

Annual General Meeting, July 2007 Reports

President's Speech

Dear friends, colleagues and students,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and address the end of the term for the present committee 2005 – 2007.

The changes in health care are all around us. Change brings with it anxieties and stress but it can also be healthy and seen as a positive move since it can bring our profession forward. As many of you are aware, the OT profession is in the forefront of these many changes. Change is not without difficulties and we are facing some major ones now not as much as how to market the profession, fight for recognition and our professional status but more a question of human resources. The demand on our services is forever increasing and since we are a young profession we are facing staff shortages in all fields.

This MAOT Committee is proud to have been able to promote the profession as always and organize various continuing education activities. You will hear a full report on these shortly from our secretary and subcommittees.

I encourage new blood to take up the challenges we are facing and become part of the committee or volunteer on a subcommittee. It is true that it is hard work but it is rewarding when the fruits of our work is evident and recognized by the increased attendance and the general feedback we have been receiving. It is also a valid experience in organizing events, promoting the profession and gaining the

opportunity to put ideas into practice. It is time consuming but then who here is not busy? If we want to see the profession move forward, we cannot sit and wait for others to do something about it but start to see what we can do ourselves in what ever small way.

I myself feel very proud to have been part of the MAOT for several years in various roles such as member, assistant secretary, serving on subcommittees and as resident now for the past 6 years. I want to publicly thank the hard work of the outgoing committee. The work done by these people is often behind the scenes but done with sheer dedication and a love for the profession. I feel sad that I will not be able to continue to be a part of it due to other work commitments, however, I promise to be available when required. I wish the new committee all the very best. You have various challenges ahead such as continued work on the warranting of the profession, gaining official accreditation for the courses or continuing education seminars we organize and work towards MAOT being recognized as the official governing body of the OT profession.

Finally, I thank everyone you have helped us achieve our goals during the past term and who attended activities with enthusiasm and once again, thank you to outgoing committee 2005 – 2007. It has been inspiring and a pleasure to work with you.

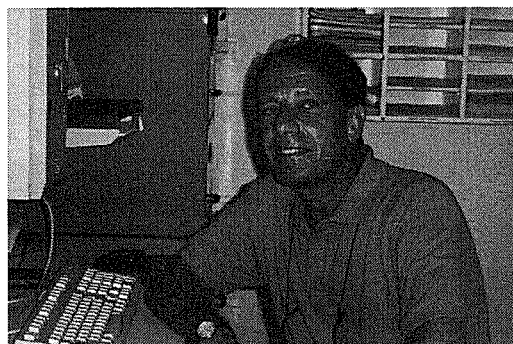
Joanna Chetcuti
President MAOT 2005 – 2007

Farewell Message

I take the opportunity of the MAOT annual general meeting to say a final farewell to the Occupational Therapy Profession, as well as to repeat a big Thank You for the surprising and sumptuous sending off. Both the informal event organized at Mosta by the MCH OT staff, as well as the formal activity held at Qawra by the whole profession, will always be etched in big, bold letters down Memory Lane.

I savour above all the genuine respect and friendship shown by you throughout my career, and I assured you that this has been, and is, mutual. The presents, too, are very appreciated, and have been placed in prominent positions at home so that I can see and enjoy them daily; the personalized and signed cycling cards are so appropriate! I now fully realize the labour of love that must have gone into the preparation and execution of the sending off projects! Another successful OT enterprise! Thank you again, both OTs as well as all complementary staff.

As I continue to cycle to pastures new, I can look back with a sense of achievement at what the OT profession has done so far. OT locally will continue to develop, as the Profession is in mature, able and responsible hands, in its administrative, clinical, and educational sectors.



The journey has been long and arduous, but I feel we have arrived. However, we must not rest on our laurels, for this is just the arrival stage, and there is so much more to do, to maintain and sustain, as well as to grow and develop.

Unity and teamwork is the name of the game. We must also nurture and nourish the constant belief in our professional identity, which we must continue to strengthen and spread, as well in our tools of the trade, which we must continue to harness and sharpen.

I have been the bow; you are the arrows. Fly forth and continue to hit the target with our exclusive core skills, for the benefit of the clients and their carers, our country as a whole, and last but not least, for the pride and satisfaction which every Occupational Therapist should feel for belonging to this unique Profession!

Joe Busutil

Secretary Report



MAOT Secretary Bi-annual Report 2005-2007

This report shall provide an overview of the 2 years term of the MAOT Executive Committee. The members were as follows:

President: Ms Joanna Chetcuti
Vice-President: Mr. Joseph Abela
Secretary: Ms. Stephanie Vella
Ass. Secretary: Claire Busuttil
Treasurer: Demis Cachia (2005/06)
Roberta Sultana (2006/07)
Members: Maria Daniela Farrugia
Theresianne Mizzi
Charmaine Mifsud
(Co-opted in 2006)

Sub-committees:

- * **Fund-Raising:** Theresanne Mizzi & Maria Daniela Farrugia.
- * **Journal:** Rene Mifsud & Joanna Scicluna
- * **Website, Newsletter & Graphics:** Demis Cachia & Claire Busuttil.
- * **Marketing & Promotion:** Demis Cachia & Joanna Chetcuti.
- * **Representatives:** Rene Mifsud (IHC); & Demis Cachia (WFOT Delegate)

Changes in the Executive Committee

- Roberta Sultana replaced Demis Cachia in the role of the treasurer since 2006 when Demis Cachia left for the WFOT Australian Congress and long leave.

- Charmiane Mifsud was then co-opted by the executive to fill in the vacant post of Roberta Sultana.
- Joseph Abela was excused for the last couple of months from attending the meeting due to work related reasons. However he still provided his input when requested by the committee on various professional issues.

Meetings

The total number of months for this term is 24 months. In August of both years the executive committee does not plan meetings, which amount to 2. However a total of 21 Executive meetings were run and no extra – ordinary meetings were required during this term.

C.P.D Events

The events entitled '*Occupational Therapists in Research*' were regularly held as follows CPD 6 (March, 2006), CPD 7 (June, 2006), CPD 9 (April, 2007). On the other hand other educational events were also organized 3 events were facilitated by foreigners hence CPD 8 by Anne Fenech entitled '*Don't forget the Leisure Aspect*' (September 2006). In June 2007 Anne Roberts presented a lecture entitled '*Clinical Reasoning: Knowing What to Say*'. Whilst an '*Origami Workshop*' was facilitated by Dr. Alejandro Guevera in June 2007. The last event was a 16-hour course on '*Introduction to Health and Safety*'.

OT Represented Locally

- Caritas Walk in November 2005, Joanna Chetcuti.
- Two Parliamentary Questions re: Unemployment of newly graduate OT's in
- November 2005 by Joe Abela.
- Article on the Time of Malta re: Unemployment of newly graduates, Joanna Chetcuti. Another for the Independent but not published.

- Launch of 'Access for all' booklet in December 2005, Joanna Chetcuti & Stephanie Vella.
- Article write – up in the Synapse, Joanna Chetcuti, December 2005.
- Conference on 'Breaking the News' organised by KNPD was attended by Joanna Chetcuti.
- CPSM – Codes of Practice on government website, May 2006, Stephanie Vella.
- Consultative Conference on the 'Future of Health Services', May 2006, Joanna Chetcuti & Joe Abela.
- Launch of 'Breaking the News' Booklet in June, 2006, Joanna Chetcuti & Joe Abela.
- Press release re: MCH elderly unit and OT services, Joanna Chetcuti & Joe Abela.
- Short article about employability of newly qualified OTs in the Times of Malta by Joanna Chetcuti.
- Attended Huntington's Disease Seminar and became part of the new association,
- Stephanie Vella.
- Elected OT representative on CPCM board Stephanie Vella.
- Parliamentary question through Joe Abela about CPCM not yet meeting since
- April elections forwarded by Stephanie Vella.

Other actions:

- E-mail sent to add MAOT Website in Government intranet Service Joanna Chetcuti
- NGO Facilities at Mater Dei e-mail sent by Joanna Chetcuti with the request from MAOT about using the facilities there, possible use of postal address and possibilities to obtain a locked filing cabinet.

OT Representation Abroad

COTEC (Europe)

- **Delegate:** Stephanie Vella
- **Alternate:** Maria Daniela Farrugia

Meeting Attendance:

- COTEC Meeting in Cyprus October 2005, Stephanie Vella as delegate (full funding from COTEC)
- COTEC Meeting in Milan November 2006, Stephanie Vella as delegate (Partial Funding)
- (COTEC Meeting in Oslo April was not attended, partial funding only once a year)
- COTEC Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia October no funding obtained, attendance uncertain.

General Duties:

- Presentation about COTEC was held in October 2006 during the feedback session following the WFOT Congress and as part of the 20 years celebrations of the founding of COTEC.
- Promotion of the Hamburg European Congress in 2008 by forwarding the leaflets to all the hospitals and IHC.
- 2 OTs mailed in 4 abstracts whilst 4 OTs were accepted to review the abstracts for the Hamburg Congress.
- Promoting COTEC by forwarding the Leaflets in all hospitals about the functions of the council.
- Completed the profession's questionnaire sent by C.O.T.E.C .
- Completed a questionnaire for a report in gathering information about OTs in Europe to be able to enhance better mobility between the countries.
- 2009 COTEC Meeting may be held in Malta – only at proposal stage needs to be discussed and confirmed by COTEC committee.

W.F.O.T.

- **Delegate:** Demis Cachia
- **Alternate:** Joe Busuttill
- WFOT Council Meeting, July 2006, Demis Cachia as delegate (Partial funding from WFOT).
- WFOT Congress in Australia, July 2006 attended by Demis Cachia as Delegate, Joe Busuttill as alternate delegate.
- Demis and Maria Daniela Farrugia have their posters accepted for the congress. Demis shall chair one of the plenary session during the congress.
- Demis and Roberta are working on a proposal document for MAOT to be able to host the 2012 council meeting in Malta.
- MAOT is a paying and is an active member of the WFOT, COTEC, and ENOTHE (through IHC)

Promotional Material

- Professional Badges
- CD with all journals and articles
- Stickers
- Tape Measure
- Pens
- Ecological bags

Reading Material

The British Journal of Occupational Therapy (BJOT) is being received by MAOT monthly, free of charge from The British Association of Occupational Therapy. These are found at ZCH, OT department as reference. You can come to ZCH view the journals available and make a copy of what you need or if you know the title of the article a copy of the article can be sent to you.

Other work completed

- O.T. terminology in Maltese completed by Roberta Sultana, Rene

Mifsud and Claire Busuttill. The document was also reviewed by professors' specialist in the Maltese language (Jennifer Creek).

- Diaries provided to members for the year 2007.
- Christmas cards sent to all OT departments and the staff together with other entities in Malta and Abroad.
- Drawn up Private Practice list OTs – available on website
- O.T. representation on Huntington's Disease Association

Pending work / duties for the new committee (Term 2007 – 2009)

- WFOT Council Meeting proposal by July 2008.
- F/U contact with Richard Cassar for use of NGO Services at Mater Dei.
- Warrant for Occupational Therapists
- Ideas for future courses
- F/U addition of link with government websites
- Compile list of Master Thesis completed by Occupational Therapists
- Update of MAOT Booklet
- Active involvement of Student representative in executive meetings
- A sub committee to work on the concept of a Worker of the Year Award related to National Day
- Autonomy of the profession similar to Appogg (for further discussion)

Conclusion and Personal Reflections

Following the completion of this report one can see the great amount of work done by the executive committee. Every piece of work has its life span together with the effort and commitment of all the committee members respectively leads to a successful outcome.

Every term shows the hard work attained and complemented with a learning experience for all. The members of the association and our profession are the center of the MAOT's work.

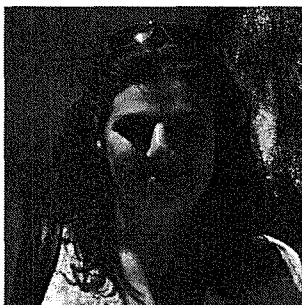
Your support as members is greatly appreciated by attending the activities we organized and by renewing your membership. We are always eager to hear your comments or suggestions. You can e-mail or contact one of the committee members through the website or at the respective hospital. Communication is the key for progress. However in this term we also saw increased support from the

students as our members. Together with increased attendance of non-members in our CPD activities.

This brings to an end this detailed report please feel free to comment on any issues you deem needs clarification or ideas for the future. Hence being part of the executive committee is an enlightening experience to me and always keeps the profession abreast primarily with the current changes in the local health care system.

Stephanie Vella, EurMSc OT

Financial Report



(for the period of 3.07.2006 to 11.07.2007)

by Roberta Sultana

	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
Income from memberships	Lm194.00	
Income from promotional materials	Lm 32.50	
Income from fundraising	Lm 26.97	
Income from Origami Course	Lm 27.50	
Income from Health and Safety	Lm178.00	
Expenditure: <i>Membership fees</i> (COTEC 2 yrs & WFOT 1 year)		Lm 62.93
Expenditure: Diaries for MAOT members		Lm 65.49
Expenditure: Stationary		Lm 47.02
Expenditure: Boards & Photos for National OT day		Lm 46.05
Origami Course Speaker Fee'		Lm 20.00
Expenditure: Website Update		Lm 6.00
Expenditure: Health & Safety Course		Lm180.00
Expenditure: Refreshments for CPD's		Lm 24.79
Income from other sources/Savings Account	Lm 18.00	
Income from Royal Bank of Canada Savings	Lm 3.22	
Income from Interest earned HSBC Savings (Lm458.97 + Lm35.96)	Lm 14.74	
	<u>Lm 494.93</u>	<u>Lm452.28</u>

Current Account (HSBC)	Lm5.00
Savings Account (HSBC)	
July '06 Closing Balance of	Lm1,313.22 (<i>incl. Lm300 withdrawal & Lm21.22 income</i>)
Dec '06 Closing Balance of	Lm1,327.96 (<i>Lm14.74 interest</i>)

Important to note that in July'06 CDAU (Lm897- Lm300 = Lm597 still belong to CDAU) + Money belonging to MAOT =Lm730.96 (Dec'O6)

Petty Cash Lm351.14(July'06) +
 Lm458.97(July'07) =
 Lm810.11 – Lm452.28 (debit) = Lm357.83

N.B. The financial report was checked by Mr. Bondin (MAOT Accountant)