2020 Honored Lecturer for the California Foundation of Occupational Therapy (CFOT)

Dr. Luis Arabit has served as the AOTPAC Region V Chair since 2018 and served as a member of the AOTPAC Circle of Advisers from 2013 -2016. Additionally, he is a reviewer for AOTA proposals for the Annual Conference. Dr. Arabit is a true advocate for the profession and his commitment to OTAC is clear. He has been a member for many years, served as Chair of the OTAC Government Affairs Committee for over 10 years, was elected Vice-President of OTAC, serving for 2 years, Co-ordinated Lobby Day in Sacramento for 2 years, to only name a few of his elected and appointed positions. He has provided numerous workshops and podium presentations at state, national and international conferences. Dr. Arabit was selected to provide the keynote address at two different international conferences and is well respected in the profession. His commitment to CFOT and the advancement of the profession is also clear with the donation of funds to support a research grant for the past several years.

Most recently as of April 2020 Dr. Arabit was awarded the prestigious FAOTA Award in recognition as an "Occupational Therapy Expert Clinician, Leader, and Advocate.

Dr. Luis Arabit is well recognized within the profession of occupational therapy as an advocate and leader. His commitment to the profession is seen with his position as the Regional V Chair of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee and his service as a board member of the Asian Pacific Heritage Occupational Therapy Association. The title of his forthcoming keynote address is: Advocacy, Diversity and Inclusion in Occupational Therapy: An Evolutionary Process.
Celebrating Our 39th Anniversary!

CFOT Virtual Honored Lecturer and Awards Symposium

Friday, October 9, 2020 – 1:30pm-3:00pm
Session 30 – CFOT Honored Lecturer and Humanitarian Awards Program (1.5 PDUs)

Honored Lecturer – Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, C/NDT, FAOTA

Advocacy, Diversity and Inclusion in Occupational Therapy: An Evolutionary Process

Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, C/NDT, FAOTA, will share occupational therapy's role in advocacy, diversity, and inclusion. While these concepts have become the profession's hallmarks throughout the world, serving the occupational needs of people, populations, and communities, it continues to be a process in evolution. This honored lecturer will underscore his knowledge, experiences, and insights in how we can continue to nurture, empower, and further enhance every occupational therapy practitioner and students' capacity to promote and strengthen the profession's role in advocacy, diversity, and inclusion. This process ensures the continued successful trajectory of the profession. Arabit's discussion on diversity in the profession will touch on the multicultural perspective as well as how diversity prospers and expands the profession and the public's understanding of occupation as a means and an end. His perceptions of inclusion will focus on how we can further “open doors” widely for our clients in our work as practitioners.

The CFOT Honored Lecturer Award recognizes California occupational therapy practitioners who have demonstrated leadership and promoted ideas and visions in occupational therapy for the profession, and a presentation gives them an opportunity to share their insights and knowledge with the occupational therapy community.

Humanitarian of the Year – Steve Rubin, President, WAVES® Project Inc.

www.wavesproject.org

The programs of the WAVES® Project Inc. are focused on continued support, services, rehabilitation, and diving companionship and camaraderie for a lifetime. It is also a path to purpose for veterans seeking to continue to serve their country and community. The SCUBA Training Program offers veterans and a companion the unique opportunity to experience the therapeutic benefits of water and SCUBA diving, meeting the specific needs of each veteran. After experiencing the one-day SCUBA diving course, they graduate to the Open Water SCUBA five-day course. Upon completion they are certified to dive with any certified diver. Once SCUBA certified, the veteran and their companion are eligible to participate in continuing education programs, such as underwater photography, wreck diving, search and recovery, ecological diving courses, and more. This program allows veterans to continue to experience the therapeutic benefits of water and diving – many of the veterans continue their training on a path to professional levels.

The CFOT Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals or groups who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the philosophical principles of occupational therapy and engaged in significant humanitarian activities. These activities may include:

- Helping to enhance and maximize the potential of the recipients of occupational therapy services
- Encouraging and fostering individual responsibility and human dignity
- Improving health status and enhancing quality of life
- Providing a model for community service
- Creating a healthy society.

CFOT SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS, AND SEED AWARDS

The awards presentations to these recipients will be pre-recorded and available for viewing throughout the Conference.