

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NOW

TOPICS

Indigenous Peoples & occupational therapy in Canada

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

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

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.

E-Health & In Touch with Assistive Technology

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

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

As occupational therapists, our work centres on enabling occupation. To do this well, we need to understand occupation in all its complexities. *Sense of Doing* affords the readers of OT Now an exciting opportunity to exchange perspectives on occupation and how it informs theory and practice. This topic invites critically reflective dialogue about occupation as a core construct in occupational therapy and occupational science. The topic editor invites articles that explore how multiple contextual factors shape what people, families, communities and populations do, and potential implications for occupational therapy practice, policy, and education.

Student Perspectives

Student occupational therapists are as valuable to 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 an 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

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.
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Private Practice Insights

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.
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Fieldwork and Education

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, clinicians, researchers, students, clients, or other related stakeholders to share ideas and experiences, advance their skill sets, and learn from each other in relation to occupational therapy education.

Authors are invited to write about topics related to (but not limited to):

- Teaching/learning innovation
 - Preparing students for fieldwork and practice through classroom experiences
 - Preceptor strategies to enhance learning
 - Innovative 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
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Practice Management and Professional Skills

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

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

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 a current CAOT membership.



Women's Health and Occupational Therapy

This space aims to introduce innovative ways that occupational therapists are addressing challenges in women's health. Using our skills in mental health and physical health, occupational therapists are well placed to address issues impacting women's health. In recent years, there has been an increase in practitioners focusing on this emerging area. Topics can include pelvic health, pre and post-natal mental and physical wellness, perimenopause, reproductive health and menstrual health. The articles focus on specific treatments occupational therapists can offer, skill development in this area and stories of how individual occupational therapists developed a practice in this area.

Critical OT: Occupational consciousness and rights

Too many of us grapple with diverse forms of injustices within the profession of occupational therapy. We may also experience it ourselves due to our own positionalities. Critical occupational therapy calls us to question and reconstruct our practices and worldviews to promote anti-oppressive actions within systems at all levels. This *OT Now* topic invites occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, stakeholders, educators, students, individuals and/or communities accessing occupational therapy, to take a reflexive stance on, and illustrate, how occupational therapy: (a) perpetuates and upholds oppressive practices; (b) identifies and engages with the experiences of marginalized individuals and communities in everyday doing, including unequal access to occupation(s); and/or, (c) advocates for diversity and equity within the profession itself. Submissions must go beyond a description of the occupational injustices to using a critical lens that identifies and actively interrogates the systemic, economic, political, historical and/or narratives that surround the subject.

- Analyzing and working against inequity and injustice in clinics, communities, academia and our everyday occupations
- Occupational consciousness and rights related to sexism and gender, sexual and gender diversity, racism and people of color, colonialism, classism or poverty, citizenship status, ableism and saneism. An intersectional approach is encouraged
- Impact of climate crisis and sustainability on occupations and practice

Writers considering submission to the "Critical OT" topic can be provided with a bibliography of representative articles as part of the mentorship process.

