

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NOW

TOPICS

Indigenous Peoples & occupational therapy in Canada

Topic Editors: Chelsey Weleschuk and Laura Purves

Indigenous Peoples' health and health care strengths and priorities are diverse, complex and influenced significantly by the ongoing and multifaceted impacts of colonization. The intent of this topic is to promote a much-needed national critical discourse on occupational therapy in the context of Indigenous populations in Canada and other settler-colonial societies. The topic provides a forum for occupational therapists, Indigenous clients, and stakeholders to share their stories, experiences, and perspectives in a manner that is aligned with the central principles of cultural safety and the calls to actions documented in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We encourage submissions that have a co/author with Indigenous ancestry or extensive experience of working with and learning from Indigenous clients and colleagues.

Our profession has much to learn about the role of occupational therapy with Indigenous clients, communities and key stakeholders. We welcome all comments and proposals for submissions.

Enhancing Practice

Topic Editors

Older Adults: Ben Mortenson

Adults: Bice Amoroso and Alexandra Lecours

Children and Youth: Gail Teachman and Patricia O'Kraka

Mental Health: Hiba Zafran

Rural Practice: Niki Kiepek

As occupational therapists working in today's dynamic, fast-paced, challenging environment how can we make our practice more effective, more efficient and more reflective? The Enhancing Practice series of topics present occupational therapists with ideas and information to foster thoughtful, reflective and evidence-based practice. Enhancing Practice topics target specific client populations or areas of practice and are meant to share knowledge that will



deepen our understanding of research, systems and clinical issues and ways to use this knowledge to the best advantage of our clients and our profession.

International Connections

Topic Editor: Andrew Freeman

CAOT recognizes that we live in an increasingly globalized world in which international perspectives are essential and professional mobility increasingly common. Many Canadian occupational therapists have worked abroad setting up client services, developing educational programmes, or experiencing other countries' practices and customs in previously established settings. In this topic, we invite Canadian occupational therapists to share their international experiences. In addition to submitted articles, information regarding CAOT and WFOT international activities and relevant resources will be featured to help you to continue to develop your international perspectives and connections.

In Touch with Assistive Technology

Topic Editor: Pam McCaskill

This topic welcomes articles on an incredibly broad spectrum of the application of technology for occupational therapists and their clients. It would be the rare practitioner who hasn't felt the impact of technology on professional practice. The movement to electronic charting, the ability to offer e-health services to clients in rural communities, remote client monitoring, ever-changing security practices around digital collection and use of personal health information are a few examples. The appropriate recommendation of assistive technology to clients can make certain tasks easier, or in some cases, possible for the first time. As advances in the fields of robotics, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality become more mainstream, impacts are beginning to be felt in the field of rehabilitation. It's an exciting time to embrace technology!

For every success story however, we also hear stories of challenges with access to, and funding for, assistive technology. Research in this area can also struggle to keep pace with the speed of technological change. We invite practitioners and students to submit articles (successes and challenges) on their experiences with e-health and/or assistive technology. A client or end-user's perspective is always welcomed.



OT Then

Topic Editor: Hadassah Rais and Elizabeth Pooley

The OT Then topic is intended to provide opportunities for occupational therapists to cameo profiles of members of the profession who have lived professional lives that warrant recognition by their peers. Content for the topic can also include matters such as regional past histories that reflect key milestones for the profession or the town/city/area. In addition, unusual roles and programs that were either led by or involved occupational therapists in some way. This can be a great vehicle for groups of colleagues to provide tributes to other colleagues either from the past or others who have developed initiatives that are illustrative of new roles and so on. We need to capture our roots, what has stemmed from them and where our current efforts are aimed at taking us. Remember, history informs our present and our future.

Sense of Doing

Topic Editor: Katie Bunting

As occupational therapists, our primary role is to enable occupation. To do this well, we need to understand occupation to its fullest. *Sense of Doing* affords the readers of OT Now an exciting opportunity to exchange perspectives on occupation and its role in informing theory and practice. This topic will invite critically reflective dialogue about occupation as a core construct in occupational therapy and occupational science. The topic editor invites articles that explore how social, cultural, ecological, historical, and political factors shape what people do, and the potential implications for practice, policy and education.

Student Perspectives

Topic Editors: Sarah Hobbs and Sarah Klaas

Student occupational therapists are as valuable a part of the occupational therapy community as the experienced and wise practitioners. It is the students of today that will take on the mantle and be the ones to continue developing and defining this profession in the future.

The purpose of this topic is to add some volume to the student voice. Articles can be submitted on a diverse range of topics such as, but certainly not limited to: what excites or concerns you about entering into the working world of occupational therapy; who or what inspires you – maybe a fieldwork preceptor, a client, a member of your faculty; what you see as challenges for occupational therapy in the future and, maybe more importantly, what you see as possible solutions for these challenges; do you feel adequately prepared by your academic program to start your occupational therapy practice; what do you view as being exciting new area of practice for occupational therapists to work in? Published articles written will be read by



students across the country and will hopefully spark debate and communication. This is the opportunity to inspire, to question and to inform other students and our occupational therapy mentors.

KT and OT: Knowledge Translation and Occupational Therapy

Topic Editors: Keiko Shikako-Thomas and Mercerina Lychek

Despite recent emphases on evidence-based and evidence-informed practice, very little health-related research makes its way into the delivery of typical health services. Users and creators of research remain fairly distinct bodies. Knowledge translation, commonly referred to as “KT”, is a concept that frames how the relationships between knowledge users and knowledge creators can become more collaborative, effective, and more useful to all parties. When knowledge is translated effectively, the people who need health services benefit as the knowledge created is relevant, meaningful, and sensitive to the contexts of its users. Occupational therapists use knowledge every day in their clinical practice—knowledge of theories, models, systems, client populations, literature, and research. This column looks to showcase examples of knowledge translation in action. The following are examples of the types of articles for the KT and OT column:

- Case studies that describe knowledge translation activities in practice, at the individual and systems levels.
 - Discussion of how knowledge could be best integrated into practice.
 - Discrepancies between current knowledge and practice patterns, and how knowledge translation activities might be framed to redress those discrepancies.
 - Clarify terms associated with knowledge translation that are used in a variety of ways across the literature.
-

Private Practice Insights

Topic Editor: Sarah Good

There are many new private practice occupational therapists as well as many new opportunities in this area. This *Occupational Therapy Now* topic focuses on sharing the successes and challenges of occupational therapy private practice. Authors are invited to submit articles regarding:

- Profiles of successful occupational therapy practitioners describing how and why they entered private practice, their motivations and what sustains them.



- Specific market(s) and how occupational therapy services are delivered.
 - Challenging business situation(s) and how they were resolved. Examples could include mergers, tax audits, partnerships, providing student placements, etc.
 - Successful management practices such as record keeping, budgeting, requests for proposals, hours of operations, fee schedules, marketing communications, etc.
 - Examples of collaborative projects that enhance business success for occupational therapy practices.
-

CJOT: Evidence for Your Practice

Topic Editor: Lori Letts and Jackie Bosch

The vision of this topic is to create a regular space for knowledge translation specifically of articles from the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy (CJOT) to enhance evidence-based practice for occupational therapists. Topics can be presented as a full OT Now article with a focus on practice implications of a recent CJOT article or as a compilation from several CJOT articles with clinical relevance. The OT Now piece would appear after the print version in CJOT. Articles could be written by CJOT authors or profiled by the topic editor. All occupational therapists are welcome to contribute an article to this topic. Goals for this topic space include knowledge translation of CJOT articles by highlighting practice implications of recent CJOT articles, creating a stronger link between the two publications, and allowing for research to be profiled in both places.

Fieldwork and Education

Topic Editor: Catherine White

Occupational therapy programs are challenged to ensure students gain competencies that are relevant to the diversity reflected in both current and evolving practice areas. Classroom experiences lay the foundation, and fieldwork experiences provide the opportunity for further learning in practice settings. In turn, fieldwork settings can benefit from the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm that students have to offer. Collaboration with a wide range of practice partners is required to ensure that sufficient high-quality experiences are available to match the growing needs.

This topic provides a space for educators, occupational therapists, students, clients, or other related stakeholders to share ideas and experiences, advance their skill sets, and learn from each other.



Authors are invited to write on (but not limited to):

- Teaching/learning innovation
 - Preparing students for fieldwork and practice through classroom experiences
 - Preceptor strategies to enhance learning
 - Interesting fieldwork experiences
 - Effective fieldwork collaborations
 - Overcoming challenges encountered in fieldwork
 - Evolving practice areas
 - Unique placement models
 - Profiles of inspiring students and preceptors
 - Student and preceptor reflections
-

Practice Management and Professional Skills

Topic Editor: Tiziana Bontempo

Occupational therapists are working in various areas, including emerging areas of practice. This topic is intended to be a platform to exchange ideas about current issues related to practice in all settings. Articles that inspire professional change through personal accounts, clinical stories or vignettes are all suitable. Authors are invited to submit articles regarding, but not limited to:

- challenges and successes in managing client care
 - how research or quality improvements impact practice
 - creative ways of improving practice
 - juggling best practice guidelines within constraints (workplace, political climates)
 - funding and ethical dilemmas
 - personnel issues
 - clinical education
 - advocacy
-

Occupational Therapist Assistants and Support Personnel

Topic Editor: Erin Moerman

The *Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) & Support Personnel* topic is a space for OTAs to celebrate the profession, collaborate for the advancement of the OTA role in the health-care team and to foster a sense of belonging as an OTA. Articles are welcome to be submitted by student or practicing OTAs, OTs and even clients!



Ideas for articles include, but are not limited to:

- Career profiles and reviews (e.g., roles in mental health, community-based programs)
- Spotlight on inspiring current or retired OTAs
- Reviews of helpful resources
- Tips/suggestions for fostering a collaborative working relationship with your supervising OT/health-care team
- Strategies for advocating for job opportunities and growth of profession in our own communities and across Canada

Everyday Stories

Topic Editor: Naomi Hazlett

This topic space aims to profile inspiring occupational therapists and their stories, to celebrate the unique contribution occupational therapy brings to people's lives. Submissions may be written by the profiled member him/herself, or by someone else (e.g., a colleague). Profiled individuals must hold current CAOT membership.

