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**AOTA CHARTS FUTURE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY;  
Draft Vision Set for April Vote**

(Bethesda, MD)--A vision for the centennial of the occupational therapy profession celebrating practice, education, science, and social responsibility has been put forward by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Board of Directors. The draft Vision represents the culmination of more than 18 months of deliberation and will be voted on by the AOTA Representative Assembly at its meeting in April.

The draft Vision states that *“We envision that occupational therapy is a powerful, widely recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs.”*

“This bold vision recognizes our potential as well as our past and takes the first step toward our next hundred years of service and knowledge development in occupation,” said AOTA President M.Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. “I am so proud that the profession has come together in this extensive dialogue to improve our ability to meet society’s occupational needs and to bring the occupational therapy community together across the nation and the world.”

The development of the vision included outreach to AOTA members and the wider professional community including occupational therapy students, practitioners, and the international occupational therapy community, as well as consumers, disability advocates and policymakers. “This process was a comprehensive and thoughtful analysis of the state of the profession,” noted Frederick P. Somers, executive director of the Association. “The leadership of AOTA has demonstrated great foresight, vision and courage in undertaking an unprecedented self-examination and mapping out a bold roadmap for building occupational therapy's future.”

Baum explained that the vision “gives form and voice to the aspirations of the profession, confirms the importance of each member of the occupational therapy community, and firmly states our ability to contribute to the health and well-being of society as we face the change that is occurring all around us.”

For more information, visit the AOTA Web site [www.aota.org/](http://www.aota.org/).

**About the American Occupational Therapy Association**

Founded in 1917, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the nationally recognized professional association of approximately 35,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. AOTA advances the quality, availability, use and support of occupational therapy through advocacy, education and research on behalf of its members and the public. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.aota.org/](http://www.aota.org/).

**About Occupational Therapy**

Occupational therapy is a proven, recognized therapy that enables people to overcome the disabling effects of mental, physical, developmental, and emotional conditions by helping improve their ability to perform tasks in their living and working environments. Practitioners work with individuals to improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, and also to compensate for permanent loss of function. The goal of occupational therapy is to help individuals lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives through participation.