

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ON THE ROAD TO CENTENNIAL, VISION & PRACTICE SHAPE HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

AOTA to Hold 90th Annual Conference & Expo in Orlando, Fla. Carfit Training to Be Held for Media

Bethesda, MD — As the healthcare debate rages on, occupational therapy practitioners find themselves in the thick of issues being addressed by Congress. Reform, in fact, is a critical component of the profession's journey toward its centennial in 2017, committed to helping individuals of all ages live life to its fullest. During the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) "visioning" process, it examined the drivers of change that are likely to shape healthcare and the social landscape of the 21st century. Six broad overarching areas of practice—children & youth; health & wellness; mental health; productive aging; rehabilitation, disability & participation; and work & industry—became apparent. New research and practice in these areas are being explored at the 2010 AOTA Conference and Expo.

Approximately 3,500 occupational therapy practitioners, educators and students will descend upon Orlando, Fla. April 29-May 2, 2010 to attend the conference. Journalists can attend more than 650 expert-led workshops and lectures on research and occupational therapy practice including:

Children & Youth

Role of Occupational Therapy in Addressing Sensory Needs

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 9 -10:30 a.m. EDT

Practical strategies to explain sensory integration (for children with autism) and advocate for occupational therapy will be explored.

Health & Wellness

The Nintendo® Wii Fit™ and Rehabilitation Across the Lifespan

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. EDT

A demonstration of the Wii and its application across the lifespan, specific interventions and goals, and how to adapt/modify the Wii for various diagnoses with low tech means. Occupational interest games will be discussed with the application to both the pediatric/adult population health and wellness, as well as those with injury/illness.

Mental Health

The Role of Occupational Therapy in Behavioral Healthcare in Operation Iraqi Freedom

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 1 – 3 p.m. EDT

The occupational therapy practitioner's education and background in psychology and behavioral health allow for functional treatment of behavioral disorders seen in the modern wartime environment. Skilled interventions in outpatient, restorative, and preventative care are paramount in returning service members and civilians to operational capability.

Productive Aging

Pathways to Better Practice: Tips and Techniques to Guide the Home Modifications Process

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 12 - 6:30 p.m. EDT

This session is designed to continue the home modifications discussion by providing a review of the latest research, an introduction to assessment tools and evaluation guides, and an opportunity to problem-solve cases representing various settings and funding sources.

Rehabilitation, Disability & Participation

Driving and Community Mobility

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 12 - 6:30 p.m. EDT

Through collaboration and converging evidence driving and community mobility is reviewed as an emerging practice area, research findings are presented with emphasis on implications for practice, and future directions are suggested to mold this practice area as a reimbursable, recognizable, and sustainable service.

Work & Industry

Testing for Ergonomic Risk Factors and Implementing Low Tech Solutions

Sunday, May 2, 2010, 8 -11 a.m. EDT

A key role of occupational therapy in ergonomics is identifying conditions that place workers at risk of injury and recommend solutions to reduce those risks. The session reviews how and when to apply tests (e.g. RULA, Strain Index, Revised NIOSH Lift Equation), and low tech solutions that can be utilized.

In addition, AOTA will be partnering with AARP to train practitioners in the nationally recognized "Carfit" program. CarFit helps senior drivers learn about how the effects of aging change the way they fit in their vehicle and how their driving can be affected. During the training sessions, some occupational therapy practitioners will play the role of senior drivers while others learn how to "fit" a car to a senior. After the training, practitioners will be able to participate in CarFit programs around the country. Carfit is a free program for seniors 65 and older provided in local communities.

Media are welcome to attend the training at the Orange County Convention Center on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 from 12 - 6:30 p.m. EDT. Please call Heather R. Huhman at (301) 652-6611 x 2963 for more details.

There are many topics that demonstrate how occupational therapy is improving the lives of clients every day. For a full listing of presentations, please visit:

<http://www.aota.org/ConfandEvents/2010AnnualConference/Educational-Sessions.aspx>.

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)** represents the professional interests and concerns of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, go to www.aota.org.