Leading from every direction

Marilyn Pattison
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Achieving health equity within a generation is achievable, it is the right thing to do, and now is the right time to do it and occupational therapists are the right people to be involved.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is the key international representative of occupational therapists and occupational therapy and it links 101 member organisations worldwide. The Federation believes that occupational therapy has a valuable contribution to make to occupational performance as it affects the health and well-being of all people. The Federation maintains that it can positively influence health, welfare, education and vocation at an international level combined with the development of excellence within the profession.

As occupational therapists we need to develop the capacity and power to construct our own destiny. For some this might not be a comfortable journey and yet our whole careers are focussed on enabling and assisting people to meet their maximum potential so how can we effectively work with others if we have under-capitalised our own potential? Occupational therapists need to be prepared to be the leaders of progress at an individual, group and society level. Being a leader is not just about being a manager. We can all be leaders in whatever role we play. We need to challenge our thinking, our constructs and our spheres of influence. Being included in the society in which one lives is vital to the material, psychosocial, and political aspects of empowerment that underpin social well-being and equitable health.

At no other time in history has occupational therapy been so well placed to impact across all of these domains – the 21st century truly is the “Age of Occupational Therapy”.

Presenter biography:
Marilyn Pattison is the Managing Director of MPOT/Access Fitness, a leading provider of health services in South Australia and the President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). As well as her occupational therapy qualification Marilyn also has a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) which has enabled her to deliver high quality health services within a commercial environment.

Marilyn has been recognised by the occupational therapy profession in Australia and internationally. She has been awarded the OT Australia National Award for her contribution to her professional association as well as the Sylvia Docker Lectureship for her contribution to the profession. Internationally Marilyn has been made an Honorary Member of the Swedish Occupational Therapy Association and an Honorary Fellow of WFOT, the highest international honour an occupational therapist can receive.

References