

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 23, 2006

CONTACT: Rob Black  
301-652-6611, x 2963  
cell: 202-288-3702  
praota@aota.org

## **AOTA ADOPTS CENTENNIAL VISION**

### ***Representative Assembly Members Vote To Adopt Centennial Vision at 86th Annual AOTA Conference***

(Bethesda, MD)—Members of AOTA’s policy-making body, the Representative Assembly, have approved a Centennial Vision statement for the profession of occupational therapy. As the centennial of both AOTA and the profession approaches, the vision statement celebrates practice, education, science and responsibility.

The vision statement says, ***“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 Centennial Vision will be crucial as we chart the future of occupational therapy,” said AOTA President M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. “We have put forth a vision that 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.”

There are eight elements of the Centennial Vision:

#### **1. Expanded Collaboration for Success**

We envision that occupational therapy is a critical partner in expanded alliances concerned with health and wellness locally and globally;

#### **2. The Power To Influence**

We envision that the occupational therapy profession will have the power to influence decisions and key decision makers to enhance the profession and the lives and participation of the people we serve;

#### **3. Membership Is a Professional Responsibility**

We envision that AOTA membership is an implicit professional responsibility of the occupational therapy community;

(MORE)

#### **4. A Well-Prepared Diverse Workforce**

We envision that the occupational therapy profession will have a well-prepared diverse workforce to meet society's occupational needs;

#### **5. A Clear, Compelling Image**

We envision that the occupational therapy profession will be the provider of choice for challenges related to everyday life and occupations;

#### **6. Customers Demand Occupational Therapy**

We envision that society recognizes the contribution of occupational therapy to health and wellness and demands access to services;

#### **7. Evidence-Based Decision Making**

We envision that providers, payers, and consumers of occupational therapy utilize readily available evidence in decision making;

#### **8. Science-Fostered Innovation in Occupational Therapy Practice**

We envision that science will be successful in competitive, interdisciplinary arenas that give understanding to guide our practice.

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.

More information on the [Centennial Vision](#) and the process by which it was developed is available on the AOTA Web site.

#### **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.