

Honorary Fellow of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy

Dr Rosemary Barncastle Crouch

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WFOT Congress**

Citation

Rosemary Barncastle Crouch has been an exemplary role model and mentor for many occupational therapists in South Africa and in other African countries. Her dedication to the development and promotion of occupational therapy in Africa is exceptional and inspirational. She has been and is a true ambassador for occupational therapy in Africa.

She was appointed by WFOT in 1996 as the Convener of the Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group [OTARG]; an

awesome task which she embraced with much enthusiasm and commitment, achieving laudable success. She was the congress organiser together with Jacqueline Laurent for the first OTARG Congress in Mauritius [1999], and with Samantha Shann for the OTARG Congress in Kampala [2001]; she also served as chairperson of the scientific committee for the 3rd OTARG congress



in Mombassa [2003], all highly successful events. She further held the position as honorary treasurer for OTARG [1996 to 2001], and was instrumental in the compilation and production of the OTARG Newsletter. Rosemary brings a special brand of positive energy to each task, her major contribution to these projects is her empowerment and affirmation of others ensuring success and sustainability, despite at times, daunting obstacles.

As chairperson of the WFOT Education Committee [1994 to 1998] she was involved in and made a major contribution to the development of the National Occupational Therapy Curriculum for Pakistan, Uganda and Tanzania, drawing on her extensive experience in this field. She was closely involved in the WFOT accreditation of the curricula for these countries, demonstrating the depth of her ongoing commitment.

She has given keynote addresses at numerous congresses including Tanzania and Mauritius, and is a very popular and much admired presenter of many papers and workshops. Rosemary has on a continuous basis, over many years not only been invited to act as external examiner (exit level) at six of the South African Universities and Tumaini University in Moshi, Tanzania, but has also undertaken numerous training centre and curriculum evaluations on behalf of the South African regulating body, thereby contributing substantially to quality of training.

Rosemary was elected the WFOT Vice President [1998 – 2002] and served as the WFOT Ambassador for Africa in 2002. During this time (1999) she was also convener for the Occupational Therapy Middle East Group [OTMEG].

In 2004 she was largely responsible, in her position as convener, for the highly successful WFOT Council meeting held in Cape Town in 2004. She currently serves as a proactive member of the WFOT International Advisory Group on Mental Health.

Rosemary has not only made a significant contribution to the profession and service on an international level but is one of the most highly respected practitioners in the country - her contributions far exceed any expectations as is evident from her volunteer work, which has contributed greatly to placing occupational therapists securely within the service area of mental health and psychiatry.

Her volunteer work includes involvement in OTASA in various positions over many years; such as establishing the highly respected Psychiatric Occupational Therapist's Interest Group [POT's group] in 1985. She has been intimately involved in the ongoing development of the group, the POT's biennial symposia and quarterly meetings [1985-2010], and has contributed substantially to the outstanding continuing education and support it provides to practitioners. Other contributions include detailed literature research on various psychiatric disorders to support tariff adjustments for medical aid claims- critical to OT tariffs.

Her volunteer work, and outstanding contribution to the SA Federation for Mental Health, in which she held the highest office, created awareness of and appreciation for OT in Mental Health. As a related activity she generated funds with SANCA (SA National Council for Alcohol and substance dependence) to open the first clinic in Soweto for the rehabilitation for drug and alcohol abuse in an old renovated aircraft hanger. She furthermore opened the new wing of 'Little Eden' and a Halfway House for the Federation for Mental Health whilst she was their President. Rosemary has been on the committee of the Friends of Tara H Moross Centre (Centre for remedial and rehabilitative intervention) and the Schizophrenia Foundation (support group) for many years. Her volunteer work has complimented her passion for her work with clients in the field of psychiatry and mental health.

She has presented numerous papers and workshops at national and international congresses, which have been on the cutting edge of the occupational therapy knowledge base in the field of mental health and psychiatry, supported by extensive clinical experience and highly regarded expertise.

She has been a senior lecturer and part time lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria and University of Limpopo. Her participatory manner of lecturing is inspiring

and promotes life long learning which has positively influenced undergraduate and postgraduate occupational therapy students alike. She has also been instrumental in developing the M.Phil in Group therapy at the University of Kwa- Zulu Natal and will be a part time lecturer for that course in 2010.

Rosemary models an excellent example of professional conduct, expertise and integrity for the profession. This is evident in the various positions she has held and her present nomination and reappointment as the Mellon Research Mentor in the School of Therapeutic Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. This shows her continued dedication to the promotion of research not only in occupational therapy, but also other health professional groups.

Her research publications have been numerous and varied. Notable articles are on stress management, group techniques and identifying and meeting the needs of education and research in Africa. She has been instrumental in the publication of two widely used text books with specific reference to the African context, but with international application:

1. Crouch R.B. editor of 1st and 2nd editions in 1990 and 1992, Crouch R.B. and Alers V.M. editors of 3rd and 4th editions in 1997 and 2005. "Occupational Therapy in Psychiatry and Mental Health"
2. Alers V.M. and Crouch R.B. editors "Occupational Therapy: An African perspective." [in press]

The funds accrued from the 1st and 2nd editions of the Crouch book formed the capital for the "The Crouch Trust NPO-047-796" and subsequently the royalties are a source of funding for the research grants given to occupational therapists in South Africa to conduct occupational therapy research in the field of psychiatry.

The Alers and Crouch publication has had seed money approved from the Crouch Trust to print the first edition of Occupational Therapy: An African perspective. This book draws authors from the African countries that are part of OTARG and is thus well representative of Africa – and will greatly enhance appreciation for the African perspective. The additional royalties will accrue to the OTARG account.

Rosemary was elected a member of the Professional Board for Occupational Therapy, medical Orthotics/Prosthetics [1985-1999] and elected to the Health Professions Council for South Africa [1999 – 2003]. She was elected Chairman of the Board for Occupational Therapy, Medical Orthotics / Prosthetics and Arts Therapy [2004-2009]. In this capacity Rosemary has been at the forefront of the regulation and development of the occupational therapy profession in South Africa, acquisition of ethical and practical, productive and proactive training programmes. Her integrity and ethical professionalism is an example to all and her unwavering commitment to the development of occupational therapy in Africa is exemplary- we believe that she is a deserving candidate for this prestigious award.

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Submitted by:

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