



College of
Occupational
Therapists

Specialist Section

Independent
Practice

2012
***Annual Conference
& Learning Events***

16th & 17th March 2012

Hilton Milton Keynes



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Look Before You Leap (LB4UL) Friday 16th March

Considering working in the independent or private sector but not certain about the opportunities, practicalities and pitfalls? What are the risks and rewards of leaping into independent practice?

This day could provide you with the answers; with presentations from OTs who have made the leap and the opportunity to network with those considering it. This workshop styled event will address many of the day to day aspects of working independently; dealing with the issues of insurance, marketing, fees, cash flow and business management.

Who is this day for?

Occupational Therapists who are:-

- Seeking practical information about working independently
- Anticipating making the leap into independent practice
- Already working independently part time but considering increasing or wanting to ensure they are practicing appropriately.
- Newly working outside of the statutory sector but wanting to develop their practice.

Speakers include

Pat Eyres – an Occupational Therapist with over 30 years post registration experience and has combined independent consultancy with work in higher education. An experienced independent practitioner who has lead these highly popular sessions over the past few years.

Janet Wilkinson – a former bank manager who has set up her own consultancy and who has worked closely with the LB4UL programme for many years. Janet brings a wealth of practical and commercial knowledge and understanding to this learning event.

To view the full programme visit:

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotSSIP/2011/LB4UL%20Programme.pdf>

Medico-Legal Forum 16th March

Aimed at Occupational Therapists involved in medico-legal work. Excellent speakers including barristers, solicitors and a communications expert; and sessions on Case Law Update, Getting it Right in Expert Meetings, Tips for the Witness Box, Updates on Legal Aid Reform, and Expert Immunity; and a panel discussion to finish. There will also be an update in respect of the Medico-legal forum and specific issues affecting Occupational Therapy experts. This promises to be interesting and informative event.

Who is this day for?

For Occupational Therapists who are

- Practicing as expert witnesses
- Seeking more information about the roles and responsibilities of medico-legal work
- Wanting opportunities to network with other like minded professionals

Speakers include

Alison Somek – Occupational Therapist, director and lead expert, has acted as an expert witness for nearly 30 years, forming Somek & Associates in 1997. Alison has seen and been involved in the changing environment for expert witnesses and is passionate about maintaining the integrity of the role

Tim Barnes – An Occupational Therapist with **Independence Works**, a network of highly experienced Independent Occupational Therapists/Case Managers who specialise in the rehabilitation of people who have suffered serious injuries. He has also experience as a consultant for Jacqueline Webb & Co (Medico-legal assessments).

James Badenoch QC – Barrister and Chair of the Expert Witness Institute He has specialised for over 25 years in clinical negligence, medical law, and professional discipline. He took silk in 1989. He has appeared in a succession of major cases in the House of Lords, The Privy Council, The Court of Appeal, The High Court, The GMC and The GDC. He acts for Claimants and Defendants.

Giles Eyre – Barrister with the 9 Gough square Chambers, Giles has extensive experience in conducting and advising in personal injury claims of all kinds. He deals in claims arising from work place and road accidents, and involving product liability as well as claims relating to occupational health issues and has a particular interest in asbestos-related illness.

Lynden Alexander Professional Solutions - Lynden Alexander provides specialist consulting services to leading companies, professional practices, Government Agencies and Local Government. He specialises in three areas of professional practice; Expert Evidence, Communication Skills and Professional Coaching.

Robert Gray - Barrister and assistant director of the legal training company Bond Solon, providing knowledge and skills based training for those whose roles and responsibilities require them to operate within relevant legislation, regulations, guidance and to industry-specific standards. Robert Gray has significant experience training expert witnesses of various professional backgrounds, including in the medico-legal field.

Peter Walmsley Partner with Clyde & Co Peter Walmsley is the recent winner of the Defendant Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year at the Personal Injury Awards 2011. He is a partner in the casualty and healthcare group and head of the CAT Team in Manchester. He undertakes catastrophic and large loss claims for major clients such as AXA and NFU Mutual.

To view the full programme visit:

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotSSIP/2011/ML%20Forum%20programme.pdf>

RISKS AND REWARDS - The Annual Conference of the COTSS-IP Saturday 17th March

Independent Practice encompasses a wide group of Occupational Therapists, it includes all OTs working outside of the statutory services of the NHS or Local Authorities. This means those who work as self-employed sole traders, in partnerships or who run their own companies, social enterprises, not for profit organisations and community interest groups etc. Independent OT also includes the increasing number of OTs who may be employed by these organisations or other employers outside of the public sector, for example housing associations, equipment manufacturers and retailers, private medical facilities and insurance companies, many charities and voluntary sector groups.

Who is this conference for?

This COTSS-IP Conference is especially relevant for all Occupational Therapists who are:

- New starters, and those continuing to develop independent practices
- Seeking inspiration, encouragement and support
- Established independent practitioners needing to respond to the current changes
- Educators of Occupational Therapists, and those interested in shaping and preparing the next generation to practice in these new settings
- Continuing to develop their professional practice to ensure quality and integrity.

Key Theme of the conference – RISKS AND REWARDS

All Occupational Therapists working in the wide variety of independent health, social care and medico legal sectors experience a share of risks and rewards. How do you assess, plan for and manage these risks whilst maximising and experiencing your successes and rewards as an independent practitioner? Our current economic climate is creating an alarming number of financial challenges. Will changes in the legal framework provided by developments in social policy and the various health and social care reforms provide independent Occupational Therapists with opportunities for new business and openings to maintain and develop established practices?

Speakers and workshop leaders

Our speakers and workshop leaders at this conference will

- Focus your thinking to look at the risks and rewards of the key aspects of continuing in independent practice.
- Refresh your thinking and approach to your practice
- Enable you to identify new business goals

- Give you space to 'look out of the box'
- Challenge you about how you can contribute to the wider development of Occupational Therapy practice in the independent sector

Shelagh Morris – Chief Health Professions Advisor at the Department of Health. Shelagh trained as an Occupational Therapist at The Liverpool School of Occupational Therapy. She has experience working in both health and social services and with a range of client groups.

Helen Marini – A senior partner with Westminster Compliance – company providing expertise in business development for small and medium sized companies. Helen has a background in Health and Safety and has experience in finding and putting together bids for public sector contracts.

Gaynor Sadlo - Professor of occupational science at the University of Brighton, and a Fellow of the College of Occupational Therapists. Gaynor is the assistant head of the university's School of Health Professions, based in Eastbourne.

Jo Losty – A Solicitor from Excello Law, Jo's expertise includes commercial contracts, dispute resolution and commercial litigation involving general commercial, debt recovery, fraud, regulatory and commercial property matters. Joanne is passionate about providing accessible, high quality legal advice to businesses.

Danielle Homes - DFH Ergonomic Ltd. Danielle is a lecturer who has specialized in the handling and safe movement of patients and other loads. She is widely recognised as one of the leading experts in this field. She is committed to improving techniques to reduce the number of injuries being suffered by nurses and others caring for people.

Outcome

Our intention is that this conference will help you develop a confidence to strengthen and maintain successful businesses where the rewards of choice, control, innovation and independence become the positive attributes of your achievements.

Delegate Packs

This year we hope to include an updated copy of the new starters pack, along with the speaker's presentations on a USB stick.

To view the full programme visit:

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotSSIP/2011/Risks%20&%20Rewards%20Programme.pdf>

The COTSS-IP Conference Award

New for this conference is the COTSS-IP Conference Award – a chance to recognise an individual practitioner for his or her contribution to the profession within the independent sector. This inaugural award will follow the theme of the conference and be focussing on recognising what risks have been taken and rewards achieved for an independent practising Occupational Therapist.

The Award will be presented at the conference Gala dinner along with recognition for the runners up. All will feature in future COTSS-IP e-bulletins with an opportunity to show case their practice / businesses.

To submit an entry for this Award self nominations form COTSS-IP members are welcomed, along with basic contact details and information about your practice, the submission should form a reflective piece of no more than 250 words to answer the following question-

“What risks have I taken and what subsequent rewards have I received as a result of my independent practice in Occupational Therapy?”

Entries need to focus on one of the key qualities we are exploring about independent practice in this conference - Choice, Control, Innovation and Independence. The judging panel are keen to welcome entries from right across the spectrum of practice and business sectors where Occupational Therapists are working independently.

- Why bother to enter for this Award?
- An opportunity to show case your practice / business
- This reflective piece can form part of your CPD portfolio
- Chance to be published in the e-bulletin
- A way of contributing to practical knowledge and experience of the membership
- Opportunity for your own publicity and marketing or your services



**Annual General Meeting
Friday 16th March 5.15pm to 6.00pm**

We invite all the membership of COTSS-IP to join us for this year's AGM, which will take place at the Hilton Hotel at the end of the 'Look Before You Leap' Study Day and the COTSS-IP Medico Legal Forum Study Day.

Please see COTSS-IP website for more details nearer the event.

Please note - Non members are welcome to attend but will not be able to participate in any voting procedures.

Gala Dinner Friday 16th March 7pm for 7.30pm

Timed to follow on from the COTSS-IP AGM on Friday 16th March, the Gala dinner and pre dinner drinks is an ideal opportunity to meet and mingle with other Occupational Therapists from the sector in a more informal and social context.

In addition to the post dinner activities and speeches, this year we are introducing a conference Award, (See page 8) and hope this may be a real opportunity for sharing and acknowledging achievements within the membership.

Price just £25.50



Conference Venue

Hilton Milton Keynes

All guest rooms at the Hilton Milton Keynes feature high-speed internet access and on-demand movies. Upgrade to a recently refurbished Deluxe Room and enjoy a separate seating area.

On site you will also find a gym at the LivingWell Health Club, where you can plunge into the indoor pool or relax in the sauna. In the New Horizons Restaurant you can savour classic British cuisine and international favourites and you can also unwind with an evening drink in the bar.

Negotiated conference rates:

Single occupancy £65 per night inclusive of breakfast

Twin/Double occupancy £75 per night inclusive of breakfast

Getting to Hilton Milton Keynes

Hilton Milton Keynes is conveniently located close to junctions 13 and 14 of the M1.

Hilton Milton Keynes
Timbold Drive
Kents Hill Park
Milton Keynes
MK7 6HL

Tel: 01908 6944

Web: www.hilton.com

For further details including a list of local airports please see our transport fact sheet.

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotssip/2011/Transport.pdf>



Conference Administration

Bookings and administration for this conference are provided by **event-booking.net** on behalf of COTSS-Independent Practice.

For further information please email cotss-ip@event-booking.net or contact 01388 548067.

A copy of the event booking form can be viewed at:

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotssip/2011/COTSS-IP%20%20Conference%20Booking%20Form.pdf>

COTSS-Independent Practice Membership

Join today and SAVE £££'s. If you are interested in becoming a member of COTSS Independent Practice which would allow you to book at discounted member rates, join today with your conference application and you can join for £55 (normally £65) please email cotss-ip@event-booking.net for a member form.

Download a membership form now:

<http://www.event-booking.net/cotssip/2011/Memberform.pdf>

If you have any queries, please contact cotss-ip@event-booking.net

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