

OCT.-DEC.,
2008

THE
SPOTLIGHT

AN ONLINE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN - PACIFIC
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN AMERICA (AAPOTA)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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.

It is with joy that I write the first introduction to our online AAPOTA newsletter. One of the Board's primary goals has been to move our association in a direction that will improve communication and provide easily accessible information about AAPOTA. Many thanks to Joe Wells, for taking on this job of the online newsletter editor.

This newsletter will serve as a means to share current news and information relevant to Asian and Pacific occupational therapy practitioners. To that end, if you have published an article, received an award or honor, achieved a notable accomplishment, please let us know. We want this newsletter to share your good news with others.

Another broader goal is that we also want this newsletter and website to be a resource that

health professionals turn to when they need information about culturally competent health care for individuals of Asian and Pacific backgrounds. Again, we're asking for your contributions. Whenever, you read an article that is specific to culturally competent care for Asian and Pacific populations, we would appreciate it if you would let us know. We want to develop a resource page with publications and website resources.

Welcome to our AAPOTA Newsletter and website. I hope you will check us periodically for updates and pass the word along to your colleagues and friends. That's how we'll grow!

*Chana Hiranaka,
President*

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

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR, Eastern Representative to AAPOTA, presented with Sharon Gutman, PhD, OTR and Leslie Kane, MS, OTR at this year's American Occupational Therapy Association's 88th Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach, CA. Marianne was part of the team that presented the Physical

Disabilities Special Interest Section Annual Program. The topic presented was "*Neurorehabilitation for Individuals with TBI and Stroke: From Neuroscience to Intervention Strategies*". This program focused on a short neuroscience review of major cortical and subcortical systems as the theoretical bases for various

guidelines for practice in adult brain injury rehabilitation. The program also presented how to devise assessment and treatment approaches spanning the acute care to out-patient care continuum based on the Rancho Los Amigos Scale, delineating the different brain injury recovery levels.

(continued)

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Dr. Mortera is also currently finishing her three year term as the AOTA Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section Quarterly Editor. All of the Special Interest Section (SIS) Quarterlies can be viewed online from the American Occupational Therapy Association website at www.aota.org.

Joe Wells, OTD, OTR/L, was nominated as the program chair of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference scheduled for Oct. 10th– 11th in Perrysburg, Ohio. He will be co-presenting a paper along with Mary Jo McGuire, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, titled "Mission Possible: Cruise Into Private Practice" and will also chair the Older Adults Member Support Group's (MSG) Forum at the conference.

Dr. Wells currently serves on the board of the Ohio OT Association as the state coordinator for the Older Adults MSG

Contribute

by sending us articles, news items, reviews that pertain 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 send your contributions to:

AAPOTA
P.O. Box 450
Palos Heights,
IL 60463
E-Mail:
wells@oota.org

Meena Iyer, Ph.D., OTR/L, Vice- President of AAPOTA, will be presenting a paper titled "Brain Based Occupational Therapy" at the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association's (GOTA) Annual Conference on October 24th, 2008. The paper discusses the concept of neuroplasticity and its therapeutic applications. Dr. Iyer's presentation will provide an overview of the literature pertaining to experimentally controlled training induced plasticity based on neurobiological principles, and will identify therapeutic strategies that can be applied in the clinic settings with a variety of conditions, e.g. autism, dyslexia, phantom pain, stroke, dementia, aging, etc. Dr. Iyer also serves the GOTA Board as the Multicultural Liaison.

CULTURAL TALKS

The Sept.'08 Issue (Vol. 18, Number 3) of AOTA's Education SIS Newsletter focuses on cultural competency issues.

The references on the articles and author introductions are as given below:

- Scheer, J., & Kearney, P. (2008, September). **Educating for cultural competence: An evidence-based approach**. Education Special Interest Section Quarterly, 18(3), 1–3.

Jessica Scheer, PhD, is Applied Medical Anthropologist, Department of Health Care Sciences, George Washington University, 2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20036-2396; hcsjxs@gwumc.edu.

Pamalyn Kearney, MS, OTR/L, is Assistant Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia; p.kearne@usp.edu.

- Gupta, J. (2008, September). **Reflections of one educator on teaching cultural competence**. Education Special Interest Section Quarterly, 18(3), 3–4.

Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR/L, OT(C), is Associate Professor, Departments of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, College of St. Catherine, 601 25th Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454; jgupta@stkate.edu.

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 Centennial Vision (2006)

Keep in touch!

Please send us your e-mail ID and we will put you on our mailing list for all future updates. Also, send us your comments/suggestions regarding this issue at

wells@oota.org

History of AAPOTA

Chana Hiranaka and K. Kshepakaran, co-founders of AAPOTA had been in discussion about the need to give visibility to occupational therapy practitioners and students with Asian-Pacific heritage in North America. During the 1994 Can-Am Occupational Therapy Conference in Boston their ideas about a multicultural group representing occupational therapy practitioners and students with an Asian/Pacific heritage became a reality. And, the **Association of Asian/Pacific Occupational Therapists in America (AAPOTA) was formed!**

You are cordially invited to attend the **Sixth Annual**
“Celebrating Persons with Disabilities”

SAVE THE DATE !

When: Monday, October 27, 2008, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Where: Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Honorees include:

The Secretary’s Highest Recognition Award:

International Award: Dr. Alin-Louis Benabid, world renowned pioneering scientist and mentor in the area of deep brain stimulation that changes the lives of persons with Parkinson’s Disease, dystonia and other movement disorders.

Pioneer for Person with Disabilities Award: Dr. Phyllis Magrab, educator, scholar, skilled clinician and champion for children with disabilities nationally and internationally.

Health/Service Provider for Persons with Disabilities Award: Dr. Joseph Rosen, researcher, professor and noted plastic surgeon who performs facial and body reconstructions at Walter Reed Medical Center for Returning Wounded War Heroes, pro bono.

Persons with Disabilities Across the Lifespan Award: Mr. Kyle Maynard, born with congenital amputation of all four limbs, is a champion wrestler, author, motivational speaker, advocate, and role model.

Entertainment Industry Award: Ms. Emily Kingsley, staff writer for Sesame Workshop, who was responsible for the topic of disability on Sesame Street with children with disabilities and Muppets with disabilities appearing on Sesame Street Programs.

The 2008 Certificate of Appreciation: Ms. Dora Ricks, DHHS employee who instructed, mentored and motivated young persons with disabilities within HHS to become employed as productive citizens with disabilities.

Please RSVP by **October 15, 2008** to Lindsay Mulcahy in the Office on Disability at (202) 690-7881 or Lindsay.Mulcahy@hhs.gov. Please notify her if an accommodation is needed to facilitate your attendance.

Sponsored by:
Office on Disability

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

www.hhs.gov/od/

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AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION WWW.AOTA.ORG

AROUND THE WORLD (EVENTS)

2008

- **October 4th- 5th: The 6th Pan- Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation** in Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hongkong. For more details, please refer to: <http://www2.rs.polyu.edu.hk/ppcr2008/welcome.html>
- **October 16, 2008, 2:00 PM (CDT): Webcast- A Multicultural Approach to Rehabilitation** hosted by The National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR), USA. For more details, please refer to: <http://www.ncddr.org/webcasts/webcast12.html>
- **November 24th- 26th: First International Review of Bipolar Disorders (Asia- Pacific) 2008** in Hongkong. For more details, please refer to <http://www.irbd.org/asiapacific.htm>

- **October 27th: WFOT International OT Day.** For details please refer to: http://www.wfot.org/office_files/WFOT%20International%20Day.pdf
- **November 13th-17th: International Occupational Therapy Conference: *Development of Occupational Therapy in Hospital and Community*** in Guanzhoun, China. For more details, please refer to http://www.hkiot.org/2008otc/eng/main_eng.htm

2009

- **February 15th- 17th: 2nd Asian and Oceanian Parkinson's Disease and Movement disorders Congress (AOPMC)** at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India. For more details, please refer to: www.aopmcindia.com
- **January 9th- 11th: 46th National Conference of the All India OT Association** in Jaipur, India . For more details, please refer to: <http://www.aiota.org/ecom2009.asp>

Not yet a member?

Join us today:

Membership is open to all OT Practitioners and Students who subscribe to the Mission and Purpose of AAPOTA. Membership fee is \$20/- for OT Practitioners and \$10/- for students. You may download a membership form from <http://www.asian-pacificot.org/membership.html>, complete it and send it along with fees to:
AAPOTA
P.O. Box 450
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Website:

www.asian-pacificot.org

Chana Hiranaka, M.Ed., OTR
President/Founding Member
Email: chiranaka@Asian-PacificOT.org

Meenakshi Iyer, Ph.D., OTR/L
Vice-President
Email: miyer@Asian-PacificOT.org

Bhagwan Sharma, OTR/L
Treasurer
Email: bsharma@Asian-PacificOT.org

S.L. Rai, OTR
Secretary
Email: srai@Asian-PacificOT.org

Joe Wells, OTD, OTR/L
Newsletter Editor
Email: wells@oota.org

M. R. Kulkarni, PhD, OTR, LPC
Midwest Representative
Email: mkulkarni@Asian-PacificOT.org

Nilkanth Bohre, OTR/L
Southern Representative
Email: nbohre@Asian-PacificOT.org

Marianne Mortera, PhD, OTR
Eastern Representative
Email: mmortera@Asian-PacificOT.org

THE PURPOSE OF AAPOTA

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.*