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# The Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy

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## About The AIOTA

All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) is registered under Bombay Public Trust Act, Mumbai 1950-E-1118. (Website: [www.aiota.org](http://www.aiota.org)) AIOTA is the founder council member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) (Website: [www.wfot.org](http://www.wfot.org)). Academic Council of Occupational Therapy (ACOT) is a constituent body of AIOTA, responsible for the maintenance of the standards of education and training in occupational therapy in India. The Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy (IJOT) is an official publication of AIOTA since 1955 and since 1956 with ISSN to date, with Print ISSN No.: 0445-7706. The IJOT is registered with the Office of Registrar of News Papers of India vide Registration No: 1653/57. The Abbreviated Key Title for Citation is *Indian J. Occup. Ther.*

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The official language of the Journal is American (US) English.

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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## THE AIOTA REPRESENTATION ON THE ISSUES OF PROFESSIONAL CONCERN IN RESPECT TO NCAHP ACT 2021 AND THE SUBSEQUENT NOTIFICATION ON LAID DOWN RULES

The All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) has strongly opposed to Clause 9.2 (a) of Gazette Notification Part II, section 3 issued on dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in respect to the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act 2021 informing about the qualifications of the Secretary of the commission. The Act informs the qualification of the Secretary of the Commission as '*A post graduate degree in any discipline, preferably related to medical or allied and healthcare education or healthcare policy or health administration or public health from any university*'. The mention of the word "medical" in the list of eligible disciplines is an issue of concern. The AIOTA is of firm opinion that any person who is supposed to be undertaking this key position in the commission should be having qualifications from any of the recognized categories of Allied and Healthcare Professions in place of medical graduate. Appointing the other professional not directly related to the recognized categories will likely to hamper the entire initiative of the government of India to provide realistic and standardized policies for the professions mentioned in this bill. The medical professionals were nominated as the President and Registrar of the Delhi Council of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy (DCPTOT). Surprisingly even after 18 years of the establishment of this council, almost the same nominated body is still there on role without any election till date. Practically DCPTOT is said to be a sleeping council due to the simple reasons that the key positions in the council are given to medical professionals because they belong to a different profession.

The Association has also recommended to the Ministry that only those occupational therapists with qualification as Diploma in Occupational Therapy pursued from an Institution listed under WFOT Approved Programs with cut of year 1994 should be permitted to register as duly qualified occupational therapists at par with those having Bachelor in Occupational Therapy qualification, in Central and State Register of Occupational Therapy under the National Commission of Allied and Healthcare Act 2021.

## WEBINAR ON NCAHP ACT 2021

Academic Council of Occupational Therapy (ACOT) of the AIOTA organized webinar on updates on National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act 2021 on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. It aimed to disseminate the information related to NCAHP Act 2021 and Central Council of Occupational Therapy besides resolving the queries of Members of AIOTA. President AIOTA Dr. Anil K. Srivastava, Formerly President and now EC Member of AIOTA DR. R. K. Sharma and Formerly EC Member Dr. Neeraj Mishra were the speakers for this successful webinar attended by more than 500 members.

## VIRTUAL OTICON'2022

OTICON'2021, the 58<sup>th</sup> annual national conference of The All India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA) organized for the first time on virtual platform, proved to be a grand success and also provided a great experience of online learning. This first ever virtual conference with national and international faculties received overwhelming response by the members and the participants.

Considering the current pandemic situation, the executive committee of the AIOTA has decided to conduct the 59<sup>th</sup> annual national conference of the AIOTA 'OTICON'2022' also as the virtual conference. Executive Committee of the AIOTA has provided the younger generation a choice to take up lead responsibility of organizing this conference with the recommendation to explore the possibility of organizing a hybrid conference provided the pandemic situation improves. Dr. Lakshmanan Sethuraman, Executive Editor IJOT (Bangalore) will hold the responsibility as the Organizing Secretary while Dr. Murali Krishnan S (Chennai), Executive Member of the AIOTA will be the Chairperson, Scientific Program Committee of OTICON'2022. Conference is scheduled from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 and the theme of the conference will be 'Unmask the Masked Potential: Occupational Therapy Perspective'. Conference flyer with the information on call for abstracts and registration will be available shortly on the AIOTA website.

## AOCNR 2021 - AIOTA SYMPOSIUM ON 'OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INTERVENTION IN DEMENTIA'

Indian Federation of Neuro-Rehabilitation (IFNR) is hosting the multi-disciplinary academic event for Neuro-Rehabilitation specialists: The Asia Oceanian Congress of Neuro-Rehabilitation 2021 (AOCNR'2021) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 on virtual platform. The AIOTA has accepted to be the supporting organization for this event. AIOTA has decided to hold 90 minutes parallel session on "Occupational Therapy Intervention in Dementia" with national and international resource faculties on 8<sup>th</sup> August from 12.00-1.30 pm.

Chai Chuah - Formerly Director General of Health - Wellington, (NZ) will be the Principal Speaker. Sebastina D'Souza- MAHE, (Manipal), Maria-Scott-Multani (NZ), Gazala Makda (UK) and Dimple Dawar, Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana will be the expert faculties. Around 30 minute's panel discussion on 'Enhancing Function and Promoting Participation' with expert faculties is also planned. Ex-Officio AIOTA EC Dr. Shashi Oberai is designated as Convener Coordinator of this event.

## MOST DOWNLOADED ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE AWARD

Dr. SureshKumar Kamalakannan was selected to receive



Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation's 'Most Downloaded Original Research Article Award' for his paper 'Rehabilitation Needs of Stroke Survivors after Discharge from Hospital'. This distinguished award will be presented to him during the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) Congress 2021.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> MALAYSIAN HYBRID CONFERENCE ON HEALTHY AGEING

Malaysian Healthy Ageing Society is organizing its 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Hybrid Conference on Healthy Ageing on the theme '10 Pillars to Living Longer, Healthier and Better' from 20-22 October, 2021 at Bayview Hotel, Georgetown, Penang. The closing date for the Call for Papers is 15<sup>th</sup> July. Visit [www.mcha.2021.healthyageing.org](http://www.mcha.2021.healthyageing.org) or contact at [mcha@healthyageing.org](mailto:mcha@healthyageing.org) for submission and registration.

## SERIES OF WEBINARS BY INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE AIOTA

International Chapter of the AIOTA is working with dedication by organizing series of webinars and other activities for promotion of occupational therapy infused with learning on vivid areas of practice. Following webinars and academic activities were organized in collaboration with ACOT of the AIOTA with great success in terms of participation and presentations.

1. 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2020: 'Evidence Based Practice' by Dr. Karthik Mani (USA).
2. 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2020: 'Health Care Leadership and Strategic Advocacy: Tips to Reposition OT Practice' by Dr. Harsh Vardhan (New Zealand).
3. 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2021: 'Occupational Therapy: Integral part of Virtual Care during Coronavirus pandemic' by Dr. Vijay Suple (Canada).
4. 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2021: 'Understanding Dementia' by Dr. Gazala Makda (UK).
5. 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, "Burn Care and Rehabilitation" by Dr. Jayasree Chandramouli (Qatar)

**Scholarship to Students:** International Chapter has created a small group of OT students from DY Patil Mumbai; Hamdard OT Program Delhi; Santosh OT Program Ghaziabad; SVNIRTAR Cuttack; OT School Nagpur; Amity OT Program Noida and OT School BYL Nair Hospital Mumbai. The purpose of this scholarship is to mentor OT students and help them learn how to plan a research project, write a proposal, and conduct research. Dr. Shruti Nadkarni and Dr. Jayasree Chandramouli have been tasked with the responsibilities related to student wing. The Chapter has also decided to launch two research scholarship instituted for the year 2021, one each for a UG and PG student. The selected student will receive the grant of Rs10, 000/payable in two installments, Dr. Vijay Suple and Dr. Ashok Jain from Canada will sponsor the scholarships.

The International chapter has also proposed for organizing OTICON'2024 at Nagpur in collaboration with GMC, Nagpur.

## WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

Dr. Namita Vadhavkar, Paediatric Occupational Therapist was facilitator for two days Workshop (12-13 June, 2021) on 'How to Setup a Fine Motor Station' and also a one day live session on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on 'How to Improve your Child's Wellness Post Lockdown' focusing parents, teachers and educators.

## WEBINAR ON MYTHS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The School of Occupational Therapy at D. Y. Patil Deemed to be University successfully organized webinar on Myths in Occupational Therapy on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Dr. Shovan Saha, Associate Professor (OT) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal was the resource speaker.

## ONLINE MEET FOR TEACHERS

A webinar for teachers of ASAN Memorial School, Chennai was arranged on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021 on the topic 'Empathizing with Students during Online Classes and tips to Actively Engage them'. EC Member AIOTA and Professor and Principal at Faculty of Occupational Therapy, Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research Dr. S. Murali Krishnan was the resource speaker.

## GUEST TALK ON UDID DISABILITY CERTIFICATION

Dr. Sathish S. Maslekar, Senior Occupational Therapist at GMC Aurangabad and formerly Hon. Secretary AIOTA was invited to deliver a talk on UDID Disability Certificate by Cambridge School, Aurangabad on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. He also talked on 'The Lack of Professionals and Practitioners for Persons with Special Needs' on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 during virtual summit conference organized by SNIC Rehabilitation Center, Aurangabad.

## MANUAL ON PSYCHO-SOCIAL FIRST AID FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY COVID-19

A manual on manual on Psycho-social First Aid for Children affected by COVID-19 has been developed by NIMHANS, Bangalore for first responders. The manual is published with financial assistance of UNICEF ([www.nimhans.ac.in](http://www.nimhans.ac.in)).

## WORKSHOP ON RESPONDING TO TRAUMA

The four days' workshop from 19-22 July 2021 will focus on exploring preferred ways of responding to trauma and developing stories of agency and solidarity using narrative ideas, the absent but implicit map as a guide for conversations, collective responses and mindfulness. The workshop will be conducted by Jehanzeb Baldiwala, Raviraj Shetty, Aarathi Selvan and Pooja Agarwal. (Contact for registration- 8106864001).

## DR. S. SATHISH KUMAR AWARDED PHD

Dr. S. Sathish Kumar. Senior Occupational Therapist and HOD of Occupational Therapy Section, JIPMER Hospital and Medical College, Pondicherry has been awarded with Ph. D. in March 2021 in the field of “Geriatric Care” from Himalyan University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The topic of his study was ‘Efficacy of occupational Therapy Intervention in gaining Independence in Activities of Daily Living in Geriatric Population’.

## MASTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DELHI

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), is a public private initiative supported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, State Governments as well as multiple stakeholders. The five campuses of Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH) under the aegis of PHFI are located in Delhi NCR (Gurgaon), Hyderabad (Telangana), Gandhinagar (Gujarat) Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Shillong (Meghalaya), which offer on-campus as well as e-Learning academic programs. Occupational Therapists play a unique role in strengthening public health systems by being a back bone in implementing health programs in India. Hence they have a potential to contribute towards the well-being of populations. Occupational Therapists aspiring to make a difference in their career and to contribute for a wider cause have an opportunity to acquire skills to become a public health professional or a health researcher.

The Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi (IIPH-Delhi) is a joint initiative of Government of NCT of Delhi, India and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). IIPH-D in collaboration with Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), an Institution by an Act of Parliament has called for applications, for the Master of Public Health (MPH) being offered in the academic year starting from August 2021. Last date for submitting applications for Masters of Public Health is 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.

For further information visit: <https://phfi.org/iiph-delhi/on-campus-programs/>.

## WFOT: WORK-RELATED PRACTICE SURVEY

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)

is undertaking a survey about occupational therapy and work-related practice. The objective of the survey is to develop an understanding of the role of occupational therapy in work-related practice to inform the promotion of decent work. WFOT has requested one response from each WFOT Member Organization by the August 3, 2021. Information for the survey is collected online via the link <https://wfot.link/workpractice>.

## WFOT: QUEST INDEPENDENT LEARNING GROUP

WFOT offers a free online course to develop practical knowledge on how to use the Quality Evaluation Strategy Tool (QUEST) to define quality indicators for occupational therapy. The QUEST online course was recently updated to include more case studies and learning exercises. To optimize the learning experience with the QUEST online course, WFOT will provide a time-limited opportunity to participate in a ‘QUEST Independent Learning Group’, which will be hosted on the Occupational Therapy International Online Network (OTION). Beginning September 6, 2021, learners enrolled in the QUEST online course will be able to interact with other learners through the OTION platform. Learners will progress through the learning units at a pace of one learning unit every two weeks. In this way, OTION will allow the exchange of ideas, thoughts and experiences on QUEST learning exercises to be an important part of the learning experience. More information regarding the QUEST Independent Learning Group is available on the WFOT website at <https://wfot.org/quest-independent-learning-group>

## VIRTUAL SHTICON'2021

8th Annual National Virtual Conference of Society for Hand Therapy, India in collaboration with 44th Annual National Virtual Conference of Indian Society for Surgery of the Hand will be held on 6th (Friday) & 7th (Saturday) August, 2021. Website Link for Therapists' Registration: <https://sshcon2021.com/Virtual-SHTICON-2021.php> Theme for Conference: Making Hand Therapy Viable. For further details email: [shticon2021@gmail.com](mailto:shticon2021@gmail.com)

## THE IJOT SPECIALITY EDITION THEME 2021

The theme for specialty edition of the IJOT 2021, Volume 53, Issue 4 (October - December) for the year 2021 shall be **“Innovations in Occupational Therapy Amidst Pandemic”**.

The IJOT editorial board invites study protocols, original research articles, review articles, case reports, expert research perspectives, and/or evidence-based clinical summaries, in the areas of academics, clinical, research and administrative innovations in the field of occupational therapy service delivery amidst COVID-19 pandemic, from authors across the globe, **on or before 30th September, 2021.**

We encourage amateur as well as experienced authors to gear-up to be featured in the specialty edition of 2021, as research authors. May contact Dr. Lakshmanan Sethuraman, Executive Editor, IJOT, at email: [eeditor@ijotonweb.org](mailto:eeditor@ijotonweb.org) for more information and queries. Sign up/Login to <https://www.review.jow.medknow.com/ijoth> as authors for manuscript submissions.

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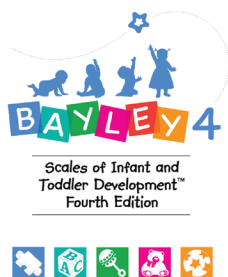
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**Age Range:**  
16 days to 42 months



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