

College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Older People



Research and Development Action Plan Review Summary July 2006

COT has been reviewing progress with the Specialist Sections' Research & Development Action Plans. The following is an abbreviated version of the report submitted to COT in July. You may find it useful to read this alongside the original document, downloadable from the website.

Objective 1: Contribute to the creation of a 5-year strategic framework for occupational therapy in conjunction with other allied health professionals

- Research and Development lead in post since September 2005
- Database of members' research interests and activity established
- Specialist Section – Older People involved in COT and NAPA's (National Association of Providers of Activities for Older People) strategic partnership
- Link developed with AGILE (the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy's special interest group for older people), and links strengthened with the British Geriatrics Society (BGS)

Objective 2: Contribute to the inclusion of allied health professionals in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation

- Contributed to national consultations, for example: KLORA standards for Care Homes; and NICE consultations, for example: Dementia
- Links are slowly being established with Regional Officers
- The NEC continue to: keep informed about relevant policy developments; respond accordingly; alert members via the Newsletter.
- Member of the Older Peoples' Specialists Forum
- Member of COT Mental Health Strategy Steering Group

Objective 3: Support the establishment of centres of excellence with sufficient infrastructure to sustain a research active community of occupational therapy personnel

This original objective was overtaken by the POTTER project, in which the Specialist Section – Older People has actively participated, as reported in the 'Contact'.

Objective 4: Reinforce the requirements and responsibilities regarding the research capacity of all members

- COT currently reviewing Specialist Sections' research grant procedures

- Research governance is a regular item in this Newsletter
- The Specialist Section – Older People adheres to COT clinical governance framework for all its work, with a number of self review applications being processed. All requests made to access the Specialist Section – Older People database for research purposes must follow these governance procedures (co-ordinated by R&D Lead).

Objective 5: Promote priority research topics and diversity of methods

The top 5 priorities, as identified through the POTTER scoping exercise, in no particular order of importance are; Active Ageing & Occupation, Assistive Technology, Falls, Dementia and Intermediate Care.

Objective 6: All members are expected to promote an evaluative culture to improve practice

- Specialist Section – Older People supports members to present their work at national and international conferences, both OT and inter-professional, including: annual COT Conference; WFOT Congress in Sydney (see pages 14-17); 1st Dementia Symposium in Madrid (May 2005)
- Specialist Section – Older People (at invitation of the Journal of Dementia Care) to run parallel session at 1st UK Dementia Congress in November.
- A 'Call for Papers' and abstract peer review process developed for the Specialist Section – Older People 2006 annual professional development event (i.e. conference) to support continuing professional development needs and clinical governance requirements
- **Evidence Based Practice** - Considerable work has taken place on the development of evidence based Guidelines for specific areas of practice, following the COT workshop in July 2004.

In summary, the progress to date in each Clinical Forum is:

- Falls: developed the Falls Management Guidance document, published by COT and launched at the Specialist Section – Older People professional development event in November 2006.
- Dementia: are developing a set of Guidelines for various aspects of practice. Many members are involved in this massive project.
- Rapid Response/Emergency Care: continuing the work started by RISSOT before its transfer to Specialist Section – Older People (April 2006).
- Care Homes: once the collaborative project with NAPA is completed, work will start on guidelines for occupational therapy intervention in care homes.
- Intermediate Care: interest is growing about the development of Guidance for this relatively new area of practice, for which there is as yet, little evidence.
- Mental Health: no action taken by this Forum as yet, as it has only recently been revitalised and re-launched.

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