

# Learners guide to: Research and Innovation at RCOT

Presented by  
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Membership Engagement Manager



# In today's session

- Discover **research and development opportunities** available to you as a member
- Hear from **current and former students** who have worked with us
- Learn about **funding awards** and RCOT research foundation
- Find out more about our **library service** available to you once you finish your studies



# Research and Development at RCOT

As a learner...

- Get to know our **evidence-based guidelines** (e.g. Play Guidelines 2023). Let us know how you use them!
- Get nominated for the **Early Researcher Prize** - and maybe win!

Later on...

- Join a **Guideline Development Group** to influence future practice
- Win the **early researcher award** (post-reg)
- **Apply for funding through our Research Foundation...**

# Throughout your career, now and later...

- Help us build a vibrant community of research interested OTs and learners.
- Join Research Connect – and be an active user!
- Come to research cafes...

## 2024 Research Cafe dates and themes

- 12–1pm, Wednesday 28 February – Evaluating the impact of Patient and Public Involvement
- 12–1pm, Wednesday 20 March – Open cafe – bring any questions
- 12–1pm, Wednesday 24 April – Economic Evaluations

# 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

# RCOT Research Foundation – what do we fund?

- Funding for the later stages of a doctorate
- Build upon doctoral findings with further research
- Begin to develop or further develop a new intervention manual, tool or assessment
- Explore the useability of an assessment or process
- Understand the experience of people with lived experience or occupational therapists who provide services with the aim of improving the experience or service



Claudia Anderson

James Fullard

# RCOT Innovation hub

Develop your skills as a changemaker  
through accessing:

A searchable database of occupational  
therapy focused real-world change  
projects

Discussions and live events

Resources on quality improvement and  
innovation





# Why get involved?

- Find out if others have similar challenges to you and search for possible solutions
- Gather a range of real-world evidence
- Gain feedback on your early ideas and test out your approach to change with your peers

# Become an early adopter

- Join the network in April 2024
- Submit an improvement project you led on placement
- Share a real-world occupational therapy challenge your exploring
- Read our innovation case studies and report

# Real-world evidence – Single (optimal) handed care

2 pilots

Southwest England

## 2009 – Cost reduction

Net reduction to council £100k

## 2016 – Cost reduction

Annual Net reduction in costs to Council £289,500

**20,126** domiciliary care hours per year made available to support others

Scaling up - LA

Northwest England

Cost reduction

50% of manual handling cases reduced

Cost reduction to council

**1.25 million spend**

**68,000** domiciliary care hours made available.

Scaling up - Acute

Southeast England

Reduced length of stay in acute hospital of **4.7 days**

Investment in the OT workforce

1 x Band 8a OT

1 x Band 4 Support role

# RCOT Digital Library

- E-books and online theses
- Library catalogue (including details of RCOT publications)
- Online journals
- CINAHL, Medline and GreenFILE databases (full text article links)
- Information skills guides
- Enquiry service

[library@rcot.co.uk](mailto:library@rcot.co.uk)  
020 3141 4727

Lorna Rutherford  
Alice Ford-Smith

# RCOT Digital Library

- Tailored, specialist occupational therapy and related resources
- Supports CPD, private study, learning, research and practice
- Compliments university library collections
- A constant: student to practitioner / return to practice / moving jobs

# Make the most of your membership

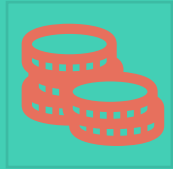
- **Develop yourself and the profession** with CPD portfolio and funding, recognition awards and much more!
- **Connect with peers** through our regional and specialist section community events, networks and our annual conference.
- **Access representation** when you need it most with Unison membership,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



# Joining RCOT



Discounted rate  
for learners



£5.13 per  
month



Price of a cup  
or 2 of coffee!



# Questions?





# 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](#)

# 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 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)

