

AUGUST,
2009

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 Editor ...

Dear Colleagues:

At the outset, I will like to apologize for this severe delay in delivering this issue of "The Spotlight". This delay in schedule will cause us to have only three issues this year versus four as we had earlier planned for. However, along with the executive team of the association (AAPOTA), I sincerely hope that you will find the issues helpful, and thank you for your continued support.

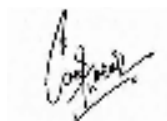
Along with you, I will be missing Ms. Chana Hiranaka, our president's column in this issue. Chana is currently recuperating from a major surgery. Please join me in wishing her a very speedy recovery. With me as the conduit, Chana sends her greetings to all our friends across the globe.

Since I have the floor for now, I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Meena Iyer, AAPOTA's vice president, on her recent appointment by Dr. Penelope Moyers Cleveland, president of AOT, to represent the Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion groups at AOTA's Centennial Commission. Also, please join me in congratulating Dr. Marianne Mortera, AAPOTA's Eastern Representative, who was also appointed by AOTA on its committee that structured the Emerging Leaders Development Program. Dr. Iyer's and Mortera's appointments clearly are reflective of their dedication to the profession and commitment to support diversity and inclusion.

Lastly, but probably the foremost, we have appointed several committees. We sincerely hope that this would help strengthen our association and make it more resourceful for our members. We were fortunate to recruit stellar professionals to the committees which will also have current board members assigned to them for mentorship. Please see page-2 for a list of the committees.

Wishing you all the very best of the season.

Truly,



Joe Wells

AAPOTA LEADERSHIP EXPANDS

The executive board of AAPOTA has formed the following new ad-hoc committees in order to best serve its membership interests. The committees and their coordinators are as follows:

- **Research Liaison:** Dr. Surya Shah
- **Immigrations Support:** Marc Dy and Guru Nam Kaur Khalsa
- **Student Committee:** Vanitha John and Aarti Dayaram
- **Membership Recruitment Coordinators**
 1. Sanchala Sen- North Carolina
 2. Marc Dy- Tennessee
 3. Dr. Surya Shah- New Jersey
 4. Vanitha John- Washington
 5. Guru Nam Khalsa- New Mexico
 6. Vijay Mishra- Michigan

We congratulate and welcome the new members to the leadership of AAPOTA. Membership recruitment coordinators are required for states not represented above. If interested, please e-mail: jwells@asian-pacificot.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

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN-TRAINED OTs CLARIFIED

The U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) within the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum to the standards for adjudicating H-1B petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries seeking employment in health care specialty occupations, including occupational therapy and physical therapy. Prior to the memo, USCIS was denying H1-Bs for occupational therapists and physical therapists who did not have master's degrees after misinterpreting academic and education requirements cited in the Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook. The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy raised concerns about this issue with USCIS and provided a deposition in legal action filed by three health care personnel recruiting firms against the Department of Homeland Security in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Rather than continuing with the legal process, USCIS issued the memorandum, which essentially states that master's degrees are not required for OTs and PTs seeking H1-B visas. The full text to the memo is available online at: http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/health_care_occupations_20may09.pdf

Chuck Willmarth
Director, State Affairs
AOTA
cwillmarth@aota.org

(Posted on 06.25.09 on American Occupational Therapy Association's "OT Connections"- <http://otconnections.aota.org/>)

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON...

Practitioners in News...

Jyoti Gupta, PhD, OTR/L, OT-C, was recently elected as the chairperson of the Education Special Interest Section (SIS) of the American OT Association.

Asha Asher, MA, MEd., OTR/L, was recently elected as the chairperson of the Developmental Disabilities SIS of the American OT Association.

Joe Wells, OTD, OTR/L, was recently elected as the vice president of the Ohio OT Association. Recently, he was also presented with the George Isaac Jr. Award for Integrity by the University of Toledo for his contributions to the profession and the OT Doctoral program at the university.

Meena Iyer, PhD, OTR/L, published an article in OT Practice (June 15 Issue, page -3) under the title "Multicultural Highlight". The article showcases AAPOTA. The article has been reproduced on the right corner of this page.

Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR/L, was appointed to AOTA's committee that structured and will oversee the Emerging Leaders Development Program (ELDP). Please read further details on the program under "ELDP".

A Resource on Cultural Issues

Multiculturalism, Diversity and Inclusion Exchange Diversity Tool Kit

was presented at the 89th AOTA Conference and Expo in Houston, TX, for the first time. The toolkit was developed by the multicultural, diversity and inclusion (MDI) groups recognized by AOTA. Besides the Association of Asian Pacific Occupational Therapists in America, the other groups are the Black Occupational Therapy Caucus, the Terapia Ocupacional para Diversidad, Oportunidad y Solidaridad (TODOS) Network of Hispanic Providers, the Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns in Occupational Therapy, the Network of Native American Practitioners, the Network of Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities and their Supporters, and the Orthodox Jewish Occupational Therapy Caucus. The toolkit is aimed as a resource to OT students and clinicians acting as a compilation of sources that may be accessed on issues relat-

ing to multiculturalism, diversity, inclusion, and cultural competency. The toolkit has sections that provide information on the various MDI groups as well.

The toolkit is available as a PDF file on the "resource" page of our website: www.asian-pacificOT.org.

"ELDP"

"ELDP" or Emerging Leaders Development Program was a charge from AOTA's Representative Assembly. It is a mentorship program for OT students about to finish their education or new grads out less than 3 years who are interested in professional leadership endeavors. Applicants are selected based on their leadership goals and experiences so that they can be mentored for one year in order to then serve in some service/leadership capacity at AOTA. The selected person will be required to attend a two-day workshop sponsored by AOTA to get started. The program has just been approved by AOTA and is slated to begin in early November.

-Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR/L

Multicultural Highlight

AAPOTA stands for Association of Asian-Pacific Occupational Therapists in America and is one of the Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Network groups recognized by AOTA.

The mission of 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. AAPOTA was founded in 1994 and organized by Asian-Pacific American occupational therapy practitioners, who felt a need to support one another, promote more Asian-Pacific Americans to enter the profession; facilitate the assimilation of Asian-Pacific practitioners who are recent immigrants; collaborate with occupational therapy practitioners in the Asian-Pacific regions of the world; and educate the profession and AOTA about the culture and needs of Asian-Pacific students, practitioners, and consumers.

Membership is open to all individuals who support the AAPOTA mission and purpose. Our diverse society demands that practitioners develop and practice multicultural awareness. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that about 5.3% of residents identify themselves as Asian-Pacific, and by 2050 this number is expected to increase by more than 153%. AAPOTA offers free information on cultural beliefs and other related issues pertinent to the health care and occupational needs of Asian-Pacific consumers. More information on AAPOTA can be found at www.asian-pacificot.org.

- by Meena Iyer, PhD, OTR/L

Article retrieved from : <http://www.aota.org/Pubs/OTP/2009/06-15-09.aspx>

Association of Asian Pacific Occupational Therapists in America

Membership Application

Date _____

A. Membership Status: New____ Renewal____(membership #: _____)

B. Membership Type: (circle one) Practitioner Student Supporting Member

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): Yes No Origin (e.g. Japanese) _____

8. Please list your area/s of expertise (e.g. *pediatric OT*): _____

9. Are you willing to serve as an AAPOTA's board, or ad-hoc committee member?

____ Yes ____ No ____ Currently undecided

If yes, association function/s you are interested or experienced in: _____

10. If selected, are you willing to be featured in AAPOTA's publications (e.g. website, e-newsletter, etc)? ____ Yes ____ No

11. 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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12. a. Check number: _____

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

13. 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

30th WFOT COUNCIL MEETING IN INDIA



Left to right: Anil Srivastava (President– AIOTA, delegate from India), Kit Sinclair (past president -WFOT), unidentified OT delegate, and Sharon Brintnell (president– WFOT) at the 28th WFOT Council Meeting at Slovenia



Left to right: US Delegate Mary Evert (WFOT– US delegate, Anil Srivastava (President– AIOTA, delegate from India), and Alfred Ramukumba (Program Coordinator of, Education & Research- WFOT, delegate from South Africa) at the 28th WFOT Council Meeting at Slovenia

Considering the significant need for promoting awareness in government, public and private sector and to the masses, the All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) bid to host the 30th Council Meeting of World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) in India.

Upon the request of India's delegate & president of AIOTA, Dr. Anil K. Srivastava, the WFOT Executive Management Committee included India just at the nick of time to participate in the bid that included Denmark and Italy. The Indian presentation during the 28th WFOT Council Meeting at City Hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia, was appreciated by all and after confidential voting, **India succeeded with a good margin and won the bid to host the 30th WFOT Council Meeting in 2012**, tentatively in New Delhi. It would certainly help a multidimensional growth of the profession in India.

The 29th WFOT Council Meeting and 15th WFOT Congress is scheduled in Chile. Japan won the bid over Netherland and South Africa and will host the 16th WFOT Congress in 2014.

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava

President, All India OT Association

Exec. Chair, Academic Council of OT (India)

Editor, Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy

Head, Occupational Therapy Services,
C.S.M. Medical University, Lucknow

E– Mail: aiota.ak@gmail.com

Presentations by Practitioners of Asian-Pacific Origin *

<p>Marianne H. Mortera, PhD, OTR/L Columbia University New York, NY</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: The 2nd Annual AAPOTA Lectureship: Mortera Cognitive Screening Measure (M-CSM) 2. Poster: Introductory Instrument Development for Occupational Therapists: Creating a Structured Functional Cognitive Assessment 3. Poster: Occupational Therapy Student Researchers' Development Of A Cognitive Assessment Training Protocol To Enhance Interrater Reliability
<p>Asha Asher, MEd, OTR/L Sycamore Community Schools Cincinnati, OH</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: Role of Occupational Therapy in Transition Planning and Service 2. Workshop: DDSIS Annual Program: Tools To Facilitate Gainful Employment of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (AOTA sponsored)
<p>Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR/L, OT(C) College of St. Catherine Minneapolis, MN</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: (SIS) EDSIS Faculty Subsection Evidence-Based Practice Academic Partnerships (AOTA sponsored) 2. Workshop: Work & Industry Annual Program: Improving Employee Health And Work Performance: A Corporate Wellness Program Model (AOTA sponsored)
<p>Meena Iyer, PhD, OTR/L Medical College of Georgia Atlanta, GA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: The Centennial Vision and Diversity within Our Profession: Celebrating Success (AOTA sponsored) 2. Workshop: Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Inclusion Exchange: ¿Que Digo? Aapne Kya Kaha? Strategies for Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Caring (AOTA sponsored)
<p>K. (Shep) Kshepakaran, MEd, OTR Maryland</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop: Multiculturalism, Diversity, and Inclusion Exchange: ¿Que Digo? Aapne Kya Kaha? Strategies for Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Caring (AOTA sponsored)
<p>Kinsuk Maitra, PhD, OTR/L Rush University Medical Center Chicago, IL</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: Motor Learning Principles and Evidence-Based Guidelines for Practice 2. Research Work in Progress: The Effect of Early Intervention on Cognitive and Motor Development in Preterm Infants at Preschool and School Age: A Meta-Analytic Study 3. Poster: Pre-Term and Low-Birth-Weight Children Are Associated With Delay in Educational and Motor Performance: A Meta-Analysis of Research Literature
<p>Michael K. Iwama, PhD, OT(C) University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Course: SC 128. The Kawa (River) Model: Linking Education, Research, and Practice in Occupational Therapy

AAPOTA congratulates all speakers / authors for having their papers and/ or posters accepted and featured at the 89th AOTA Annual Conference & Expo in Houston, TX.

* Please note that this list does not include all therapists of Asian-Pacific origin that may have presented at the conference. It was compiled with information that was submitted or readily available to the editor.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN ERGONOMISTS September 14-17, 2009: Quebec City, Canada

The conference will explore the various means, techniques and approaches organizations can apply to create safer and more efficient workplaces.

Information : Email: info@ace-ergocanada.ca

Website: www.ace-ergocanada.ca

4TH NATIONAL OT CONGRESS OF INDONESIA: 13-14 Nov., 2009: Jakarta, Indonesia

Theme: Pediatric and adult neurology issues.

Information: E-mail: buwana_cahaya@yahoo.com

INTEGRATING THE MOUTH WITH SENSORY AND POSTURAL FUNCTIONS: 22-23 Nov., 2009: Singapore

The workshop will be conducted by **Patricia Oetter**, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA and **Eileen Richter**, MPH, OTR, FAOTA. It will focus on oral-motor treatment approaches for neurologically impaired children with severe feeding dysfunction.

Information: E-Mail: pd@shas.org.sg

ASIA CONFERENCE ON EMERGING ISSUES IN PUBLIC HEALTH: 29 Nov.- 2 Dec., 2009: Hongkong

Log onto: <http://www.sph.cuhk.edu.hk/asiaphconference2009.html> for more details

47TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ALL INDIA OT ASSOC.: 21-23 Jan., 2010: Ahmedabad, India

Theme: Entrepreneurship in Occupational Therapy

Information: E-mail: guj.aiota@gmail.com

90TH AOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION: April 29-May 2, 2010: Orlando, FL

Log onto: <http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/2010AnnualConference.aspx> for more information

15TH WFOT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS: 4-7 May, 2010: Santiago, Chile

WFOT 2010 will focus on contemporary perspectives in occupational therapy and occupational science.

Log onto: www.wfot.org/wfot2010/ for more information

DID YOU KNOW?

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) was formed in 1952. Ten OT associations that included USA, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, India and Denmark, inaugurated the WFOT. Ms. Helen Willard of the USA served as temporary chairperson until the officers were elected. As of 2002, the WFOT has 57 member associations out of which 8 are associate members.

(Source: <http://www.wfot.org/information.asp?id=3>)

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For more details, e-mail 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 beginning September, 2009. You may also direct your inquiries to : chiranaka@Asian-PacificOT.org, or 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

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