

Awarding Title of OTA Fellow

Fellow Occupational Therapy Australia Research Academy

History

Occupational Therapy Australia's constitution includes the class of membership known as Fellow. The Board is able to determine the requirements for this category of membership and confer the title of Fellow.

OTA has created the Research Academy to both recognise scholars in the occupational therapy profession but also to enhance research capacity building in the profession. Members who are determined as eligible for membership of the Academy through assessment by a panel of their peers are deemed to have met the Board's requirements to be a Fellow Member of OTA.

Principles

1. Research and scholarship are complex, context bound, social phenomena.
2. Recognition of research and scholarly excellence benefits the profession.
3. Recognizing research and scholarship should be an inclusive process.
4. Responsibilities are associated with recognition.

The inaugural round of Inductees occurred in 2017. In the second round the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellow to the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Academy* was introduced.

Purpose

The awarding of the title of Fellow Occupational Therapy Australia Research Foundation seeks to acknowledge the significance of those members who contribute to or support the development of the body of knowledge for the profession of occupational therapy in Australia.

Frequency

This process of nomination and assessment for this honor will be undertaken on a biennial basis. However, the honor may not be conferred every round.

Eligibility

Past or current Australian citizen or permanent resident who is alive at the time of nomination.

1. Member of OTA (or a past member of the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists) for at least 5 cumulative years. Where they are not an Honorary Life Member will continue to pay membership fees.
2. Doctoral qualification or equivalent (i.e., credible research training or other evidence of research expertise measured in relation to the contribution of original high-quality knowledge derived through research methods).
3. Consents to the nomination and understands the commitment to contributing to appropriate activity, programs and provision of advice to OTA.
4. Consents to the use of a biography and photograph to support their listing on a public Academy Roll.
5. Agrees to update this biography biennially to ensure it remains current.

Assessment Criteria

Meritorious contribution to occupational therapy research and/or scholarship. This contribution must be judged by the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Academy nominations and selections panel as:

- a) substantial,
- b) sustained,
- c) exemplary,
- d) enduring in impact, and
- e) of direct relevance to the profession and practice of occupational therapy in Australia.

Selection Panel

The Nomination and Selection Committee will comprise a minimum of three, and a maximum of five, members of the Research Academy.

The Selection Panel will make a recommendation to the Board as to those members who should be awarded the title of Fellow.

The Award will be presented at the National Conference.

Nomination Process

A nomination form is to be submitted by a nominator and seconder, providing a short summary (~300 words) that shows how the nominee has provided meritorious contributions to occupational therapy research and/or scholarship that is:

- substantial,
- sustained,
- exemplary,
- enduring in impact, and
- of direct relevance to the profession and practice of occupational therapy in Australia.

Nominations close on **7 March 2025**. After this date, Occupational Therapy Australia will contact all nominees and seek their consent to continue with their nomination. If agreed, they will be asked to provide a curriculum vitae, a 150-word lay summary of their work, a high-resolution photograph for website/public use, and identification of 3-5 representative publications that they consider have had the most impact on practice and policy nationally and internationally. These completed nominations will then be assessed by a panel whose members are current Fellows. Recommendations for Award recipients will be presented to the Board with the final decision regarding eligibility for the Academy will be made by the Board.

The nominees will be asked to provide:

- A cover letter outlining their meritorious contribution to occupational therapy research and/or scholarship,
- A comprehensive CV,
- 3-5 representative publications that are considered to have had the most impact on practice and policy nationally and internally, and provide reasons to substantiate this in their cover letter,
- A 150-word summary which, in the case of being awarded this honor will be used in OTA publications, and
- A high-resolution headshot that will be used in OTA publications.

OTA will collate the applications and provide the Nominations and Selection Panel members with:

- An assessment tool,
- All documentation provided by all applicants, and
- A report on the eligibility of each applicant against criteria 1 - 6.

Each Panel will need to submit the document that they used to assess the applications.

Presentation

The award will be presented at the Occupational Therapy Australia National Conference.

Nominations and Selection Panel

- The CEO will approach members of the Research Academy to seek volunteers to be involved in this work. The CEO will appoint a Chair of the Panel.
- Panels will be established for the purpose of reviewing applicants for one round.
- The panel will be disbanded after the board has made their final decision on the recommendation.



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