas of human abilities are addressed in this publication. The range of areas of practice is so vast it was not possible to accommodate all in this publication. The Housing Advisory Group plan to publish supplementary chapters in PDF format and they will be available to download on the website of the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland.
Linda Horgan
Chair of the Housing Advisory Group
AOTI

Copies of this guideline will be available on www.aoti.ie, in the near future, to members and associate members of AOTI.

**Latvia**

NEWS FROM Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists

**World Occupational Therapy Day – our opportunity to shine**
by Unda Avota (LAOT Board member)

As every year, Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists organized various events within the framework of the World OT Day. This year they lasted for a whole week. In addition to annual activities in OT workplaces, usually dedicated to educating patients or other specialists, special attention was paid to health promotion and well-being by reaching out to a part of the community that has not been exposed to OT until now. In general, there were various events and activities, but we would like to emphasize those that were aimed at wider public.

Six days in a row, one of the capital’s largest shopping malls hosted interactive, educational events open to anyone passing by. Each day was devoted to a different theme: Balance Day – about occupational balance in everyday life, Flow Day – getting in *flow state* with creativity & leisure activities, Peace Day - stress management & mental health promotion, Assistive Devices Day - assistive products testing & adaptive activities, Ergonomics Day - adjusting the environment, Wheelchair Day - overcoming obstacles with wheelchairs to promote empathy and reduce stigma. Each day there was variety of competitions and opportunities to participate in different activities, also each participant received a prize. As events were hosted by both OT’s and an OT students, it also provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn by experience and practice how to promote public health.

To reach wider community, OT’s participated in 2 radio shows and 1 TV health show. The extensive program of events also aroused media interest about OT, as a result of which the Latvian Association of Occupational Therapists was also invited to visit the morning news program and a separate news story on OT in a wider context in Latvia was prepared and aired. Occupational therapists also visited several schools in Latvia to discuss health and well-being issues with children and young people and to promote healthy habits. Young people were also able to appreciate environmental accessibility by moving around with technical aids.
To reach the general public, social campaign in Facebook and Instagram was launched using hashtag #1padomsveselibai (#1HealthAdvice), inviting every OT to share with his followers simple, small tips that everyone can do daily to promote their health and well-being. We encourage everyone to take a broader look, including non-standard approaches to promoting public health.

Norway

The Norwegian Occupational Therapy Association (Ergoterapeutene) continue to promote occupational therapy as the solution to demographic and societal challenges. This strategic way of thinking and working is opening new doors for our profession.

The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists is a professional association and a trade union, as are most professional associations in the Nordic countries. The association has more than 4150 members, including OT students. Since 2014 has the association developed and followed a systematic action plan, including the actions of the six regions, more than 400 shop stewards and the 10 persons employed in the secretariat of the association. The focus is on WHY occupational therapy is important more than WHAT occupational therapy is, under the vision Activity and participation for all.

The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists runs regular courses for our shop stewards as well as professional workshops for all members. A growing number of activities is electronic, by video meetings, promotion and networking through social media. The Norwegian Association of Occupational Therapists is in dialog with core stakeholders like associations of disabled persons, members of parliament, relevant ministries of health and work and other unions. We experience that our voice is being heard, and we have reached important milestones like:

- From January 2020 all municipalities are mandated to offer occupational therapy services by legal regulation.
- The association has led a project to implement reablement in Norway which has changed the health service in primary health care to focus more on rehabilitation.
- Occupational therapists have been approved as experts in work inclusion and workplace assessment.

Occupational therapy continues to grow in Norway, especially in the municipalities. In the years to come, we will most likely experience a shortage of occupational therapists. This has resulted in efforts, in cooperation with our universities, to increase their capacity. Last fall, the Government passed a white paper promoting a reform for the elderly. We gave input to the white paper, and a big part of the content ended up matching the competencies of occupational therapists. Examples of priorities being; age-friendly communities, activity
and community, food and meals, health care, interrelated and coordinated services. As a result, our board has decided that this year’s priority is ‘participation and self-efficacy for the elderly’. Working on a prioritized action plan, includes involving our entire association. Our regional boards bring awareness to our shop stewards, and our shop stewards bring awareness to their members in the working place. We also make newsletters and posts on our website and in social media, that highlights the window of opportunity that lies in the Governments white paper. The reform calls all municipalities for action, and we call all our members for action. We ask them to sign up in their municipality and contribute with their crucial core competence. 

Also being av union, we negotiate both salaries and collective agreements for our members. Pay and working conditions are an important part of the membership in the Norwegian Occupational Therapy Association. This spring, we have achieved a decent raise for most of our members.

The celebration of World Occupational Therapy Day is a manifest of the effort being done by the members; in October we registered approximately 110 celebrations by 600 OTs and OT students, all over Norway.

We are proud and impressed by the local, nationwide engagement, which has been visible in local media, through meetings with local politicians and leaders of health and welfare services, via professional discussions, podcast, activities in social media as well as stands to meet the public. The activities have been supported and motivated from The Norwegian Occupational Therapy Association.

Nils Erik Ness  
*President Ergoterapeutene*
Saudi Arabia

Arabic Health Measures (AHM)

What is AHM?
The AHM database the first comprehensive database of Arabic health measures which can assist users in their selection, access and appraisal of instruments. It is the product of an extensive search of literature on the development, translation and/or psychometric testing of health measures in the Arabic language. The database currently stores information on over 400 measures in 34 areas of assessment including pain, quality of life, physical function and mental health.

What does AHM offer?
The database allows users to search for measures according to keywords, particular areas of assessment or by conditions. It then provides a list of possible measures available in Arabic. Information on the measure available on the database include its description, the areas of assessment and conditions it is used for, the age range for which it was developed, the number of items and time to conduct the measurement and how to access the instrument. AHM also provides a summary of the literature on the psychometric testing of the instrument. As the goal of AHM is to assist users to attain the Arabic version of the measure, a link to any tool which is freely available on-line is provided. If the measure is not freely available on-line, the contact information for the author is then provided. In summary, users can find information on the measures they require in minutes rather than hours.

Contact Us
hsrc-ahm@pnu.edu.sa
Tanzania

In Tanzania, Occupational Therapy is still wrangled in people’s head as they don’t know much about it unless they have received the service in their lifetime. The Tanzania Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) plays an important role in the evolution of Occupational Therapy through promotion as well as helping the OT’s to affiliate themselves with the global team of Occupational Therapists. These past few months have been eventful with series of unforgettable occasions.

**OTARG Participation**

In August 2019, some of the OT’s from Tanzania attended OTARG (Occupational Therapy African Regional Group) Congress which was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 26th to 29th.

It included OT’s from all over Africa aiming at promoting OT development in African countries, creating opportunity to learn from each other through Occupational justice, strengthening inter disciplinary collaboration, rehabilitation interventions in clinical and home settings, context related curriculum development and implementation. OT’s attending were equipped to perform operational research in working areas, providing standard intervention through evidence based practice and setting and strengthening inter disciplinary approach in addressing clients holistically.

**Occupational Therapy Week**

October 23rd to 25th was commemoration of our Occupational Therapy week in which various events took place to celebrate world Occupational Therapy day (October 27th). The event aimed at raising awareness on effects of stigma towards people with disabilities, reflecting to our theme “BE PART IN ERADICATING STIGMA TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH
“DISABILITIES”’. It was a three days event hosted in Zanzibar and attended by OTs from all over Tanzania. The first day was spent on presentations and sharing ideas from OT’s on stigma and how to combat it.
The second day was for providing services and education to society about stigma. More than 95 clients were attended on that day with the guest of honor been Honorable Mr. Hamad Rashid, minister of health of Zanzibar.

The events were culminated by our annual general meeting on the third day.

**OT Students Graduation**

In Tanzania, we currently have one training school for Occupational Therapists recognized by WFOT training students at Diploma level. This year, 38 students graduated. Graduation ceremony was held on 16th November in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Moshi.
Advocacy and Publicity

Tanzania Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) has created a website and various social media accounts, twitter @TOTATanzania, facebook- Occupational Therapy Tanzania and instagram - @occupational.therapy.tanzania . These accounts are for news and updates.

Cosmas Charles
Occupational Therapist
Editor
23/11/2019