

Dear Georgia Occupational Therapy Association Member,

Who controls the future of occupational therapy? You do! By supporting **both GOTA and AOTA** with your membership, you are investing in the organizations that keep our profession strong. AOTA and GOTA monitor legislation and regulations that affect our profession and your ability to practice; advocate on your behalf; and represent occupational therapy to legislators, policymakers, insurers, and sources that refer our services.

You may ask, “Why is it important to belong to both my state association *and* AOTA?” The answer is that, as a professional, you derive significant and unique benefits from each.

**GOTA** is on the front lines when it comes to promoting and advocating for our profession at the state level, including ensuring strong licensure laws and regulations. It also provides you with local networking opportunities and nearby continuing education. Here, your connections are closer to home, your attention is more focused on local or regional issues, and your opportunities to assume volunteer and leadership roles in your profession are quite accessible.

**But your professional future also depends on a strong national association.** Membership in the **American Occupational Therapy Association** provides you with tangible benefits that support you in your work...valued periodicals like *OT Practice* and the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*; significant savings on books, products, and continuing education; access to the answers you need—when you call, visit the Web site, or turn to your colleagues through open access to 11 Special Interest Sections (SISs) and their list-serves. On your behalf and on behalf of the profession, AOTA fosters the tenets of evidence-based practice, works to achieve payment for your services participates in initiatives such as the White House Conference on Aging, raises public awareness about the profession through activities like OT Month and National School Backpack Awareness Day, reaches out to policymakers to preserve the vital role of occupational therapy, offers an extensive menu of continuing education and networking opportunities, and collaborates with other national organizations to achieve mutual objectives.

The collaboration between GOTA and AOTA carries our message to our state capital *and* to Capitol Hill as we work together to represent the needs of our profession and to protect the clients we serve. With your support, AOTA and GOTA will speak with one strong committed voice. It’s a voice that cannot be ignored when it is backed by large numbers of members.

As our profession reaches toward its centennial celebration, your state association and AOTA will continue to complement each other’s efforts to ensure a future that is bright for occupational therapy and for those we serve. We need your support....your membership...to be successful.

Thank you for your active support of our profession through your membership in GOTA. If you are not currently a member of AOTA, we urge you to visit [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org) and join today. Or call us at 1 800 SAY-AOTA to speak with a member services representative.

Sincerely,

Debi Hinerfeld, OTR/L, BCP  
President  
The Georgia Occupational Therapy Association

M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
President, AOTA