

## **POSITION STATEMENT ON SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

The Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists, Inc. (PAOT, Inc.) aims to encourage advanced study and research in occupational therapy, keep abreast of new developments in the profession and to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge among occupational therapy professionals. This may facilitate the increase in the visibility of the role of PAOT, Inc. and its members-at-large in the national and international community especially in the areas of occupational science and research.

In the face of the increasing number of various practice areas that Filipino occupational therapists are delving into, special interest groups (SIG) is seen to be necessary to further improve these areas. Accordingly, the organization is institutionalizing special interest groups as interdependent units within the system of PAOT, Inc. to prepare for this movement towards specialization and the subsequent need for these groups.

### **STATEMENT OF THE POSITION**

PAOT, Inc. encourages the institution of special interest groups in emerging and established areas of practice in the country. The organization endorses the utilization of the Guidelines on the Institution and Governance of Special Interest Groups that is being created by the academy. This directs special interest groups to:

1. Facilitate the creation of evidence-based standards of practice and/or clinical practice guidelines for the specific area of practice in the context of Filipino OT healthcare;
2. Facilitate the conduct of continuing professional development activities in relation to the specific area of practice in the context of Filipino OT healthcare;
3. Promote appropriate practice among its members in line with the policies and by-laws of the organization;
4. Promote PAOT activities to its constituting members;
5. Ensure that the activities they provide are towards the development of the occupational therapy profession in the country; and
6. Assist in settling issues regarding specific areas of practice involving its members.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STATEMENT TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**

Occupational therapists with common interests will have a venue to discuss issues related to this specific area of interest in the context of Filipino OT healthcare. Occupational

therapists will be updated with the current evidence-based standards of practice in this specific area of interest. This facilitates competent practice of occupational therapists in a specific area of interest in the country.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STATEMENT TO THE SOCIETY**

The public may expect that the occupational therapists in this area of practice will be updated with the current evidence-based standards of practice in this field.

## **CONCLUSION**

PAOT, Inc. encourages the institutionalization of special interest groups to gather occupational therapists with similar interests to discuss concerns and/or issues regarding their practice and to facilitate the continued improvement of this area of practice in the country.

### **Prepared by the Committee on Standards & Ethics for the Philippine Academy of Occupational Therapists, Inc.**

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