

August, 2016



International Society for Occupational Science

Positioning for the Future: A Vision for 2016-2021

By 2021, ISOS envisions that:

- Occupational science is a cohesive, dynamic and diverse discipline.
- Occupational scientists have formed innovative partnerships to advance the science.
- Occupational scientists are leaders in being socially and ecologically responsible and socially and politically influential.
- Occupational science research and education are being conducted in most major universities around the world.

Background

The original Way Forward Plan was developed in July 2007 by the Interim ISOS Executive, elected at the 2nd International OS Think Tank which was held on Catalina Island, USA in March 2007 and hosted by the University of Southern California

The role of the Interim Executive was to rejuvenate ISOS and to develop a way forward. This Interim Executive consisted of Eric Asaba, Erna Blanche, Hans Jonsson, Debbie Laliberte Rudman and Alison Wicks.

In October 2007, all members of the Interim team were elected to the ISOS Board.

Mission

The mission of ISOS is the facilitation of a world-wide network of individuals and institutions committed to research and education on occupation and to promoting occupation for health and community development.

The role of ISOS is to function as a virtual society to facilitate conversations that advance knowledge about occupation and occupational science.

ISOS describes occupation broadly as the various activities people do as individuals, in families and with communities to occupy time and bring meaning and purpose to life. Occupations include things people need to, want to and are expected to do.

Structure

ISOS has a structure that includes:

- Members (individuals and organisations) from around the globe.
- A five-member Executive, elected by the ISOS members, to manage ISOS.

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- Each member of the Executive is elected for a 3-year term. Terms are staggered to ensure retention of corporate knowledge.
- Members of the Executive self-organize and delegate the responsibilities necessary to carry out the ISOS management and communicate with each other via teleconferences and email.

Aims:

1. Support international collaboration in research on occupation
2. Facilitate international collaboration in the development and delivery of occupational science / occupation-based curricula at all levels of education
3. Promote occupation for health and community development in policy and practice arenas at local, national and international levels

Strategies to achieve aims:

- Developing and maintaining a range of media (e.g. website, Facebook, Twitter, Google Group) that will enable communication internationally among people and institutions interested in occupational science
- Conducting scholarly exchange via various fora among occupational scientists and all those interested in learning about occupational science
- Growing individual and institutional membership

Priority activities:

- Establishment of a financial base to enable development of platforms for international communication
 - Development of a financial structure to reduce barriers for international receipt and expenditure of funds
- Development of an events calendar of, and providing links to, occupational science and other relevant symposia and conferences
- Establishment of a virtual space to post announcement of occupational science related positions
- Call for next and future discussion fora.
- Continued support for and collaboration with the Journal of Occupational Science
- Ongoing support of national occupational science organisations and societies

Future activities:

- Links to journals that publish literature in occupational science (e.g. JOS, OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health, CJOT, SJOT, JJOS)
- Workshops at conferences that support occupational science, (e.g. ENOTHE, WFOT, SSO:USA, CSOS, OS Europe, JSOS, ASOS)
- Collaborations with organisations for which occupational science is relevant