



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AIOTA

Jan. 26, 2017

I am honored for the trust and faith, the members of AIOTA bestowed in me, since past many terms to lead the national organization of the profession of occupational therapy in India. It is the confidence of members bestowed upon me as President of AIOTA which infuses enthusiasm and energy into me to work tirelessly for growth of the profession in India and the recognition of AIOTA and Indian OT's globally. I am deeply moved and thank you all for the confidence you have shown on me. Your support, critics, encouragements but above all the togetherness shall always be a key to success in AIOTA's upcoming endeavors.

The vision, dedication and positive approach of members of AIOTA/ACOT EC's and IJOT Editorial Team of this tenure indeed is praiseworthy. I am blessed to have such a wonderful team working with me. AIOTA Branches, Educational Institutions and members too are also strengthening AIOTA by working in accordance with policy decisions. This can be observed in impressive celebration of World OT Day and OTIndia Month each year, which is very much appreciated by WFOT too. It certainly has helped in increasing the public awareness of OT. Now

the younger generations are opting to build their professional career as occupational therapists. The scenario is reflected in full admissions in almost all OT Colleges in India.

Government of India is in process of establishing of National Board for Allied Health Sciences under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and has informed AIOTA that occupational therapy will have its representation and would be one of the key areas of focus. Although AIOTA has resented to this move but has decided to study the outcome of the proposed bill and take a decision on its merit, in consultation with you all, the members of AIOTA.

National Trust for Welfare of Children of Department of Empowerment of PWD's under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India has accepted AIOTA's request and decided to include one post of OT in 4 projects Namely DISHA (Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme), SAMARTH (Respite Care Residential Scheme), VIKAAS (Day Care Scheme for 10 Year and above) and GHARAUNDA(Group Home for Adults Scheme). Visit: www.thenationaltrust.gov.in

OT's Graduated before 2008 from OT Colleges at R.M.M.C.Medical College (Annamalai University), Chidambaram and J.K.K.M.M.R.F., Ethirmediu, Komarapalayam (T.N. Dr. .M.G.R. University) are now entitled to become Life Members of AIOTA in place of Provisional Members. The retrospective approval is granted to these institutions by WFOT since the inception of these programs. I welcome them in AIOTA.

Bihar OT's are set to have State Council, enhanced retirement age to 67 years, parity in all spheres with medical professionals and expansion of OT services to Primary Health Centers. Announcement to these effects have been made by Chief Minister of Bihar, which was appreciated by AIOTA & OT's in India. Teaching Cadre up to the post of Prof/Principal and in clinical cadre up to the post of Director OT has already been notified in state of Bihar. I congratulate Bihar Branch of AIOTA for their ongoing efforts in OT growth.

State Council of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Chhattisgarh has been established recently in 2015-16. Rajasthan State Council is also in pipeline for which Rajasthan Branch of AIOTA is working strenuously.

AIOTA Conferences are organized on a big canvas and attracting many international faculties and entrepreneurs every year. International participation is now has become a regular feature. OTCION'2017 at Jaipur in Feb. 2017 will be remembered due to participation of Dr. Kit Sinclair, WFOT Ambassador and formerly President of WFOT. Kit will be delivering Key Note Address and also conduct Pre-Conf. COTE on Disaster Management.

ACOT has developed guidelines for MOT accreditation and many of the MOT programs have been reviewed and accredited. ACOT is regularly organizing COTE programs with national and international faculties to update members with recent advancements on varied areas of

professional interest. Very soon ACOT will launch Fellowship Program in Pediatric OT with eminent national and international faculties.

IJOT is now published with new look and revised formatting of the text. Now from 2017 in place of 3 issues annual 4 issues will be published. IJOT Board is trying hard to get it indexed in many more international databases of repute. To go green, save the world and reduce the expenditure, AIOTA has decided to go as far as possible paperless in most of its activities. Henceforth from 2017 onwards IJOT may also be accessed by members by login to AIOTA Website. Only limited copies of IJOT will be published for subscribers, institutions and authors only. If members find any inconvenience in accessing IJOT, they should contact Website Convener to sort-out the issue at once.

AIOTA Website was launched on Nov.15, 2002 at AIIMS, New Delhi as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of foundation of AIOTA. Now we are in process of revamping of the website to have an impressive look and also members friendly. Members are advised for regularly visiting the Website to update themselves with latest information and news of professional significance and notifications.

I convey my best wishes for a very happy and professionally rewarding NEW YEAR 2017.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anil K. Srivastava', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava

President AIOTA & WFOT Delegate

Executive Chairman -ACOT

Editor-in-Chief- IJOT