

RIOTA NEWS



MOVING FORWARD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Winter 2008

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www.riota.org

President's Message

Dear Fellows Members,

I am worried. I have been worried for quite some time and my feelings are not abating. I am worried about Occupational Therapy and what appears to be happening to our profession in so many places.

I recently received an email from the state presidents' listserv that notified us of the impending move of Recreational Therapists' to get licensure in our states. Currently, RT is licensed in only 3 states, but we were assured that it is a future goal of their organization to get licensure in all states. Their licensure, in and of itself, does not worry me, but the language in their definition of their domain does. I quote,

"Scope of Practice

The primary purpose of recreation therapy practice is to improve health and quality of life by reducing impairments of body function and structure, reducing activity limitations, participation restrictions, and environmental

barriers of the clients served. The ultimate goal of recreation therapy is to facilitate full and optimal involvement in community life. The scope of recreation therapy practice includes all patient/client services of assessments, planning, design, implementation, evaluation and documentation of specific therapeutic interventions, management, consultation, research, and education, for either individuals or groups that require specific therapeutic recreation or recreation therapy intervention."

Does that sound familiar? Does it worry you?

So why should this worry me or any other OT? If we continue to allow other disciplines to encroach on our domain, what is to become of us? We must let our administrators, physicians, other therapies, and clients know that what we do is different than any other therapy. We must make sure that what we provide truly is different than any other therapy.

When I first started in practice in 1973, there were no recreational therapists, no activity therapists, no art therapists, no music therapists out there competing with OT's. We

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RIOTA[®]
State Affiliate

**The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.**

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Nominations Chairperson

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Mental Health Special Interest

Group Chairperson
Meghan Franklin, MS, OTR/L
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Welcome New
RIOTA Members

James Agostinucci	Pamela Lam
Shawn Baxter	Kelly Mayer
Lori Cillino	Donna Noonan
Susan Coleman	Kathleen O'Neill
Megan David	Brian Robertson
Dina DiCola	Noreen Scaltrito
Amy Duggan	Michelle Schillinger
Johanna Duponte	Kathleen Schlenz
Susan Finn	Jennifer Smith
Eric Franklin	Erin Sullivan
Katharine Hernden	Christopher Tingley
Joanne Jones	Heather Vale
Cheryl King	Joanne Verdi
Keith Kline	Sarah Wiley

Early Identification and Intervention for Elementary Students with Multiple Learning Challenges

*A conference presented by The Wolf School
in partnership with The Dunn Institute's
Hasbro Center for Teaching Excellence*

For more information or to register
call Pat or Mara at
the Wolf School
401-432-9940 x10

Fee: \$100

Credits: 5 PDC's, Certificate of Attendance

Format: 1 day, 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, includes continental breakfast & lunch

Venue: The Wolf School, 215 Ferris Avenue, East Providence

**Saturday March 8, 2008
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

- Recognize common characteristics of complex learners
- Learn how to identify classroom and home behaviors that indicate learning differences
- Increase your understanding of learning challenges in areas of sensory processing, social skills, and language processing and production
- Develop a repertoire of tools and strategies for intervention

(President's Message Continued from page 1)

were all those things. Years ago every activities department was led by an OT practitioner who understood the value of activity and was able to apply activity therapeutically. When we gave up ownership of activities departments, the need was still there. Others recognized the importance of activity and many new types of therapy were born.

It frightens me that some of our own therapists see Activity as frivolous. Some therapists see painting a picture or cooking as frivolous. Some would rather have a patient lift a weight or squeeze therapeutically than participate in an activity that they will enjoy and, at the same time, have therapeutic benefit. If it looks like fun, does that negate therapeutic benefit? What has happened to activity analysis? What has happened to seeing painting as a possible UE strengthening exercise or ROM exercise? What has happened to standing to participate in a real activity that challenges balance? Is hitting a balloon in the clinic, truly the *only* way to improve balance and activity tolerance? Is squeezing a hand exerciser the *only* way to improve hand strength?

I hope to get you thinking about what OT looks like in your setting. I welcome discussion of your thoughts about this. How would the administrator in your facility describe OT? Do therapy participants have a difficult time discriminating between who is OT and who is not? Are your clients able to make the "connect" of what you are doing in treatment to their "real" lives?

The AOTA Centennial Vision states:

"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."

One of their four strategic directions is:

"Demonstrating and articulating our value to individuals, organizations and communities.

This includes:

- Meeting societal needs for health and well-being
- People understanding who we are and what we do"

Are we doing this? I do hope so. I believe that it is important for the future of our practice. Let's help each other find a way to make sure that we send the complete message of who we are and what we contribute to the health team.

Until next time,
Karen Albright Morgenstein
President

BRISTOL COUNTY REHABILITATION SERVICES, INC.

Is seeking full-time and part-time
Occupational Therapists and
Occupational Therapist Assistants
For school-based services in the
Middletown/Portsmouth/Tiverton
area.

Please forward resume to
bcrsotpt@yahoo.com
or fax to 401-619-1988



Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

Pediatric Special Interest Group Update

The Pediatric SIG has been very busy this year. We had a good turnout for Emily Lennon's lecture on Hippotherapy in September. Thank you, Emily, for sharing your interest in working with children on horseback. Quite a few members joined us at Lend-A-Hand Therapeutic Riding Foundation in October to see a therapy session in action. Jessica Moses, owner of Lend-A-Hand, showed us a typical session, and Emily Lennon was on hand to explain the session and answer questions. A few Pediatric members requested that a meeting be added in December to discuss recent changes to Medicaid reimbursement in the schools. Members left with many questions to ask their school districts about the new procedures.

The New Year is sure to bring many interesting topics to the Pediatric Special Interest Group. We hope that you will be available to join us **Tuesday, January 29th** from **6:30-8:30 PM** at the **Warwick Public Library** to hear Patti Gricus' lecture on **Feeding**. Patti is an OT with Hasbro Early Intervention.

Another after-school **TechACCESS Open House** is scheduled for **March 31st** from **4-6 PM**. Please drop in after work and try out those programs that you've been looking at in the therapy catalogs!

The last meeting of the year will be **Monday, May 19th** from **6:30-8:30 PM** at the **Warwick Public Library**. The meeting will be a forum to discuss the **Early Intervention to School System Transition**. A representative from Discovery Toys will be available for therapists to ask questions about their products and take orders. Please join us for this important meeting and have fun too!

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or meeting ideas for next year. Thank you,
Beth Smith pediatricsig@riota.org

Pediatric SIG Meeting



Topic: Issues in Feeding, presented by Patti Gricus, OT, Hasbro Early Intervention

When: Tuesday, **January 29th** 6:30-8:30 PM

Where: Warwick Public Library, Sandy Lane

Did You Know?

RIOTA's Volunteerism Update: RIOTA and Rebuilding Together

- RIOTA began this year with a new initiative: volunteerism. At our September general meeting we outlined several volunteer initiatives we are developing to bring members together and give back to the community. One of the highlighted events this year will be with Rebuilding Together April 26, 2008, the last Saturday in April.
- Rebuilding Together (RT) is a nationwide non-profit organization focused on connecting communities and volunteers together to improve the homes of those in need. RT focuses its resources on low-income homeowners, the elderly, displaced and disabled families and children. The organization supports the safety and independence of those in the community. On Saturday April 26 we will be working with other RT volunteers to improve the homes identified by RT. Please come and join us as we work with other Rebuilding Together volunteers and meet fellow RIOTA members while celebrating OT month!
- RIOTA invites you to join us the last Saturday in April as we celebrate OT month by giving back to the community. If you would like to part of this initiative or if you have any questions about our April 26, 2008 volunteer day contact: Natalie Leland Wiatrowski at vicepresident@riota.org

Good News!

- Trish McGee, RIOTA secretary, and her husband welcomed their bundle of joy, Frank John McGee, IV, on October 25th
- RIOTA member, Kerry Racht and her husband welcome their newest addition Liam on January 11th
- In April, Rachel Vitello, RIOTA Website and Newsletter Editor, and her husband (fellow OT) will be presenting a community lecture on Occupational Therapy to spread the word about OT to the public!



We want to hear from you!

We want to hear fellow RIOTA members' news. Email riotanews@riota.org to share your good news, announcements, achievements, etc.!

RA Update

2007 Representative Assembly Online Meeting By Lisa Edwards OTR/L

As my first official act as the RA of Rhode Island, I participated in the Assembly Online Meeting. This consisted of about one week of discussions and decision making related to issues of concern in the profession. This meeting was pleasantly efficient, and well run. I gained great confidence in the process as I became more involved in it. I am including the summary of Highlights for your review. If you have any questions, concerns or would just like to state your opinion on any of the present issues, or issues coming up for the Annual Conference, please feel free to contact me via the RA link on the RIOTA website.

Highlights of the 2007 Representative Assembly Online Meeting

The following is a brief summary of some—but certainly not all—of the 24 actions taken by the 8th annual Representative Assembly (RA) Online Meeting held October 23–November 7. The RA is the Congress of AOTA and is responsible for setting policy for the profession. Representatives meet online every Fall to conduct Association business in a timely manner.

Special Interest Sections Changes

The Work Programs SIS will now be known as the Work and Industry SIS to better align with the Centennial Vision and hopefully create more interest in this area of practice. The proposed change of the School System SIS to Early Intervention and School SIS has been postponed until the 2008 meeting in Long Beach where this can be discussed more fully in task group. Details for this name change are in the Chairperson Toto's report
<http://www.aota.org/Govern/RA/RAMeetings.aspx>.

Fieldwork Awards

The 2007 postponed motion requesting the Recognitions Committee to develop annual awards for Fieldwork Educator and Fieldwork Site was defeated. However, the 2007 postponed motion charging the Commission on Education (COE) to

Pediatric SIG Meeting



Topic: Transition from Early Intervention to the Schools

When: Monday, May 19th
6:30-8-30PM

Where: Warwick Public Library,
Sandy Lane

“develop and disseminate Fieldwork Educator and Fieldwork Sites Award Criteria to include but not be limited to ASAP and Academic Fieldwork Coordinators in order to promote Fieldwork Awards at the state level” was adopted. A report is due at the 2008 RA meeting in Long Beach.

Professional Practice

- Adopted the Commission on Practice's (COP) statement, *Occupational Therapy in the Promotion of Health and the Prevention of Disease and Disability Statement*. Minor updates were done to *Physical Agent Modalities: A Position Paper* and *Guidelines for Documentation of Occupational Therapy*.
- The RA Coordinating Council's (RACC) two new societal statements on *Play* and *Youth Violence* were adopted.

AOTA Governance and Policies

- Association policies on Open Meetings, Official Documents, and Systematic Review of all White Papers were adopted as revised.
- Revisions to the Administrative SOP which featured significant changes to the Disciplinary Action and Budget sections were also adopted.

RIOTA Calendar

Executive board meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm at New England Tech (OT suite) unless otherwise specified. All members are welcome to sit in on Board Meetings.

January 24, 2008 RIOTA General Membership Meeting: Clinical Low Vision Evaluations. 6:00pm at Meeting Street 1000 Eddy Street Providence, RI

January 29, 2008 Pediatrics SIG Meeting: Feeding. 6:30pm at Warwick Public Library

February 11, 2008 Executive Board Meeting. 5:30pm at New England Tech

March 10, 2008 Executive Board Meeting. 5:30pm at New England Tech

March 31, 2008 Pediatrics SIG Meeting: Tech Access Open House. 4pm-6pm.

April 2008 OT Month Party. Details coming soon.

April 26, 2008 Rebuilding Together (see page 5 of newsletter). Please contact Natalie Leland Wiatrowski at vicepresident@riota.org for information.

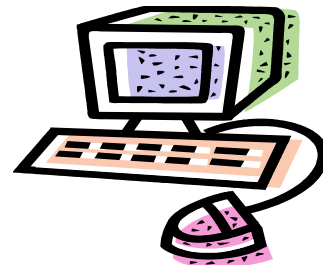
May 12, 2008 Executive Board Meeting. 5:30pm at New England Tech

May 19, 2008 Pediatrics SIG Meeting: Early Intervention to the Schools System Transition. 6:30pm at Warwick Public Library

For directions to New England Tech and the Warwick Library go to our website at www.riota.org

Please note: ALL RIOTA membership meetings are free for RIOTA members & \$25 for non-members (unless otherwise specified).

Visit us on the web for updates, continuing education opportunities, job postings, RIOTA's calendar, volunteer opportunities, etc.



www.riota.org

RIOTA PRESENTS

Clinical Low Vision Evaluations

Presented by:

Greg R. Waldorf, Optometrist

Brendan R. Foley, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist.



Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 6 PM.

Meeting Street

1000 Eddy Street, Providence

This meeting will take place at the Low Vision Clinic within the new Meeting Street in Providence.

This state of the art facility and its staff provide answers to the many questions school staff and parents have about a student's visual functioning. Their presentation will encompass a tour of the Low Vision Clinic and discussions around the purpose, process and outcomes of the Low Vision Clinic.

This is a new service in Rhode Island that is desperately needed to improve services to the many children who's visual functioning is unknown.

RIOTA is the first therapy group in the state to tour the Low Vision Clinic, so be sure not to miss this opportunity!

Sponsored by



Meeting Street