

Creation of the French Journal of Occupational Therapy: Context, implications, and perspectives

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In Europe, the number of occupational therapists has increased considerably since the beginning of the 21st century. To face public health challenges, mostly linked to the ageing of the population, European governments are supporting the development of occupational therapy. The demand for occupational therapy has increased exponentially in recent years. Faced with the rapid evolution of practice contexts and evidence, it seems essential to support occupational therapists in their daily practice, including practitioners, students, teachers, and researchers.

In this context, the number of training courses has increased, particularly those run by universities, according to the Bologna agreements in 1999. Most programs offered today address current issues such as paradigm evolution, development of occupation-centred practice, community-based practice, etc. through rigorous and high-quality education that meets the standards of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Encouraged by the implementation of the Bachelor-Master-Doctorate system, many occupational therapists have

continued their studies to Master and Doctorate levels. Initially affiliated with disciplines ancillary to occupational therapy, the creation of Master's and Doctoral programs specific to occupational therapy and occupational sciences has helped to establish the importance of occupational science as a discipline. The involvement of occupational therapists in European research projects is currently increasing at different levels. Consequently, occupational therapists are required to disseminate the results of the projects in which they are involved in a European or even wider international context. Access to this profession-specific evidence allows knowledge to be integrated into clinical practice, but also enables decision-makers and funders to recognize the effectiveness and relevance of the profession to the general public.

Over the past few decades, the dissemination of occupational therapy practices has grown considerably at the international level. Occupational therapy and occupational science journals have been created to disseminate research findings, allowing clinicians to provide quality treatment that evolves with scientific advances.

Today, these journals are mainly hosted by English-speaking countries and their access is not free.

To our knowledge, two journals currently publish scientific articles in French (*Revue Francophone de Recherche en Ergothérapie (RFRE)* and *ergOTHérapies*). We created the *French Journal of Occupational Therapy (FJOT)* to facilitate the dissemination of the latest occupational therapy and occupational science research results particularly within Europe. This journal is supported by the French National Association of Occupational Therapists (ANFE), which recognizes the development of research and the accessibility of these results as major current issues for occupational therapy in Europe. The *FJOT* is addressed to occupational therapists and health professionals with interests in the occupational, medical, psychological, social, economic, cultural and technical aspects of occupational therapy and rehabilitation. The aim of the editorial board is to encourage the development of occupational therapy theory and practice to support effective intervention.

All articles are open access, with no charge to the authors, thus promoting the accessibility and transfer of knowledge into practice. To ensure a high quality, all articles are peer-reviewed, supporting future access to indexation in international databases such as Pubmed and Cochrane. The research activities of European

occupational therapists have developed to the point of being able to fill 2 issues per year. By particularly addressing professionals and researchers in European countries, but also worldwide, we hope that the continuous and rapid publication of ideas and knowledge produced largely in Europe will also be useful to practitioners in other parts of the world. Articles are published, at the author's choice, in English or French. The *FJOT* is a European and an international sharing place where access to knowledge is accessible to the greatest number of people.

The philosophy of the editorial board is in line with current movements in health sciences, rehabilitation sciences and social sciences that rely on both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. *FJOT* publishes original scientific articles (N-1 trials, randomized controlled trials, qualitative studies, mixed-methods etc.), literature reviews (scoping reviews, systematic reviews or meta-analyses), short articles and editorials. Narrative reviews, case studies, opinion articles, testimonials or summary sheets (reading, methodology) are not accepted.

We are honoured to start this new journal and invite you all to join us in our mission to advance occupational therapy and occupational science by submitting articles for publication in the *FJOT*.