

## **NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA FOR OTARG NEWSLETTER 06**

South Africa proudly congratulated Alfred Ramukumba for being elected the new OTARG president at the OTARG meeting during the congress held last year in August in Moshi, Tanzania. We are very confident that he with his dedicated executive team will steer OTARG from strength to strength.

Communication remains our main objective. The OTARG delegate has used the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA) newsletter to publish a report on the OTARG congress and meeting, highlighting the exciting developments and progress in Africa. It was a way of updating and informing members and marketing OTARG. Thank you to Rose Crouch for publishing a report on OTARG in a recent WFOT bulletin. It is the responsibility of all of us to keep each other informed and network. We would therefore like to encourage more effective use of the OTARG email support group. This was set up after the last congress by Dani Swai and got off to a good start but needs all to maintain it.

Most of you are probably aware of the African Occupational Therapy carousel / Buddy system. It was initially discussed and proposed at an Education meeting held in Cape Town during the 2004 OTASA congress. This was further researched and the carousel was presented by Robin Joubert at last year's OTARG congress. It is a system that links various OTARG member countries that are developing or have developed an OT training school to a SA university with an OT training department. The aim is to collaborate and use each other for information, support and further training. After receiving various recent feedback from the SA universities it was discovered that only 3 out of the 8 countries and universities had used the opportunity to network with each other despite the expressed strong need. This will be discussed again during the next OTARG congress i.e. next year September in Zanzibar.

At the end of the last congress, Cape Town volunteered to be the Scientific Committee for the next congress. This committee consists of representatives of all 3 universities based in Cape Town, the OTARG delegate and an OTASA representative. We have had regular meetings and have been in constant contact with the congress coordinating committee in Zanzibar. Another brilliant program is being developed so keep an eye on the website, [www.ot-tanzania.org](http://www.ot-tanzania.org)

OTASA has recently been updating it's website to include all the latest developments and policies. Please refer to it, [www.otasa.org.za](http://www.otasa.org.za)

SA will also be holding it's 31st congress from 4-6 July 07 in Pretoria, Gauteng. The theme will be "Making it happen together. Unlocking the potential of diversity". To be on the mailing list please forward your contact details (cell / email) to [congress07@uitweb.co.za](mailto:congress07@uitweb.co.za). Also refer to the OTASA website for further details.

From 2007 to maintain one's registration with the Health Professional Council of SA (HPCSA), it will be required that all OTs and OTAs accumulate Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points. Many courses and workshops will therefore be presented by the universities and OTASA throughout the country. Again refer to the OTASA website for future developments in this regard.

Finally I would like to thank the OTASA and especially the executive for the continuous support they have shown towards the delegate and OTARG e.g. OTASA has incorporated administration of the SA OTARG fees in their administration, which is a huge assistance to the delegate.

Best wishes to the Zanzibar congress coordinating committee with the planning of the next congress in Sep 07. We are certainly looking forward to it.

See you all there.

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