

## **HISTORY OF COT SPECIALIST SECTION – NEUROLOGICAL PRACTICE**

- 1982 Inauguration of OT Specialist Interest Group Neurology (OTSIGN) at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.
- 1982-84 OTSIGN held regular meetings in London on all topics, e.g. normal movement, perception etc. Alongside evening meetings the group also ran workshops and began to establish a network of contacts throughout the country.
- 1984 The first Council Link was nominated. The group contributed to a chapter for the new OT reference book on Perception.
- 1985 Post graduate education in neurology was highlighted as a problem and OTSIGN felt that its main role should be to provide study and learning opportunities for its members. A questionnaire was disseminated. It confirmed the need for education, and demonstrated member's hopes that the group would become national. The London group agreed to co-ordinate the establishment of this nation-wide network.
- 1986 The OTSIGN Council link representative attended the first meeting with COT and other special interest groups. Much work was done to outline a postgraduate course curriculum, but unfortunate timing did not allow it to be taken up. The first newsletter was produced and the original logo devised.
- 1987 Subgroups were set up in Bristol and Wessex. Considerable PR led to the gradual establishment of others nation-wide. Regular workshops continued.
- 1988 Plans made to hold a two-day national event alongside the AGM.
- 1989 First National Conference held in January entitled "Putting ourselves in the picture – a framework".
- 1990 A questionnaire to members highlighted CVA as the most commonly encountered condition and Neuro rehabilitation the most common area of work.
- 1991 The committee identified the need to bring more structure to the organisation due to the increased volume of work. This was generated by liaising with OTSIGN subgroups, COT, and running workshops.
- 1992 A National Committee and financial structure became necessary and was approved at the AGM. The annual conference was at COT and titled "An Update on Neurology". It was attended by Baroness Masham and OT's nation wide presented research papers.
- 1993 The organisation now has clearer direction and an upsurge of interest from COT in Special Interest Groups occurred.
- 1994 Meetings at COT culminated in the formation of Specialist Sections for which OTSIGN was granted status. Establishing the new structure was labour

intensive. Clinical forums were also initiated in stroke and brain injury to focus on particular areas for members with specialist expertise.

- 1995 A new logo was adopted.
- 1996 A new name National Association of Neurological OT (NANOT) was agreed by ballot at the AGM. The Specialist sections were asked to contribute to a COT document on post registration course development and the module for a clinical MSc in Neurology was outlined. There was a launch for the professional therapy pack for people working with Parkinson's. The Stroke forum was by now well established. The National Committee expanded to reflect the increasing workload. A NANOT poster was produced to display in departments. There was an increase in the number of regional groups and the network of regional representatives.
- 1997 Changes at COT Headquarters meant that the Specialist Sections now had a seat and could vote on the council. Regional representatives were identified in almost every region.
- 1998 NANOT invested in a computer for the Newsletter editor. The group contributed to the COT handbook. The AGM on Evidence Based Practice held concurrent workshops for the first time. The Regional Representatives Pack was launched.
- 1999 The National Committee launched the Progressive Disorders Forum. The NANOT leaflet was redesigned and produced. The membership pack was revised and updated.
- 2000 National Conference held in Sheffield on Brain Injury. Clinical Forums began work on the development of standards for practice. The NANOT website was launched. "Occupational Therapy and Stroke" by the Stroke Clinical Forum was published. Specialist section status was renewed at COT conference and a Social Services Committee Member was voted on to the National Committee.
- 2001 National Conference held in Newcastle on Stroke attended by over 120 delegates. Membership increases to 750. Due to increasing workload, a company, Professional Briefings, was paid to take on the administration of NANOT membership and finances. This allowed the committee to focus on clinical priorities rather than spending their time doing administration. Clinical Forums completed standards of practice.
- 2002 National Conference held in London entitled "NANOT Leading the Way Forward in Occupational Therapy". NANOT standards of practice for Brain Injury, Chronic Progressive orders and Stroke published in conjunction with COT. Financial membership year altered in line with COT and members given 5 months free membership.
- 2003 National Conference "From Guidelines to Practice" held in Birmingham. The Brain Injury forum ran a successful study day on vocational rehabilitation. A

new look Newsletter was produced and expert email databases were set up for neurological conditions. NANOT produced the Fatigue Management Pack.

- 2004 National Conference held in Edinburgh entitled "Stroke – Current Clinical Issues in Occupational Therapy". The National Committee and working practices were reviewed and restructured to meet the growing demand for input to the national agenda (such as NICE guidelines and National Service Frameworks. These changes resulted in the "Changing face of NANOT document being produced and presented at conference.
- 2005 National Conference held in Leeds entitled "Hot Topics in Neurological Rehabilitation". NANOT made changes in line with the COT PKF Specialist Sections review. Due to financial difficulties NANOT changed membership administrators and developed an online membership system. Financial management was centralised under the NANOT Treasurer and a computerised financial database set up. The Stroke Forum developed information leaflets that can be downloaded by therapists.
- 2006 National Conference held in Oxford on Brain Injury. COT stated that all Specialist Sections had to rebrand in line with the recommendations in the PKF Specialist sections review for a specialist section corporate identity. This involved a new name and NANOT became College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Neurological Practice

<b>NANOT CHAIRPERSONS 1982 - Present</b>	
1982 - 1985	Rosemary MacIntosh
1985 – 1988	Jan Harrison
1988 - 1990	Josephine Durkin
1990 – 1992	Rosemary Cooper
1992 – 1995	Jan Harrison
1995 – 1998	Annette Champion
1998 – 2001	Therese Jackson
2001 – 2003	Jill Dawson
2003 - 2006	Anne Brannagan