Occupational therapy practitioners have always recognised the importance of the environmental context on occupational performance and subsequently on human health and well-being. The pressing recognition of the effects of climate change on life in the next few decades has recently thrust the issue of sustainability to the forefront of primary human concerns, see:

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals

Lack of sustainability threatens the environmental context within which meaningful occupational participation occurs. It is the result of human activity. Factors such as pollution, weather events, desertification and environmental change are significant factors in public health, life expectancy and life quality.

Unsustainable lifestyles contributing to climate change and resulting threat to health and well-being means that sustainability has to be part of the occupational therapy scope of practice (UCL-Lancet Commission, 2009; Stancliffe, 2014; Wilcock, 2006). Concern about the environmental influence on occupational performance, health, and well-being makes sustainability a core topic for occupational therapy practitioners.

In this special edition of the WFOT Bulletin, authors are invited to submit manuscripts exploring how they incorporate sustainability and/or how it can be incorporated into practice, scholarship, and education. Theoretical, research, or case report manuscripts covering the following content are invited:

- Promotion of “the idea of sustainability as relevant to human occupational performance, making it part of the occupational therapy scope of practice and scholarship” (World Federation of Occupational Therapists [WFOT] et al., 2018);
- “issues of ecosystem sustainability as it impacts ability to pursue chosen meaningful occupations and subsequently human health and well-being” (p. 19);
- Demonstration of how to “work with interested service users and communities to help them explore ways of participating in healthy, meaningful occupations” and mitigate “environmental damage due to unsustainable lifestyles” (p. 21).
- Evaluation of collaborations “with service users to help them adapt to deleterious and health-impacting effects of environmental degradation due to unsustainable lifestyles so that they can continue to participate in meaningful occupations in a sustainable manner” (p. 23).
- Establishment of “competences for empowering communities to find ways of facilitating meaningful occupations in a sustainable manner among community members, taking into account the need to maintain equitability and occupational justice” (pp. 25-26).
- Evidence of practical effectiveness of “occupation-based interventions to help interested service users and communities address ecosystem sustainability issues” (p. 27).

Submit articles online at: www.wfot.link/bulletinsubmission
Deadline for submission: 1 October 2019

References:

