



FIRST



ANNOUNCEMENT

6TH OTARG CONGRESS 2009
MANGOCHI-MALAWI

BUILDING BRIDGES WITHIN AND
BEYOND AFRICA



28th September to 2nd October 2009



OTARG NEWSLETTER

(Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group)

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No. 12

Member Countries

Botswana
Kenya
Malawi
Mauritius
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda

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Vice Chairperson:
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Secretary
Liza Wegner
Treasurer
Christa Meyer
WFOT Representative to
OTARG
Julian Kamwesiga
Student Representative
Bertha Mbuya

EDITORIAL

My greetings to you all. I hope that you have had a good look at the first page of the Newsletter!!!

1st Announcement of the 6th Biennial Congress of the Occupational Therapy African Regional Group in Malawi 2009

There will be more about the Congress in the Newsletter. It is extremely important to get the first announcement out to you so that you can start planning for next year and also so you can start generating funds from the various sources to attend. It is going to be the event of all time!

During this interim period between congresses, OTARG has been quiet but has continued to operate throughout Africa developing training, making progress with websites and items such as bank accounts and preparing for the next congress.

I have found it difficult to get reports from the various countries after many attempts and so have decided to go ahead with the Newsletter without reports from different countries, this time.

OTARG's chairman Alfred Ramukumba has been working hard with the Congress Committee and the Scientific Committee for the Malawian Congress. He has also been involved with Vivyan Alers (SA Alt. Delegate to WFOT) on the development of the OTARG website. Jenny Cooke, occupational therapist,

has developed this website for us. I have included a short C.V on her for your interest.

This is a major communication development in the history of OTARG.

Well done all of you and the very best wishes to Sylvester Butao and his committee for the Congress!

In closing I would like to express my very positive views about the election of Sharon Brintnell from Canada as President of WFOT.

Sharon has been very involved with OTARG over many years, actually from its instigation. She has latterly been appointed to WFOT to help with financial matters and we have been very privileged to have her expertise. Long may this continue!

Congratulations Sharon from OTARG!

Rosemary Crouch, Editor.

MORE ABOUT THE CONGRESS

The congress venue is Mangochi along Lake Malawi. You have to drive from Blantyre which is about 300km or Lilongwe, around 350kms. The road is tarmac all the way.

The Sun and Sand Holiday Resort has been chosen as the venue because it has sufficient rooms for group presentations and a big main hall. It is also close to the other two resorts where people may be accommodated and is at a walking distance from the Congress venue.

The accommodation ranges from \$US50-90 per day bed and

breakfast. There are camping options. See the website for more info.

www.sunnsandmalawi.com

www.sunbirdmalawi.com

ALSO SEARCH CLUB MAKOKOLA, Boadzulu/ Alexander Hotels.

The early bird registration will be US\$150 and late registration US\$200 for delegates. For students it will be \$50, and \$70 for late reg.

THE SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONGRESS AND CALL FOR PAPERS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER 2008

Message from the Chairperson of OTARG.

Memories of Zanzibar, Tanzania where OTARG's 5th International Congress and the Annual General Meeting took place in September 2007 still occupy most of the congress participants' minds.

Positive developments resulting from the decisions taken during the AGM include the opening of an OTARG Bank account in South Africa and launching of an OTARG website. The website has been up and running since August 2008.

Preparations are underway for the 2009 OTARG Congress and AGM which will take place in Malawi. Colleagues in Malawi and South Africa are working tirelessly to put together a stimulating Scientific and General programme. The work already done by the Congress

Committee so far clearly demonstrates the intention to present a Congress that meets international standards.

The Chairperson for the Congress, an occupational therapist in Malawi, is Sylvester Butao at ocdm2005@yahoo.com. His committee consists of:

- the secretary, Dawn Anderson,
- the treasurer Joyce Kasamba
- and the ICT member, Toti Mwanjabe.

They are all occupational therapists in Malawi.

The Scientific Committee is situated in South Africa. The members are:

- Alfred Ramukumba, University of Limpopo
- Annah Lesunyane, University of Limpopo
- Pat de Witt, University of South Africa
- Denise Franzsen, University of Witwatersrand
- Fasloen Adams, University of Witwatersrand
- Christa Meyer, University of Limpopo

We encourage you to be one of the delegates to get together in Mangochi next to Lake Malawi in September 2009.

Join us and participate in our deliberations on how together we can build bridges within and beyond Africa. Visit the OTARG website for updated information and news on the Congress.

On behalf of OTARG, I would like to again express our sincere thanks to WFOT for the continuous support and presence during past OTARG

Congresses and Meetings. OTARG would also like to congratulate the new WFOT Executive Management Team which was elected during the 2008 Council Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

WFOT Team members are as follows:

New members

President:

Sharon Brintnell (Canada) - well known to OTARG

Vice President Finance:

Samantha Shann (United Kingdom)

Executive Director:

Marilyn Pattison (Australia) (re-elected)

Programme Coordinators (PCos):

- International Cooperation:
Suchada Sakornsatian (Thailand)
- Promotion & Development:
Ritchard Ledgerd (United Kingdom)
- Standards & Quality:
Nils Erik Ness (Norway)

Positions with no change:

Vice President:

Anne Carswell (Canada)

PCo:

Education & Research: Alfred
Ramukumba (South Africa)

**Alfred Ramukumba
October 2008**

**An introduction to our OTARG
web-master Jenny Cooke**



Jenny Cooke (nee Frost) was born in South Africa and obtained her National Diploma in Occupational Therapy at the Vona du Toit College of Occupational Therapy in 1963. In 1976 she obtained a Diploma in personnel Management. She worked in a number of Academic hospitals in the Cape before coming to Johannesburg to work at Crossroads school.

In 1971 she was an Au Pair in France.

She started work as an occupational therapist at Phoenix House drug and alcohol treatment centre in 1972. She worked there and developed an excellent occupational therapy programme, until 1984.

She then married Richard and has two sons. She has many hobbies, amongst them lace –making, smocking and petite point.

Jenny started her interest in web design in 2003. We are very fortunate to have her expertise for our new OTARG website at www.otarg.org.za

Final word: see you in Malawi in 2009!

Rosemary

Crouch

18/10/08