Professional Associations

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) is the national voluntary professional association for OT’s in Canada. There are approximately 7,000 members in all parts of Canada. CAOT provides advocacy, resources, and member services. CAOT supports future practitioners in our profession by providing free membership to students enrolled in entry-level occupational therapy programs.

Some of the benefits of student membership in CAOT include:

- Electronic versions of periodicals OT Now and Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy (CJOT), including access to the CJOT Archives dating to 1933.
- Electronic access to the American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT) (coming Fall 2012), the Australian Occupational Therapy Journal (AOTJ), the British Journal of Occupational Therapy (BJOT), the Journal of Occupational Science (JOS), the New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy (NZJOT), and the Hong Kong Journal of Occupational Therapy (HKJOT), Revue Franco-phone de Recherch en Ergothérapie (RFRE), erg-go: La revue des ergothérapeutes du Québec, and many others.
- Access to information and resources from the caot.ca including the “members only” section.
- Opportunities to interact with students from other programs via the “CAOT Occupational Therapy Student Blog”
- Access to CAOT web-based education including “Water Cooler” information sessions and other free webinars
- Member rates for “Lunch and Learn” webinars and workshops
- Student rates for conferences
- Member rates for CAOT publications, including occupational therapy textbooks
- Opportunity to network nationally
- Opportunity to influence the development of our profession
- Access to insurance products for your home
- Access to CAOT Group Affinity programs including GoodLife Fitness memberships at up to 55% off regular prices and discount-ed book purchases from Wiley-Blackwell to name a few.

Refer to caot.ca for the name and contact information of the current Manitoba Board Director.
Manitoba Society of Occupational Therapists

The Manitoba Society of Occupational Therapists (MSOT) is a professional association dedicated to building a strong community of Occupational Therapists within the province. Visit MSOT’s website at msot.mb.ca

MSOT plays a vital role in building, promoting and strengthening the profession of occupational therapy within Manitoba, while enabling individual growth and development of occupational therapists. Key roles of MSOT include:

- Advocating on behalf of occupational therapists to foster growth and change within the profession;
- Recognizing the achievements of occupational therapists within Manitoba through a variety of annual awards;
- Supporting the growth of occupational therapists through education awards and educational events;
- Connecting with members through email, social media channels, and members portal on the website.
- Promoting the profession of occupational therapy through connecting with stakeholders and local media; and
- Creating a strong community of occupational therapists in Manitoba through special events, the Team OT initiative, and national occupational therapy month.

The goal of MSOT is to support the professional interests of occupational therapists within Manitoba, in turn enabling the ability of Manitobans to engage in meaningful occupations.

Awareness

MSOT actively promotes occupational therapy to the public, ensuring more people understand its value and essential role in promoting their health and wellness in all areas of life and all workplaces.

Activities include:

- creating and supporting Occupational Therapy Month activities
- engaging students to be ambassadors for the OT profession
- providing a speakers bureau to ensure accurate representation of the profession
- participating with community service groups

Advocacy

MSOT advocates on behalf of Manitoba’s occupational therapists, providing the strong voice essential to building positive work environments for today’s therapists and their clients.

Activities include:

- providing representation to municipal, provincial and national government agencies and departments;
- liaising with the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists and the Alliance of Canadian Occupational Therapy Professional Associations;
- communicating an occupational therapy position on matters of importance to the profession;
- consulting with the OT Leadership Group at the WRHA level;
- representing MSOT on College of Rehabilitation Sciences committees
Professional Development & Networking

MSOT is proud to enable the ability of its members by providing professional development and networking opportunities. Members have the unique advantage of sharing their diverse experiences and exchanging new ideas, fresh insights and problem solving assistance.

Activities include:

- organizing membership meetings and professional development workshops;
- providing rate reductions for continuing education courses offered through MSOT;
- granting, from our growing MSOT Research Fund, The Mary Judd Research Award, MSOTRF Presentation Award, MSOT Professional Development Bursary and MSOT book prize along with other awards to help OTs conduct and promote their research.

Participating in MSOT

Student membership is automatically granted to any student enrolled in the University of Manitoba entry-level occupational therapy program. Students may also attend meetings and volunteer as first and second year MOT representatives. Their free student membership is valid for the duration of the academic year. Upon graduation a discounted membership rate of $50 for their first year.

Not only does membership ensure that therapists have access to MSOTs resources in a timely and efficient manner, it also supports the work being done by our dedicated volunteers.

Members of MSOT

- Receive the MSOT UPDATE, the organization’s newsletter (published six-times annually), providing the latest news, product notices, educational opportunities, and announcements and information from key partners;
- Have access to the MSOT website (www.msot.mb.ca) and members portal which has been specifically developed as a resource for Manitoba’s occupational therapists;
- Be offered a practical how-to guide for starting a private practice in Manitoba, as well as networking and mentorship opportunities with other MSOT members in private practice;
- Have access to affordable advertising of your OT-related business;
- Have access to MSOT’s comprehensive resource library;
- Are provided with professional representation to government, policy makers, consumer groups and other professional groups;
- Have access to MSOT’s Advocacy Toolkit to assist occupational therapists in their own advocacy efforts;
- Gain provincial, inter-provincial and national networking opportunities;
- Qualify for reduced rates for continuing education courses offered through MSOT;
- Be connected to timely information regarding employment opportunities, courses and products.

The College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba

The College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba (COTM) is established by provincial legislation, The Occupational Therapists Act, to regulate the profession of occupational therapy in Manitoba. The role includes registering qualified individuals to practise occupational therapy, thoroughly investigating complaints involving COTM members, and requiring member participation in a formal continuing competence program. Registration with COTM is mandatory in order to practise occupational therapy in