

RE | Nomination for the Honorary Fellow Award – Dr Lena Haglund

Citation

Lena Haglund is nominated for the WFOT Honorary Fellow Award based on her major contributions to the occupational therapy community both in Sweden and internationally, especially in Northern Europe.

Lena has been involved in the WFOT's work in several ways since the 1990's until her retirement in 2015. She served as the Swedish WFOT Delegate (1997-2012) and 2st Alternate before that (1991-1996). During her time as Delegate she was engaged in the WFOT Executive Management team as PCo for Promotion & Development, where she was very active. Lena has always promoted the importance of WFOT's work and stressed the importance of an active membership. She was active in the improvement of the WFOT Bulletin by elaboration in the workgroup for a publication standard, and she worked actively for having more articles on master thesis' published. Further, Lena translated important WFOT documents to Swedish.

Lena chaired the Congress Committee of the WFOT Congress in Stockholm 2002. In this mission she was a driving and enthusiastic force that inspired her co-workers in the committee, the association office, other collaborators, and the Swedish occupational therapists to join their forces to arrange a successful high-quality conference. The congress in Stockholm was highly successful, well organised and financially sound. This would not have been possible without her exceptional leadership.

When occupational therapy was established in the Baltic countries and in Russia, Lena was a significant person in supporting and mentoring the newly established national occupational therapist associations in these countries, particularly in Latvia and Russia. She also facilitated meetings between the Swedish national board representatives and representatives from the Boards of Latvia, Estonia and Russia for exchange of experiences and support. Further on, she had an active role in these national associations' applications for WFOT membership.

She was first elected into the Board of the Swedish association as early as 1982 and ever since, to this day, she has done an outstanding job in representing occupational therapists in a range of committees and groups. She was elected President in 2008 and retired from that mission in 2015.

Nationally, Lena early understood the importance of research and using scientifically based knowledge in occupational therapy practice.

Her dissertation in 1997 enhanced this issue, in mental health care. During her long engagement in the Swedish association, Lena has been a strong force for further professionalisation of occupational therapy by using evidence based methods and having a high-quality education standard.

Lena was one of the occupational therapists in the group that introduced the Model of Human Occupation into Sweden and other countries in the northern Europe as early as the mid 1980's. The group had close collaboration with Gary Kielhofner and involved the Swedish association early on. Together with the Swedish association, the group organised visits by Gary Kielhofner in Sweden. During this period, Lena was working intensively with teaching on the model in courses for Swedish occupational therapists. Further on she supervised many teams of practitioners in understanding and applying the model into their own practice, and collaborated with other Nordic and Baltic countries in spreading this knowledge.

Early on, Lena realised the need for improved pedagogical methods in the education. In Sweden, Linköping University was the first university that organised all the curricula according to the method of problem-based learning (PBL). Lena participated in one of the many work groups establishing the method in the university. Parallel to her work with developing the education according to PBL at the occupational therapist program, she also shared her knowledge with other Swedish and Norwegian occupational therapist programs through inspiring seminars and workshops.

Lena has, in her research, continuously focused the dimensions of mental health from an occupational therapy aspect. A core has always been the Model of Human Occupation and researching the model. She has been a primary contributor to the Model of Human Occupation since its early foundations. She has authored over 25 publications on MOHO theory, assessment development and application; she published and presented several works that discussed in depth the theoretical implications and applied practice applications of the model from a critical analysis perspective. Additionally, Lena was the primary contributor to one of the earliest and most foundational MOHO assessments, the OCAIRS (Occupational Case Analysis Interview and Rating Scale), from which later assessments were adopted. Her outstanding work and inspiring influence has also resulted in that ten assessments are available in Swedish today.

“Dr. Haglund’s role as a co-author of three chapters in the 5th edition of the Model of Human Occupation text is proof of her ongoing contributions to the development of MOHO and its application in practice. Lena Haglund is not only a scholar of MOHO, but she is a believer in its concepts and a practitioner of its methods. Not only a scholar and a scientist, Dr. Haglund embodies what it means to be a MOHO person. This quality is likely what allowed for her most profound contributions, interpretations, and scientific practices related to MOHO (Quotation: E-mail from Gail Fischer and Renee Taylor February 10, 2018)”

Lena has, besides her involvement in research, always been active in developing the occupational therapist education, on Bachelor, Master, and PhD level. She has been the association representative in many governmental groups and hearings.

In Sweden, the authorities only regulate specialisation for a few health care professions (physicians, midwives and some specialties in nursing). When the Swedish association decided to establish a specialist education in-house, Lena became one of the driving forces.

She was active in the work group that developed the specialisation standards and course curriculum that was accepted by the association’s congress in 1998. Lena has continuously advocated for the specialist education to become regulated by the authorities.

During her leadership, Lena ensured the Swedish association’s active participation in two important national projects related to the national quality registers. Both project was carried out in collaboration with the Swedish physiotherapy association. One of them aimed at identifying and developing generic items for rehabilitation, which could be included in several registers. The other, aimed at including measurement of client centred rehabilitation into the register Senior Alert. The project agreed on an

assessment to include (COPM) and it has been tested among several groups in Sweden that are working with the register.

Lena has always been a strong advocate for client centred practice and the utility of occupational therapy. In her missions for the Swedish association she has provided knowledge about occupational therapy on a national/governmental level and has engaged in different national work groups concerning the Swedish health care, social services systems and, education of health professionals.

Lena's research is accessible for both occupational therapists and the public through her many publications, co-authorship in ten books and several popular scientific publications, further she has been a speaker at a range of conferences and symposia, both nationally and internationally (see Appendix 1).

When the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden decided to include ICF and its concept in their work with terms and concepts for documentation in the health care, Lena took the initiative and led the work for mapping all the assessments that the Swedish association were publishing to ICF. Thus, the visibility of occupational therapy is enhanced in the documentation systems for health care and social care, and the standards are still used today.

Lena is a very positive and charismatic person. By using these characteristics and her excellent skills, she inspires and engages occupational therapists to promotion for the profession, leading them to applying new evidence base methods and engaging in development of occupational therapy in their own area of focus as well as contributing in new areas of practise. She has ability to include everyone and convince them that they in their daily practice can do a small part to reach a common goal. With her ability to clarify dilemmas and her encouraging attitude she has inspired occupational therapists to a curious approach in their work as well as studying for a higher degree. All her publications have contributed to this as well.

As Vice President of the Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists, she led many national and international groups and has always prioritised a good working climate that lead to excellent results. In 2008, she was elected President and throughout her national leadership she has managed to lead the Swedish occupational therapists in a period when the Swedish health care system underwent some major changes that challenged occupational therapists for example in primary health care, social care and work rehabilitation.

Despite this, she managed to promote occupational therapy and strategically involve the Swedish association in different national work groups and projects to pinpoint the necessity and need for more resources for occupational therapy.