Editorial comment

It is sad for us to see that two Occupational Therapists, who were very important in the development of occupational therapy in South Africa, have died this year. Most of us “older” occupational therapists will remember Jean Hart well and the substantial contribution that she made to the development of the profession particularly in the Western Cape. Muriel Crusz also paid an important role in her dedication to the development and mentor for many occupational therapists in South Africa and other African countries. Her dedication to the development and mentor for many occupational therapists in South Africa and the Western Cape. Muriel Crusaz also paid an important role in helping the women to fulfill their life roles. As the project was coupled with visits to a clinic, more regular attendance at the clinic and at support groups was encouraged. This paper provides insight into the types of work that can be undertaken with people living with HIV and AIDS and points out when OT can play an important part in “moving beyond a medical and individualised deficit approach towards a more socially engaged practice”.

The fact that the Journal still does not receive a significant number of articles on OT with people living with HIV and AIDS. It is therefore pleasing to find that we have, in this edition, an article on the value of a beadwork project implemented with women living with HIV and AIDS and which is used for income generation. The participants recognised that being involved in the beadwork had also fostered skills development and creativity as well as enabling sharing and support among members to take place. In addition the project plays a part in helping the women to fulfil their life roles. As the project was coupled with visits to a clinic, more regular attendance at the clinic and at support groups was encouraged. This paper provides insight into the types of work that can be undertaken with people living with HIV and AIDS and points out when OT can play an important part in “moving beyond a medical and individualised deficit approach towards a more socially engaged practice”.

The paper by Visser and Franzsen describe the study that they conducted into a possible association between omitted crawling and problems with pencil grasp and control in children aged five to six years. Their findings, that there was a statistically significant difference between those children who crawled and those who did not with regards to pencil grasp and visual perception but not pencil control, have interesting implications for occupational therapy. These findings will also influence the guidance that therapists give to parents who make use of “jolly jumpers” and “walking rings” for their children as these apparatus limit the time that the child spends crawling.

References

2. Concha. ME Note from the Editor. SAJOT 2008; 38:3. pg 1.

ME Concha  
Editor SAJOT

Honorary Fellow of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy

Dr Rosemary Barncastle Crouch

Date of presentation of award - 5 May 2010, 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.
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 Turin University in Moshio, 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 mental health and psychiatric services.

Her volunteer work, and outstanding contribution to the SA Federation for Mental Health, in which she is a senior member and over many years 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 of 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 the African context. She has been instrumental in the publication of two widely used textbooks with specific reference to the African context, but with international application:


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.

Submitted by:
Dain van der Reyden – WFOT Delegate [South Africa]
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