New Graduate Bulletin
Issue (7) May 2017

Hello bulletin readers, Kelly here, welcoming you to another issue of the New Graduate Bulletin. When thinking about a fitting theme for this issue of the bulletin, new chapters seemed like a good topic to focus on, and here’s why... As new graduate occupational therapists, you have ventured into a new chapter in your lives. Starting a new chapter can bring lots of; excitement, anticipation and help to fuel your ambitions. In addition to all of you beginning a new chapter, we have also entered into a new chapter. In April 2017, we became the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT), after Her Majesty The Queen granted permission for the Royal title to be used. Permission to use the title 'Royal' or any personal title of the reigning Monarch is granted by the Queen, acting on the advice of her Ministers. RCOT Chief Executive, Julia Scott said: "I am proud and delighted that Her Majesty has seen fit to grant us permission to allow us to become a Royal College. It is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and highest level of professional standards which our members demonstrate day in, day out that we have been granted this honour and should ensure that the profession is more involved in shaping health and social care policy. I look forward to embarking on the next chapter in our history as the Royal College of Occupational Therapists."

Therefore, as we all venture into these new and exciting new chapters, we need to take hold of the opportunities that these bring us, and offer our support to one another to help each other navigate along the way.

News

The launch of the new RCOT website

Our brand new website launched this week, have you seen it yet?

The new website has been developed after an extensive period of roadshows across the United Kingdom. The roadshows gathered members’ feedback on the old website, and shared the changes that they would like to see on the new RCOT site. The roadshows took place in 10 cities, and were attended by practising occupational therapists, retired members, students, as well as members based in Higher Education, and RCOT committee/ region members. As a result of the feedback gathered from the roadshows and other member research activities, this week, we launched our new website. Follow this link to see our new look www.rcot.co.uk

You will see that a number of changes have been made. Firstly, the design and layout of the website is much more user friendly, which will enable you to navigate around the site more easily and locate the resources you need quickly. The new website also offers a more enhanced search function to assist in locating specific resources. Finally, the website is mobile and tablet friendly, meaning you can access the site these devices. Let us know your thoughts and feedback about the new website by emailing Web.Team@rcot.co.uk
New report into occupational therapy practice education across the UK

As new graduate occupational therapists, one of your future learning goals might be to supervise an occupational therapy student. Becoming a practice educator is a perfect opportunity to contribute to your professional development and also the development of future occupational therapists.

RCOT has conducted a multi-method investigation to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities which link to practice education for both the student and the educator. This resource has been created as the result of a collaborative piece of work led by RCOT and involving a community of practice extending to the four UK nations.

Maureen Shiells, RCOT’s education manager for pre-registration, said: ‘This report illustrates that everyone has a part to play in educating occupational therapy students. Luckily, we have found that commitment and interest is evident among our key partners in practice and education who want to be involved in sharing good practice and developing new resources.’

There are four new pieces of work to take forward; among these are the development and promotion of more diverse practice placements and the engagement of final year students in preparing to deliver practice education. You can find the resource here: www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/students/practice-education

If you would like to get involved and/or have comments about the report, please email: Maureen.shiells@rcot.co.uk

Resources

Have you seen the latest hOT Topics?

A new hOT Topic (a starting point and overview of key readings) is published each month. Since the last bulletin, the following topics have been added to the collection:

1. 'Learning disability and reasonable adjustments' (March 2017)
2. 'Chronic pain' (April 2017)
3. Occupational therapy support workers (May 2017)

hOT Topics are a brilliant resource to help you to explore the evidence within specialist areas of practice, and can be a useful starting point if you are entering into a new practice area. You can access all of our hOT Topics by following this link www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/hot-topics

Andrew Hughes
Assistant Librarian
Royal College of Occupational Therapists
New publications available in the RCOT Library

The RCOT library is constantly expanding its collection of occupational therapy literature, are you up to date on what you can access?

New publications in the RCOT Library and Information Service

Etheses may be available for immediate download through the RCOT library catalogue at: [www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/about-library](http://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/about-library) or you may need to order a copy.

To access ebooks and etheses and many of the RCOT documents and publications you will need to be logged in as a member to the RCOT website [www.rcot.co.uk](http://www.rcot.co.uk/)

Many of the older etheses have now retrospectively been made available through the library catalogue for RCOT members to access together with more recently published electronic theses

New additions to the RCOT library:


MacGregor S (2015) *A mixed methods study of the integration of health and social care occupational therapy provision: the complexity of change*. Glasgow Caledonian University, PhD.

Novotny J (2017) *To 'take their place among the productive members of society': vocational rehabilitation of WWI wounded at Erskine*. [Online]. Wellcome Open Research Available at: [http://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/28286873](http://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/28286873)

Lorna Rutherford
Deputy Librarian
Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Start the ball rolling...

If you are still very much settling into your first job, and you are; motivated, innovative and are searching for extra ways to support your continuing professional development and fuel research activities, then look no further, the RCOT Annual Awards could be perfect opportunity for you.

The RCOT Annual Awards provides a funding stream offering a number of different awards for members, with a potential maximum of £2,000, to support education, research and CPD. The 2018 round will open at the end of August.

So put on your thinking cap and begin to explore what potential activities you might want to undertake— perhaps a practice development/evaluation or innovative project, an audit, or a research activity? Share your thoughts with your manager/supervisor and consider submitting an application when the round is open. It is competitive, but that is an excellent CPD opportunity in itself. You can find out more about the RCOT Annual Awards in an article in May OTnews, but also look out for further information in OTnews and on the Royal College website in August. We look forward to receiving your application!

Mandy Sainty
Research and Development Manager
Royal College of Occupational Therapists
Engage

Save the date: New Graduate Networking Event 2017 (#NQOT17)

Stop Learning, Start Learning

When: Thursday 27th July 2017, 10.30-16.00

Where: RCOT Headquarters, London

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting another New Graduate Networking event again this summer! In previous years this event has generated a high volume of interest. It’s a day that you do not want to miss if you are a newly qualified occupational therapist.

The programme is shaping up to be more exciting than ever, with workshops and keynote speeches to be delivered by RCOT staff and external speakers. The event will equip you with useful knowledge as a newly qualified occupational therapist, provide you with valuable learning to add to your CPD portfolio and help you to expand your professional network by connecting with other newly qualified occupational therapists from across the United Kingdom.

Details:

Lunch will be provided and travel will be reimbursed up to the value of £100 (conditions apply).

This event is for you if:

- You have not attended a previous New Graduate Networking Event hosted by RCOT
- You graduated with a pre-registration degree in occupational therapy within the last two years
- You are a registered RCOT member

Quotes from delegates last year include:

“Relevant topics, excellent and enthusiastic speakers; a valuable networking opportunity”

“I felt inspired and reassured!”

“A well timetabled, well organised and structured event”

Register your interest: Please email Angie.Brown@rcot.co.uk by the 29 May 2017. You will be notified if you have a place via email.
Have you booked your ticket yet?

Have you registered to attend the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference? Attending is not only the perfect opportunity to expand your professional network by meeting other like-minded new graduates, occupational therapists and students from across the UK, it is also a great addition to your CPD portfolios. This year’s programme looks more exciting than ever, with over ninety sessions to choose from! Take a look at the conference programme here: https://cotannualconference.org.uk/programme/

Don’t miss- Everything you need to know to work as an occupational therapist in the USA

Shaun Conway, OTR, Senior Director, External and Regulatory Affairs, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT) will be delivering the International session at the 2017 Annual Conference. This session is a must if you want to hear about the opportunities and the criteria to be licensed to work in the USA. NBCOT sets these standards and Shaun will give you an insight into the NBCOT’s Occupational Therapist Eligibility Determination (OTED) review process for internationally educated occupational therapists.

Keep up to date on all of the conference news and book your place here: www.cotannualconference.org.uk

Vandita Chisholm
Marketing Manager
Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Have your say on the RCOT's strategic intentions 2018-2023

A big thank you to all our members who have been engaging with RCOT’s chief executive Julia Scott while she has been travelling around the country seeking views on our next set of strategic intentions.

The strategic intentions, covering the period 2018 to 2023, serve to shape the annual work plans for RCOT and therefore play an important role in determining our activities for the next five years.

RCOT would like members to send in their comments on the following questions:
1. What is likely to impact of the profession in the next five to ten years?
2. What should the professional body focus on going forward?

Please email CEO@rcot.co.uk by 31 July 2017
Are you engaged in your RCOT Region?

When you become a member of the RCOT, you automatically become a member of one of the RCOT Regions, based on the postcode that you listed on your registration. Each region is supported by a committee of volunteer members who are nominated annually to support local and regional events, networking groups and activities, sharing best practice and information to and from the RCOT. Regions provide you with an abundance of opportunities to support your professional development and help you to enhance your professional network.

Kelly Murray, a new graduate representative of the Scottish Eastern Committee explains more about the benefits of engaging with her region:

"I became involved in my region, as a final year MSc student when I joined the committee as a student representative, and I now continue to be involved post qualifying as the New Graduate Representative on the Scottish Eastern Regional Committee.

Being actively involved in the regional committee has given me opportunities to network not only with the other occupational therapists on the committee but with a wider variety of occupational therapy staff and new graduates across the region at various stages of their career. We host regular networking events such as OT Curry Nights and COT Roadshows. Participating in regional events has allowed me to increase my understanding of the occupational therapy role in different settings and also increase my awareness of the opportunities in my local area.

Additionally, I have had the chance to continue to build on my communication, planning, and team working skills by attending committee meetings. Assisting in the formulation of CPD and networking events in the region is also an invaluable addition to my CV".

Take a look on the RCOT website for more information about your region and the other benefits of engaging with it [www.rcot.co.uk/about-us/regional-and-local-groups/join-local-or-regional-group](http://www.rcot.co.uk/about-us/regional-and-local-groups/join-local-or-regional-group)
Closing

Thank you for reading this issue of the New Graduates Bulletin, I hope you have enjoyed it.

I'd love to hear your feedback, please either tweet me @kellyhiscox or email me Kelly.Hiscox@rcot.co.uk

Look out for the next issue of the bulletin coming to inboxes in August 2017

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