

# **ASIAN/PACIFIC HERITAGE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION**

## **Summary of Activities**

### **Background**

The Asian Pacific OT Association, a brain child of Shep Kshepakaran and Chana Hiranaka, was established in 1995.

### **Steering Committee**

In 2018, a steering committee comprised of K. Kshepakaran, Chana Hiranaka, Joe Wells, and Shreeavtar Rai was formed to revitalize the association. To determine the future direction of the association, Joe Wells organized the first video conference call on May 9, 2018, which was attended by C. Hiranaka, K. Kshepakaran, S. Rai, and Joe Wells. It was agreed that Joe Wells will be the point of contact for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and will notify the AOTA leadership of the change.

### **Resolutions**

The steering committee members discussed and resolved to:

1. Regroup the members of the association with the mission / purpose as previously adopted prior to expiration of association's registration in Michigan.
2. Not to re-register the association in any state until bylaws and membership structure are amended and accepted (membership strength must increase to support the need for a registered association).
3. Revise membership categories.

As per the revised membership categories, going forward, the association will have:

- a. Full-members: OT practitioners and students living in the US & Canada.
  - b. Associate-members: OT practitioners and students living outside the US & Canada.
4. Charge the steering committee with the following tasks:
    - Increase membership of the association
    - Establish a member-selected leadership body by March 2019
    - Relaunch the website (completed in December 2018)

- Launch a Twitter handle for APHOTA (Completed in January 2019)
- Increase activity on APHOTA's Facebook page (700+ likes)
- Relaunch E-newsletter by April 2019

## **Leadership Team**

The Steering Committee has established the following leadership positions and appointed the following individuals as chairs/country liaisons:

- Membership Chair: Hiral Khatri
- Newsletter Chair and India Liaison: Karthik Mani
- Social Media Chair: Bill Wong
- China Liaison: Inez Lee
- Vietnam Liaison: Lien La
- Cambodia Liaison: Holly Tausch
- Philippines Liaison: Louie Arabat
- Student Chair: Vacant (*yet to be appointed*)

## **APHOTA Outreach**

- Joe presented on the following topics to the members of All India Occupational Therapists Association (AIOTA) through a webinar in April 2018.
  - Publication Ethics
  - Documentation Requirements for Protocol Submission to Ethics Committee
- K. Kshepakaran and Joe Wells attended/presented at the WFOT Congress in May 2018.
- Joe Wells attended/presented at the AIOTA Conference in February 2019.
- Several of APHOTA members will attend/present at the upcoming AOTA Annual Conference and Expo in New Orleans, LA.

## **Next Steps:**

- Bylaws to be revisited/ adopted by April 1, 2019
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on April 4, 2019 (11.30 AM to 12.30 PM)