

# Intro to: Research and Innovation at RCOT

Presented by  
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# In today's session

- Discover **research and development opportunities** available to you as a member
- Learn about how to **share your ideas for change** with our Innovation Hub
- Understand our **funding awards** and RCOT research foundation
- Find out more about our **library service** available to you once you finish your studies



# What is the difference between Research and Innovation?

Scientific investigation, experimentation, and systematic study to gain knowledge and understanding

Research

Innovation

Development and application of new ideas, processes, products, or services that add value or solve problems in new or improved ways

# Research and Development



# Research Connect and Research champions

- Thriving **online community** of members interested in research
- Launched on LinkedIn, now moving to **RCOT Communities** our **online networking platform** launching to all members in 2025
- Led by **RCOT research champions**, 52 volunteers from our membership community

# RCOT Innovation hub

Access a searchable database  
of occupational therapy focused real-  
world change projects

Collaborate with other change makers

Extend the reach of your ideas

[www.rcot.co.uk/innovation-hub](http://www.rcot.co.uk/innovation-hub)



# Funding for research and innovation



# RCOT Research Foundation



**Research Priority Grant:** one grant of up to £100,000 for research that includes developmental opportunities for occupational therapists within the research. The lead applicant must have a PhD.



**Research Career Development Grant:** one or two grants of up to £20,000 total for research that supports the development of an occupational therapist researcher.



**Systematic Review Grant:** one or two grants of up to £20,000 total funding for a systematic review.



**Innovation Seed Fund pilot:** up to £5,000 to progress an occupational therapy change/improvement idea – coming soon!



# RCOT Digital Library

## Online resources & services

- E-books & theses
- Online databases & f/t articles
- Information skills guides
- Enquiry service

## Benefits to you

- All career stages
- Tailored & specialist
- Always available 24/7
- Complement other collections
- A constant resource

## Contacts

library@rcot.co.uk

020 3141 4727

Lorna Rutherford  
Alice Ford-Smith

# Recap: 5 things you can do!

- Join and engage with our **research connect community**
- Share a **real-world practice challenge**, idea or change project with us in the innovation hub
- Take part in the **strategy shaping workshops** – all levels of experience welcome!
- Explore **online library** and get to know our library service team.
- **Apply for funding** from the RCOT research foundation

Keep an eye out for research café dates and topics!



# Questions?



# Make the most of your membership

- **Develop yourself and the profession** with CPD portfolio and funding, recognition awards and much more!
- **Connect with peers** through our regional and specialist section community events, networks and our annual conference.
- **Access representation** when you need it most with Unison membership, insurance and our PAS service.
- **Join our campaigns**, from influencing government policy to OT week - share your story and inspire others.



# Connect with us on social media

- **Twitter (X):** [@theRCOT](https://twitter.com/theRCOT)
- **Facebook:** [Royal College of Occupational Therapists](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalCollegeofOccupationalTherapists)
- **Instagram:** [@the.rcot](https://www.instagram.com/the.rcot)
- **LinkedIn:** [Royal College of Occupational Therapists](https://www.linkedin.com/company/RoyalCollegeofOccupationalTherapists)



# Key resources

- Gain access to the [PAS service](#)
- Learn more about our [CPD resources](#)
- Find further information about our [Regions](#)
- Look through our [Specialist Sections](#)
- Browse our Digital [Library](#)
- Find out more on upcoming [events](#)
- Find out more about our [Research](#) resources
- Learn about the membership benefit of [indemnity insurance](#)

# Key contacts

## Membership Excellence team

Email - [membership@rcot.co.uk](mailto:membership@rcot.co.uk)

Call - +44 (0)20 3141 4648

## PAS Service

[professional.advisoryservice@rcot.co.uk](mailto:professional.advisoryservice@rcot.co.uk)

Professional Development team - [prof.dev@rcot.co.uk](mailto:prof.dev@rcot.co.uk)

Twitter: @CPD\_RCOT

Practice and Workforce team - [Suhailah.Mohamed@rcot.co.uk](mailto:Suhailah.Mohamed@rcot.co.uk)

