



The Spotlight

From the Chair

Greetings:

AAPOTA has had a number of events that I would like to share with you all. In February, the Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion (MDI) Network of OT practitioners had a conference call with Penny Moyers Cleveland, AOTA President and Ginny Stoffel, newly elected Vice President, to discuss the proposed sweeping changes to the AOTA structure with the goal of increasing member participation. The powerpoint which we viewed on the conference call is available at aota.org/participation. I hope you will review the slides and respond to your state RA. I believe this proposed structure change will afford all of us with increased opportunities for leadership and voice in AOTA.

In AAPOTA’s effort to increase member participation, on Wednesday, April 21st, 8 p.m. EST, we will have an AAPOTA member call-in. Please see call-in details on page-4 under “Announcements”.

If you need resources on cultural diversity and cultural competence, make your first click on the AAPOTA web page under the resources tab. We continually add new links and resources to our website. If you come across resources you think would be of interest to others, please contact Joe Wells (jwells@asian-pacificOT.org) with the information.

If you will be attending the annual AOTA conference, I hope you will mark on your calendar the AAPOTA meeting on Friday, April 30th at 7 p.m. There will be a brief business meeting and Jyothi Gupta, Ph.D., OTR/L will be our 3rd AAPOTA Distinguished Lecturer.

Thank you all for your support of AAPOTA. The Board is working to build the membership base, represent you in the greater MDI, and meet your needs as Asian occupational therapy practitioners. I look forward to meeting and talking with you on the member call-in conference call.

Best regards,

Chana Hiranaka

Our Report Card...



Dear Friends,

As we enter Spring 2010 I extend to all of you warm wishes for a *fresh start*. A year ago, we, at our annual AAPOTA membership meeting, agreed upon four major initiatives.

The first was the formation of resource groups or committees. Accordingly we have formed –the Research, Membership Recruitment, Student, and Immigration Support committees. Please feel free to contact the committee members and solicit assistance.

The second was to institute various awards to recognize our members for their service and professional achievement. The call for nominations was sent out in December 2009 and the awards will be presented April 29, 2010 at our annual membership meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The third, and more challenging goal was to increase our membership by 20 members in the year 2009-2010. I am proud to say that we have met our goal. I want to congratulate and thank our energetic Membership Recruitment Committee and all of you who were instrumental in achieving this goal.

The fourth and undoubtedly most important goal was to support

AOTA’s centennial vision by promoting education and awareness of multicultural diversity and inclusiveness issues. Toward this end we had a short publication about AAPOTA in *OT Practice* and have initiated the Student Essay Competition. Students in any accredited national or international OT or COTA program are invited to send in an essay on *Evidence Evaluating the Effectiveness of Culturally Sensitive Care*. The top five winners will each receive a free AOTA student membership (or equivalent amount paid toward a new practitioner AOTA membership) for one year. Additional details can be found at our website. We thank Mr. Bhagwan Sharma of STI Therapy Services, Inc. for sponsoring the essay contest.

I thank all of you who have helped us with financial, technical, and other support that is so vital for the functioning of this organization and for advancing our mission and purpose.

I look forward to meeting you at our annual membership meeting on April 30, 2010 in Orlando, Florida and developing initiatives for 2010-2011.

Best wishes,

Meena Iyer, PhD, OTR/L
Vice-President

Congratulations...

April is National Occupational Therapy Month!

Live life to the fullest!

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Gupta to Present at AAPOTA'S Annual Meeting (2010)

The Third Annual Distinguished Lectureship on Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has been awarded to **Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR/L, OT(C)**. Dr. Gupta is the Chair-Elect of AOTA's Commission on Education, member of AAPOTA's research committee, and associate professor at St. Catherine University with appointments to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and the department of occupational science and occupational therapy.

The First and Second Annual Distinguished Lectureships were awarded to Dr. Meena Iyer (2008) and Dr. Marianne Mortera (2009) respectively.

If you are headed to AOTA's Annual Conference, don't miss AAPOTA's Annual Distinguished Lecture on Occupational Science and Therapy, and its Annual Meeting! For details see box below:

AOTA CENTENNIAL VISION

(By 2017)

*We envision that **occupational therapy** is a powerful, **widely recognized, science-driven, and evidence-based** profession with a **globally connected and diverse workforce** meeting society's occupational needs.*

AOTA, 2006

2010- AAPOTA ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE & ANNUAL MEETING

Title of lecture: "**Where is the Evidence: Practitioners' Roles and Responsibilities**" by Dr. Jyothi Gupta

- When: April 30, 2010, 7:00– 9:00 pm (including annual meeting)
- Where: Hilton Orlando, Lake Nona— AB Hall
- Certificates of attendance will be given for the annual meeting and lecture separately
(The lecture will follow AAPOTA's Annual Meeting)

News Briefs: The "Spotlight" is on...

- Dr. Madan Warhade has been elected as the president of All India Occupational Therapy Association. In past, he has served the association in many a board positions including honorary secretary and president (1992-93), and just recently as the dean of the Academic Council of Occupational Therapy. He succeeds Dr. Anil Srivastava. His terms begins in April of 2010.
- In February 2010, a lecture titled "**DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**" by Dr. Anil Kumar Srivastava, immediate past president of All India OT Association, was inducted in the Supercourse Library of the University of Pittsburg in two parts. The links are as follows:
Part 1 - <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec37041/index.htm> and
Part 2 - <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec37051/index.htm>
- In March 2010, Joe Wells, OTD, OTR/L, membership chair of AAPOTA, and Animesh Anand, OTD (Stu.), OTR/L, CBIS, AAPOTA's membership coordinator for Ohio were invited to present at the Ohio OT Association's Akron District Midyear Conference. The title of their presentation was "**Evidence-based Practice: Basics for the OT Clinician**". Dr. Wells also presented on "**The Basis of Ethical Decisions in Healthcare**" at the same conference.
- The All-India OT Association recently published articles on occupational therapy to create better public awareness to the profession. These articles were published in major newspapers such as "The Hindustan Times" and "The Telegraph". Here is the link to one of these articles: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100311/jsp/careergraph/story_12200897.jsp
- A regional health-related bi-monthly magazine *Living Today* has selected an article by Dr. Joe Wells titled "*Celebrate Life with Occupational Therapy*" to be published in its April issue. The article is aimed to create public awareness to occupational therapy.

STUDENTS' NOOK

AOTA E.K. Wise Scholarship: Building a Diverse Occupational Therapy Workforce

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is pleased to announce the 3rd annual call for applications of the AOTA E.K. Wise Scholarship aimed at building a diverse occupational therapy workforce. Previously known as the E.K. Wise Loan Program, the fund was established in the 1960s through the generous bequest of Elizabeth K. Wise to support women pursuing higher education degrees. The scholarship fund reflects the changes that have occurred in the education of entry-level occupational therapists over the last several decades while remaining true to the intent of the original bequest. The focus of the scholarship will be to support students from diverse backgrounds who can meet E.K. Wise's and the Association's objectives of developing a workforce to meet society's diverse occupational needs in underserved areas or communities.

Awards

The scholarship supports female students pursuing a post baccalaureate entry-level degree program in occupational therapy. Three awards will be granted annually in the amount of \$5,000. Students may apply for a second year.

Qualified Applicants must:

- Be enrolled (or accepted) in a post baccalaureate entry-level occupational therapy educational program on a full-time basis
- Be enrolled in the entry-level occupational therapy educational program for the full 2010-11 academic year (Fall 2010 thru Spring 2011)
- Demonstrate a sustained record of outstanding academic achievement
- Demonstrate leadership and community service
- Able to contribute to a diverse workforce
- Be a member of AOTA
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

General Information

Please note that applications and references for the 2010-11 academic year must be submitted electronically to ek-wise@aota.org no later than May 19, 2010. Transcripts must be postmarked by May 19, 2010 (these can also be sent electronically).

Please make sure you complete the Application Checklist so you are sure you have submitted all necessary materials.

A Scholarship Selection Committee composed of volunteer occupational therapy practitioners and educators reviews all of the applications and recommends scholarship recipients. The scholarships will be awarded in late summer 2010.

Please direct any further questions to ek-wise@aota.org.

The focus of the scholarship will be to support students from diverse backgrounds who can meet ...objectives of developing a workforce to meet society's diverse occupational needs in underserved areas or communities.

Last Call for AAPOTA's Sponsored Essay Contest

AAPOTA will conduct its first essay contest among students registered in any accredited OT or COTA program. The deadline for application is **Thursday, April 15, 2010**.

Students are asked to write an article on **'Evidence Evaluating the Effectiveness of Culturally-Sensitive Health Care'**. The winning essays will be selected by AAPOTA reviewers.

The top five winners will each receive a free AOTA student membership (or equivalent amount paid toward a new practitioner AOTA membership) for one year.

All OT and OTA students are eligible to enter the essay competition. Students should go to [www.asian-](http://www.asian-pacificot.org)

pacificot.org for more information.

Are you interested? Please contact Dr. Meena Iyer at miver@asian-pacificot.org.

The essay contest is sponsored by:



**P.O. Box 450
Palos Heights, IL 60463**

Ph. (708) 257 1199

Fax. (630) 655 1199

E-Mail: stitherapy@yahoo.com

Contribute

by sending us articles, news items, re-views, letters, or any other form of writing that can be printed pertaining to cultural issues and the global practice of OT. Submissions may be edited for length and style. Pictures may be sent via e-mail in .jpg format. Please e-mail your submissions to: jwells@asian-pacificot.org

Announcements

- AAPOTA's Research Committee under the leadership of Dr. Surya Shah is currently compiling a list of professional publications, awards won, and other note-worthy activities of AAPOTA members since 2005. Please share your accolades by e-mailing it to Dr. Shah at shahsurya@hotmail.com. Last date for submission for this year is April 15th, 2010.
- Are you headed to the AOTA Annual Conference in Orlando this year? If yes, have a "Mickey" great time! Also, don't forget to attend **AAPOTA's Annual Distinguished Lecture on OS & OT** delivered by Dr. Jyothi Gupta, and its Annual Meeting. This year we will be hosting the Annual Lecture & Meeting on April 30th at the Hilton Orlando (Lake Nona –AB hall) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. CEUs will be awarded for the Annual Lecture. Please check with the MDI desk or conference registration for any last minute hall changes.
- May is Asian/Pacific Heritage Month. What are your plans? Please share with us how you celebrated it.
- *Members: **How are we doing?** What can we (AAPOTA's leadership) do better to meet your needs. How do you feel about your participation in the organization? All members are welcome to a telephone conference on April 21st, 2010 (08:30 pm EST). Please see call-in details given on the right. AAPOTA board members will be available to take your questions.*

AAPOTA MEMBER CALL-IN (Present and potential members invited)

Date: April 21, 2010

Time: 08:30 pm EST

Dial-in #: 1-712-432-1701

Access Code: 310798#

(Please note: Not a toll-free
number)

Around the World (Continuing Educational Programs)

- **90th AOTA Annual Conference & Exposition**
 - Apr. 29-May 2, 2010: Orlando, FL
 - Hilton Orlando
 - Log onto : <http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/2010AnnualConference.aspx> for more information
- **15TH WFOT International Congress**
 - May 4-7, 2010: Santiago, Chile
 - Log onto: www.wfot.org/wfot2010/
- **2010 International Medical Interpreters Conference**
 - **Ensuring Patient Safety for Language Minority Patients - A New Standard of Care**
 - September 3-5, 2010
 - The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School Boston, Massachusetts USA
 - Log onto: <http://www.imiaweb.org/conferences/2010conference.asp>.
- **National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations**
 - October 18-21, 2010: Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD.
 - Log onto: www.diversityrxconference.org/
- **5th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress**
 - Nov. 1, 2011
 - For more information contact: Suchada Sakornsatian at chadkor@yahoo.co.th

Are you an AAPOTA member? If no, **JOIN TODAY!**

The benefits of membership:

1. Mentorship opportunities with seasoned professionals
2. Networking opportunities
3. Receive quarterly e-newsletter- "The Spotlight"
4. Receive information on relevant professional global activities
5. Receive support/ guidance in research activities from well known OT academicians and researchers
6. Publishing opportunities in e-newsletter
7. Peer recognition and career support: a) Awards program to be launched in 2010. b) Practitioners/ students featured in "The Spotlight".

International Members Welcome!

Annual Membership Application

- A. Membership Status: New Renewal (membership #: _____)
- B. Membership Type: Practitioner Student Associate Member (non-OT)
 Country of residence: USA Canada Other : _____

*For renewals, please complete 1, 12 & 13, and only sections that have changed.
 New Applicants- Please complete all sections.*

1. Name: _____ Sex: M F
2. Designation (e.g., PhD, OTR, OTA, etc.) _____
3. Employer: _____
4. Job Title: _____
5. If student, university attending _____
6. Contact Information:
- a. Address: _____
 City/ State/ Zip: _____
- b. Phone: Home/ Work/ Mobile: _____
- c. Fax: _____ d. E- Mail: _____
7. Country of origin/ Asian-Pacific heritage (optional) _____
8. Please list your area/s of expertise (e.g. *pediatric OT*): _____

9. Please check the ad-hoc committee/s you are willing to serve on:
 ___ membership ___ research ___ immigrations ___ student services ___ newsletter
10. If selected, are you willing to be featured in AAPOTA's publications (e.g. website, e-newsletter, etc.)? ___ Yes ___ No
11. Do you give permission for your name and contact information to be listed in AAPOTA directory? ___ Yes ___ No

Note: AAPOTA may share membership directory with AOTA and other similar professional organizations requesting such information.

12. a. Check number: _____
 b. Amount enclosed: Membership: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____
13. a. Signature: _____ b. Date: _____

Membership fee/year (in US Dollars):

**US & Canada: Practitioner: \$20.00 Student: \$10.00 Associate member: \$20.00
 Other Countries: Practitioner: \$10.00 Student: \$5.00 Associate member: \$10.00**

Please make check payable to AAPOTA and mail to:
 Bhagwan Sharma, MS, OTR/L. Treasurer, AAPOTA
 P.O. Box 450. Palos Heights, IL 60463.

E-Mail: members@asian-pacificot.org Website: www.Asian-PacificOT.org

AAPOTA represents occupational therapy practitioners with heritage belonging to some of the following countries:

Australia · Bangladesh

Hong Kong · India

Indonesia Japan · Malaysia

New Zealand · Pakistan

Philippines · Singapore

Sri Lanka · Taiwan

Thailand

AAPOTA AWARDS– 2010

AAPOTA will be starting an awards program for occupational therapists, OT Assistants, and students of Asian– Pacific heritage living in the US or Canada. The first awards will be given at this year's AOTA's Annual Conference. More details will be available in our next issue (July,2010) of "The Spotlight", and list of awardees will also be posted on our website: www.asian-pacificOT.org. The categories of the awards are as follows:

- 1. Outstanding Achievement Award**
- 2. OT/ OTA Student of the Year**
- 3. Service Award**

You may also direct your queries to : chirana@Asian-PacificOT.org, or miyer@Asian-PacificOT.org.

THE MISSION

The mission of the Association of Asian/Pacific Occupational Therapists in America (AAPOTA) is

- to advance a greater understanding of Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice, and*
- to support career opportunities and advancements in occupational therapy by people of Asian/Pacific heritage.*

Visit us on:

WWW.ASIAN-PACIFICOT.ORG

AAPOTA

P.O. Box 450

Palos Heights, IL 60463

Association Officers

Chana Hiranaka, MED, OTR /L
President/Founding Member

Meenakshi Iyer, PhD, OTR/L
Vice-President

Bhagwan Sharma, MS, OTR/L
Treasurer

S.L. Rai, MHS, OTR
Secretary

Joe Wells, OTD, DPMIR, OTR/L
Membership Chair/ Newsletter Editor

M. R. Kulkarni, PhD, OTR, LPC
Midwest Rep./ Founding Member

Nilkanth Bohre, OTR/L
Southern Representative

Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR
Eastern Representative

Vijay Suple, MA, PhD, OT (C)
Representative for Canada

COMMITTEES:

Research Liaisons:

Surya Shah, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR/L
Kinshuk Maitra, PhD, OTR/L

Immigrations Support:

Guru Nam Kaur Khalsa, MOT, OTR

Student Committee:

Vanitha John, MOT, OT
Aarti Dayaram, MOT (stu.)

Membership Recruitment Coordinators:

Sanchala Sen, OTR/L- North Carolina
Marc Dy, OTR/L- Tennessee
Surya Shah, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA- New Jersey
Vanitha John, MOT- Washington
Guru Nam Khalsa, MOT, OTR/L - New Mexico
Vijay Mishra, OTR/L– Michigan
Animesh Anand, OTD (Stu.), OTR/L– Ohio

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization is to:

- ✦ *Serve as a liaison between occupational therapy practitioners about Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice and the American Occupational Therapy Association.*
- ✦ *Promote scholarly activities and research on Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *Identify and work to achieve common goals and needs.*
- ✦ *Promote and support learning and scholarship.*
- ✦ *Support Occupational therapy practitioners emigrating from Asian/Pacific countries with transition and integration into the North American occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *Promote occupational therapy education and scholarly exchange among Asian/Pacific countries and North America.*