1. The Dr Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture is one of the most prestigious events in the calendar of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. It was inaugurated in 1973 to commemorate Dr Elizabeth Casson, one of the pioneer advocates for the value of occupational therapy who opened the first school of occupational therapy in the UK, Dorset House, in 1930. It has become an annual event, with parallels in the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy’s Muriel Drive Memorial Lecture.

2. In the early days, leading representatives in the fields of health/rehabilitation were invited to present the lecture, but current practice is that the presenter be an occupational therapist.

3. The choice of presenter for the Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture is a Council decision. Nominees are judged by Council against the following criteria:

   - Being an inspirational professional within their area of practice, research, education or management;
   - Being an excellent communicator as evidenced by testimonial from peers, service users and carers;
   - Making or having made a significant contribution to the development of occupational therapy through professional practice, service improvement, service delivery, research or education;
   - Having provided the opportunity for service users and carers, members of the profession and others to benefit from their work through clinical practice, publications or presentations;
   - Being an active member of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists in good standing;
   - Having actively demonstrated use of advanced theory, standards and methods within occupational therapy that improve outcomes for service users and carers and promote public awareness and understanding of the profession’s contribution.

Please bear these criteria in mind when preparing your lecture. In addition, you may wish to consider talking to other Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecturers for their general guidance or advice. Caz Dunn, Corporate Events Manager, will be happy to assist you with this and can be contacted by email at caz.dunn@rcot.co.uk and it may also be helpful for you to read earlier Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lectures that have been published in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy (BJOT). The lecture is generally published in BJOT after it has been delivered and in an online collection. A compilation of Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lectures, The Dr Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lectures 1973-2004, was published to celebrate the 50th anniversary year of Dr Casson. Including 27 lectures, this publication demonstrates milestones in the status and direction of travel of the occupation over 30 years.
4. The presenter is invited to suggest a title for the lecture which will be required in advance of the lecture (exact timings will be confirmed directly with the presenter). In the lecture, the presenter is asked to reflect on the past, present and, especially, the future of occupational therapy and to consider national and international influences on the profession. It is an opportunity to challenge the profession, highlight innovations in practice, education and research, and to stimulate debate about future directions in occupational therapy.

Should you illustrate your lecture through the work of your organisation, be it practice, education or research, please ensure that you have sought all the necessary permissions from the organisation or people that you work with.

5. The time allowed for the lecture is 45 minutes; there is no following question and answer session. The presenter is expected to provide a copy of the text of the lecture suitable for subsequent publication in BJOT. Advice should be sought from the BJOT Managing Editor and the BJOT Submission Guidelines accessible at https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/british-journal-occupational-therapy#submission-guidelines as soon as possible about the publication process.

Given that the lecture is offered as a gift of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and is not a general peer reviewed BJOT article, open access publication by authors is not appropriate.

6. Information on the life and work of Dr Casson can be found within the RCOT library https://cot.soutron.net/Library/Catalogues/Search.aspx?OPAC=MembersOPAC or in the Dorset House Archive in the Oxford Brookes University Library.

*Amended March 2019*