

**- ECOTROS -**  
**European Cooperation**  
**in**  
**Occupational Therapy Research (OTR)**  
**&**  
**Occupational Science (OS)**

A project initiated from the  
European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE)

**ENOTHE**



**ECOTROS-Information**  
**March 2005**

**Project introduction**  
**&**  
**Project group members**

## Content

In this ECOTROS-Information, you will find information about the ECOTROS-project, and a presentation of the occupational therapists who initiated the project.

## About ECOTROS

**As occupational therapists we believe that encouraging people in meaningful occupation might facilitate healthy communities and societies. Consequently, we think it is worthwhile to gather occupational therapists interested in research and bring them into interdisciplinary cooperation all over Europe. We invite you to join.**

Our over-all aims are to:

- come to know occupational therapists involved in OTR, OS or interdisciplinary projects all over Europe
- share information about research projects all over Europe
- communicate the needs, difficulties, funding, plans and results of research projects all over Europe
- to gather at least 500 motivated and active persons as members of the network

We try to accomplish this by providing a mailing list for list members, organising workshops on conferences, disseminating info-material in occupational therapy associations, institutions and journals, and evaluating the potential for going on.

The online-ECOTROS-Information serves to facilitate the continuous interchange on the mailing list, to keep members up to date and to report the progress of the ECOTROS-project. As a researcher you can have quick access to projects and knowledge not yet published. You also might get hints from or discussions with experts in the respective field of interest. As a teacher you can keep your students and yourself up to date. You might provide the students with information about the newest trends in OTR, OS and interdisciplinary projects all over Europe. As a representative for policy in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Health Promotion you can have quick access to experts. These experts might provide evidence for established or new working fields. Thus you can base your political initiatives and your negotiations with decision-makers of the health care system on arguments backed scientifically and up to date.

We hope to found ENOTROS, a European Network of OTR and OS with cooperating centres of special competences all over Europe. We imagine that it will become possible to find partners in the network for conducting multi-national, interdisciplinary research projects as it is needed to apply for EU-funding, and thereby continuously strengthen the evidence for “best practice” in occupational therapy and in occupational health promotion throughout Europe.

If you like to participate, send an e-mail to [ecotros-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ecotros-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You will receive an automatic answer, which you should reconfirm by replying. When you are a list member, you give an introduction of yourself regarding name, e-mail address, country, institution, and your involvement or interest in projects in Occupational Therapy Research, Occupational Science or interdisciplinary research. After introducing yourself you can send e-mails via [ecotros@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ecotros@yahoogroups.com) with information, questions and comments to all members of the list. The number of list members increases successively.

In addition to the continuous interchange online-surveys, regarding new information about the members as well as regarding the projects the members are involved in, will regularly take place on the list.

You can support the ECOTROS-project in several ways. The project group has prepared a flyer in English, Dutch, German, Danish and Swedish. You can order the flyer for free via the mailing list. You can apply for the material so you can introduce the project to your national associations, institutions and journals, as well as it can be distributed on congresses. If you need support with translation, please ask for help on the mailing list. When you have already translated the material into your native language or when you have already taken PR-actions for this project, please inform all members via the mailing list.

The best support for the project is recruiting new members for the mailing list and encouraging all to give actively input and information about relevant projects regarding OTR, OS and interdisciplinary projects in Europe. If you like to support our project by informing and gaining new members within your institution or organisation, we hereby invite you to become an associated partner of ECOTROS. Please mail to the project group [f.a.van.nes@hva.nl](mailto:f.a.van.nes@hva.nl). The group members are Dr. Åsa Lundgren-Nilsson (Sweden), Fenna van Nes (The Netherlands), Sebastian Voigt-Radloff (Germany), Dr. Tanja Stamm (Austria), Dr. Chris Mayers (UK).

Partners of the ECOTROS-project are persons, groups, and institutions, who want to regularly encourage their therapists, researchers, students or cooperation partners for an active participation in ECOTROS. National contact persons are persons who actively involve in translating and disseminating material from ECOTROS.

## The project group behind ECOTROS

### Åsa Lundgren Nilsson, Sweden

- Göteborg University, Clinical Neuroscience
- [asa.lundgren-nilsson@rehab.gu.se](mailto:asa.lundgren-nilsson@rehab.gu.se)

#### Involvement in OTR, OS or interdisciplinary projects

- PhD student
- The Pro-ESOR project (Project for European Standardisation of Outcome Measurement in Rehabilitation)
- Rasch measurement and cross-cultural validation of existing and new instruments in rehabilitation.
- Impact on life situation in survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.
- Randomised controlled trial of home rehabilitation for “younger” stroke patients.
- Member of the ECOTROS project group



#### Focus of cooperation interest

- Outcome research
- Measurement
- Neurological diseases
- OT-PhD student network in Europe

#### Further Information

As an occupational therapist I have mainly worked with rehabilitation of patients with neurological disorders. I am interested in measurement and evaluation of outcomes in rehabilitation. I think that a network and co-operation between occupational therapist in Europe will help us as a profession in providing evidence for outcome and best practise. I am looking forward to all new contacts and co-operation.

### Fenna van Nes, Netherlands

- Hogeschool van Amsterdam
- [f.a.van.nes@hva.nl](mailto:f.a.van.nes@hva.nl)

#### Involvement in OTR, OS or interdisciplinary projects

- Member of the ‘knowledge circle’, an interdisciplinary group with members from inside and outside the Hogeschool with as main task bridging research, practice and education
- Supervising bachelor students in research
- Leader of the ECOTROS project group



#### Focus of cooperation interest

- Elderly in the community
- Co-occupation
- Living/housing
- Chronic diseases

#### Further Information

As an occupational therapist I’ve been working in several institutions mainly with elderly in nursing homes. I was involved in the development of the possibilities for OT in the community and in quality projects. Since 8 years I’m working as a teacher now with a focus on the last two years of the curriculum and on internationalisation. My interest in research has been developed through the European Masters course, which I closed with a qualitative research project: *‘One body, three hands and two minds: individual and co-narratives in an elderly couple after stroke’*. So as a researcher I’m just on the threshold: I hope to contribute to research projects and to facilitating research in Europe.

**Sebastian Voigt-Radloff, Germany**

- University Hospital,  
Centre of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Freiburg
- [sebastian.voigt@uniklinik-freiburg.de](mailto:sebastian.voigt@uniklinik-freiburg.de)

**Involvement in OTR, OS or interdisciplinary projects**

- Project management of the development and testing of an interdisciplinary therapeutic assessment-network for adults
- Review on evidence for OT with elderly
- Member of the ECOTROS project group

**Focus of cooperation interest**

- Development of a common instrument pool of generic, occupation-based and evaluative assessments
- Building up coordinated long-term research strategies
- Occupational health promotion through enabling meaningful voluntary engagement

**Further Information**

I am interested in co-operation with other European researchers in the fields of evidence based practice and reviews of outcome studies, of dementia, of community rehabilitation for older persons and health promotion through voluntary work. For information about my background please go to [http://www.uniklinik-freiburg.de/zggf/live/ResearchinOccupationalTherapy\\_en.html](http://www.uniklinik-freiburg.de/zggf/live/ResearchinOccupationalTherapy_en.html)

**Tanja Stamm, Austria**

- Vienna Medical University, Department of Rheumatology
- [Tanja.Stamm@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:Tanja.Stamm@meduniwien.ac.at)

**Involvement in OTR, OS or interdisciplinary projects**

- PhD student
- ICF project on the patient perspective in rheumatology
- Project on occupational balance
- Biometric assessment & outcome measurement in rheumatology
- Randomised controlled trials on treatment methods
- Member of the ECOTROS project group

**Focus of cooperation interest**

- Occupational balance
- ICF and OT
- OT- PhD student network in Europe
- Methodological advances in qualitative and quantitative methods

**Further Information**

I am very much interested in the development of occupational science and research. Because we are such a young profession doing research for such a short time compared to many other professions, I think that networking and building-up co-operations is essential, especially in Europe today. I would be very pleased to share any kind of information about my current research projects with the aim to set up international co-operations and networks.

**Dr. Chris Mayers**

- School of Professional Health Studies, York St John College, UK
- [chris@mayers2000.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:chris@mayers2000.freeserve.co.uk)

**Involvement in OT Research, OS or interdisciplinary projects**

- The Mayers' Lifestyle Questionnaires are 'tools' developed for occupational therapists wishing to use a person-centred approach.
  - the Mayers' Lifestyle Questionnaires (1): for people with problems related to physical disability and and/or ageing
  - the Mayers' Lifestyle Questionnaire (2): for people with enduring mental health problems



Copies and guidelines for use are made available to all occupational therapists in the UK and overseas via the internet ([www.mayersLSQ.org.uk](http://www.mayersLSQ.org.uk)). The Mayers' Lifestyle Questionnaires have been translated into Norwegian and French. They are now being translated into Danish, German, Dutch, Greek and Slovenian.

- Spirituality is a topic of great interest within health care and occupational therapists consider the spiritual domain as an important aspect of our humanity. It should not be ignored in person-centred practice. There has been much discussion about a definition and approach that can actually be used relative to practice. Following an in-depth review of the literature, a clinician and I have developed a working definition which was well received at the Annual College of Occupational Therapists' Conference in July 2004.
- I am also involved in collaborative research into 'Bio-psycho-social intervention in primary care for mental health problems of older people'.

**Focus of co-operation interest**

- Person-centred practice and quality of life
- Spirituality
- Obtaining funding for an EC project to evaluate the use of the Mayers' Lifestyle Questionnaires as so many translations are occurring.

**Further information**

I have much experience in education and research related practice. I really enjoy discussing ideas with others and would love to see the aims of ECOTROS met. There may well be a role for some of us within ECOTROS to act as mentors to those embarking on the research process. I am very happy to do this.