SISC Annual Business Meeting Report for 2017

The Special Interest Section Council has continued to integrate the Centennial Vision and the AOTA Board of Directors’ priorities within the individual SIS Committees. Communication of the SIS Council is conducted via a monthly phone conference and electronic communication as needed. The individual SIS Committees design their own communication systems.

A major initiative this year has been ongoing discussion related to the possible reorganization of the Special Interest Section Council to a more fluid structure responsive to members’ needs. The dialogue has included discussion with AOTA senior management and culminated in a two-day face-to-face meeting at AOTA headquarters in June 2016. Visioning exercises resulted in the creation of the following statements:

Vision: The Special Interest Groups support AOTA’s mission and membership by fostering collaboration, cultivating leaders, and developing and disseminating resources that advance the profession.

Mission: The SISC support the needs of members focusing on specific facets of practice while recognizing that the integration of various facets define our practice.

Purpose: AOTA’s Special Interest Groups enable members to develop, utilize and connect with resources and colleagues that enhance their practice knowledge and skills.

The AOTA Special Interest Section Student Intern Program has continued this past year with 11 interns gaining valuable experience in the volunteer sector.

All of the SIS Chairs and their committees have been working on strategies for increasing communication within OT Connections in order to meet the needs of the current membership and cultivate new members. Some highlights of each SIS follows:

AMSIS: This group has been meeting regularly to address the needs of practitioners in administrative/management positions, and also providing resources to those practitioners involved in private practice.

DDSIS: The DDSIS reviewed the findings of a national survey on professional development needs for OT practitioners to work with adults with DD in traditional healthcare settings. Based on the study, we are in the process of developing resources to meet this need and are planning to pilot test the first 2 resources (behavior management and information to obtain from caregivers) in the upcoming months.

EDSIS: The Education SIS has initiated two Communities of Practice (CoP) as pilot initiatives for new Academic Educators and new Academic Fieldwork Coordinators; both are going very well with positive feedback received from participants in both programs. The CoP process has been viewed as an informal community to openly discuss issues, identify professional development needs, and share resources.

EISIS: Working with practice leaders across the county in developing common language for service delivery in schools (Push in – pull out; Contextual, integrated, embedded, collaboration;
Occupation based practice; Occupation and participation) and use this language to be used in our messaging/publications.

GSIS: Education has been provided to members about healthcare reform, value-based care payment, and new ICD code via discussions on OT Connections.

HCHSIS: Initiated monthly PEP Talks this past year on OT Connections for practitioners on "Putting Evidence into Practice" providing a format that included posting a problem encountered in practice, posting current research and AOTA resources available to use in daily practice related to the problem, and then posting summary on both the HCH and Home Mods Forums.

MHSIS: This group completed the document, “Occupational Therapy Service Outcome Measures for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs): Framework for occupational therapy service with rationale for outcome measures selection and listing of occupational therapy outcome measure tools.”

PDSIS: Has generated ideas for where the work of practitioners in physical disability practice settings is focused - chronic disease management, translation of evidence into true clinical practice, and interprofessional collaboration.

SISIS: This group has completed review of the AOTA Sensory Integration and Adults Fact Sheet and has completed review of the AOTA Frequently Asked Questions document

TSIS: Virtual Chat series have been posted around topics written in the Quarterly articles and this has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of postings on OTConnections. The re-emergence of OTs in the maker movement is a “new” trend in technology resulting in sessions planned at Conference on 3D printing and simple switch-making.

WISIS: This group revised the Official Document “OT Services in Facilitating Work Performance” for the Commission on Practice, which was expanded to articulate the broad scope of work related services and updated to address current practice issues and language, including current important diagnoses/situations in the case studies.