

The

# Student Special

# SPOTLIGHT

AOTA STUDENT CONCLAVE.

LOUISVILLE, KY (NOV. 5- 6, 2010)

## FREE AOTA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

**(ENTER ESSAY CONTEST- DETAILS ON PAGE 2)**

## Hello, future OT practitioners!!!

Hi All,

*I am Bill Wong, Student Committee Chair Association of Asian Pacific*

*Occupational Therapists in America (AAPOTA). I attend the Occupational Therapy Program at University of Southern California (USC).*

*I was born and raised in Hong Kong for 11 years. Math was actually my first love before I discovered OT two years ago and, have an undergraduate degree in Statistics. In terms of what I want to do as an OT, I am hoping to have my own research agenda and, assist individuals and families coping with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This is my newfound passion because I was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome several months ago. Even though the condition can be stigmatizing, I see it as an opportunity to share my unique perspectives with fellow therapists so that better care may be provided for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.*

*As for my goals as AAPOTA Student Committee Chair, I wish to grow the student membership of AAPOTA, and thus invite all interested individuals to join. Please visit the website: [www.asianpacificOT.org](http://www.asianpacificOT.org) for more details, or read more about the Mission and Purpose of this association and benefits of membership given elsewhere in this newsletter. One cool benefit is a chance to win a free AOTA membership (see details on 'Essay Contest' on page-2)!*

*I look forward to communicating with fellow members, particularly students on a regular basis. So, I have created an AAPOTA Student Committee Chair blog on OT Connections. I want to be a personable student leader and set a nice foundation for the next student chair to build on.*

*Let us each do our part to realize the Centennial Vision!*

*Wishing all a very fruitful conclave,*

*Bill Wong, OTS*

*AAPOTA- Student Committee Chair*

Volume 3, Issue 3  
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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)

## AAPOTA Essay Competition for OT Students!

*Five Annual AOTA Student Memberships (or Equivalent Value) to be Awarded*

### **Are YOU the Award Winning Student?**

To foster the practice of cultural competency, the Association of Asian-Pacific Occupational Therapists in America (AAPOTA) has instituted an annual student Essay Contest, with support generously provided by STI Therapy Services, Inc. (a leading provider of occupational, physical and speech therapies, owner: Mr. Bhagwan Sharma).

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 enrolled in an accredited program are eligible to enter the essay competition. The deadline for application is Monday, January 31, 2011. Students should go to [www.asian-pacificot.org](http://www.asian-pacificot.org) for more information.

Are you interested? If yes, please contact Dr. Meena Iyer at [miyer@asian-pacificot.org](mailto:miyer@asian-pacificot.org).

**YES, IT CAN BE YOU!!**

*The essay contest is sponsored by:*

Mr. Bhagwan Sharma, Owner

**STI Therapy Services, Inc.**

*(A leading provider of occupational, physical and speech therapies)*



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

Ph. (708) 257 1199

Fax. (630) 655 1199

## THE PURPOSE OF AAPOTA

The purpose of the organization is to:

- ✦ *Serve as a liaison between occupational therapy practitioners and the American Occupational Therapy Association on Asian/Pacific cultural issues affecting occupational therapy practice.*
- ✦ *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 tran-*

*sition and integration into the North American occupational therapy practice.*

- ✦ *Promote occupational therapy education and scholarly exchange among Asian/Pacific countries and North America.*

## THE MISSION OF AAPOTA

*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.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
AAPOTA AT [HTTP://  
WWW.ASIAN-  
PACIFICOT.ORG](http://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*

**Association of Asian Pacific Occupational Therapists in America**

**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

**THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN-PACIFIC  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN AMERICA**

AAPOTA  
P.O. Box 450  
Palos Heights, IL 60463  
E-Mail: [jwells@Asian-PacificOT.org](mailto:jwells@Asian-PacificOT.org)

Website: [http://  
www.Asian-  
PacificOT.org](http://www.Asian-PacificOT.org)

## *The benefits of AAPOTA 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 launched in 2010. b) Practitioners/ students featured in "The Spotlight"*
8. *Belong to and grow with a growing organization!*

## **AAPOTA ELECTIONS– 2010**

The association will conduct its first official elections in **December, 2010** for the following positions:

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. Regional Representative ( Southern states)
4. Regional Representative (Western states)
5. Representative for Canada

For positions 4. and 5., candidates must reside in the stated regions.

Mode of elections will be both via electronic and paper media. **Only members (practitioners and students) are allowed to hold offices and vote.** If not already a member, please consider joining. Membership form is available on page-8 of this newsletter.

Members are strongly urged to submit their names for these vital professional leadership positions. **Last date for submission of names is November 15th, 2010.** You may nominate your self or another member. Names of the nominators will not be disclosed.

Based on the nominations, an electoral slate will be declared. Please submit nominations to:

[jwells@asian-pacificOT.org](mailto:jwells@asian-pacificOT.org)

Fax: (419) 873 5994

## **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**Meenakshi Iyer, PhD, OTR/L**  
Interim President

**Bhagwan Sharma, MA, OTR/L**  
Treasurer

**S.L. Rai, MHS, OTR**  
Secretary

**Joe Wells, OTD, DPMIR, OTR/L**  
Membership Chair

**M. R. Kulkarni, PhD, OTR, LPC**  
Midwest Representative/ 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, FAOTA**

**Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR**

**Kinshuk Maitra, PhD, OTR**

#### *Immigrations Support:*

**Guru Nam Kaur Khalsa, MOT, OTR**

#### *Student Committee:*

**Bill Wong, OTS**

#### *Membership Recruitment Coordinators:*

**Sanchala Sen, OT- North Carolina**

**Surya Shah, PhD, OT, FAOTA- New Jersey**

**Vanitha John, OT- Washington**

**Guru Nam Khalsa, OT- New Mexico**

**Vijay Mishra, OT- Michigan**

**Animesh Anand, OTDS, OT- Ohio**