



Find out more about joining  
the Specialist Section for Rheumatology

Journals; Email Bulletins; CPD opportunities; Website forums; Network With Specialists; Events; Newsletters;

[www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/  
Rheumatology](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Rheumatology)

College of  
Occupational  
Therapists



Specialist Section  
Rheumatology

## Specialist Section Rheumatology

**The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Rheumatology is a branch of the College of Occupational Therapists (COT). The membership includes occupational therapists (OTs) from a variety of backgrounds, such as educators, researchers, occupational therapy (OT) staff and students, who have an interest in or working in the areas of arthritis, musculoskeletal conditions and chronic pain.**

The Specialist Section - Rheumatology is led by a national executive committee (NEC) made up of volunteers elected from the membership at the annual review meeting (ARM). Members support fellow members at local and national levels across the United Kingdom (UK). All Specialist Section - Rheumatology members must also be members of the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT).

### Aims of the Specialist Section

- To improve knowledge, assessment and treatment by encouraging awareness of up-to-date approaches, exchange of ideas, continual professional development and research.
- To provide expert knowledge and advice in influencing policy development and patient care, as well as assist in the development of national guidelines working in partnership with COT.
- To build a diverse network of members with complementary skills and experience, including OT staff and students working in out-patients, hand therapy units, community settings, acute hospitals, specialist rheumatology units and universities.

## Membership Benefits

- Access to a network of OT staff working with people with arthritis, musculoskeletal conditions and chronic pain.
- Opportunities to actively engage in research and access to research articles and information, helping to develop the evidence base for relevant services.
- Be part of local, active, regional groups, which hold regular meetings and study days.
- Access to the Specialist Section - Rheumatology website and discussion forum.
- Receive the Journal of Rheumatology Occupational Therapy, which includes articles, research developments, service improvements and issues of interest to rheumatology OTs.
- Access to important developments and issues from the British Health Professionals in Rheumatology (BHPR), Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA), and European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR).
- Reduced registration fees at conferences and study events.
- Discretionary bursaries to support audit, research, continuing professional development (CPD) activities, and the promotion of OT in rheumatology.
- Opportunity to apply for bursaries, such as the Specialist Section - Rheumatology travel bursary of £350, which is awarded to up to three applicants a year.
- Opportunity to develop skills such as networking, chairing meetings and organising study days.
- Opportunity to influence rheumatology OT practice through involvement in your local regional group or volunteering for a committee role.

## Joining information

Q: How do I join Specialist Section - Rheumatology?

A: Please visit: **[www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Rheumatology](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Rheumatology)**  
and download our membership form.

For more information about the Specialist Section - Rheumatology please visit our website: **[www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Rheumatology](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Rheumatology)**

Or contact:

### Specialist Sections Manager

College of Occupational Therapists  
106-114 Borough High Street  
London SE1 1LB



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106-114 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LB  
Tel: 020 7357 6480 **[www.COT.org.uk](http://www.COT.org.uk)**

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