

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists -WFOT would like to join the Colegio Colombiano de Terapia Ocupacional -CCTO as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The WFOT is an international non-governmental organization formed in 1952 to advance occupational therapy and promote, educate, and protect the work of occupational therapists in each member country in a diverse, scientific, and organized way.

One of the significant initiatives of collaboration of the WFOT is carried out in alliance with the World Health Organization, WHO. Amongst these joint activities are the areas of Disability and Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Assistive Technology, Aging, and Life Course, Human Resources, and international classifications as the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), and the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).

In 1976, the Colegio Colombiano de Terapia Ocupacional (then called the Asociación Colombiana de Terapia Ocupacional) was the third country in Latin America to join the World Federation with the key aim of supporting advances in the basic norms of education and proposing active links with the different programmes of education operating at the time in Colombia.

The contribution of the Colegio Colombiano de Terapia Ocupacional and its various delegates during these 50 years allowed a productive and lasting association with the WFOT. Among the most critical activities, we should mention attending some of the World Council meetings, one of which was when Colombia had the honour of hosting the international meeting in 2016 in Medellin. Also, Colombia's participation in various activities and ongoing development and research projects has been a mutually beneficial exchange that allowed other members to learn of work in the country that contributes to the diverse objectives of WFOT.

Other contributions from the country have been that of the group that translates documents from WFOT into Spanish for the benefit of all Spanish-speaking countries. In addition, support was offered via the virtual platform OTION to enable global interaction amongst therapists to discuss their concerns, practice, and professional needs. Also, various Colombian therapists participate in the revision, translation, and execution of WFOT bulletins.

More than four years ago, two Colombian occupational therapists were appointed to the roles of WFOT executive committee and Coordinator of Research Projects - Margarita González and Liliana Álvarez.

The Colegio Colombiano de Terapia Ocupacional is also a member of the Confederación Latinoamericana de Terapeutas Ocupacionales -CLATO, a key regional member organization of WFOT.


On behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists team, we would like to offer our congratulations to the Colegio Colombiano de Terapia Ocupacional and wish you continuing success in your present and future valued commitments to the needs of your country and your input to WFOT.

Margarita González¹

Ritchard Ledgerd²

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