

ASSOCIATION
OF CARIBBEAN



OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS

2016 Edition/ Issue 1
February 2016

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Word from the President	2
Editor's note + conference committee report	3
WFOT update and ACOT executive board Nov 2015- Nov 2017	4
2015 conference	5
Introducing Haiti	7
Jamaica's OT association	9
Trinidad and Tobago's OT association	10
Cayman and Barbados OT associations	11
Voluntary opportunity	12
Committee's	13
Our mission	14
Contact us	



.....from the desk of THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy New Year to all our members and friends of the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists - ACOT.

Welcome to our revised newsletter which will provide information on what is happening in Occupational Therapy in our region and act as another vehicle for communication.

This executive took the reins after our last Biennial Scientific conference in Trinidad, October 2015. For the first time we have members from five Caribbean countries (Cayman, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago), all dedicated professionals who are committed to advance the objectives of this umbrella organization. I'm looking forward to working with them!

We welcome Haiti as the newest member island in the ACOT family and look forward to their local association (HAOT) one day hosting a conference!

The last biennial conference was held in Trinidad and Tobago. The physical dysfunction, paediatric and mental health presentations were educational, thought provoking and informative. We had an opportunity to meet and network with colleagues as we were reacquainted with old friends and made new ones. We are grateful to Stephanie Llanos (TTOTA) and her team for hosting an outstanding conference.

We recognize the work of past president Cyd Birch-Prescott (BOTA) and her executive, who lead the association from 2013-2015 and continued the work of the presidents from 1992 when ACOT was formed. We have big shoes to fill....and we are up for the challenge!

After many years of advocacy we now have one training programme in Haiti under the directorship of Dr Janet O'Flynn and another commencing in Trinidad in September 2016 under the leadership of Dr. Lesley Garcia. This is an exciting time for our profession and with more practitioners in the region (some of whom will be working in isolation), the strength of ACOT will be critical.

In this new season, we have reassessed our objectives, formalized a Mission and Vision and have planned how we are going to become more relevant for our members and better advocates for the clients/patients we serve. To this end we look forward to the leadership of Dionne Nmai (CIOTA) who chairs the OT Promotion and Education committee and Ken Figueria (CIOTA) who chairs the OT Development committee. The newsletter is a project of the OT promotion and Education committee and we thank them for all the hard work involved in its production.

Thanks for sharing this newsletter with your colleagues, we encourage those who are not yet members to come onboard, there is much to be done! Full membership is open to occupational therapy practitioners who are members of their national association (where one exists). You do not need to be a Caribbean national. Associate membership is open to students and OT practitioners who are non-Caribbean nationals. Dues are nominal and application forms can be found on our website.

Finally the conference committee has already been convened to host 'Jamaica 2017.' We thank the members of OTAJ who will be our hosts as well as the representatives from BOTA, CIOTA, HAOT and TTOTA who also sit on the committee.

We hope you will enjoy this publication, don't hesitate to contact your country representative or the ACOT secretariat for additional information.

Every Blessing,

Fleur Minott Nembhard

ACOT President Nov 2015- Nov 2017

Editor's note.....

Taking the stand at the 12th Biennial Scientific conference



It is with great excitement that I write this. I am honoured to be a part of the production of the ACOT newsletter. I work in the Cayman Islands and feel so fortunate to work in this vibrant profession in a beautiful part of the world. I attended the Biennial Scientific Conference in Trinidad in October 2015. Trinidad is a beautiful country, from Maracas beach to roadside Roti (yes, I do love local Caribbean cuisine) it was a wonderful all round experience. The Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association out did themselves with the organization and execution of a fantastic conference. I was so inspired by the topics and ideas shared that I just had to get involved with ACOT. I look forward to the network of Caribbean Occupational Therapists growing. I encourage all of you to get connected, whether you email, 'like' our Facebook page or join ACOT. We welcome you with open arms! The theme of the conference was: 'Moving Forward in Health and Education' and that is exactly the ethos I promote you all to take forward in your practice. Let's get connected and let's spread the word together!

Dionne

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT JANUARY 2016

The '**Jamaica 2017 Conference**' Committee conducted its first Skype meeting on January 13 2016.

In addition to members of the Occupational Therapy Association of Jamaica (OTAJ) – the host national association, committee members include a representative from each ACOT country.

The committee will have the benefit of a detailed 'Conference Tool Kit', which is being finalized by Stephanie Llanos who was the chair for the ACOT Scientific Conference held in Trinidad October 2015.

Under the leadership of committee chair, Lisa Stoddart- Millingen (OTAJ), two sub committees have been formed to manage logistics and programming. The theme, potential sponsors, possible venues, dates and speakers are among the matters tasked to members.

The next meeting will be in March 2017.



Fleur Minott Nembhard



TTOTA are ten- Read all about it!

The Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association is a decade old! This group of talented therapists made the news with a supplement in a national paper. Well done!

WORLD FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS (WFOT) UPDATE

The ACOT and TTOTA Delegate to the WFOT is Lesley Garcia.

32nd WFOT Council Meeting in Medellin, Columbia:
March 6th – 11th 2016

Agenda Items of concern to ACOT and TTOTA (the confirmed agenda has not been sent to Delegates as yet):

1. Executive Report on the blended Occupational Therapy Educator Preparation Programme (OTEPP) that was piloted in Trinidad and Tobago between June – August 2015 in collaboration with the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC).
 2. Curriculum Submission Documents have been sent in to the WFOT Education Programme by TTOTA on behalf of USC. This is in support of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy expected to start in September 2016.
- Curriculum Submission Documents have also been sent in to the WFOT Education Programme by HAOT on behalf of FSRL, the Faculté des Sciences de Réhabilitation de Léogâne of the Episcopal University of Haiti. This is in support of the four-year bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy that started in October of 2015.

3. The Minimum Standards (2002) have been reviewed over the period of 2013 - 2015. At the CM16 the recommendations put forth by the reviewers will be discussed and the new Minimum Standards ratified. The website for all information on the CM16: <http://32wfotcouncil.com/>

4. Lesley is available to attend the CM16 and is awaiting word on the possibility of financial support from USC. Neither Jeanne nor Pauline are able to attend; other ACOT and/or TTOTA members willing to participate in the delegation to Columbia would be welcome.

5. A request for recognition of HAOT will also be on the agenda for the WFOT Council Meeting. The president of HAOT, Autumn Marshall, and the WFOT Delegate, Consuelo Alzamora, will attend as observers.

6. Calls for **country and region news** for the WFOT **April e-newsletter** are out. Please submit country news to Lesley. caribbeandeflegate.acot@gmail.com



Lesley Garcia, OTD, MS
Doctor of Occupational
Therapy (Registered)



Meet the ACOT executive board! **Nov 2015-Nov 2017**

Right to left: Floor member Janet O'Flynn, Treasurer Melanie Büge, President Fleur Minott Nembhard, Vice President Stephanie Llanos, WFOT Delegate Lesley Garcia and Secretary Rachael Gaunt, WFOT Delegate (Alternate) Pauline Watson Campbell (not pictured).

12th Biennial Scientific Conference: Moving Forward in Health and Education held in Port of Spain Trinidad

Article written by: Sara Stephens, OT.

Sara moved to Trinidad in 2005 and loves supporting families along their journey. She has advanced training in sensory integration, handwriting, feeding therapy and social thinking.



Members of TTOTA, hosts for the 12th Biennial Scientific ACOT Conference, all dressed up for the Presidential Cocktail Reception – this team is so tight they coordinated their outfits without even planning!!!!

As a means to create community and ensure best practice in occupational therapy practices across the Caribbean and greater region, the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT) holds a biennial scientific conference every two years, rotating between member countries. In Oct 2015, the Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA) hosted the 12th Biennial Scientific Conference: Moving Forward in Health and Education, in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The Conference was a blend of practitioners from around the Caribbean, including Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Haiti as well as far away as the US, Canada and the UK. In total, there were 53 participants learning and growing together, 33 OT practitioners and 20 non-OT participants. It was exciting to have so many OTs present in one space, especially considering that on a good day there are around 16 OTs in Trinidad and Tobago. Various topics were presented at the conference, ranging from Education to Pediatrics on Day 1 and Mental Health, Physical Dysfunction and Older Adults were covered on Day 2.

Workshops, oral presentations and poster presentations highlighted the knowledge and strengths of our local practitioners and friends from abroad.

Connections were made and old friendships strengthened as conference participants took part in evening social events. The highlight of the evening was The President's Cocktail Hour, hosted their Excellences, President Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona and First Lady Mrs. Reema Harrysingh-Carmona at Queen's Hall in Port of Spain. At the event, President Carmona praised ACOT for the advocacy work they do and called for increased numbers of medical practitioners within the Allied Health professions. In addition to the cocktail hour, conference participants became honorary Trini's as they 'limed' the evenings away with the host therapists.

As ACOT members look forward to a fruitful 2016, promoting occupational therapy as both a necessary therapy and a profession, the conference highlighted several exciting developments in the works. This year at the conference marked the expansion of ACOT from four member countries (Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) to include Haiti as they work towards establishing an undergraduate degree, bringing the important work of occupational therapists to a country where there are currently fewer than 3 practicing therapists. Additionally in September 2016, The University of the Southern Caribbean, in Trinidad, will open its doors to the first Masters class in Occupational Therapy.

The 12th Biennial Scientific ACOT Conference was by in large a great success. It increased awareness of our profession and we look forward to the addition of two local education programs. The future of our field within the Caribbean region is bright. ACOT looks forward to another successful conference in 2017, when it will be hosted by OTAJ in Jamaica. Won't you all join us!!!



Conference Participants celebrating a successful conference!

Hello Haiti!



Haiti's Occupational Therapy Association have sketched up their logo (see above). We can not wait to see the finished product!



The occupational therapists of the country of Haiti received a warm welcome into the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT) during the biennial scientific conference, 29th and 30th of October, 2015. The Dean of the new Department of Rehabilitation of the Episcopal University of Haiti, Dr. Janet O'Flynn, and the OT program developer for FSRL, Dr. Kate Barrett, represented the Haitian occupational therapists at the conference and also at the Annual General Meeting on the 31st of October, 2015, at the Immortelle Children's Center in Port-of-Spain. During the Annual General Meeting, Dr. Janet O'Flynn, OTD, OTR/L, was elected as a Floor Member to the ACOT Board on the 31st of October, 2015.

Inventory of the Occupational Therapists (OTs) in Haiti

The following OTs are living and working in Haiti, and have identified themselves as a founding group for the new Haitian Association of Occupational Therapists (HAOT).

- Consuelo Alzamora Muñoz, a Chilean citizen, working in Les Cayes with Medical Teams International
- Ashley Kahila, a U.S. citizen, working in Gressier at Respiré House
- Autumn Marshall, a U.S. citizen, working in St. Louis de Nord at Myriam Center
- Janet O'Flynn, a U.S. citizen, working in Léogâne at the Faculté des Sciences de Réhabilitation de Léogâne (FSRL) of the Université Episcopale d'Haïti (UNEPH)

One more OT, born in Haiti, is known to be working there and joined HAOT:

- Ivens Louius, a Haitian citizen, who is doubly certified as an OT and a PT, who received his education in the Dominican Republic, working in Ouanaminthe as manager of his own clinic, National Rehabilitation Center of Haiti

Report on the newly forming Haitian Association of Occupational Therapy (HAOT)

A small group consisting of Autumn Marshall, Janet O'Flynn, and a university administrator from Queensland University who is a supporter of OT, the Rev. Jean-Claude Dorsainvil, have met twice to draft a Constitution and Bylaws. Consuelo Alzamora has aided the process by reviewing the documents. The small group has also had the assistance of Samantha Shann, vice-president of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT). Ms. Shann contacted Trinidad & Tobago to request a copy of their constitution, which was used as a model. Those documents have been submitted to WFOT for review. The first official meeting of HAOT, also known in French as the AHE (Association Haitienne des Ergotherapeutes), took place November 21, on the campus of FSRL in Léogâne. Officers were elected, and Constitution and Bylaws approved.

Report on the Educational program for Occupational Therapists at the Rehabilitation Department of the Episcopal University of Haiti

On the 5th of October, 2015, the new Rehabilitation Department (FSRL) of the Episcopal University of Haiti (UNEPH) accepted the first seven students of rehabilitation. The programs at FSRL include a four-year academic entry-level degree in OT, and another degree in PT. For the first year, the rehab students take general liberal arts courses and basic science courses with the excellent nursing faculty and students of the Episcopal University. This nursing school (FSIL) pioneered the first four-year bachelor's degree in nursing in Haiti, in 2005. Their 100 graduates are almost all employed in positions of leadership in public health care in Haiti. The rehab students will have a multitude of experiences of visits from OT and PT professionals, and observations of therapy, during their first year. At the end of the first year they will declare a major of OT or PT.

The curriculum for OT and PT are now under construction. FSRL has three curriculum developers: Dr. Kate Barrett, OTD program director at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Julie Booth, PT faculty at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, and Professor Jami Flick, Clinical Education director at the U. of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis. The curriculum are designed to meet the international standards of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy and the World Confederation of Physical Therapy.

Financial support for the FSRL program is led by the Haiti Rehabilitation Foundation (HRF), with a board of six members, incorporated in the state of New York. Fund-raising will be an ongoing challenge, which the HRF board is meeting by publishing a newsletter to share with donors and supporters, holding fund-raising events, and putting up a campaign on an internet site called IndieGoGo. Grant applications will be part of the HRF fund-raising effort as well.

Several U.S. and Canadian universities have expressed interest in forming partnerships with FSRL. These include Loma Linda University in California, U. of Montreal in Montreal, Quinnipiac University, and St. Catherine University.



*Well done on
all the hard
work to the
dedicated
Haiti team!
(Pictured
right)*



Pauline Watson
Campbell, BH(M),
OTR, Ph.D

On island Occupational Therapists	One OT joined OTAJ at our recent meeting in November bringing membership to nine. Four OTAJ members reside outside of Jamaica in Canada, Los, Australia and New York (COTA). Seven local OTs are registered with the Council of Allied Health Professionals and are working in various areas.
Regulatory body information	New title to Council – The new name is The Council for Professions Allied to Medicine.
Available Posts	<p>Possible two posts for Sir John Golding Rehab Centre and Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital.</p> <p>Appearing recently an advert for Paediatric OT. Applications to be forwarded to the Human Resources Manager at hrm@cwjamaica.com</p>
Other News	OTAJ members have been given Provider status by Sagicor Jamaica. OTs will be able to offer immediate deduction for clients' payments if they so desire.
Country Rep Contact Details	<p>Pauline Watson Campbell, BH(M), OTR, Ph.D</p> <p>Occupational.therapyja@gmail.com</p> <p>Tel: (876) 9776496 (w), (876) 7799542 ©</p>

Jamaica will
be hosting
the 2017
ACOT
conference!

Hands up who wants to go to the 2017 ACOT conference in Jamaica??!



Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)



How many OT's are in T&T? *There are sixteen registered OT's, sixteen full members of TTOTA (2 overseas), Nine persons are members of ACOT.*

Who are your regulatory body? OT's must register annually with the Council of Professions Related to Medicine (Ministry of Health) to practice legally.

Any recent OT promotion activities? *Formally started in 2004, TTOTA celebrated its tenth anniversary throughout 2015.*

- *Mall day at Long Circular Mall January 24th 2015*
- *Mall day at Trincity Mall March 21st 2015*
- *TTOTA in collaboration with the University of Southern Caribbean hosted a Professional Evening*
- *"Moving Forward in Health and Education" April 20th 2015 at the National Academic Library and Information System (NALIS).*
- *Mall day at Gulf City Mall May 30th 2015*
- *TTOTA hosted ACOT's 12th Biennial Scientific Conference at Radisson October 29th and 30th and ACOT's AGM on October 31st 2015*
- *TTOTA issued a supplement in December 2015. A 16 page supplement appeared in the Guardian newspaper.*



*Pictured above:
Stephanie Llanos
Trinidad and
Tobago country
representative and
Vice President of
ACOT.*

Any upcoming continuing education activities? *Total Rehabilitation Centre will be hosting a 15 contact hour course on Advances in Rehabilitation of the Shoulder in the later part of 2016. The course is an approved provider of continuing education. Further Information will be given in due time. Please check our ttota.com for updates on continuing education.*

Do you have any available OT posts? *Full and part-time faculty position at MSOT at USC are anticipated in Sept 2016.*

Any other news to share? *TTOTA elected a new executive in December 2015. It is a great pleasure to introduce, Jeanne Sabga-Aboud Chairman, Shivani Maynard Vice Chairm an, Sara Stephens Treasurer, Tara Riley Secretary, Priya Gomes PRO and Lesley Garcia WFOT Delegate.*

Master of Science in OT at the USC anticipated to start in Sept 2016 with an entry cohort of 25. We welcome Caribbean students!

Lesly Garcia would like to gather contact information for Caribbean OT's willing to host FWII students.

Contact garcial@usc.edu.tt

Facebook page: "Occupational therapy at University of the Southern Caribbean".

The country representative is Stephanie Llanos

Email: stephaniellanos@gmail.com

Mobile: 1 (868)305-6633

Website: ttota.com

Facebook: Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association

Email: ttota.info@gmail.com

Calling all ACOT
members!

Are you interested in joining
one of the committee's?

Can you bring some fresh
ideas and dedicate a little time
to developing the scope of
ACOT?

Contact the committee chairs
to show your interest in
joining.

Conference committee chair:

Fleur Minott Nembhard

Fminnem.ot.jm@gmail.com

Education and Promotion
committee chair:

Dionne Nmai

nmaidionnegmail.com

Development committee
chair:

Kenneth Figueria

fig@candw.ky

Education and Promotion committee

At the last general meeting a new committee for 'Education and Promotion' was formed. This committee consists of two sub-groups one focused on the promotional aspect and one on the education. We are honored to have Dr Kate Barrett and Dr Lesley Garcia in the education committee and priorities for this calendar year are to be formed.

This year we will focus on building the ACOT brand and the use of social media will be a key medium used. We have Stephanie Llanos maintaining the website and Aliya Drakes heading the update of the Facebook page. Please share with us your OT related pictures and stories!

We encourage you to join ACOT today and be part of the movement!

Development committee

It is intended that through this committee we identify current OT presence in territories not presently represented in ACOT.

We aim to:

- Identify if government posts or private positions are available for interested OTs.
- Assist as feasible, to identify OTs who may be interested in serving in under/not served territories.
- Identify available funds which persons may access for training.
- Support where able to place potential OT students in regional training programmes.



Pictured above (right to left):
Dionne Nmai (Vice President of
CIOTA), Kenneth Figueria
(Cayman country representative for
ACOT), Rachael Gaunt (President
of CIOTA).

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands are made up of three islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. The total population is approximately 60,000. There are eleven OT's working on the island at present, this includes government and private practice. The Cayman Islands have a regulatory body called the Cayman Processional Allied Health to Medicine (CPAM). The Cayman Islands Occupational Therapy Association are focused on expansion and supporting the growth of the profession within the local population. In the last CIOTA meeting the constitution was reviewed and finalization is underway. We also run a journal club on a quarterly basis and promotional material for the association is to be produced. Our country representative is Kenneth Figueria. We have a Facebook page (Cayman Islands Occupational Therapy Association) Like our page and stay up to date with our latest activity!



Barbados

Barbados has twelve Occupational Therapists registered with the Paramedical Council of Barbados. Nine of them are registered with the local association and Five are ACOT members. At present there are no advertised OT job vacancies. On January 21st the Barbados OT association members met for a retreat and discussed their priorities for 2016. At their meetings educational presentations and team building exercises will be completed. The island's 50th anniversary of independence is in 2016 and the OT association will produce a pamphlet to celebrate this momentous occasion (and spread the word about the fantastic work of the OT's on island!)

As was the message from October's conference of 'moving forward' Barbados will be linking with other associations to promote OT.

It sounds like 2016 will be a very successful year for the Barbados OT association!



Wish you were here....? Make sure to keep an eye out in the country reports for vacancies!



Pictured: Cyd Birch-Prescott
Barbados country representative
Past ACOT President

Voluntary opportunity in St Lucia



The Child Development and Guidance Centre are seeking a Paediatric Occupational Therapist. The post is based on the beautiful Caribbean island of St. Lucia and the centre is located in the capital city of Castries. A multidisciplinary model of service provision is employed and the current team consists of a Paediatrician, Clinical Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, and Physiotherapist. The caseload is mixed but a significant proportion of the children are preschool aged.

- The position is available from March 2016.
- The post requires a minimum commitment of 6 months.
- A minimum 5 years post qualification experience is required.
- Sensory integration training is a plus.
- Clinical experience with children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- A reasonable stipend is provided and is adequate for living, transportation (public) and accommodation on the island.
- Therapists usually work Monday to Friday. First client at 8am and last client 2:00 pm with six clients a day.

Interested?

Please send your CV and email contacts for two referees, including your last employer to Cdgc.slu@gmail.com. For more information about CDGC check out the website: <http://childdevelopmentstlucia.org/>.



*Pictured right:
A snapshot of the facilities.*

OUR MISSION

MISSION

To promote the benefits of OT throughout the Caribbean region in creative and innovative ways by facilitating professional growth and development.

VISION

ACOT is the unifying umbrella organization supporting Caribbean Occupational Therapists to eliminate professional isolation through facilitating education, networking and advocating for the needs of the clients we serve.

Are you a member of ACOT?

If not, what are you waiting for?

There are many advantages to being a member of ACOT. At **\$25 (US) annually** (or \$15.00 for associate members and students) it is a bargain. How can we convince you? Have a look at the extensive list of advantages that we can think of to tempt you:

Networking: meet other OT's across the Caribbean, whether its attending the bi-annual conference, using social media or other educational events.

OT news. Keep up to date with what is going on.

Access to information about what's happening in OT in the region/government/private practice.

Opportunities for **continuing education.**

Support for the local associations.

Joint advocacy for clients across the region. One louder voice instead of splintered voices.

Support of OTs working alone in some territories.

Liaison between training programmes and members/ member local associations.

Umbrella organization that can suggest/ help develop/ encourage/ guide in standards of practice and ethics of member national associations.

Central repository for information on jobs/posts/vacancies across the region.

One umbrella organization for OTs across the region that can interface with other professional bodies.

You can contact the treasurer at acotmembership@gmail.com. You can also send payments directly to the treasurer at the address below:

Carib Rehab ,Friendship Plantation, Hothersal Turning, Saint Michael , Barbados, BB 11032

Remember payment can be made by bank draft. The drafts should be made payable to **Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists**. Cash payments will be accepted directly by your country representative.

Please note!

Our website is not currently supported on iOS and android mobile devices. We are working hard to rectify this for now, log on with your computer!

Get involved! Tell us about Occupational Therapy activity in your region and actively be part of the movement to keep the profession growing!

Connect with us on Facebook:

'Association of Occupational Therapists'

Website:

<http://caribbeanot.com/>

Email ACOT Secretary:
acotmembership@gmail.com

Email Caribbean WFOT delegate:
caribbeandeflegate.acot@gmail.com

Email Non Membership Matters:
caribbeanotassociation@gmail.com

- **Full Members** - All OTs resident/practicing in the region who are members of the national associations (where one exists)
- **Associate members** - Students and other persons interested in Occupational Therapy or regional Occupational Therapists who are NOT members of their national association.