

National News – October 2018



ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists is an organization that is responsible for the promotion of occupational therapy in Estonia. A new board, consisting of five specialists with different tasks within the organization, was elected last summer and is now actively working to raise awareness about occupational therapy in Estonia.

At the end of 2017 occupational therapy second-year students in Tallinn Health Care College who are also members of Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists started a project called “AbikÄpp” to enable all kind of information related to assistive devices and its legislations to be available and accessible online. Project “AbikÄpp” will be a useful tool for occupational therapists and other specialists, and also for clients and students to easily access all the necessary information according to assistive equipment. Student initiatives are a good way to be part of the change you want to see in the society while learning and working together.

In Spring 2018, Estonian Association of Occupational Therapists and Tallinn Health Care College signed a collaboration agreement to support each other and start new cooperative projects.

Between the 4th and 5th August, our associations’ educative yet also fun summer days took place. First day was mostly dedicated to lectures and second day for group activities. Yet, more events are on their way. In October our association will be celebrating World Occupational Therapy day by opening the new occupational therapy simulation apartment in Tallinn Health Care College. In November we will be organising a workshop for parents of children with autism to teach how to easily create self-made therapeutic supplies with low costs. And finally, we will be holding our associations’ Christmas party at the Art Museum of Estonia.

We are constantly developing our associations’ social media accounts on Facebook and Youtube and updating our blog. It helps to promote occupational therapy’s necessity, value and benefit in Estonia



LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

We are happy to announce that on October 26th will not only be celebrating the World Occupational Therapy day, but also, we will be celebrating 20 years of Occupational therapy studies in Lithuania. A conference will be held to commemorate this achievement and you can find out more information in the Conferences section of our newsletter.



SVERIGES
ARBETSTERAPEUTER

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists has established a grant award in the name of Inga-Britt Lindström, who had served as the president of the organization between 1970-2008. Applications are being sought from foreign occupational therapists and occupational therapy students. The grant is offered to individuals or teams from countries where occupational therapy is under development and countries listed as low- or lower-middle-income economics, according to the World Bank List.

The maximum amount of the grant is 10,000 Swedish Kronor (about EUR 950) per year.

Application form and instructions are available in the following website:

<http://www.arbetsterapeuterna.se/lindstromgrantaward>

Application closes on November 1, 2018.



Toimintaterapeuttiliitto
Ergoterapeutförbundet

FINNISH ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The legislation and organization of the entire Finnish social care and healthcare are being transformed. At the same time the entire rehabilitation legislation is getting renewed. At the present moment this includes over twenty different laws and legislations. This means also that around 220, 000 public healthcare employees need to be converted from the counties to the new regions. The goal of this legislation renewal is to increase clients' right to choose regardless of their geographical location. The state of the rehabilitation and occupational therapy within the healthcare legislation is the focus of lobbying for the Association of Finnish Occupational Therapists.

At the same time of these national legislation changes the Association of Finnish Occupational Therapists has gone through huge organizational changes which has allowed the Association to change its networking partners and strengthen the possibilities for lobbying for the benefit of occupational therapists. This

organizational change came at a very high price for the Association and was completed with the help of volunteer members of its governing body and 2,5 paid employees of the Association. All this work was done while serving the members of the Association at the same time.

Due to this massive amount of work and financial burden the Association has decreased its involvement with the international networks to a bare minimum. The Association will start to rebuild these international relationships as soon as it is possible.

Royal College of
Occupational
Therapists



BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

New publication: Occupational therapy and complexity: defining and describing practice

Launched at RCOT Annual Conference 2018, *Occupational therapy and complexity: defining and describing practice* is an essential reference point for all occupational therapists and students, and provides useful guidance for all working in partnership with occupational therapy.

This new publication is a product of extensive research carried out by the research team at Queen Margaret University and led by Dr Duncan Pentland. The publication describes and defines contemporary occupational therapy, and explores, expands and illustrates the unique complexity of the profession. It is clearly based upon, but goes beyond, previous work in this area and sets this within contemporary health and social care contexts.

Occupational therapy and complexity: defining and describing practice is available at <https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/rcot-publications/downloads/occupational-therapy-and-complexity>