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# THE SPOTLIGHT

AN ONLINE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN-PACIFIC  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN AMERICA (AAPOTA)

## THE MISSION

The mission of the Association of Asian/Pacific Occupational Therapists in America (AAPOTA) is

- to advance a greater understanding of Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice, and
- to support career opportunities and advancements in occupational therapy by people of Asian/Pacific heritage.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### *Reflecting on 2008 and Welcoming 2009*

We are celebrating our accomplishments in 2008 (see below) and looking forward to building on that foundation in 2009. The Board is consistently holding monthly telephone conference call meetings with almost 100% attendance on every call. Now that's a committed Board! If any members have issues they would like to discuss with us, please contact any of our Board members and we can schedule you on the conference call. We are publishing our newsletter on a regular basis. We welcome articles from you. Here's an opportunity for you to reach a national and international audience.

We are welcoming the Year of the Ox in 2009 on many Asian zodiacs and calendars. The Ox sign is a symbol of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. The AAPOTA Board has put their heads down and shoulders into developing strategies to increase our membership. It is our membership base that will help us to realize our mission and strengthen all our AAPOTA efforts. If you're not a member join us! If you're already a member, bring another to AAPOTA. We are in need of regional representatives who can

network and mobilize members at the local level. When you're at the Annual AOTA Conference in Houston, put on your calendar and attend the AAPOTA meeting. Our strength comes from our bond as an Asian Pacific community of occupational therapy practitioners. We need every individual pulling together for AAPOTA to prosper in 2009.

May you all have peace in body, mind, and spirit.

- Chana Hiranaka

### **AAPOTA 365-plus-1: ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2008**

- Board members– Ms. Chana Hiranaka, Dr. Meena Iyer and Mr. Ksphekaran attended MDI Leadership and Centennial Vision forums at '08 AOTA National Conference
- Professional presentations introduced at AAPOTA Annual Meeting. Dr. Meena Iyer delivered the first presentation titled " *Practical how to's: research – from idea to completed project*".
- Executive Board vacancies are now filled:
  - Dr. Joe Wells joined as Membership Chair filling vacancy caused by Mr. Kshepakaran's resignation
  - Mr. Nilkanth Bohre joined as Southern Representative (new position added)
  - Dr. Vijay Suple joined as Representative for Canada (new position added)
- AAPOTA launches new website: [www.Asian-pacificot.org](http://www.Asian-pacificot.org)
- AAPOTA publishes first online newsletter—"The Spotlight"
- Board member, Dr. Marianne Mortera, presented paper at '08 AOTA National Conference. Dr. Meena Iyer and Dr. Joe Wells presented at Georgia and Ohio OT state conferences respectively
- Member, Dr. Jyothi Gupta, got published in AOTA's Education SIS Quarterly Newsletter. Dr. Gupta is AOTA's Education SIS Chairperson.

## THE STUDENT NOOK

**2009 College Scholarships for Students with Parents with Disabilities Announcement**

All application materials must be completed and postmarked by Monday March 16, 2009.

Through the Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors and college students who have parents with disabilities. These scholarships are part of Through the Looking Glass' new federal grant (New National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families <<http://lookingglass.org/ncpd/index.php>>). Please note that these are new awards and have different application procedures than in the past. There are two separate scholarship awards, and each has separate eligibility requirements:

1. High School Seniors. To be eligible, a student must be a high school graduate (or graduating senior) by Summer 2009, planning to attend college in Fall 2009 and have at least one parent with a disability. Five separate \$1000 awards will be given out in Fall 2009. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.
2. College Students. To be eligible, a student must be currently enrolled in a college or university, be 21 years of age or younger as of March 16, 2009, and have at least one parent with a disability. Five separate \$1000 awards will be given out in Fall 2009. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.

Selection criteria for all scholarships include academic performance, community activities and service, letters of recommendation and an essay describing the experience of growing up with a parent with a disability.

These Scholarships are also part of a research study on young adult children of parents with disabilities. As explained in the Consent Form in the Application, you may be willing to participate in an optional survey about young adult children of parents with disabilities. The additional information you submit on this survey will not affect your scholarship chances and will not be disclosed to anyone outside the project researchers; all identifying information will be removed. If you consent to participate in this optional survey, we will email you the survey after we have received your completed application.

**Scholarships Coordinator  
Through the Looking Glass**

**The National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families**

2198 Sixth Street, Suite 100

Berkeley, CA 94710

(800) 644-2666 (voice)

(800) 804-1616 (TDD/TTY)

FAX: (510) 848-4445

Website: <http://www.lookingglass.org>

*AAPOTA represents occupational therapy practitioners with heritage belonging to some of the following countries:*

*Australia • Bangladesh*

*Hong Kong • India*

*Indonesia • Japan*

*Malaysia • New Zealand •*

*Pakistan • Philippines*

*Singapore • Sri Lanka*

*Taiwan • Thailand*

## Contribute

by sending us articles, news items, reviews, letters, or any other form of writing that can be printed pertaining to cultural issues and the global practice of OT. Submissions may be edited for length and style. Pictures may be sent via e-mail in .jpg format. Please e-mail your submissions to:

**[jwells@asian-pacificot.org](mailto:jwells@asian-pacificot.org)**

## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON...

***Practitioner in Focus***

**Ms. Bhanu Raghavan, MS,** OTR/L, co-presented “Teaching Self Care with Flair” at the Annual Conference of Ohio Occupational Therapy Association in October, 2008. Raghavan is also the co-author of a book with the same title that is being published in 2009. A seasoned occupational therapist, she is also very active in the community. She is the immediate past president of India Club of Greater Dayton that boasts of a membership comprising over 1000 families.

***AAPOTA in Canada***

**Dr. Vijay Suple** has joined as the Representative of Canada. He immigrated to Canada in 1984, and is currently employed as a community occupational therapist in Winsor Essex, Ontario. He has several years of experience that spans a variety of settings including outpatient, physical and vocational rehabilitation services. He has a BS in occupational therapy, and an MA and PhD in Psychology. He has presented papers at the Canadian OT Association’s conference held at Kitcher, ON, and WFOT conference in Sydney, Australia. He is a past president of the Students’ Association of Physio- Occupational

Therapy, Government Medical College, Nagpur (India), and the immediate past president of the India Canada Association, Windsor Essex. He is very active in the local community, and is a Master of the Great Western Masonic Lodge in Windsor.

In his role as the Canada Representative, Dr. Suple will assist in AAPOTA membership and resource development in Canada.

***AAPOTA Presentation at AOTA Conference in Houston***

**Dr. Marianne Mortera** will be presenting her research on the development and testing of the Mortera Cognitive Screening Measure (M-CSM) designed for use with individuals with acquired brain injury. The M-CSM utilizes two kitchen tasks to screen for cognitive deficits. Currently, Dr. Mortera is working on the interrater reliability of the instrument. She is utilizing a training protocol to teach therapists in two different clinics to administer the M-CSM and will measure pre and post inter-rater reliability.

Her presentation at the 2009 AOTA Conference is scheduled for Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Hilton

Americas Ballroom B.

Dr. Mortera serves as the Eastern Representative on the AAPOTA Board and is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy.

***India Takes Major Step Toward National Regulation for OT***

**All India Occupational Therapists’ Association** (AIOTA) and, the occupational therapy profession in India recently realized a long-time dream. While professions such as Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy, and many alternative health systems (e.g. Ayurveda, Homeopathy, etc.) already had regulatory representations in the form of “Central Councils” in the government, OT was devoid of one until now. India will soon have an OT Central Council. *See detailed report from Dr. A.K. Srivastava, President of AIOTA, on page 5 and 6.*

***To our OT friends abroad....***

The Spotlight welcomes articles/ updates/ comments from all OT associations and practitioners of Asian- Pacific countries. “Letters to the Editor” will be published as well. *The Spotlight* can be a great tool to network, and foster unity in our diversity.

**We Need You...**

Are you a member of AAPOTA? If not, please join today. Complete the membership form enclosed, or visit us online at [www.asian-pacificot.org](http://www.asian-pacificot.org)

**Association of Asian Pacific Occupational Therapists in America**  
**Membership Application**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

A. Membership Status: New\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_ (membership #: \_\_\_\_\_)

B. Membership Type: (circle one) OT/OTR    OTA    OTS    OTA Student    AAPOTA Benefactor

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M   F

2. Designation (e.g., PhD, OTR, OTA, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

5. If student, university attending \_\_\_\_\_

6. Contact Information:

a. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Phone: Home/ Work/ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ d. E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Asian/Pacific Heritage: (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please check the items you are willing to assist with:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the board  | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist on special projects     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a committee  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor or mentor students       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist newly arrived students/therapists                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit Asian/Pacific students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research  | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing education           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information exchange between US _____<br>and Asian- Pacific countries |   |

9. Please list your areas of expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Check one:

- Yes, I give permission for my name and contact information to be listed in AAPOTA directory  
 No, I do not give permission for my name and contact information to be listed in AAPOTA directory

**The AAPOTA Board of Directors may share membership directory with AOTA and other similar professional organizations requesting such information.**

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11. a. Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Amount enclosed: Membership: \_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12. Initials/ signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fee/year: Therapist: \$20.00    Student: \$10.00    Supporting member: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make check payable to AAPOTA and mail to:

AAPOTA  
P.O. Box 450  
Palos Heights, IL 60463  
www.Asian-PacificOT.org

## Central Council (India) for Occupational Therapy Recommended



### Dr. Anil K. Srivastava

OTR, PG (Rehab), D.Y.Ed, FACOT, MAIOTA, MAOTA  
**President**, All India Occupational Therapists' Association  
**Executive Chairman**, Academic Council of OT  
**Editor**, Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy  
 Head, Occupational Therapy Services,  
 C.S.M. Medical University, Lucknow

E- Mail: [aiota.ak@gmail.com](mailto:aiota.ak@gmail.com)

On behalf of Executive Committee of All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA), I am pleased to announce that **CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** is ultimately **RECOMMENDED**. AIOTA congratulates its members for this significant achievement.

**Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare** headed by Hon. Chairman Sri Amar Singh has tabled its Report in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on **Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill - 2007 on 21st Oct.2008**.

Parliament Secretariat was flooded with about fourteen thousand letters of resentment/representations from OT's all over India and abroad against the provisions made in controversial Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill-2007 introduced to the Lok Sabha on 4th Dec.2007. Considering such a vast resentment at the national and international level, the Parliament referred the Bill to Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare of Rajya Sabha for examination and report.

AIOTA is of a firm belief that country needs to improve the health care delivery system by establishing the internationally accepted norms for registration and accreditation not only for occupational therapy but also for other health care professions. The proposed Bill tabled in the parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2007, in place of being friendly to occupational therapy and physiotherapy was friendly to medical group specifically the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. It has unnecessarily made provision for imposing medical hierarchy especially for PMR group who, in fact are in search of a footing to prove their worth in modern medical system.

AIOTA delegation was invited for a close door hearing on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 at Parliament Annexe, New Delhi to put forth occupational therapy profession's stand on the proposed Bill 2007 tabled in the parliament for enactment. The delegation led by President AIOTA Dr Anil K.Srivastava with other EC Members Dr R.K. Sharma, Dr Pankaj Bajpai and Dr Vaithi M. Perumal strongly opposed the controversial Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill 2007 in totality and emphatically stressed the need for an acceptable enactment for systematic growth of the profession in the country. The meeting was very successful.

The Committee observed lots of discrepancies in the Bill and recommended: that the proposed Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill 2007 be amended and the Act may now be called "The Allied Health Professions Central Councils Act-2007".

The omission of a fully grown up specialty occupational therapy in the title and its amalgamation in physiotherapy and its definition in the proposed Paramedical Central Councils Bill 2007 was strongly opposed by AIOTA and emphatically criticized by the committee too. "Committee's attention was also drawn to the inclusion of 'occupational therapy' in the definition of 'physiotherapy'. The Committee finds it surprising that an independent profession with entirely different course of study, mode of treatment and approach in treatment and rehabilitation of patients has found place under another profession. The Committee was informed that both occupational therapy and physiotherapy having entirely separate curriculum were recognized as separate disciplines in educational institutions, Hospitals and medical institutions across the country have separate departments of occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The Committee strongly feels that reservations are based on valid ground and accordingly recommends the deletion of words 'occupational therapy' from the definition of 'physiotherapy'."

Accordingly the basic definition of Central Council is modified and under this act independent 'Central Council for Occupational Therapy' and also independent 'Central Council for Physiotherapy' is recommended.

The Committee notes that inclusion of words "medically directed" is the most contentious part of the definition of 'occupational therapy'. There is no doubt in the mind of the Committee that occupational therapists are responsible for detailed assessment, treatment planning and implementation of treatment regimen." In the opinion of the Committee the words 'medically directed' have been deliberately used defeating the very basis of defining a profession, hence recommended to be deleted. The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the following definition of 'Occupational Therapy' as given in the aforesaid Act be included in the Bill.

"Occupational therapy" means the application of purposeful goal-oriented activity through latest technology with computerized system and the like in the evaluation, diagnosis, and or treatment of persons whose function is impaired by physical illness or injury, emotional disorder, congenital or developmental disability, or the aging process, in order to, achieve optimum functioning, to prevent disability, and to maintain health."

The council will now also have proportionate no. of occupational therapists from clinical and academic set ups and will be chaired by an OT professional. No such provision was there in the proposed Bill. We emphatically announce that AIOTA's all suggestions were accepted by the committee and accordingly Bill will be amended, incorporating all recommendations therein. The Committee further observed that physiotherapists and occupational therapists play a crucial role in the field of medicine and physical rehabilitation hence emphatically recommended that their legitimate interests should be taken care of and their existing pay structure may also be revised according to their qualifications and duration of the course they have to put in before entering into a Govt. job.

Setting up of Indian Council to govern the professions of occupational therapy and physiotherapy has been a long and tiring journey since last more than 25 years that still has to reach to a desired destination. The profession has immensely suffered due to government apathy towards these professions in the country but still managed to grow and could make an impact in health arena, in spite of all odds. However it is a universal truth that the difficulties in the journey give meaning and value to the destination. The more effort we put into achievement, the more that achievement is worth. More problems and more challenges in reaching the goal, grow us stronger and more capable.

We are confident that now the long pending problem related to OT in India will be over as soon as the council draft is reframed with all proposed amendments. But we are vigil on this issue as we still have long way to go until the Bill is finally sent to Parliament within speculated time and passed by the parliament for enactment.

I gratefully convey my thanks to members of AIOTA in India and Abroad and all those who stood with us in the crisis situation and did not lose faith in themselves and the organization and worked tirelessly in providing us their esteemed cooperation, assistance, guidance and moral support that grew us more stronger.

I am also happy to inform that the **Maharashtra State OT & PT Council** has also started functioning from 4th Oct., 2008 in Medical Education and Drugs Department of Government of Maharashtra.

- Anil K. Srivastava

President, All India OT Association

AAPOTA congratulates Dr. Anil Srivastava, his leadership team, and all members of the All India Occupational Therapists' Association on this remarkable legislative victory. We join in their celebrations! We take pride as we watch an important aspect of the profession's history in the making that is not merely confined within India's boundaries, but that is of global significance as well.



**ENERGY!**  
Create it. Share it

THE 2009 AOTA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO  
April 23-26, Houston

## AOTA Conference Meetings Related to Diversity Groups!

### Friday, April 24th

1:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.	MDI Exchange (WS 212)	CC GA	Theatre A
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Association of Asian/Pacific Occupational Therapists in America Annual Meeting	HA	Ballroom of the Americas B

### Saturday, April 25th

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Multiculturalism, Diversity and Inclusion Network Leadership	HA	Grand Ballroom L
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HA= Hilton Americas    CC GA= Convention Center General Assembly

## *Blast Off With a Memorable Welcome Ceremony and Keynote Address....*

If you have ever been to an AOTA Annual Conference & Expo before, you know that the Welcome Ceremony on Thursday afternoon is electrifying. We begin with great music and a lively processional that gets our audience on its feet and bursting with energy. Then, AOTA President Penelope Moyers Cleveland will open the Conference and introduce our keynote speaker, the distinguished Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, president of The University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Dr. Hrabowski, who at a young age excelled in his studies and was involved with the Civil Rights Movement, even to the point of being jailed with Martin Luther King, Jr., will speak on the power of embracing diversity. He is a highly respected educator who has built his impressive reputation by challenging minority students to reach their full potential.

Finally, President Moyers Cleveland will close the ceremony with an invitation for everyone to join the Expo Grand Opening and Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall. Once there, you'll be treated to delicious food and drinks, catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and discover the amazing group of exhibitors with products and services for you!

Ready? 10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...Blast off!

**For more details log onto:**

<http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/Conf.aspx>

*By 2017-*

*We envision that **occupational therapy** is a powerful, **widely recognized**, science-driven, and evidence-based profession with a **globally connected and diverse workforce** meeting society's occupational needs.*

- AOTA Centennial Vision (2006)

## AROUND THE WORLD (EVENTS)

2009

- **January 9th- 11th: 46th National Conference of the All India OT Association** in Jaipur, India . For more details, please refer to: <http://www.aiota.org/ecom2009.asp>
- **February 15th- 17th: 2nd Asian and Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement disorders Congress (AOPMC)** at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India. For more details, please refer to: [www.aopmcindia.com](http://www.aopmcindia.com)
- **April 23rd-26th: AOTA National Conference** in Houston, Texas. For more details, please refer to <http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/Conf.aspx>

## GOT YOUR ATTENTION?

### ADVERTISE WITH US!

Let us help you fulfill your business needs. Inquire about our low rates for advertising in our online newsletter and on our website.

For more details, e-mail [jwells@asian-pacificot.org](mailto:jwells@asian-pacificot.org) .

### AAPOTA NOMINATIONS & AWARDS 2010

*AAPOTA will be starting an award program for occupational therapists, OT Assistants, and students of Asian- Pacific heritage living in the US or Canada. The first award will be given at AOTA's Annual Conference in 2010. More details will be available in our next issue of "The Spotlight", and nominations/ award criteria will also be posted on our website: [www.asian-pacificOT.org](http://www.asian-pacificOT.org) beginning February, 2009. You may also direct your inquiries to : [chiranaka@Asian-PacificOT.org](mailto:chiranaka@Asian-PacificOT.org), or [miyer@Asian-PacificOT.org](mailto:miyer@Asian-PacificOT.org) .*

### THE PURPOSE OF AAPOTA

The purpose of the organization is to:

- ✦ *Serve as a liaison between occupational therapy practitioners about Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice and the American Occupational Therapy Association.*
- ✦ *Promote scholarly activities and research on Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *Identify and work to achieve common goals and needs.*
- ✦ *Promote and support learning and scholarship.*
- ✦ *Support Occupational therapy practitioners emigrating from Asian/Pacific countries with transition and integration into the North American occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *Promote occupational therapy education and scholarly exchange among Asian/Pacific countries and North America.*

Website:

[www.asian-pacificot.org](http://www.asian-pacificot.org)

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