TNOTA conference announcement

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, and out of caution and consideration for our OT practitioners, students, and patients, **TNOTA has decided to move our 2020 Annual Conference to a virtual format.**

Many factors played into this decision, not least of which is our consideration for the health and wellbeing of the vulnerable populations we serve. We also know that many practitioners may have been furloughed, laid off, or otherwise had their incomes impacted. Providing conference in a virtual setting will allow OT practitioners to get needed continuing education at a more affordable cost.

As an organization, we are both sad and hopeful about this change. While we will miss the opportunity to gather with other OTs, OTAs, and OT students across the state, we are facing this new challenge head on. Now, more than ever, occupational therapists, assistants, and students are showing the world how adaptable, creative, and resilient we are. Our conference committee is looking forward to the opportunity to try out a virtual conference format for the first time in TNOTA history. Our partnership with AspireOT has shown us that TNOTA’s online continuing education courses can be just as dynamic, engaging, and informative as in-person sessions. While many things will look different this year, we embrace the change and look forward to learning and networking in a new way.

**TNOTA’s Virtual Conference will be held Sunday, August 23 through Thursday, August 27, 2020. Pre-conference will be held on Saturday, August 22.**

***So, how will this work?***

* We will host conference sessions over the course of a week, holding most sessions in the evenings to accommodate work and school schedules. We will plan to host 1-2 sessions per night, depending on the number of submissions we receive.
* All sessions will be hosted via AspireOT. Conference sessions will be both live and pre-recorded, with live sessions recorded for asynchronous playback following the conference when possible on the AspireOT website.
* Courses will be priced individually, with discounts for TNOTA members and students.
* We will also plan to offer pre-selected “bundles” of courses at a discounted price, including a student track.
* We will have short courses (including panels), workshops, and poster presentations.
* Presenters may submit a proposal for an asynchronous, pre-recorded course to be aired during conference week.
* Presenters will receive a 50% discount on all courses held during the conference.
* TNOTA will continue to welcome exhibitors and sponsors in a virtual format. For more information on this, visit our conference exhibitor and sponsor page.

Call for papers is open through July 1, 2020. We will work with presenters to schedule their sessions once all submissions are received, and we will open registration for individual and bundled conference courses August 8, 2020.

***Looking forward…***

We will plan to have our 2021 conference in Nashville, and our planned 2020 conference site, Scarritt Bennett, has graciously allowed us to re-book our 2021 conference with them at no additional cost. We will host our 2021 conference September 10-12.