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MOYERS SWORN IN AS AOTA PRESIDENT

(Bethesda, MD)—Penelope A. Moyers, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA, was sworn in today as the 27th president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Moyers was elected in 2006 by the direct vote of AOTA members.

"Our Centennial Vision process gathers vital forces that fuel our journey into the future," said Dr. Moyers, in her inaugural address before the 87th Annual AOTA Conference and Expo in St. Louis, Missouri. "A vision attracts commitment from the membership and unites us towards a common goal, where we are energized by the meaning of the compelling words in the Vision. There is a standard of excellence as we pursue change to bridge the present into the future."

Dr. Moyers has been a strong advocate for the profession of occupational therapy during her career. She has 29 years of experience, having developed expertise in mental health practice at Central State Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, and in upper extremity rehabilitation at Plastic Surgery Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Moyers is currently serving as professor and chair of the Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB). Prior to joining UAB, Dr. Moyers was dean of the School of Occupational Therapy at the University of Indianapolis.

Dr. Moyers has also met the requirements developed by AOTA for board certification in mental health. In addition, she has extensive experience working with persons with substance use disorders; she also has research experience in the measurement of upper extremity function. Dr. Moyers co-leads a support group for persons with HIV and AIDS. Dr. Moyers has published extensively on the topic of substance use disorders and has worked with AOTA's evidence-based project to help practitioners select interventions for facilitating recovery and return to successful occupational performance.

Dr. Moyers has also written articles in *OT Practice* on the topic of continuing competence and professional development, an outgrowth of her previous AOTA role as chair of the Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development.

(MORE)

Page 2 / Moyers Sworn In As AOTA President

"Wisdom is not in the particulars of our vision," added Dr. Moyers. "It is the space between these details. It is the constant reflection about practice, education, and research. It is how to use our creative energy, knowledge, and science so that daily life participation is available for everyone."

Dr. Moyers has an extensive academic resume. She has a doctorate in Adult Education, with a major in Public Administration from Ball State University, and a Master's Degree in Community Development from the University of Louisville. She received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Missouri.

"We are so proud to have Dr. Moyers leading our profession," said AOTA Executive Director Fred Somers. "She has the passion that is necessary to continue the great work of our outgoing president, Dr. Carolyn Baum. We look forward to implementing our Centennial Vision under Dr. Moyers' leadership."

The American Occupational Therapy Association, established in 1917, represents more than 35,000 members. AOTA is an active advocate for the profession, and for individuals who can benefit from occupational therapy services.