



ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

2019 Edition, Issue 1

## ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS NEWSLETTER

**Hands up if you are ready for the next  
conference!**



Pictured above: Delegates from the 10th Biennial Scientific Conference  
hosted in Barbados

***In this issue we focus on ACOT conferences  
from the past and our upcoming conference  
in Barbados.***

### Inside this issue

Word from the President .....	2
Country representatives .....	3
Call for abstracts .....	4/5
Biennial conference ad .....	5
Memories from past conferences .....	6-9
The Bucket chair .....	10
ACOT aims and contact information .....	11

### Special points of interest

- 2019 conference info  
.....page 5



*Pictured: Stephanie Llanos*

ACOT President 2017-  
2019

## Word from the President

Greetings to all our members and friends of the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT). I must admit it has been some time! I am happily looking forward to seeing you all at our 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference. From my years of attending the conference, my OT family has grown tremendously and I have learnt a lot from the colleagues I have met from their experiences to their niche areas of practice. Having said that, I am excited to see what this upcoming conference entails.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Barbados Occupational Therapists Association for hosting the conference in their beautiful island. I hope we will not be distracted by the lovely Accra Beach Hotel where the conference will be held. The conference starts with an OT Blast, reaching out to the community and those in need to screen and provide guidance. The conference will continue with two days of presentations filled with workshops, oral presentations and poster presentations. The last day will be our Biennial General Meeting for members only. We will have our re-elections of specific positions on the executive board. If anyone is interested in being part of the executive please message us. Last but not least, our social events. Who does not look forward to kicking back, relaxing and getting to know some unfamiliar faces and seeing old friends?

In the newsletter, you can find more detailed information about the conference. Please note the call for abstracts is still out! I encourage and invite you to submit your abstract for the conference!

Thank you in advance for sharing this newsletter with your colleagues who are soon to be members of ACOT! A special thank you to Dionne Nmai, for your dedicated support in publishing this lovely read.

Respectfully,  
*Stephanie Llanos*  
ACOT President 2017-2019

## Country representatives

### Jamaica



Marjorie Jones

**E-mail:** Marjorie060@gmail.com



### Barbados



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### Trinidad and Tobago



Racquel Martinez

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**Facebook:** Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association

**Email:** [ttota.info@gmail.com](mailto:ttota.info@gmail.com)

### Haiti



Ashley Kahila

**Email:** [ashleykahila@gmail.com](mailto:ashleykahila@gmail.com)

**Mobile:** 509-3411-7349



**Website:** [ahe-haot.org](http://ahe-haot.org)

**Facebook:** Association Haïtienne D'Ergotherapuetes

### Cayman Islands



Rachael Gaunt

**Facebook :** Cayman Islands Occupational Therapy Association

**E-mail:** [rachael.gaunt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachael.gaunt@hotmail.co.uk)



*The Barbados  
Occupational  
Therapy  
association  
excitedly  
await your  
abstracts!*

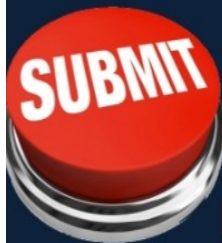
# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**ACOT 14th Biennial Scientific  
Conference  
October 31st- November 2nd 2019**



**THEME:**  
**'OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY:  
ADDING INNOVATION AND  
CREATIVITY TO FUNCTION'**

**DEADLINE: JUNE 30 2019**



**Submit abstracts to:  
[barbadosots@gmail.com](mailto:barbadosots@gmail.com)**





Conference information




The Barbados Occupational Therapy Association invites you to the  
Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists

*14th Biennial Scientific Conference under the theme:*

**'OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY : ADDING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY  
TO FUNCTION'**

October 30th- November 2nd 2019  
The Accra Beach Hotel & Spa  
Rockley, Christ Church ,Barbados BB 15139  
Keynote Speaker: Helene Polatajko BOT, MED , PhD

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***Itinerary***

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**October 30: DT Blast  
Opening Ceremony & Silent Auction**

**October 31: Day 1 - Keynote Speaker  
& Presentations**

**November 1: Day 2- Presentations &  
Social event**

**November 2: Day 3- Business Meeting**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

**FOLLOW US!**



ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPISTS & THE BARBADOS OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION



@ ACOTCONFERENCE



BARBADOSOTS@GMAIL.COM



**\*CONFERENCE FEE: \$75 USD PER DAY\***



[HTTP://WWW.ACCRABEACHHOTEL.COM](http://www.accrabeachhotel.com)

12th Biennial conference memories

## Memories from previous ACOT conferences



Above: Previous ACOT President Fleur Minott Nembhard, 2015-2017.

The 12th Scientific Biennial Conference of the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists (ACOT), was held on October 29th and 30th 2015, in Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of the Conference was "Moving Forward in Health Education". The hosting organization was the Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association (TTOTA).



Pictured left: Rosemary Green and their excellencies, President Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona and First Lady Mrs. Reema Harrysingh-Carmona

Right: Some attendees at the Presidential Cocktail Reception



Above: Shivanni Maynard demonstrating in Nicole Loh and Nicole Oberlin's wheelchair workshop .



Above: Stephanie Llanos, Chairperson of ACOT's Conference



Left: Debra Cameron, Hilary Bethell and Jacqui Leotaud



Above: Janet O'Flynn during question and answer .



Above and above left: Delegates enjoying the conference.



Left: ACOT's volunteers, our little helpers!



Memories from past conferences



*ACOT's founding members set a strong legacy. The biennial conference's are an opportunity to inspire, innovate and grow!*

## Memories from previous ACOT conferences



The 11th Scientific session of the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapist (ACOT) was held from October 31- November 2, 2013 at the Health Services Authority (HAS) - Hibiscus Conference room, George Town Hospital, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. The theme of the conference was "Occupational Therapy – Opening doors to Better Health".



The 10th Biennial Scientific Conference was hosted in **Barbados** on **November 3-5, 2011**. The theme of the conference was "**The Many Faces of Occupational Therapy**". Below are some photographs of the successful event.





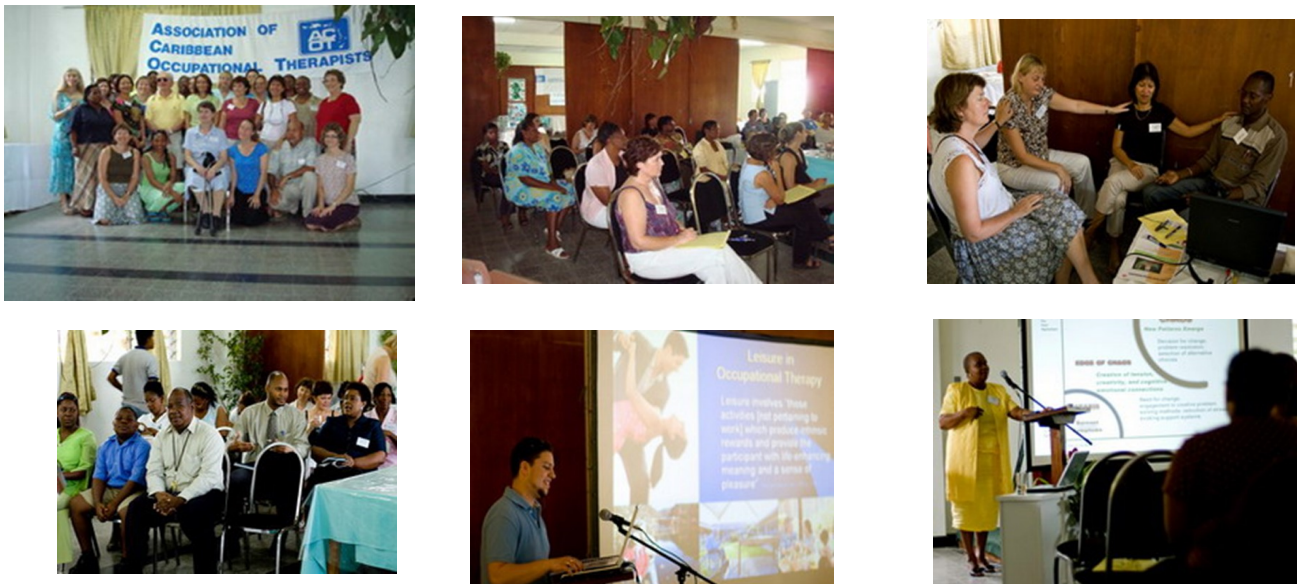
## 9th ACOT Biennial Scientific Conference 2009

The 9th ACOT Biennial Scientific Conference was held in **Kingston, Jamaica** on **5-7 November 2009** at the Hilton Hotel with the theme **"It All Comes Together Here...Caribbean OT's Striving for Excellence"**.



## 8th ACOT Biennial Scientific Conference 2007

In November 2007 the 8th Biennial Scientific Conference was held in **Trinidad and Tobago** under the theme **"Occupational Therapy- Making Waves in Mental"**



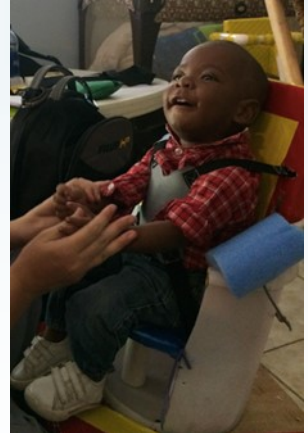
## The Bucket Chair

Submitted by: Ashley Khaliha , OT, Haiti

In the previous newsletter, the bucket stander was highlighted. This newsletter will highlight how a 5-gallon bucket can also be used to fabricate a chair. The bucket chair provides an alternative to being held or laying on a bed or flat surface all day. Once the child has a proper seating system available, the parents and caregivers can more efficiently complete daily living activities. It also allows the child to engage in her environment assisting in development of motor and visual skills.

The 5-gallon bucket can be utilized to fabricate various types of chairs. For those that need less support, the front of the bucket is simply cut out and then padding, straps, and a base are added. For those that need extra support, lateral supports, head rests, abduction blocks, foot rests and straps, etc. can be added to the bucket to provide the best support possible. Trays can also be fabricated that fit around the bucket to allow the child to use her hands for play or feeding tasks. Certain cases/diagnosis require extra adaptations to achieve the best alignment possible. For example, a common diagnosis in Haiti is hydrocephaly. Oftentimes, the circumference and weight of the head will result in neck hyperextension impacting not only the head/neck alignment, but the trunk alignment as well. When fabricating a bucket chair for a child with hydrocephaly the head support needs to accommodate for this and needs to be attached further back on the chair while providing a comfortable, soft surface for the base of the head to rest on.

Another innovative equipment design by Ashley!



Connect with us on  
Facebook:

' Association of Caribbean  
Occupational Therapists'

Website:

[www.caribbeanot.com](http://www.caribbeanot.com)

### Objectives of ACOT:

- ⇒ *Encourage the development of the profession in the Caribbean.*
- ⇒ *Promote the establishment of Occupational Therapy training programmes in the English speaking Caribbean.*
- ⇒ *Link with government and NGOs to expand the scope of the profession.*
- ⇒ *Organize scientific conferences to promote dialogue and expand therapeutic knowledge and expertise.*
- ⇒ *Facilitate professional growth and development through scientific conferences, workshops and continuing education programmes.*

Email ACOT secretary:  
[acotmembership@gmail.com](mailto:acotmembership@gmail.com)

Email Caribbean WFOT delegate:  
[Caribbeandeflegate.acot@gmail.com](mailto:Caribbeandeflegate.acot@gmail.com)

Email non-membership matters:  
[caribbeanot@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanot@gmail.com)

### How do I join?

Ordinary ACOT membership is \$25.00 annually, (US\$ 15.00 for associates) and payments can be made by bank draft or money order to **Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists**. Fill out an application form if you are interested in joining. Please return completed form along with your membership fees to your ACOT representatives.

**Download** the memberships form from our website.

**Full Members** - All qualified OTs resident/practicing in the region who are members of the national associations (where one exists) and employed within the legal requirements of the laws of the region.

**Associate members** - Students and other persons interested in Occupational Therapy or regional Occupational Therapists who are NOT members of their national association.

**Honorary members**— Persons who have rendered outstanding service to ACOT or have made some notable contribution to the welfare of humanity.