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IJOT welcomes submissions of original scientific research papers, review papers, case reports, preliminary articles, editorials, and specialist issue editorials, on all aspects of occupational therapy. It also includes publication of book reviews & letters to the editor.

The conference (OTICON) abstracts (of oral and e-poster: research papers only), will be published every year in IJOT - Issue 2: April-June.

IJOT - Issue 4: October-December will be the specialty edition every year based on specialty theme pre-decided by the editorial board. This Issue will also include guest editorial solicited to an experienced researcher in the pre-decided theme.

IJOT welcomes contributions/announcements on news, academic events and information related to occupational therapy, allied healthcare and rehabilitative aspects, from all over the world.

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Anil K. Srivastava

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS BILL 2020

The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare has tabled its 117th Report on 31st January, 2020, in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha both. The parliamentary standing committee has accepted the AIOTA's suggestion and recommended for renaming the Bill as 'National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill 2020' in place of earlier terminology 'The Allied and Healthcare Professions Council Bill 2018' in the lines of 'National Medical Commission Act 2019'.

The AIOTA submitted its resentment on the proposed Allied and Healthcare Council Bill 2018 because it was not at all OT friendly. The AIOTA EC officials strongly put forth their view via the representations in writing and during personal meetings before the officials of the ministry and parliamentary standing committee. Almost all suggestions were addressed in the recommendations of the parliamentary standing committee, tabled in the parliament which referred it to the ministry for enactment.

The parliamentary standing committee recommended the Ministry to re-examine the different professions under the recognized category of Occupational Therapy and place the other professions under suitable category. The parliamentary standing committee, therefore, recommended that Movement Therapist (including Art, Dance and Movement Therapists or Recreational Therapist) and Podiatrist may be kept in a separate category. The key recommendation is separate council for occupational therapy professionals in National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill. According to the other recommendations: occupational therapists can practice independently or as a part of multi-disciplinary team with a minimum qualification of baccalaureate degree; no supervision of modern medicine doctors; equal representation in the advisory board; inclusion of members in the council from key national institutes; and also one nomination from AIOTA. The committee further recommended the Ministry to re-examine the definition of occupational therapy, based on global definition and existing state councils of Delhi and Maharashtra.

57TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ALL INDIA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS' ASSOCIATION, MUMBAI: THE HIGHLIGHTS

OTICON 2020: the 57th annual national conference of the All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) was very successfully organized from 16th to 18th January, 2020, at Ravindra Natya Mandir Auditorium, at Prabhadevi, Mumbai. The event was hosted on the occasion of platinum jubilee year (1950-2020) of Occupational Therapy School and Centre,

Seth G. S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, which also happened to be the first school of Occupational Therapy in Asia.

The Mayor of Mumbai Hon. Mrs. Kishori Tai Pednekar inaugurated the conference. More than 800 delegates attended the event from all over India and abroad. About 50 research work under different categories were presented. Competitive scientific students' events like street plays, poster presentations, humorous posters, mini movies and innovative technology sessions were organized on the occasion. Best delegate by Kerala Branch of the AIOTA, best student delegate by the Karnataka Branch of the AIOTA, and best graduate award by Odisha Branch of the AIOTA, examinations were also held.

Hon. Mayor emphasized the importance of occupational therapy in comprehensive patient care. She specified that working as a team is more important than the individual care by any one specialty.

The founder of Occupational Therapy profession in India and Asia was posthumously conferred with the prestigious President AIOTA's Crown of OT Award 2020. The award was received by her kin Mrs. Manjiri Nimbkar, the managing trustee of Nimbkar Rehabilitation Trust.

Dr. Jayashri S. Kale, Professor and Head of OT School, SGSMC, Mumbai, was the Organizing Secretary and Dr. Amitabh K. Dwivedi, Professor and Dean Jaipur OT College, Jaipur was the Chairman of the Scientific Program of this prestigious event.

Dr. Vinita Acharya (Manipal) and Dr. Raviraj Shetty (Mumbai) were the resource faculties for Pre-Conference Continuing OT Education on "Advanced Occupational Therapy Practices in Mental Health: Micro and Macro Perspective". It was followed with panel discussion by eminent experts: Dr. Vinita Acharya, (Manipal), Dr. Raviraj Shetty, (Mumbai), Dr. Sushant Sarang, (Mumbai), Dr. Zarine D. Ferzandi, (Mumbai) and Dr. Prasad Nayak (Psychiatrist, Mumbai).

The Keynote Speakers of the OTICON'2020 were: Dr. Lalit Shah (USA) and Dr. Sanchala Sen (USA). The eminent overseas OT faculties: Dr. Bhoomiah D. Dasari (UK) and Dr. Vijay Suple (Canada) also delivered talks on vivid areas of OT practice. The highlights of the conference were talks from: Dr. Alok Sharma, Director, NeuroGen Brain and Spine Institute, Navi Mumbai, Director, AYUSH, Dr. Kuldeep Raj Kohli (Panchakarma), Dr. Bharti Jajoo, Bangalore (Ergonomics), Dr. Odette Gomes, Mumbai (Palliative Care) and Dr. Manish Samnani, New Delhi (SI Assessment). Dr. Tapas Kumar Kundu, Professor Homeopathic Medical College, Nashik, Dr. Jayashree S. Kale, Dr. Mohan M. Desai and Dr. Chandrakala were the panellists for discussions on Management of Haemophilic Synovitis.

OTICON'2021: THE 58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ALL INDIA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS' ASSOCIATION, PUDUCHERRY

The General Body (GB) of AIOTA met at Mumbai on 17th February, 2020, has accepted the proposal of Dr. R. Ilavajagan, Convener/President, Puducherry Branch/ Association of the AIOTA for holding OTICON'2021 at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Gorimedu, Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry. Convener, Tamil Nadu AIOTA, Dr. Raghuram P. has assured the GB for extending all support to Puducherry Branch of the AIOTA for holding an exemplary conference with support from all OT colleges in South India. The dates of the conference will soon be announced.

AIOTA AWARDS 2020

Following were the awards presented to the eminent members of the AIOTA for their outstanding contributions and achievements, on 16th January, 2020 during the inaugural function of OTICON'2020, the 57th annual national conference of the AIOTA at Mumbai:

- **President AIOTA's Crown of OT Award 2020**
 1. Late Mrs. Kamala Vishnu Nimbkar, Mumbai, the Founder of Occupational Therapy in India and Asia (posthumously presented)
 2. Dr. Ms. Veena Slaich, New Delhi
- **Life Time Achievement Award**
 1. Dr. Madan S. Warhade, Nagpur
 2. Dr. Subhash R. Apte, Ahmedabad
- **Professional Excellence Award**
 1. Dr. Lalit Narayan Swarnakar, New Delhi
 2. Dr. Manish Samnani, Gurugram
 3. Dr. Raghu Ram Pattusamy, Chennai
- **Young OT Achiever Award**
 1. Dr. Neeraj Mishra, New Delhi
 2. Dr. Sumit R. Shinde, Navi Mumbai

FELLOW OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARDS 2020

Following were the recipients of Fellow of Academic Council of Occupational Therapy (FACOT) Awards on 16th January, 2020 during the inaugural function of OTICON'2020, the 57th annual national conference of the AIOTA at Mumbai:

1. Dr. Amitabh Kishor Dwivedi, Jaipur
2. Dr. Ganpathy Sankar U., Chennai
3. Dr. Hemant P. Nandgaonkar, Mumbai
4. Dr. Ona P. Desai, New Delhi
5. Dr. Shashi Oberai, Navi Mumbai
6. Dr. Vivek P. Vajaratkar, Goa

AWARDS AND TROPHIES FOR SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS IN OTICON'2020 MUMBAI

Members' Category

- **Kamala V. Nimbkar Trophy for the Best Oral Scientific Paper:** Cumulative Trauma Disorders Trend in Computer-Users over a Decade

Dr. Pooja P. Mehta, Mumbai

- **AIOTA Trophy for the Best Oral Scientific Paper in Neurosciences:** The Effectiveness of Static Balance and Coordination Rehabilitation Exercises, on Serving Skills of Students with Special Educational Needs Undergoing Vocational Training in Hospitality and Catering Department

Dr. Deepa Udiaver, Mumbai

- **Vijay Suple Trophy for the Best Oral Scientific Paper in Mental Health:** Perception and Experiences of Individuals with Mental Illness about Vocational Rehabilitation in India: An Exploratory Study

Dr. Vinita Acharya, Manipal

- **Gazala Makda Trophy for the Best Oral Scientific Paper in Pediatrics:** AVAZ App (Trial Version): Voice for the Non-Verbal Autism Spectrum Disorder Children

Dr. Jay Vijay Sonawane, Erode

- **M. M. Sangoi Trophy for the Best Oral Scientific Paper in Ergonomics, Environment and Access:** Implementation of Environmental Barriers in Reducing Fear of Falling and Studying its Relationship with Activity Level and Activity Restriction among Community dwelling Older Adults living in Old Age Home

Dr. Hansa Varshneya, Erode

- **Nirmala Venkateswaran Trophy for the Best Mini Movie: Theme:** Novel Ways Of Marketing OT Service

Dr. Gandhi Poovarasan and Dr. N. S. Krishna, Coimbatore

- **N. Swaroop Trophy for the Best Innovative Technology Display:** INDIA EBUS

Dr. Hemant Nandgaonkar, Mumbai

- **AIOTA Trophy for the Best Scientific ePoster:** The Effect of Person-Environment-Occupation Model in Improving Social Skills: A Case Study

Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava, Mumbai

- **Best Delegate OTICON'2020 Award by Kerala Branch of AIOTA**

Dr. Hetali Shah, Mumbai

Students' Category

- **AIOTA Trophy for Best Poster**

Theme: OT from Clay to Computer

1st: Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute of Person with Physical Disabilities, New Delhi

2nd: OT School and Centre, TN Medical College, Mumbai

3rd: OT School and Centre, Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur

- **AIOTA Trophy for Best Innovative Technology**

Theme: Table Top Cognitive/Dexterity Aid

1st: Goa Medical College, Goa

2nd: OT School and Centre, Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai

3rd: OT School and Centre, LTMMC, Sion, Mumbai

- **AIOTA Trophy for Best Street Play**

Theme: Reaching the Unreached

1st: OT School and Centre, Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur

2nd: OT School and Centre, Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai

3rd: Goa Medical College, Goa

- **OMG Provo Trophy**

Theme: Best Humorous Poster Display of OT India

1st: Goa Medical College, Goa

2nd: OT School and Centre, Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai

- **Gold Medal Award for Best OT Graduate of 2019 by Orissa Branch of the AIOTA**

Dejul Rajesh Dedhiya, Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai

- **Best Student Delegate of OTICON' 2020 by Karnataka Branch of the AIOTA**

Prateek Kar, SVNIRTAR, Odisha

Submitted By

Dr. Amitabh K. Dwivedi

Chairman, Scientific Program Committee, OTICON'2020, Mumbai

Professor and Dean, Jaipur OT College, Jaipur

2024. The results were declared by Chairman, Election Committee, during the GB Meeting of the AIOTA held on 17th January, 2020, at Mumbai:

President: Dr. Anil K. Srivastava, Lucknow

Vice President: Dr. Surendra K. Meena, Jaipur

Honorary Secretary: Dr. Joseph Sunny, Cochin

Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Pratibha M. Vaidya, Mumbai

Executive Committee Members

Dr. Amitabh K. Dwivedi, Jaipur

Dr. Arun Kumar M., Chennai

Dr. Murali Krishnan S., Chennai

Dr. Punita V. Solanki, Mumbai

Submitted by

Dr. Lakshmanan Sethuraman

Chairman, AIOTA Elections 2019

Bangalore

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ACOT ELECTION 2019 RESULTS

Following were declared elected to elect the Executive Committee of the Academic Council of Occupational Therapy (ACOT) for the tenure April, 2020 to March, 2024. The ACOT elections were held by mode of secret ballots during GB meeting of the ACOT held on 17th January, 2020 at Mumbai:

Dean ACOT: Dr. Jyothika N. Bijlani, Mumbai

Executive Committee Members

Dr. Kamal Narayan Arya, New Delhi

Dr. Shailaja S. Jaywant, Mumbai

Dr. Vijay Batra, New Delhi

Dr. Zarine D. Ferzandi, Mumbai

Submitted by

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President, AIOTA and Executive Chairman, ACOT

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WORKSHOP ON PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS IN ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE, THRISSUR

Indian Psychiatric Society, Thrissur, in association with District Medical Office (H) organized workshop on Psychosocial Interventions in Isolation and Quarantine at District Medical Office, Thrissur on 6th February, 2020. EC Member AIOTA

AIOTA ELECTION 2019 RESULTS

Following were declared elected in first ever online election to elect the Executive Committee of the All India Occupational Therapists' Association for the tenure April, 2020 to March,

Dr. Joseph Sunny, OT, at Government Medical College, Thrissur, also delivered a talk on 'How to Make Isolation and Quarantine Meaningful and Enjoyable'.

WORKSHOP ON COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING DISABILITY ASSESSMENT MODULE AND INTERVENTION

Dr. Shailaja S. Jaywant, Assistant Professor, OT, LTM Medical College and General Hospital, Mumbai, was the facilitator for two days' workshop held on 7th to 8th February, 2020, on 'Comprehensive Learning Disability Assessment Module and Intervention'. The workshop aimed to provide the knowledge about the comprehensive module for learning disability (LD) assessment which is designed and approved by the All India Occupational Therapists' Association. This workshop was aimed to give guidelines about preparing LD Certificate as per government of India format for LD Certification.

The 2 days' workshop on LD Assessment was part of '4th Annual Multi-Disciplinary National Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation', organized by Community Development Disability Management and Rehabilitation Program (COMPRP), Department of Psychology, University of Calicut from 7th to 9th February, 2020. The theme of the event was 'Clinical Practice, Research and Policy in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: An Update'

DR. RICHA KAPOOR SELECTED FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Richa Kapoor, Occupational Therapist, HWT, India Lead and Head, Sensitivity Early Intervention Centre and Child's Skill Enhancement Clinic, New Delhi, was selected by IIM Bangalore/NSRCEL in their Women Entrepreneurship Program after a detailed selection procedure. The event was sponsored by Goldman Sachs, an American Multinational Investment Bank and financial services company, New York. The program aimed to empower women Entrepreneurs across the world with business and management education and mentoring. Dr. Richa's clinic "Sensitivity" was also adjudged as a successful venture. She will be trained by the senior professors from IIM Bangalore.

WFOT COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The recent sad outbreak of the corona virus in China is leading to a global impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and populations. As a result and in consultation with the Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association (HKOTA), the WFOT Executive has made the decision to postpone the WFOT Council Meeting in Hong Kong that was due to take place from 16th to 20th March, 2020. The HKOTA Conference (21st to 22nd March, 2020) also stands postponed. The rescheduled dates for the WFOT Council Meeting are now the: 24th to 28th August, 2020.

7TH APOTC, MANILA

The 7th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress (APOTC) is being organized by the Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists, Inc., together with the Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Regional Group from 18th to 20th November, 2020 (Education Day and Pre-Congress Workshops on 17th November, 2020) in Manila. Those interested may register/create an account and find more details about the 7th APOTC at:

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FAQ's: <https://chan.usc.edu/admissions/faqs>

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Original Article

AVAZ application (trial version) - A voice for the nonverbal children with autism spectrum disorder: A pilot study



Original Article

An investigation into medical practitioners' awareness of occupational therapy in South India: A survey

Background: Occupational therapists (OTs) practice on both a first contact and a referral basis. Medical practitioners are often the primary referral source for OTs. To make timely and appropriate referrals, medical practitioners need to know what OTs can do.



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