

## Report on the 2022 World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) Executive Management Team Meeting, Council Meeting and Congress

### 2022 WFOT Executive Management Team Meeting

A meeting of the WFOT Executive Management Team (EMT) was held in Paris, France 26-28 August, 2022. Attendees included President Samantha Shann, Executive Director Ritchard Ledgerd, Vice President Margarita Gonzalez, Vice President Finance Tracey Partridge-Tricker, Programme Coordinator Education Tecla Mlambo and Programme Coordinator Practice Development Andrew Freeman. Absent was Programme Coordinator Research Liliana Alvarez.

Given the opportunity for the EMT to meet virtually throughout the year, the usual five-day meeting was reduced to three extended days to promote fiscal responsibility and sustainability measures. The agenda addressed a broad range of issues relating to:

- WFOT governance
- WFOT international collaborations and partnerships
- Occupational therapy education programmes
- Admission of new members
- Financial and strategic planning
- Risk management
- Review of WFOT publications and the awards programme

### 35<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

The 35<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting followed the Executive Management Team Meeting in Paris and was held 23 – 26 August, 2022. Similarly, as a sustainability measure and outcome of technology and resource investments, the meeting was shortened from six days (including focus day) to four days. The Council Meeting agenda was structured around the operational and strategic priorities of the Federation and included over 20 items submitted by WFOT Member Organisations. In addition, Council members participated in a half day strategic planning session, as well as focus group consultations on the topics of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; occupational therapy education; occupational therapy human resources; and governance. The meeting was preceded by an induction session attended by new delegates and alternates, with Council meeting participants who volunteered to serve as mentors. The induction session provided an overview of the organisational structure of WFOT and background information helpful to fully participate in Council meeting discussions.

WFOT President Samantha Shann began the Council Meeting by confirming quorum was received, with representation from 52 full voting member organisations and 11 regional or associate (nonvoting) member organisations. Following acceptance of the minutes of 34<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and the final meeting agenda, the Asociacion Profesional de Terapeutas Ocupacionales del Peru was welcomed as a Full Member of WFOT, as determined by electronic voting in April 2022.



Votes undertaken at the Council Meeting relating to WFOT membership included:

- The Saint Joseph University and the Lebanese University, Lebanon, occupational therapy education programmes were approved and accepted by Council. The Lebanese Occupational Therapists Syndicate on having two education programmes approved was then accepted as a Full Member of the WFOT.

- The constitution of the Ethiopian Association of Occupational Therapists was approved to admit the Association as a Member of the WFOT. University of Gondar, Ethiopia occupational therapy education programme was subsequently approved and accepted by Council. The Ethiopian Association of Occupational Therapists, on having their education programme approved, was accepted as a Full Member of the WFOT.
- The Santa Paula University, Costa Rica, occupational therapy education programme was approved and accepted by Council. The Asociacion de Profesionales en Terapia Ocupacional on having an education programme approved was accepted as a Full Member of the WFOT.
- The constitution of the Kyrgyz national association of occupational therapists was approved and the Association was admitted as an Associate Member of the WFOT.

With the approval of the above motions, the number of WFOT member organisations now totals 107, including 79 full members, 21 associate members and 7 regional groups.

Elections were held for three Executive Management Team positions. The successful candidates for the positions include:

- WFOT Vice-President – Margarita Gonzalez (Colombia)
- WFOT Programme Coordinator Education – Tecla Mlambo (Zimbabwe)
- WFOT Programme Coordinator Research – Lynette Mackenzie (Australia)



### Executive Management Team 2022 – 2024

35th Council Meeting | Paris, France | August 2022

From left: Tracey Partridge-Tricker, Andrew Freeman, Samantha Shann, Ritchard Ledgerd, Margarita Gonzalez, Lynette Mackenzie, Tecla Mlambo.

Following approval of the report of the Executive Management Team and a presentation by Vice-President Finance Tracey Partridge-Tricker, the auditor's financial report for 2020-2021 and the budget for 2022-2023 were accepted in a vote by Council members. Ernst and Young LLP, Chartered Accounts were appointed by Council as auditors for the 2022 – 2023 budget cycle.

Other items discussed and approved by Council during the meeting included:

- Continuation of the use of the World Bank Categories for determining eligibility to lower Congress registration fees and the WFOT grants programmes.
- Hosting of the 2026 Council Meeting in Bermuda.
- Determination of the site of future Council Meetings by the Executive Management Team.
- Revision of policies relating to the Thelma Cardwell Foundation for Research Award, Merit Award and Honorary Fellow.
- Approval of the establishment of a new Leadership and Innovation Award.

At the close of the Council Meeting, a video presentation with contributions from WFOT member organisations from across the world was shown to highlight and celebrate the long-term involvement and commitment of Past President Marilyn Pattison to the work of the Federation.

### Education Day

Education Day was held Saturday 27 August, 2022 in Paris to provide an opportunity for participants interested in the education of occupational therapists to network, share ideas and learn from one another. With a theme of 'Revolutions in Occupational Therapy Education', presentations by an international panel of educators were provided on a range of topics that included:

- Advancing education and practice through technology
- Optimising professional identity through an occupational lens
- Deconstructing the hidden curriculum
- Revolutionising occupational therapy through a global pandemic
- Enhancing knowledge translation – evidence into practice
- Envisioning the future occupational therapy workforce
- Language use in occupational therapy education

Following the panel presentations, small group discussions were held to address questions posed by the speakers. Using online software to record outcomes of the small groups ensured participant access to the results of the Education Day discussions.

### Pre-congress Workshops

Half day workshops were held concurrently with the Education Day session in the morning and afternoon of Saturday 27 August 2022. Given the location of the Pre-congress events in Paris, the workshops were presented in either English or French, the choice of the presenter. The workshops addressed topics that included:

- Solution focused brief therapy
- Ergothérapie et département d'urgence (Occupational therapy and emergency departments)
- Assessment and intervention planning
- School-based occupational therapy
- Lifestyle redesign for wellness, health promotion and disease management
- Participation of children and youth with disabilities
- Impact of neurobehavioral impairments for task performance

## 18<sup>th</sup> WFOT World Congress

The WFOT Congress 2022 was hosted at the Paris Convention Centre 28 – 31 August, 2022, with the theme of ‘Occupational R-Evolution’. This was the first Congress that was held in Europe since the 2002 event hosted in Stockholm, Sweden. Although pandemic restrictions forced rescheduling of Congress 2022 from an earlier date in March, occupational therapists from around the world were eager to join WFOT for the August event. To provide flexibility for attendance during the uncertain times of the pandemic, the Congress offered a hybrid model that allowed participants to join in-person or virtually. Sessions were provided in English or French with simultaneous translation available in either language. Over 2500 occupational therapists from at least 100 countries attended the Congress using one of the hybrid options. As an added bonus, participants were able to access online Congress sessions for 90 days following the event to review their favourite sessions or watch missed presentations. Thanks are due to the many people donating to the Congress Participation Fund that provided the opportunity for 42 participants from 21 countries to attend the event, many as presenters and contributors to the stimulating four-day scientific programme.

The scientific programme was organised with the volunteer contributions of the international WFOT Scientific Programme Committee. Chaired by Dr. Elspeth Froude (Australia), members of the Committee include Dr. Peter Bontje (Japan), Dr. Tongai Chichaya (United Kingdom), Dr. Cynthia Engels (France), Dr. Karen Liu (Australia), Dr. Ana Malfitano (Brazil) and Dr. Aliko Thomas (Canada).

The scientific programme with 10 concurrent streams included over 870 short presentations, as well as approximately 95 lightning and 850 standard poster presentations. In addition, the WFOT Research Institute Session provided opportunity for over 40 three-minute thesis presentations. WFOT also hosted sessions to report on work of the Federation in respect to the topics of strategic engagement; disaster preparedness and risk reduction; education programme approval; and quality and occupational therapy. Satellite workshops offered by Congress sponsors addressed the topics of interprofessional leadership and speech recognition for people with impaired speech. Other events integrated in the four-day programme included a student forum to provide an opportunity for students to meet and discuss the topic of ‘The process of construction of professional identity in occupational therapy students’.

## Symposium

The Congress began on Sunday 28 August, 2022 with an engrossing symposium moderated by Dr. Kit Sinclair on the topic of humanitarian response in rehabilitation. Dr. Sinclair started the session by reviewing WFOT leadership and initiatives that have evolved to meet humanitarian needs for occupational therapy, followed by Pete Skelton who provided insights regarding emergency planning for rehabilitation from the perspective of the World Health Organization. Mental health and psychosocial supports needed in humanitarian contexts were examined by Joanne Lee. Ukrainian Society of Ergotherapists President Olya Manusheva next provided an insider view on developing occupational therapy professional identity in the midst of war. Lyle Duque discussed the experience of the Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists in humanitarian response, planning and preparedness at the personal, community, national and international level, with Dr. Michelle Villeneuve then advocating for the need to place people and their support needs at the centre of disaster risk management policy and practices. Members of the audience were actively engaged in the question and answer session following the presentations.

## Keynote speakers

The opening keynote speaker for Congress 2022 on Sunday 28 August, 2022 was Dr. Ana Malfitano from Brazil. In her thought-provoking presentation, Dr. Malfitano, introduced the Manifesto

Anthropophagic, a movement that values diverse perspectives of the past, as well as active knowledge-seeking as the basis of creating the future. Using values and beliefs of this Manifesto, Dr. Malfitano explored the origins and concepts of occupational therapy beyond a traditional colonialist focus; by discussing the relevance of social occupational therapy as reflecting the principles and concepts developed by this movement, Dr. Malfitano offered insights for the further development of the profession.

Presented by Dr. Eric Sorita, Dr. Jean-Michel Caire and Dr. Samuel Pouplin, a second keynote presentation on Tuesday 30 August, 2022 provided three perspectives on research, innovative practices and the occupational model as levers of a cyclical r-evolution in France. Together, the speakers discussed the origins and potential opportunities for scientific knowledge development in occupational therapy, as well as factors influencing this movement.

Priscille Deborah provided an occupational therapy service user perspective on the final day of the Congress as she described her rehabilitation experience after sustaining a triple amputation in 2006 at the age of 31 years. As the first person in France to receive a thought-controlled prosthesis, her resilience and determination were evident in her description of her efforts to learn to use her device to fulfil her dream to be a painter as well as care for two children.

### WFOT Plenary and Awards Session

Executive Director Ritchard Ledgerd began the Plenary and Award Session on Monday 29 August 2022 by highlighting the many recent achievements of the Federation towards organisational aims identified in the WFOT Strategic Plan, including:

- Ensuring professional representation at key international events and initiatives that progress the relevance of occupational therapy at a global level
- Providing occupational therapy expertise to inform and influence international policy and strategy development at a health systems level
- Publishing timely positions statements and public responses to critical issues to support advocacy and occupational therapy
- Hosting an annual World Occupational Therapy Day, producing themed promotional materials and resources
- Developing an international professional journal, maintaining the WFOT website, providing a monthly electronic newsletter and organising the WFOT international congress
- Maintaining the Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists, an internationally recognised benchmark for occupational therapy education
- Implementing the WFOT approval and reapproval process for occupational therapy education programmes and maintaining the database of over 2000 education programmes globally
- Developing innovative free online learning resources to advance practice and facilitate knowledge translation to the occupational therapy community

The Honorary Fellow and Merit Awards were officially presented to recipients during the session. WFOT Merit Awards were presented to Marilyn Pattison and other past WFOT Executive Management Team members Sandra Bressler and Dr. Liliana Alvarez. Margarita Gonzalez was recognised with a WFOT Honorary Fellow Award for her long-standing service to WFOT, commitment to the development of occupational therapy education and outstanding professional service and leadership within occupational therapy. Ritchard Ledgerd was the recipient of an Honorary Fellow for his strong leadership, commitment and service to WFOT, international development of the profession and contributions to occupational therapy education and

publications. His many accomplishments include establishment of the WFOT Human Resources Project and World Occupational Therapy Day, in addition to his work representing the profession in a broad range of international forums. The 2020 WFOT Honorary Fellow Award winner Sue Baptiste was also recognised with her certificate during the session.

The 2022 Thelma Cardwell Foundation Award for Research was presented during the session to Dr. María Agostina Ciampa, Natalia Soledad Fiorella Martínez and Gonzalo Aranés for the project 'Occupational profile, barriers and support needs of homeless people'. In 2022, WFOT received 48 applications from around the world for this research award, representing a wealth of knowledge, methodologies and forms of inquiry. The applications were evaluated by members of an External Reviewer Registry and based on evaluation findings, the application submitted by Dr. María Agostina Ciampa and her research team was selected to be funded.

Certificates of service were presented to WFOT delegates that attended their last Council Meeting. Recipients included Dr. Maria Agostina Ciampa (Argentina), Adam Lo (Australia), Dr. Katia Omura (Brazil), Aris Papageorgiou (Greece), Dr. Anil Srivastava (India), Patrick Hynes (Ireland), Erastus Shuma (Kenya) and Olya Mangusheva (Ukraine). Certificates of Appreciation were announced to recognise work undertaken for WFOT as a member of a project group or initiative. Recipients were recognised for their assistance with the hosting of Congress 2022 and included the Association Nationale Francaise des Ergotherapeutes (ANFE); Arnaud Schabaille, ANFE President; Sybille Izougarhane, ANFE Delegate; and Sara Corella Perez, ANFE 1<sup>st</sup> Alt. Delegate.

WFOT President Samantha Shann concluded the Plenary and Awards Session by reflecting on the history of WFOT on the occasion of the Federation's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Her message highlighted the importance of understanding the past to reinforce our identity and inform the future of the profession. Samantha Shann challenged WFOT member organisations to document and share the history of occupational therapy in their countries. To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federation in 2027, Samantha Shann proposed the WFOT development of a compilation of the shared histories as a global resource regarding development of the occupational therapy profession.

### Social activities, exhibitors and professional visits

Social activities hosted at the Congress included an opening welcome hosted by WFOT on Sunday, 29 August 2022. Congress participants were treated with refreshments while networking with their colleagues in the exhibit area of the Paris Convention Centre. Over 40 exhibitors were available at the Congress to showcase the latest in products and resources for occupational therapy practice, research and education. The Congress party was held at the beautiful Hôtel de Ville (Paris City Hall) that featured impressive neo-renaissance interiors with views overlooking the Seine and Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Given pandemic restrictions, professional site visits could not be organised for the Congress. In lieu of completing in-person professional site visits, ANFE organised the development of a series of short videos to present work undertaken by occupational therapists in France. The videos that span a variety of working settings to showcase the contributions and value of occupational therapy can be viewed at <https://wfotcongress2022.org/programme/professional-site-visits>

### Summary

The meetings, workshops, social activities, scientific sessions and presentations hosted by WFOT in Paris provided an exhilarating opportunity for information sharing, consensus building, networking and learning. Set within the ambience of the culture, food and sites of Paris, the events provided a memorable experience for all participants.