Hello and welcome to the New Graduate Bulletin.

Dear readers,

Sofia here, - I have been working at the RCOT for the past two months. I must say these have been very exciting but challenging months since I come from a different academic background in political sociology. My interests have mainly been related to social construction and humanitarian aid, based on this one can understand why I really enjoy being part of an organisation that fights for people’s well-being. I have had the opportunity to learn so many different things about the support and help that OT professionals give to people and how the RCOT is involved in your lives to make sure everything runs smoothly for you. For those of you who haven’t had the chance to read our bulletin before, this quarterly publication aims to support new graduates by keeping you up to date with the latest news, resources and opportunities available to you. We want you to make the most of your membership with us and I would like to share with you some of our upcoming events and new publications, such as the guide for “Occupational therapy for people with Parkinson’s”.

But first, I would like to congratulate everyone who has graduated this summer, I hope you have had enough time to celebrate and enjoy the “rare” sunshine.

You have done a great job so far and an amazing journey lies ahead of you. Whether you are just starting to think of what you want to do or have already secured a place in practice, - I have one piece of advice for you – “keep your heads high, be proud of your achievements and use your skills to make a change”.

Now that this fabulous summer is coming to an end – which I hope you have all enjoyed up to 100% - we are ready for another academic year with more students to welcome. Reminds you of old times?

-Well, that shows you how much you have progressed! We are always here to support your journey and help you develop your skills. With your membership come learning, CPD opportunities and much more.

Speaking of learning - have a look at page 3, where you will find more information on our “Awards for Learning, Development & Research” Do have a quick look at page 6 to learn about our mid-September “Learning Together Seminar: Exploring RCTs and Intervention Research within Mental Health Occupational Therapy Research” where you’ll have the chance to ask and learn from experts in the field.

Wishing you a lovely read through this publication.

Sofia Lypiridou
Education Administrator
Looking for funding to support your career development?

RCOT Awards for Learning, Development & Research

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists’ Awards support funding for learning, development & research activities, & offers the opportunity to add to your portfolio in one or more of the four Pillars of Practice - Professional Practice; Facilitation of Learning; Leadership; and Evidence, Research and Development - in the Career Development Framework (RCOT 2017). The 2019 Awards scheme opens on Monday 20th August 2018 offering an exciting funding opportunity to RCOT members towards activities commencing or taking place during the calendar year January to December 2019.

There are nine award categories available in the 2019 funding round with 2 new Awards categories this year: the RCOT Student Award for Entrepreneurship (£500) and the Constance Owens Early Researcher Award (£5,000). Full details and application documents can be downloaded from the RCOT website at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/news-and-events/awards-and-funding/rcot-awards

The closing date for receipt by RCOT of applications is 5.00pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018.

One week can change lives

Occupational Therapy Week 2018 will runs from the 5th – 11th November.

The much anticipated date in the occupational therapy calendar is everyone’s opportunity to promote the many ways in which occupational therapy improves the lives of patients and service users. This year in response to the launch of RCOT’s Strategic Intentions for 2018 – 2023, Occupational Therapy week will focus on securing the future of the profession. Members can get behind the campaign by pledging their support and doing what they do best: promoting their service and the value of occupational therapy to the general public as well as within their place of work.

Over the next few weeks further details on the activities taking place and the resources that will be made available to members will be posted on the website www.rcot.co.uk/otweek.
UNISON members working for the NHS in Scotland have voted by 94% in favour of a new three-year pay deal worth at least 9% over 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The vote comes after a four-week, online ballot that gave 60,000 NHS workers the chance to have their say.

“Today, I am pleased to announce that 94% of UNISON members have voted to accept a pay deal which will put an additional £400m into NHS workers pay packets in Scotland,” announced UNISON Scotland health committee chair Thomas Waterson after the votes were counted.

“This deal delivers real increases of between 3% and 27% for NHS workers in Scotland.”

UNISON Scotland head of health Matt McLaughlin described the vote as “a good result for UNISON members and I am happy that across Scotland we reached out to and engaged with the vast majority of our members.

“Their decision is a ringing endorsement of the offer.”

The deal, negotiated with the Scottish government following the pay deal for NHS England workers, means:

- all NHS Scotland staff earning less than £80,000 will receive a 3% pay increase this year backdated to April 1, with a payment of £1,600 for staff earning more than £80,000;
- the top of all pay scales will rise by 9% over the lifetime of the three-year deal (including 2018) or by £1,600 a year for scales above £80,000;
- larger increments and faster progression for staff not yet at the top of their pay band – worth between 11.3% and 27.7%;
- the removal of overlaps between pay bands, to ensure promotion comes with a proper pay rise, decreasing the risk of equal pay challenges;
- big improvements in starting salaries to help the NHS attract and retain new staff.

The deal applies to all NHS contractor staff, as well as those directly employed by NHS Scotland. https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2018/08/nhs-pay-scot/
News

Abstract system now OPEN...

Calling for Papers #RCOT2019 Birmingham

Based on the positive feedback and the comments we received on our RCOT Annual conference 2018 we couldn’t wait any longer before we start preparing for next year’s conference. So please read the following:

Submit yours and promote your successes by sharing good practice at the only UK occupational therapy conference delivered by the professional body.

Submitting an abstract means you will:

• Raise the profile of your work
• Collect valuable evidence for your CPD portfolio
• Publish your work in the Annual Conference online BJOT supplement

We welcome abstracts from members, and non-members, from all areas of practice, and will be pleased to receive abstracts from service users.

Deadline 23:59, 5 November 2018 – For all abstract queries, contact rcot@outsourcedevents.com

https://rcotannualconference.org.uk/about/abstracts-submissions/

Among the top 10 professions

Occupational therapy being ranked 8th in the top 10 degree subjects with the best employment prospects.

Not only is a degree in occupational therapy - which involves offering practical support to help children and adults to independently carry out everyday tasks - rewarding, its graduates also has excellent employment prospects. An incredible 88 per cent of students found employment within six months of graduation.

https://uk.news.yahoo.com/graduate-jobs-top-ten-degree-113954585.html?guc_consent_skip=1535984496
If you are interested in keeping up to date with research and research opportunities, sign up to the R&D@RCOT fortnightly bulletin. To sign up contact Pauline.McDonald@rcot.co.uk with your BAOT membership number to be added to the mailing list.
Acting as an expert witness: guidance for occupational therapists (2nd ed)

This updated guidance is produced for occupational therapists working as expert witnesses and for occupational therapists who are considering undertaking this work. For the former group it will provide a guide against which they can measure their existing practice. For the latter group it will provide information about the role, function and business considerations of an occupational therapy expert witness, preparing cost budgets and writing expert reports.

Free member download from Oct 2018: https://www.rcot.co.uk

Key reading for new graduates

Weaving a personalised clinical academic tapestry

In this new feature, we will highlight an article that is likely to be of particular interest to new graduates; and which can be read as part of a CPD learning opportunity.

For this edition we have chosen an article about the development of clinical academic careers (Di Bona et al 2018), which seeks to demystify the process of clinical academic development.

The authors suggest that occupational therapists do not become clinical academics at a single point in their career; and use a weaving analogy to describe the development of a clinical academic career as a non-linear process influenced, enabled and challenged by choices, opportunities and personal/organisational circumstances. They conceptualise how a ‘personalised tapestry’ can be created, including a ‘four-step method’ of clinical academic development.

You may wish to read and critique the article as part of a journal club; or as a starting point for further reading around the particular subject.


This article can be accessed, by RCOT members, via the e-journals collection available at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/journals-and-e-journals
**Engage**

**Funded PhD opportunities by Bournemouth University**

The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at Bournemouth University has the following funded PhD studentship available: Validation and Evaluation of the Contracture Assessment Screening Tool. This studentship provides the opportunity to be involved in the development and evaluation of a new approach to reducing the number of people in nursing homes who suffer from joint contractures.

A multi-agency task and finish group led by Dorset HealthCare University Foundation Trust has recently developed a Contracture Assessment Screening Tool to identify patients who are at risk of developing contractures and prompt care staff to seek a timely review with physiotherapy or occupational therapy services. The successful candidate will be part of a collaboration between the Dorset HealthCare team and academics from Bournemouth University who will validate the tool and evaluate its effectiveness by means of a critical realist randomised controlled trial.

The studentship is open to UK, EU and international students. Candidates should be motivated to complete a PhD in 4 years, hold a 1st class honours degree and/or a relevant Master’s degree with distinction or equivalent and be registered with the HCPC, NMC or GMC. Funded candidates will receive a maintenance grant of £14,777 per year as well as a fee waiver for 48 months.


Home page: [https://www.findaphd.com/](https://www.findaphd.com/)

**Learning Together Seminar: Exploring RCTS and Intervention research within mental health occupational therapy research**

**Thursday 13 September 2018 - 10.00-16.00**

**Book now** [Events&Exhibitions.Officer@rcot.co.uk](mailto:Events&Exhibitions.Officer@rcot.co.uk)

**For those interested in Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) and intervention research.**

**Speakers**
- Dr Mary Birken, Honorary Research Fellow, City University of London
- Professor Mona Eklund, Professor of Occupational Therapy, Lund University, Sweden
- Dr Sarah Markham, Service User - King’s Clinical Trials Unit, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN), King’s College
- Dr Jennifer Wenborn, VALID Programme Manager, Senior Clinical Research Associate and Occupational Therapist

**Networking Day for Occupational Therapists Working with Adults with Neurodiverse Conditions**

**Tuesday 25 September 2018, 10.00am - 04.00pm**

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

**Book now:** [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ASD-ADHD](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ASD-ADHD)

**Practice.Admin@rcot.co.uk**

**Learning Objectives:**
- Reflecting on existing practice - considering strengths and opportunities for occupational therapy in supporting this population group.
- Consider the evidence for occupational therapy for this population group.
- Discuss how we measure effectiveness and impact of occupational therapy.
- Identifying next steps for sharing best practice and providing peer support.
Thank you for reading this issue of the New Graduate Bulletin, I hope you have found some of the items useful. Please get in touch if you have any feedback on email qa@rcot.co.uk or twitter @RCOTStudents.
Issue 13 of the New Graduate Bulletin will be out in November, until then keep shouting about the profession and celebrating the fantastic work you are doing.

Sofia Lypiridou
Education Administrator