Find out more about joining the Specialist Section for Older People

Journals; Email Bulletins; CPD opportunities; Website forums; Network With Specialists; Events; Newsletters;

www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/OP
Specialist Section
Older People

The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Older People is a branch of the College of Occupational Therapists (COT). The membership includes occupational therapists (OTs) from a variety of backgrounds, such as educators, researchers, occupational therapy (OT) staff and students, who are interested in furthering their knowledge of care, interventions and services for older people. It has close links to service users, carers and associated organisations.

The Specialist Section - Older People is led by a national executive committee (NEC) made up of volunteers elected from the membership at the annual review meeting (ARM). Members support fellow members at local and national levels across the United Kingdom (UK). All Specialist Section - Older People members must also be members of the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT).

As the Specialist Section for OT staff working with older people, Specialist Section - Older People covers a wide range of interests. Members can choose to join one or more of the clinical forums, which have been established to enable members working in the same speciality to network, to provide focused learning opportunities, and to support each other.

- The Acute Care and Emergency Forum (ACE) is open to all members working in emergency departments and acute care, as well as practitioners working in other areas who want to keep informed of current developments within acute care and accident and emergency. It aims to have a highly interactive forum that reflects best practice and innovation in these challenging clinical areas.

- The Care Home Clinical Forum is open to members working in care homes and/or who have an interest in supporting people living and working in care homes. It provides a valuable opportunity to share good practice and experience and a forum for discussion, networking and support.

- The Dementia Clinical Forum is for members who work with people with dementia across the age span. It is open to OTs working in specialist or non-specialist settings, allowing an opportunity for discussion and networking.
• The Falls Clinical Forum is open to members who work with individuals at risk of falling or who have an interest in falls management. The forum aims to share and disseminate good practice in the area of falls prevention and management, and engage members in local and national initiatives.

• The Intermediate Care Clinical Forum is open to members working in rapid response, reablement, home-based, and bed-based intermediate care teams. As well as an opportunity to discuss and share topics with other forum members, there is also the option of participating in the IC e-journal club.

• The Mental Health Clinical Forum is open to members working with older people who have a diagnosis of functional mental illness. Often this may occur alongside the loss of physical health and other life events, such as bereavement or retirement. The forum aims to support staff specialising in the treatment of older people.

Aims of the Specialist Section
• To meet professional learning and development needs.
• To enable the sharing of best practice.
• To provide the opportunity to network with OTs and support workers from across the UK.
• To share a passion for the care and services of older people.

Membership Benefits
• Access to a national network of OTs working with older people in a wide variety of areas of expertise and practice.
• Receive three newsletters a year, which include articles, book and conference reviews, research development, national policy and reports.
• Attend conferences, learning events and study days dedicated to OTs working with older people.
• Participate in continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities, either as a member of our NEC, or support other Specialist Section activities for professional development.
• Access to the Specialist Section – Older People research and development award.
• Opportunities to comment and advise on policy, strategy and guidelines.
• Access to the website for up-to-date information and resources.
• Members can share ideas and support best practice through specialist clinical forums.
Joining information

Q: How do I join Specialist Section - Older People?
A: Please visit [www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/OP](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/OP) and download our membership form.

Q: Who do I contact for membership enquiries?
A: For general membership enquiries please contact:
[ssmembership.administrator@cot.co.uk](mailto:ssmembership.administrator@cot.co.uk)

For more information about the Specialist Section - Older People please visit our website: [www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/OP](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/OP)

Telephone: **020 7450 5477**

Or contact:

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