

The Student Special

SPOTLIGHT

Volume 2, Issue 3
November, 2009

TRY THIS...“OMG-C” !!!

Dear practitioners of the future:

Congratulations and welcome to a great profession that has always embraced, and celebrated diversity in all its forms. As a profession, we have always championed the cause of cultural relevance in human lives.

AOTA envisions occupational therapy (OT) as a **widely recognized, globally connected, diverse workforce** by 2017. I strongly believe the dots are already there; the lines just need to be drawn. If the world is separated by 7 layers, one of them should be an OT. Everybody should either know one directly or through the other 6 layers somewhere in the

world. . You are a dot, if you haven't already, go find your line. Get your OT "face" in the "book", find your "space", put "you" in the "tube", just get "linked-in" somewhere, become a "twitter" - the world is already in your "net"!

Our group, the Association of Asian-Pacific OTs in America (AAPOTA) , aspires to be one such line of communication and representation for practitioners and students that belong to, or are interested in the Asian-Pacific culture which, as we all recognize, is not merely defined by political boundaries dividing pieces of land.

If you are not already a member, we urge you to become one today. Please complete our membership

form on page-3.

Let's join hands as we march together toward AOTA's Centennial milestone.

Oh, and yes, as for the title of this letter- "OMG-C", I was just referring to my self- "Old man gone crazy"!

Have a great conclave!

Joe Wells
Membership Chair/
Newsletter Editor
AAPOTA

Inside this issue:

Essay Contest	2
Purpose— AAPOTA	2
Mission— AAPOTA	2
Membership Form	3
Membership Benefits	4
Awards Program	4
AAPOTA Officers	4

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)

WIN A FREE AOTA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Dancing may be easy... So you think you can write?

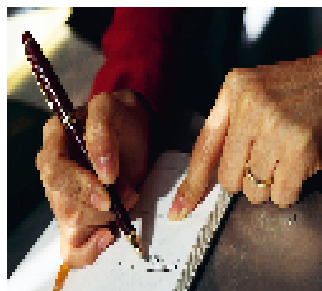
If yes, enter our essay contest and a chance to win a free annual **AOTA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**, or equivalent amount paid toward a new practitioner's membership (if

you graduate before the results are announced). For more details, please see page-2, or contact:

Meena Iyer, PhD, OTR/L at miyer@asian-pacificot.org

Or,

Chana Hiranaka, MEd, OTR/L at chiranaka@asian-pacificOT.org



AAPOTA Launches Its First Essay Competition for OT Students! Five Annual AOTA Student Memberships (or Equivalent Value) to be Awarded

AAPOTA will conduct its first essay contest among students registered in any accredited OT or COTA program. The deadline for application is **Monday, February 15, 2010**. Students are asked to write an article on *'Evidence Evaluating the Effectiveness of Culturally-Sensitive Health Care'*. The winning essays will be selected by AAPOTA reviewers.

The top five winners will each receive a free AOTA student membership (or equivalent amount paid toward a new practitioner AOTA membership) for one year.

All OT and OTA students are eligible to enter the essay competition. Students should go to www.asian-pacificot.org for more information.

Are you interested? Please contact Dr. Meena Iyer at miyer@asian-pacificot.org.



The essay contest is sponsored by:

Courtesy of Mr. Bhagwan Sharma, Owner

STI Therapy Services, Inc.

(A leading provider of occupational, physical and speech therapies)



**P.O. Box 450
Palos Heights, IL 60463**

Ph. (708) 257 1199

Fax. (630) 655 1199

E-Mail: stitherapy@yahoo.com

THE PURPOSE OF AAPOTA

The purpose of the organization is to:

- ✦ *Serve as a liaison between occupational therapy practitioners and the American Occupational Therapy Association on Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *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 tran-*

sition and integration into the North American occupational therapy practice.

- ✦ *Promote occupational therapy education and scholarly exchange among Asian/Pacific countries and North America.*

THE MISSION OF AAPOTA

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.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT
AAPOTA AT [HTTP://
WWW.ASIAN-
PACIFICOT.ORG](http://www.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*

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:

- ___ Serve on the board ___ Assist on special projects
___ Serve on a committee ___ Tutor or mentor students
___ Assist newly arrived students/therapists ___ Recruit Asian/Pacific students
___ Assist with membership ___ Fund raising
___ Research ___ Continuing education
___ Information exchange between US ___ Other (please specify) _____
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.

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

**THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN-PACIFIC
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN AMERICA**

AAPOTA
P.O. Box 450
Palos Heights, IL 60463
E-Mail: jwells@Asian-PacificOT.org

Website: [http://
www.Asian-
PacificOT.org](http://www.Asian-PacificOT.org)

The benefits of AAPOTA membership:

1. *Mentorship opportunities with seasoned professionals*
2. *Networking opportunities*
3. *Receive quarterly e-newsletter- "The Spotlight"*
4. *Receive information on relevant professional global activities*
5. *Receive support/ guidance in research activities from well known OT academicians and researchers*
6. *Publishing opportunities in e-newsletter*
7. *Peer recognition and career support: a) Awards program to be launched in 2010.* b) Practitioners/ students featured in "The Spotlight"*
8. *Belong to and grow with a growing organization!*

NOMINATE A PEER OR SELF FOR AN AWARD*

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 (December, '09) of "The Spotlight", and nominations/ award criteria will also be posted on our website:

www.asian-pacificOT.org beginning 1st December, 2009. The categories of the awards are as follows:

- 1. Outstanding Achievement Award 2. OT/ OTA Student of the Year 3. Service Award**

You may also direct your inquiries to : chiranaka@Asian-PacificOT.org, or miyer@Asian-PacificOT.org.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Chana Hiranaka, MEd, OTR /L
President/Founding Member

Meenakshi Iyer, PhD, OTR/L
Vice-President

Bhagwan Sharma, MA, OTR/L
Treasurer

S.L. Rai, MHS, OTR
Secretary

Joe Wells, OTD, DPMIR, OTR/L
Membership Chair/ Newsletter Editor

M. R. Kulkarni, PhD, OTR, LPC
Midwest Representative/ Founding Member

Nilkanth Bohre, OTR/L
Southern Representative

Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR
Eastern Representative

Vijay Suple, MA, PhD, OT (C)
Representative for Canada

COMMITTEES:

Research Liaisons:

Dr. Surya Shah, Dr. Jyothi Gupta, Dr. Kinshuk Maitra

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