

Scientific Workshop 23

Supporting our LGBT+ Clients: Developing LGBT+ Good Practice Guidelines for Occupational Therapists in Ireland and Japan

Date & Time: 2024/11/8 15:30-17:00

Venue: Venue 9 (2F 206)

Estimated capacity: 50

Lecturer:

Niall Kirrane (Chairperson; AOTI Gender & Sexuality in Occupational Therapy Advisory Group / Co-Author; AOTI LGBT+ Awareness and Good Practice Guidelines for Occupational Therapists)

Jane Freeman (Secretary; AOTI Gender & Sexuality in Occupational Therapy Advisory Group / Co-Author, AOTI LGBT+ Awareness and Good Practice Guidelines for Occupational Therapists)

Risa Takashima (LGBT+ guideline group, Academic department, JAOT / Faculty of Health Sciences, Hokkaido University)

Takeshi Matsumoto (LGBT+ Guideline Group, Academic Department, JAOT / Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya University / Diversity & Inclusion Office, Heisei Medical Welfare Group)

Yosuke Suzuki (LGBT+ guideline group, Academic Department, JAOT/Graduate School of Human Health Sciences, Department of Occupational Therapy, Tokyo Metropolitan University)

Masanao Ikeya (LGBT+ guideline group, Academic department, JAOT / Faculty of Medical Science, Nagoya Women's University)

Aiko Hoshino (LGBT+ guideline group, Academic department, JAOT / Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya University)

Learning Objectives

In this workshop, Occupational Therapists from both the AOTI and JAOT projects will present their key learnings and reflections from the process of creating and adapting these guidelines. They hope to offer information and inspiration to participants on how to make Occupational Therapy practice LGBT+ inclusive, across different cultural and political contexts.

Following participation in the workshop participants will have:

- Increased understanding of key LGBT+ terminology and concepts
- Increased knowledge of the health inequalities facing LGBT+ people internationally
- Greater awareness of the cultural/societal contexts of Ireland and Japan and how this interacts with LGBT+ healthcare
- Improved understanding of the role of Occupational Therapy working with LGBT+ clients
- Awareness of LGBT+ inclusive practice principles

Outline

In 2019, the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) published their LGBT+ Awareness & Good Practice Guidelines for Occupational Therapists. This resource, the first of its kind in the field of Occupational Therapy, was developed at a crucial time of social change in Irish society. The rights and needs of LGBT+ citizens were improving dramatically from a political and social perspective, yet research showed that LGBT+ people continued to experience inequality accessing healthcare, and even discrimination. These guidelines were created to support Occupational Therapists to support their LGBT+ clients. Through increased awareness, knowledge and skills, the guidelines aimed to equip Occupational Therapists with the competence and confidence to provide the highest quality health care to LGBT+ clients availing of Occupational Therapy intervention.

In 2021, a collaboration was established between the AOTI and the Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists (JAOT). A new working group was established within JAOT's Academic Department to translate the LGBT+ Good Practice Guidelines for Japanese Occupational Therapists. However, the situation surrounding LGBT+ people in Japan is quite different from that in Ireland. Therefore, a nationwide survey was conducted, and the translation process was informed by the results of this survey. Japanese team members hope to break down the cultural stigma that surrounds the topics of gender and sexuality, both in healthcare and societally, and that these guidelines will support further educational and institutional reforms.