

January 2010
Report of the Vice President

Virginia Stoffel, PhD, OT,, BCMH, FAOTA

Summary of Key Activities/Accomplishments:

The Centennial Vision priorities continue to progress thru the work of AOTA volunteers, leaders and staff. VP Stoffel was kept busy by her work as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee for Participation Review and her role on the Emerging Leaders Development Committee.

A.1. Centennial Commission Activities October '09 thru January 15, 2010.

Centennial Vision Activities of Commissioners and their groups

❖ **Program Directors**

Bringing FW educators into discussion to stimulate membership
Need a better understanding of the link between the Participation Review recommendations and the CV
Starting to plan a meeting that will begin to use all the resources (blueprint for education; model curriculum; research agenda) to plan curricula
Question about state budgets and possible effects on OT programs in state universities
Need to continue to monitor this and how this situation is affecting any OT programs

❖ **ASAP**

.Medicaid is a big issue; a big threat at state level due to State budget deficits
OT services could be on the chopping block
Working with State Associations to advocate and to relate activities to the CV
Discussed the many different paths taken by State Presidents to get to that office
Fits well with an AOTA commitment to leadership development

❖ **MDI**

Focus on promoting the CV; groups are all at different levels
Promoting research related topics
Some on the networks feel “disconnected” from the Commission and feel that diversity may not be getting attention in the CV
Leadership training may be needed for some members of the network.
Networks may wish to take lead in moving the CV goal of “global connectedness” forward.

❖ **RA**

The RA is busy planning the spring meeting, which will be abbreviated and will be handling the recommendations of the Participation Review Ad Hoc

❖ **General Discussion**

Perhaps the Commission's position is about how to focus on the work related to the CV and where the Commission sees the CV heading

- Where are the struggles
- What are the barriers
- Where should we be headed

❖ **President –elect**

Reminded the Commissioners how important it is to stay focused on the CV

A.2 General Centennial Vision Related Activities

❖ **Dissemination**

- **CV articles in OT Practice, 10/09 to 1/10**

October 12, 2009

Multicultural Highlight in the News (section developed to promote the international aspect of the Vision). Focus on the Network of Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities and Supporters (NOTPD).

In the Clinic: "Integrating Current Practice Into Classroom Learning." Introduction highlights this topic as a way to support the Vision by developing effective methods of occupational therapy practice, including classroom instruction.

Article on the Emerging Leaders Development Program, as a way to support the Centennial Vision.

Perspectives: Focus on Pitt students raising money for AOTPAC, as a way to gain recognition for the profession.

Living Life To Its Fullest: Column promoting the essence of OT; in this case, the author's relationship with her aging father.

October 26, 2009

News item asking researchers to share their work with Heather so she can promote OT to the media. A separate story was a Research Highlight (supporting an expanded role for OT in stroke rehab) to promote research in the profession.

November 9, 2009

News item on leadership development for program directors.

Capital Briefing: "Using Aids To Provide Therapy," provides updates on AOTA's position and advocacy efforts.

"A Student's Guide to Leadership Development" promotes leadership among younger members.

Living Life To Its Fullest: discusses the challenges of communicating well with others.

November 23, 2009

News item on creation of the Scholarship Project by Occupational Therapy Students, designed to address Centennial Vision priorities.

Capital Briefing: AOTA's work on keeping rehabilitation and habilitation services in the health care reform plans.

Careers: "Joy in Motion" highlights an OT's community-based, falls prevention program, which uses the brand as a way to model their interventions.

Perspectives: "Health Care Reform: The Value of Student Advocacy" encourages other students to get involved in promoting OT legislatively.

December 14, 2009

"Spreading the Mission, One Practitioner at a Time" encourages occupational therapists to have a student follow them during Job Shadow Day to promote the profession.

Evidence Perk: "Evidence-Based Practice Resources" focuses on evidence related to ASD.

Research Updates: "Focusing on Intervention Studies" highlights research in AJOT and other journals pertaining to OT outcomes.

January 25, 2010

News item on OT Military Research Planning Summit, to promote AOTA's and AOTF's role in this area.

"Our Time Is Now" highlights ways to promote OT and to meet clients' and payers' needs.

"AOTA and AOTF Announce New Research Agenda" provides overview.

CV Power Point Presentations

Posted presentation by Stoffel at the New Mexico & North Carolina state conferences and Wisconsin Southeast District meeting on Leadership, Advocacy and the Centennial Vision available on the AOTA web site.

➤ **Progress on Board Centennial Vision Priorities**

- **Engage in broad-based advocacy to ensure funding for OT in traditional and emerging areas**

Advocated strenuously for “OT is Part of the Solution to Health Care” including securing inclusion of rehabilitation and habilitation in benefits packages in all major bills; Secured inclusion of language in health care reform on many important issues directly affecting occupational therapy including home health initial visit language to expand occupational therapy’s role in that setting; specific mention of occupational therapy in workforce and training provisions; a two-year extension of the Medicare cap exceptions provision; prevented inclusion of harmful language in health care reform concerning orthotics and prosthetics; and promoted inclusion of occupational therapy’s role in mental health, wellness and care coordination. Recent political developments are impacting the potential for passing the legislation. AOTA will continue to work on other ways to achieve critical changes in Medicare including addressing the cap and the home health issue.

Began work, including hiring two experts, to implement a contract from the Centers for Disease Control to promote policy changes that would enhance provision of services to prevent the occurrence of falls among Medicare beneficiaries.

Continued participation with the Coalition for Patient’s Rights (CPR) to discuss initiatives within the American Medical Association (AMA) to restrict non-physician’s practice.

Closely monitored quality of care projects including: the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) and its quality measure development and approval processes in conjunction with CMS, the AMA PCPI measure development and approval processes (including successfully advocating for a voting AOTA representative to the PCPI body), the quality work of the National Quality Forum and AQA Alliance (including attendance at the AMA’s PCPI and AQA meetings).

AOTPAC’s fundraising goal for 2009 was exceeded by reaching \$229,000, over the \$200,000 goal.

The first AOTPAC Night at the Student Conclave was held on November 21, with a total of \$3,320.00 raised. The “Students Think They Can Dance” event included a friendly dance contest, and the winners went home with a trophy.

AOTPAC fundraising at the October Program Directors meetings raised more than \$10,000.

AOTA HCPAC advisors and staff attended the AMA’s CPT Editorial Panel and Advisors meeting and the Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee (HCPAC) Review Board meetings which govern payment codes and levels for occupational therapy services, especially as they are implemented in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

AOTA staff continued to facilitate expert volunteer member work under two CMS therapy cap alternative studies: Developing Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternatives (DOTPA) is a long term study being conducted by RTI (CMS contractor) and the Short Term Alternatives for Therapy Services (STATS) is a two year study being conducted by CSC (CMS contractor). AOTA’s STATS advisors submitted recommendations for updates to Medicare manuals to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) contractor.

Mary Foto, OT, CCM, FAOTA and AOTA staff met with CMS staff to discuss flaws in a General Accountability Office (GAO) report on duplication of services inherent in CPT® code definitions and values.

AOTA, APTA and ASHT sent a joint letter to CMS staff on custom fabricated orthotics and temporary prosthetics clarifying their importance to beneficiaries under the Medicare Program.

Reimbursement staff continued to participate with a coalition of professional organizations supporting use of recently updated practice expense data to calculate payment rates for 2010. Coalition activities involved Hill letter writing initiatives, placement of an ad in Roll Call, the Capitol Hill newspaper, with AOTA mentioned and signing on to documents in a related federal court case.

Reimbursement staff defended the role of occupational therapy in the treatment of lymphedema at the Medicare Evidence Development Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) meeting held November 18, 2009. Staff filed comments including an examination of the state of evidence around occupational therapy and lymphedema.

AOTA staff met with staff at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) on November 30, 2009 to discuss implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s incentives to physicians and hospitals to implement Electronic Health Record (EHR)s. AOTA is part of a coalition of providers including APTA, ASHA, National Association of Social Workers, American Dietetic

Association, and American Psychological Association to address the concern is that systems used by non-physicians may not include functionality required (such as electronic prescribing) by the draft definition of “meaningful use” of EHRs to achieve CCHIT certification. Interestingly, one of the staff members the coalition met with was former NBCOT staff Betsy Ranslow, MS, OT/L. who now servers as a Senior Policy Advisor at ONCHIT.

AOTA and the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) supported revisions of the state’s practice act which included a provision to allow for licensure of occupational therapy assistants. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the legislation October 11, 2009. The law became effective January 1, 2010.

- **Develop major image-building campaigns**

October:

The AOTA Media Relations Office coordinated with our PR firm, BreakWhiteLight, to complete the online branding toolkit for members. An announcement will be made to members soon.

Additionally, the Media Relations Office promoted Capitol Hill Day, which resulted in a story in Roll Call; coordinated a Real Simple interview with AOTA member Dr. Karen Jacobs about ergonomics and doing laundry; and coordinated a Money magazine interview with AOTA president Penelope Moyers Cleveland about occupational therapy as one of the best jobs in America.

Finally, the Media Relations Office has been working hard on a new annual event, Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, which will take place the first full week of December each year. The Web site and materials are complete and will be announced in the 1-Minute Update and OT Practice.

November:

During November, the Media Relations Office worked feverishly to prepare for Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (December 6-12, 2009). Ten endorsing organizations were secured (AAA, AARP, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, American Public Transportation Association, Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, Easter Seals Project ACTION, ITNAmerica, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, National Center on Senior Transportation, and The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.), each of which will help promote the event on a local, regional and national basis. Additionally, the Media Relations Office worked with The Daily Beast to name occupational therapy as a “best career.” Finally, the November episode of the Living Life To Its Fullest podcast series was recorded, which was about diabetes intervention.

December:

During the Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (Dec. 6-12) campaign, the Media Relations Office garnered 120 confirmed media placements, reaching a total of 48,255,939 people (based on estimated media outlet circulation numbers – actual audience is likely a lot higher). If AOTA were to purchase advertisements of the same length (“ad value”), the cost would have been \$8,075.92 (again, actual number is a lot higher because we were not able to obtain ad values for online, radio and television placements).

January:

U.S. News & World Report named occupational therapist to its “Best Careers 2010” list. This is the third consecutive year occupational therapy has received this honor.

In collaboration with AJOT, the Media Relations Office distributed press releases about two research papers published in the January/February 2010 issue.

- **Promote dissemination of evidence-based knowledge**

Evidence Perks were published in *OT Practice*. Designed to connect practitioners, students, educators and researchers to resources and information related to the evidence-based practice (EBP) of occupational therapy, this column addresses the day-to-day needs of occupational therapy professionals to use the best available evidence from the scientific literature to inform the clinical reasoning process. All Perks are designed to link EB related resources to practice and education. In addition, there is a concerted effort to cover the six broad practice areas. Topics of Perks and publication dates include:

- Evidence-Based Practice Resources: Autism Spectrum Disorder (December 14, 2009)
- Evidence-Based Practice Resources: Productive Aging (submitted for publication in the February 22, 2010 issue)

Evidence Bytes covering a broad range of evidence-based practice resources on all 6 broad overarching areas of practice were published in the 1 Minute Update. A link to access all the Evidence Bytes has been added to the Evidence-Based Practice and Research section of the Practitioners and Educators-Researchers areas of the website.

The following Evidence Bytes were published on the web in AOTA’s 1 Minute Update:

September 14, 2009

Evidence Byte: Evidence for Treatment of Overweight and Obesity Clinical Guidelines on the Identification, Evaluation, and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults provides important background evidence and treatment ideas for

occupational therapy interventions in this innovative existing and emerging area of practice. The guideline is [available online at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute \(NHLBI\) at NIH.](#)

October 14, 2009

Evidence Byte: Use of rehabilitation therapy for ventilated, critically ill patients

A recently published study in Lancet evaluated the efficacy of early occupational and physical therapy for mechanically ventilated, critically ill patients. The results of this randomized controlled trial found that those receiving early therapy were more than 2.5 times more likely to return to independent functional status than those receiving standard care.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19446324?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum&emc=lm&m=587436&l=21&v=2292377

November 10, 2009

Evidence Byte: Evidence-Based Yoga

The Center for the Study of Yoga and Health—Evidence-Based Yoga evaluates peer-reviewed scientific research on yoga for children and youth and provides information on its benefits. A bibliography of evidence-based articles pertaining to yoga is available at the site, and includes studies on chronic pain, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and heart disease.

<http://www.centerforyogaandhealth.org/?emc=lm&m=591922&l=50&v=2072764>

December 7, 2009

Evidence Byte: Parent Intervention For Children With Autism

The P.L.A.Y. Project—based on the DIR (Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-Based) theory of Stanley Greenspan, MD, and Serena Weider, PhD—provides information for implementing intensive developmental interventions for very young children with autism. A bibliography of evidence-based research supporting play-based interventions is available, as well as the results of a P.L.A.Y. Project study.

<http://www.playproject.org/?emc=lm&m=595115&l=26&v=2108055>

January 19, 2010

Evidence Byte: Evidence-Based Guidelines for Children

Experts, patients, and families at Cincinnati Children's developed pediatric evidence-based care guidelines and Best Evidence Statements (BEST). Of interest to occupational therapy practitioners is a guideline on constraint-induced movement therapy. In addition, BESTs on motor and sensory assessments for autism and the use of sensory diets for children with sensory processing difficulties are available.

In an interest to develop a central repository for evidence-based literature reviews and related resources, a pilot project focusing on various aspects of Critically Appraised Papers (CAPs) has been initiated. Following a conference call with the SISC, 10 SIS standing committee members volunteered to participate in the pilot project review process. This included completing a self-study training module and completing reviews of CAPs. The review process extended through December 2009. Results of the pilot project will be presented at the 2010 AOTA Conference.

AOTA's response to the National Autism Center's National Standards Report

The November 23rd issue of the 1 Minute Update included AOTA's response to the National Autism Center on their recently released National Standards Report, which analyzes various treatment approaches for autism spectrum disorders. AOTA's response included advocating for the role of occupational therapy and providing information to support and validate the theory and practice of sensory integration. AOTA cited the following information from the EBP project:

Case-Smith, J., & Arbesman, M. (2008). Evidence-Based Review of Interventions for Autism Used in or of Relevance to Occupational Therapy. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 62, 416-427.

Tomchek, S.D. & Case-Smith, J. (2009). Occupational Therapy Practice Guideline for Adolescents with Autism. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

Summaries of the results of the systematic reviews on occupational therapy for children and adolescents with difficulty processing and integrating sensory information posted on AOTA's website and manuscripts that have been accepted for publication in a 2010 issue of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Practice Guidelines

Revisions based on copy editing on **Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders** are in process. This publication is scheduled to be available in the AOTA Marketplace during the 2010 AOTA national conference.

National Guideline Clearinghouse (NCG)

AOTA and AOTA Press were notified that the following published practice guidelines have been accepted for inclusion in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) NATIONAL GUIDELINE CLEARINGHOUSE™ (NGC). The specific PGs are:

1. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Neurodegenerative Diseases.*
2. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury.*

3. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Children With Behavioral and Psychosocial Needs.*
4. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Individuals With Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.*
5. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Stroke.*
6. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Driving and Community Mobility for Older Adults.*
7. *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Children and Adolescents With Autism.*

- **Create a national outcomes database**

A final contract with Cedaron Medical, Inc. to develop an electronic patient record and documentation system was completed and signed by all parties in October 2009. The electronic patient record and documentation system will be based on the profession's research and literature including the *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process*. The system will be specifically designed to capture outcomes data using the Boston University Activity Measure for Post Acute Care (AM-PAC™) and other measures. The AM-PAC tool will be a measure used to gather functional improvement data for AOTA's National Outcomes Database for Occupational Therapy. The system is consistent with the Centennial Vision and aligns with the progression of health care reform to include electronic health records

AOTA's partnership with Cedaron Medical, Inc. to develop an electronic patient record and documentation system was announced through a Press Release on November 5, 2009.

During the past several months staff have been meeting with members of the profession who have worked with Cedaron on developing electronic documentation systems and other content experts about the development of occupational therapy documentation templates.

In January 2010 staff will be participating in a Live Meeting demo with Cedaron of their current system and existing documentation capabilities previously developed by occupational therapists working with Cedaron.

- **Continually scan the research environment**

The Research Director attended the Occupational Therapy Military Research Planning Meeting planned by Dr. Mary Radomski and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command (USAMRMC), Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) and the Proponency for Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PR&R). Several military funding opportunities exist for occupational therapy researchers but few are applying. The group hopes to increase communication and collaboration between occupational therapy researchers, educators, and students to collaborate with military researchers and clinicians to seek funding and conduct studies. At the meeting,

clinicians, researchers, and research administrators identified and prioritized military research topics. The group plans to meet again at the 2010 AOTA conference.

The Research Director disseminated research news, clinical resources, fellowship opportunities, funding information, and advocates for occupational therapy research at public meetings or via written comments. For example, the Research Director submitted a new objective about stroke and the need to assess for rehabilitation needs to Healthy People 2020

- **Create a research agenda**

The AOTA Board of Directors voted to accept the Research Advisory Panel's *Research Agenda* on October 31, 2009. The Research Director disseminated the AOTA and AOTF approved research agenda to the 1-Minute Update, AOTA website (<http://www.aota.org/Educate/Researcher/Research-News/Agenda.aspx>), and wrote an article with Joan Rogers, Chair of the Research Advisory Panel, for *OT Practice* (January 25, 2010 issue).

- **Create a research data base**

The research data base survey is nearly complete. A draft has been sent to Information Technology (IT) so they can start drawing up the specifications of the project. IT is working on other projects currently and estimates that they can begin working on the research data base in March, 2010.

- **Create the emerging leaders development program**

This motion charged the President with the appointment of the Emerging Leaders Development (ELDC) Ad Hoc Committee, composed of senior staff members and leaders of AOTA plus a recent former member of the Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, to carry out the planning and preparation for a pilot ***Emerging Leaders Development Program in Fiscal Year 2009***, with the actual pilot training program to be implemented in FY 2010, with a report back to the 2010 RA meetings with recommendations for future emerging leader development programming.

The Emerging Leaders Development program (ELDP) was successfully launched in November, 2009. The ad hoc committee developed all aspects of the program using e-mail and conference calls. The main thrust of the program will be a year long mentored relationship with an existing AOTA leader and specific tasks to accomplish during that time period. The committee has developed:

- The letter of invitation to applicants
- Application and review process
- The criteria for applicants
- The obligations and responsibilities of participants

- The letter of invitation to mentors
- The responsibilities and expectations for mentors
- The outline for the year long program and expected outcomes
- The general outline for a 2 day live training as a kick-off for the chosen “emerging leaders”
- Program evaluation components

The FYE’10 budget allotted approximately \$25k for the program. Funds were expended for participant travel and per diem, training program facilitator, copying and staff time.

The applications went out in November 2009; the committee received 85 applications; all applicants were notified in early December as to their acceptance into the program; 15 emerging leaders were chosen for the full program. The call for AOTA leader mentors also went out in November and we received 27 letters of intent to be a mentor. Due to the caliber of applicants, the committee decided to accept a 2nd cohort of 15 emerging leaders, who would not have the benefit of the face-to-face training, but would be mentored by AOTA leader mentors. All participants will be required to complete a post program evaluation of their experience and growth as a leader. The post program assessment results will be compared between these two groups for any significant differences in perceptions about the program, experiences and accomplishments.

The accepted applicants were announced in early December 2009, and during the first week of January the first cohort of 15 emerging leaders attended a 2-day leadership seminar at AOTA. Day 1 focused on Leadership and introduced the “Model of Coherent Leadership” (Stanford-Blair & Dickmann, 2005) where participants learned about how leaders are formed, what influences their performance, and how they can sustain themselves as leaders, as well as build the capacity of others to become leaders. Association leadership was the focus of day two. Participants built their working knowledge as to the AOTA leadership opportunities, needs and expectations as well as putting a face on the people who work at AOTA. Emerging leaders had time carved out during Day 2 for a phone conversation with their mentor to begin their dialog and relationship. After the 2-day training, mentees will be involved in projects their mentors are working on for AOTA to get a feel for how leadership works and looks in practice.

A SharePoint site has been established for the emerging leaders and their mentors, so all may have easy access to program materials, as well as have the ability to post new materials to share with others during this year long program. Additionally, a private “emerging leaders online group” has been established on OT Connections, so these emerging leaders may begin to form their own “community” and share their experiences with each other.

It is clear from the quality and number of applicants that emerging leaders exist in our profession and are ready for a program such as this as their entry into leadership in their association.

A.3. General Activities of the Vice President

VP Stoffel participated in AOTA Board of Director's meetings at AOTA headquarters in October, 2009. She led the performance review process of the Executive Director Fred Somers during a closed session of the Board in conjunction with President Moyers Cleveland. She participated November-January in all monthly meetings of the AOTA Officers.

VP Stoffel co-chaired, with Kate Loukas, the Membership Participation ad hoc group. In December and January, she participated in numerous conference calls with varied association governance groups to promote awareness of the findings of the group and promote discussion of the transformational process reflected in the recommendations of this group.

VP Stoffel participated on the Emerging Leaders Development Program (ELDP) ad hoc group co-facilitated the face to face training in Bethesda in January 2010 with consultant Dr. Nancy Stanford Blair and Tim Wolf, chair of the ELDP (former ASD chair), with the 14 participants who attended the training.

VP Stoffel conducted the Centennial Vision Commission meeting in January 2010 with: Janice Burke (OT PDs); Carol Siebert (ASAP); Penny Moyers Cleveland (President); Brent Braveman (RA); Francie Baxter (Vice-Speaker); Linda Orr (OTA PDs) and Meena Iyer (MDI). Discussion focused on keeping the Centennial Vision in the forefront of all members and providing input to the Board of Directors about threats and opportunities to shape current strategic efforts as budget priorities for the February 2010 meeting.

Events/audiences and presentations scheduled for VP Stoffel on "Leadership, Advocacy and Implementing the Centennial Vision" have included

- North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference keynote speaker – October 2009
- Meeting of new OT and OTA Program Directors at their orientation session in Baltimore – October 2009
- AOTA Annual Conference- April 2010