Find out more about joining the Specialist Section for Work

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

www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Work


Specialist Section

Work

The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Work 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 have staff with an interest in work, vocational rehabilitation and occupational health. Supporting people to remain in, return to, or obtain work is a key function of occupational therapy.

The Specialist Section – Work 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 UK. All Specialist Section – Work members must also be members of the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT).

Occupational therapy was founded on a belief that a link exists between occupation and health; engagement in work practice is, therefore, a basic tenet of the profession. Specialist Section – Work believe that all OTs, whatever their area of practice, should always consider work as part of their routine assessments.

Vocational rehabilitation is a commonly used term that has different meanings for different people. Most often, it refers to the process of helping people who have disabilities or ill-health to remain in, return to or move into meaningful activity, work or paid employment (The College of Occupational Therapists’ Vocational Rehabilitation Strategy, COT 2008, http://www.cot.co.uk/sites/default/files/publications/public/Work_Matters_Vocational_Rehab_English.pdf).

Although not all OTs may become specialists in vocational rehabilitation, we all have the knowledge and skills to assist people to remain in, return to or move into work or meaningful activity. The Specialist Section - Work welcomes membership from all occupational therapists, students and occupational therapy staff with an interest in this area of practice.
Aims of the Specialist Section
To promote OT and access to OTs within all vocational rehabilitation and occupational health services by:

• Raising awareness of the unique contribution of OT to work-related activity within the statutory, voluntary and corporate sectors.

To promote good practice and provide guidance and information to ensure that people who wish to return to, remain in or obtain work, receive high quality, evidence-based OT, by:

• Skill sharing, circulating information, share research and resources.
• Supporting education, training, research, and development related to work, vocational rehabilitation, and occupational health.
• Fostering relationships between other relevant professional groups and agencies.
• Facilitating study days and learning events.

To support the continued development of an OT workforce that is fit for the future and able to meet the challenges of the government’s health and wellbeing policies by:

• Providing specialist, professional representation, assisting and acting on behalf of COT for policy and consultations.
• Sharing information about policy and legislation changes.

Membership Benefits

• Receive regular informative e-newsletters.
• Opportunities to attend regional and national learning events.
• Access to networks with like-minded professionals.
• Upgrade knowledge with work-related policies, initiatives and research via regular email updates and via the Specialist Section - Work Twitter account.
• Participate in learning events to support continuing professional development (CPD) and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) membership.
• Participate in consultancy work.
• Opportunities for funding, including free prize draws and funded places to conference/study days.
• Access to research database.
Joining information

Q: How do I join Specialist Section – Work?
A: Please visit www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Work and download our membership form or email the membership secretary: cotsswork@gmail.com.

Annual membership for BAOT members runs from October to September and reduced rates are available for full-time students.

For more information about the Specialist Section – Work please visit our website: www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/Work

Or contact:

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