

Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists
14th Biennial Scientific Conference
Occupational Therapy: Adding Innovation and Creativity to Function



The ACOT conference 2019 under the theme **Occupational Therapy: Adding Innovation and Creativity to Function** was hosted by the Barbados Occupational Therapy Association (BOTA) from October 30th to November 2nd 2019 at the Accra Beach Hotel & Spa. For the occasion, 52 occupational therapists (OTs) from Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Guyana, Bermuda, Canada, and the United States got together for four days to learn, exchange, support and network.

On October 30th 2019, 11 OTs met at Carib Rehab in St. Michael, Barbados for an occupational therapy community out-reach activity. During the event, OTs shared information and taught patients who have been living with a progressive neurological disorder and their caregivers helpful techniques about 1) safe transfers, 2) bathroom safety, 3) mobility aides, and 4) assistive devices to promote safety and independence with daily activities.



On October 31st 2019, the conference ceremony was opened with Dr. Helene Polatajko, keynote speaker. She addressed the 52 attendees on the topic **Positive Occupational Therapy: Expanding our Reach**. Over the next two days, OTs attended workshops, oral presentations as well as poster presentations on a wide variety of topics (education, mental health, physical health, adapted technology, etc.) The conference was also the

time for National ACOT members associations and emerging associations to share bi-annual reports, progress and challenges with their colleagues. BOTA had also organize a silent auction showcasing Bajan products, arts, and jewelry.

After each conference day, attendees and their partners were invited to join the members of BOTA to come mingle and taste local cuisine. On Thursday night, a Meet & Greet was organized at a local restaurant Sea



Horse in St. Lawrence Gap, and on Friday night a Social Dinner was held at Tiki Bar to close the conference. Both social events were enjoyed by all.

Finally, on November 2nd 2019 the ACOT executives held the BGM and new executives were elected for the next 2 years. We are looking forward to work alongside the new team.

On behalf of BOTA we want to thank again our sponsors; Carib Rehab Ltd, Gildan, the Lucky Horseshoe, Island Cabs, BTMI, All Contributors to the Silent Auction, The ladies of the Hub of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Accra Beach Hotel & Spa, and Mr. Patrick Bethell.

We invite you to consult the ACOT website for additional photos and for all the conference workshops and presentations in the **member section**. (<http://www.caribbeanot.com>)

We are looking forward to the next ACOT Conference in 2021 in Cayman Islands.

Gabrielle de Villers
President of the Barbados Occupational Therapy Association

