Dear readers,

Hello and welcome to the latest Graduate Bulletin

“It’s almost Christmas!” No matter how many times I say this it never gets less exciting. I know things are quite different this time but we have come to the end of a rather difficult year which taught us quite a lot about ourselves and our priorities in life. It has showed us that there is always a way to make things work and try to be innovative in our teaching and practice. I want to say thank you to everyone who has been sharing their stories on our “Small Change, Big Impact” and “ChooseOT” walls, your hard work and achievements are truly inspiring.

For those who haven’t had the bulletin before, this quarterly publication is aimed at supporting new graduates and final year students by keeping you up to date and helping you to make the most of your membership.

On another note I would like to share some exciting resources and opportunities with you. Starting with some information you might need on the current situation and answers to the most common questions (page 2). Learn more about primary care and the drop-in sessions available. Also how the Specialist Sections and branches can support you in different areas of practice (page 3). On page 3 you will also find some of our latest CPD materials, Internship opportunities and library resources (page 4).

The Education and Research Department wishes you a Merry Christmas.

Sofia Lypiridou
Education Liaison Officer
News

Information on Covid-19 can be found at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-0

- FAQs, vaccination
- Latest government and country-specific advice
- What RCOT is doing
- RCOT key enquiry services
- RCOT events
- RCOT headquarters
- RCOT Accredited Education Providers

Framework for supporting people through Recovery and Rehabilitation during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic

This paper provides a strategic framework with overarching principles and high-level recommendations, which inform and shape the provision of rehabilitation and recovery services across Scotland for the coronavirus (COVID-19) period and post coronavirus (COVID-19).


New RCOT Monthly Primary Care Drop-in Sessions and Email Network for RCOT members - Sign up now!

As increasing numbers of occupational therapists are interested in primary care we are now offering two new services:

Free Monthly Drop-in Sessions on zoom - If you have burning questions to ask about primary care, register to attend one of these with Genevieve Smyth, Professional Adviser here. The content of the sessions will be driven by your queries and can cover topics such as clinical practice in and around GP surgeries, service set up and design, outcome measures and more. These hour long, informal sessions are not recorded, and will be structured with introductions, presenting issues from you and group discussion to generate solutions.

Primary Care Email Network - We also now have a Primary Care email network for occupational therapists who would like to receive updates about primary care from RCOT and share requests with the network. Please go to the webpage for Terms of Reference and email Yallin.Acosta@rcot.co.uk with your RCOT membership number and your agreement of the terms, if you would like to join.

Brexit advice for graduates and students

All you need to know regarding government changes to visas and immigration in the following links: https://www.rcot.co.uk/news/uk-government-continues-auto-visa-extension-scheme-key-allied-health-professionals

https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/brexit-advice-for-students/
The CPD@RCOT Short Course “Work as a Health Outcome: What is YOUR Role?” is a brilliant new opportunity for RCOT members to deepen their understanding of the important links between health and work. It will enable you to start crucial conversations about service users paid employment needs and how you can support them. The course has three resources; a workbook, a Facilitator Guide and an accompanying presentation. You can work through it as an individual or as a group to enhance debate and peer-to-peer learning. In total, the course should take about 2.5 hours to complete with more time required for suggested reading. To find out more, visit the CPD webpage and look at the CPD Short Courses.

The Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture 2020 was delivered by Dr Jenny Preston MBE. Entitled "Re-engineering truth and certainty in occupational therapy", Dr Preston challenged on her presentation our underlying assumptions of truth and certainty and how we generate, create and interpret knowledge within the occupational therapy profession. Dr Preston's Lecture can be viewed on the RCOT website, and to support your learning after watching it, the RCOT Professional Development Team have developed a reflective Lecture toolkit. Members can access this via CPD@RCOT, under the “Toolkit for self-directed learning” tab.

Specialist Sections are branches of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)

We are here to provide professional direction and leadership for occupational therapists working in a range of areas of practice. [https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-us/specialist-sections/about-specialist-sections](https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-us/specialist-sections/about-specialist-sections)

There are 10 specialist sections, covering a wide range of ages, interests and these cover all of the UK’s Home nations. Students can get a reduced rate for joining, and will then get full member benefits. These include access to E-Newsletters, invites to virtual events, eligibility for learning grants along with resources to help continuing professional development.

There are also a number of areas for students and new graduates to be actively involved and contribute. This might be joining in with a clinical forum or national executive committee, helping with social media or putting together an ENewsletter alongside some subject experts.

Membership helps to provide fantastic benefits for professional development including the building of professional networks and support across the UK. Students and New Graduates are encouraged to contact the specialist section of most interest and see what vacancies there currently are. There is likely to be a role well suited to your interests and skills!
RCOT Internships

Whether you are interested in research or you want to gain a better insight about professional practice the Royal College of Occupational Therapists is offering the following opportunities:

• Research and Development Internship

For a pre-registration occupational therapy student currently in their final year of study or a recent graduate (up to two years post-registration) wishing to develop their research-related skills and confidence by working alongside colleagues within the RCOT Education and Research Department. The Internship project will focus on devising, piloting and evaluating a range of RCOT research-related resources to support members to enhance their own research skills.

• Professional Practice Internship

This internship also open to final year pre-registration students and recent graduates, focuses on developing an understanding of public affairs and enhances the intern’s re-search-related skills by working alongside colleagues within the RCOT Professional Practice Department. This also includes evaluating and reporting on the RCOT campaign Small Change, Big Impact. The intern will be expected to work alongside the Policy and Public Affairs Manager to produce a public affairs plan that promotes the outcomes from the campaign. This will include developing resources that will be used with external stakeholders.

Closing date for CVs and covering letters is midday Monday 15th February 2021

Interviews will be held in London on Tuesday 23rd (research) & 25th (practice) of February 2021

Visit our website for more information

GO ONLINE

Library catalogue portal

The RCOT Library catalogue portal offers:

closer access to resources - including ebooks and electronic theses, features better content displays throughout a modern, responsive interface that will work just as well on your phone or tablet as on a desktop computer, a streamlined export process, easier to amend and filter results.

You can find a guide to using the portal, as well as other useful documents on accessing resources, on our Information Skills page

You have access to a variety of online resources including: hOT topics, quick facts and over 50 e-journals, 100 e-books and multiple e-thesis.

• Start with looking at the Evidence Spotlights which provide an overview of key readings in a subject area. Available at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/evidence-spotlights

• A new RCOT ‘Quick Facts’ resource, about the Australian Therapy Outcome Measures for Occupational Therapy (AusTOMs-OT), has recently been added to the collection. The ‘Quick Facts’ documents provide concise information about particular assessments/outcome measures, with signposting to the relevant manuals/websites for further information. The other documents in the series are on the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS), Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) and Therapy Outcome Measure (TOM). The documents include details about underpinning theory/psychometric properties, an overview of the administration process, and identify key strengths of the assessment/outcome measure and aspects to be mindful of. They also provide examples of evidence. Access the ‘Quick Facts’ documents at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/assessments-and-outcome-measures

• The list of available e-journals can be found at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/journals-and-e-journals and e-books at: https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/e-books

• E-theses may be available for immediate download through the RCOT library catalogue at: www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/borrow-thesis

• My Signals: Occupational Therapy collection: https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/highlight-004128/my-signals-occupational-therapy-collection

Interested in research?

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.
Thank you for reading this issue of the New Graduate Bulletin, I hope you have found this publication useful. Please get in touch if you have any feedback - email Sofia.Lypiridou@rcot.co.uk or twitter @RCOTStudents. Issue 23 of the New Graduate Bulletin will be out in March, until then keep shouting about the profession and celebrating the fantastic work you are doing.

Sofia Lypiridou

Education Liaison Officer—Pre-registration