Specialist Section – Trauma and Musculoskeletal Health

Member handbook

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# Introduction from Chair

A very warm welcome to the Specialist Section.

I am delighted to welcome you as a member to the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section Trauma and Musculoskeletal Health (RCOT SS-TMH). Our Specialist Section is made up of 5 clinical forums and led by amazing occupational therapists. The great thing about this Specialist Section is that it covers so many areas of practice. This means you can choose one or more to be more involved with and have access to all the others as and when you need to.

The last few years have been challenging with the changes that COVID 19 has brought to each of our lives and to the Specialist Section. We have learnt so much and are connecting through the monthly e-Newsletters, What App groups, Zoom and Teams meetings and in other virtual ways. We want to build on these connections so that people feel supported as members. We want to make it feel like family and community rather than some remote organisation.

As with any membership group, our success and strength are in the enthusiasm of our members and the on-going support and contributions from each one of you. Please do keep in touch and remember that all the NEC who serve you are volunteers and like you have a day job and families! Let us encourage one another to be the best occupational therapists we can be, to be kind to and thankful for each other. We need to reach out to and support one another. I, for one, need all the help I can get!

Please keep us posted with any new developments in your service that would be of interest to the wider community, or with any thoughts or suggestions you may have to develop our specialist section.

Best wishes,

**Leanne Hunt**

Chair of the National Executive Committee

Specialist Section – Trauma and Musculoskeletal Health

# National Executive Committee

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Role | Name | Description of role and contact |
| Chair | Leanne Hunt | Lead the Specialist Section National Executive Committee (NEC), ensuring that it fulfils its core business and responsibilities in line with our governance. Work collaboratively with the committee, helping them achieve the aims of the Specialist Section. Chair committee meetings and be our key point of contact. |
| Vice Chair | Penny Firshman | Support the Chair and the National Executive Committee (NEC), ensuring that it fulfils its core business and responsibilities in line with our governance. Take responsibility for NEC in the absence of the chair. Work collaboratively with the committee, helping them achieve the aims of the Specialist Section. |
| Secretary | Jo McCarthy | Support the management of the NEC with their communication; to collate and circulate agenda items, record and collate minutes distributing them to the NEC and RCOT. |
| Treasurer | Kate Brooks | Ensure that the Specialist Sections financial affairs are managed in compliance with the current RCOT Standing Financial Instructions and Financial Guidelines. Act as the main point of contact regarding financial matters for the Specialist Section. |
| Newsletter Editor | Fiona Ballance and Rebecca Robson | Produce the Specialist Section e-newsletter with the support from members and the NEC and encourage the writing of news and articles for inclusion in the e-newsletter. |
| Research and Development lead | Sally Sampson | Lead and support Research and Development within the Specialist Section and lead on Research and Development enquiries. Assist the Specialist Section in the running of events and CPD activities. |
| Communications Lead | Vicky Crosbie | Maintain the webpages and engage with social media accounts on behalf of the Specialist Section. Be the first point of contact for members within social media platforms |
| Event/CPD lead | Vacant | Take responsibility to lead, facilitate, support, and have an overview on all the Specialist Section Events and CPD offering. Assist the Specialist Section in the running of events and CPD activities. |
| Clinical Forum -  Rheumatology lead | Dervil Dockrell and Catherine McCoy | Support the activities of the clinical forum and act as a link between the Clinical Forum and the NEC. Support member engagement within the Clinical Forum and support their activities. |
| Clinical Forum -Critical Care lead | Penelope Firshman and  Claire Rock | Support the activities of the clinical forum and act as a link between the Clinical Fora/Forum and the NEC. Support member engagement within the Clinical Forum and support their activities. |
| Clinical Forum -Trauma and Orthopedics Lead | Paul Marshall Taylor and Deborah Davidson | Support the activities of the clinical forum and act as a link between the Clinical Fora/Forum and the NEC. Support member engagement within the Clinical Forum and support their activities. |
| Clinical Forum -Pain Lead | Helen Jennings | Support the activities of the clinical forum and act as a link between the Clinical Fora/Forum and the NEC. Support member engagement within the Clinical Forum and support their activities. |
| Clinical Forum -Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation | Amanda Whistle | Support the activities of the clinical forum and act as a link between the Clinical Fora/Forum and the NEC. Support member engagement within the Clinical Forum and support their activities. |

If you would like to contact any member of the National Executive Committee, please email [rcotsstmh@gmail.com](mailto:rcotsstmh@gmail.com).

Aims

We promote best practice in occupational therapy within the clinical specialities of trauma and orthopaedics/musculoskeletal, critical care, prosthetics and amputee rehabilitation services (PARS), pain and rheumatology/musculoskeletal.

* Raise awareness and promote the development of knowledge and skills
* Promote and enable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and networking
* Promote research and support the use of evidence to inform practice
* Support members within their area of practice
* Function as a resource to provide expertise at national a level.
* Act as advisors and influencers for and on behalf of the profession and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

# Member benefits

As part of our Specialist Section, you can access a range of benefits including:

## Newsletter

You’ll receive a newsletter at the end of every other month. This will contain information on upcoming events along with information and resources relevant to members working in trauma and musculoskeletal health. We encourage you to get involved and send us information on work you are doing, any emerging areas or share your skills and expertise. You can also let us know if you have a query that the wider membership can help with.

The newsletter will also contain information on policy and practice relevant to trauma and musculoskeletal health. We would love to hear any feedback or comments that you can request via the newsletter. We value your contribution to these pieces of work and your comments may be used in the response.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please get in touch with our [newsletter editor](mailto:rcotsstmh@gmail.com).

## Social media

Please follow us if you are on social media. You will be able to keep up to date between newsletters with information relevant to you.

Follow us:  Twitter  @RCOT\_TMH

## Specialist Section webpages

We have our [webpages on the RCOT website](https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-us/specialist-sections/trauma-and-musculoskeletal-rcot-ss). As a member of a Specialist Section, you can access information including member resources, useful links and contact details for NEC members. You should be logged into your RCOT account to access these resources.

## Free CPD events

We host monthly webinars relevant to our members working within the area of our clinical forums. All events are available for booking through [our events webpage](https://www.rcot.co.uk/events).

## Reduced costs for our conference

As a member, you benefit from a reduced cost for attending our Specialist Section conference.

## Clinical forums

Specialist Section clinical forums are a way of bringing occupational therapists with a common specialist interest together to share expertise, learn, meet and network. You can join as many clinical forums as you want to. They are free as part of your membership.

## Awards and learning grants

Grants are available at different times of the year for research, professional development and events. Look out for these in our monthly newsletter.

## Opportunities to be part of your professional community

There are lots of ways to get involved with policy, practice, strategy, briefings, develop practice guidelines and leadership skills. We share these opportunities widely within our newsletters and on social media and in dedicated communications.

# Clinical forums

## Clinical forum - Rheumatology

This forum is for occupational therapists working in or with an interest in rheumatology and musculoskeletal health.

## Aims of the forum

* Provide professional support for members through newsletter and network events.
* Promote the exchange of information and experience both formally through webinars and informally using social media and networking evenings.
* Seek to lead the development of best practice based on the best evidence through journal club and members research.
* Offer educational opportunities through virtual webinars and virtual/in person events and specialist section annual conference.

## Clinical forum - Critical Care

This forum is for occupational therapists working in or with an interest in critical care.

## Aims of the forum

* Provide a forum for the exchange of information, ideas and developments for occupational therapists working within the area of critical care.
* Provide guidance on core skill set development for therapists working with the heterogeneous patient cohort of critical care.
* Raise awareness of the role of occupational therapy within critical care.
* Develop clinical guidelines.
* Work jointly to develop resources and research.
* Support occupational therapists to develop local services.
* Run meetings and events.
* Offer networking opportunities through virtual webinars and virtual/in person events and specialist section annual conference.

## Clinical forum - Trauma and Orthopaedics

This forum is for people working or who have an interest in trauma and orthopaedics/ musculoskeletal.

Aims of the forum

* Provide professional support for members.
* Promote the exchange of information and experience.
* Seek to lead the development of best practice based on the best evidence.
* Offer networking opportunities through virtual webinars and virtual/in person events and specialist section annual conference.

## Clinical forum - Pain

The forum for anyone working in or with an interest in chronic and persistent pain.

## Aims of the forum

* To promote best practice for occupational therapists working with people who have chronic pain conditions.
* To influence, develop, contribute and collaborate on national policy and local initiatives, working in partnership with RCOT and the British Pain Society.
* To provide support and advice to other occupational therapists working with people who have a chronic pain condition.
* To raise awareness and develop knowledge and skill base of occupational therapy focused chronic pain interventions.
* To develop and sustain regional and national specialist networks.
* To promote and encourage opportunities for CPD.
* Offer networking opportunities through virtual webinars and virtual/in person events and specialist section annual conference.

## Clinical forum - Prosthetic and Amputee Rehabilitation

This forum is for anyone specialising in upper and lower limb prosthetics and amputee rehabilitation.

## Aims of the forum

* Provide professional support for members.
* Promote the exchange of information and experience.
* Seek to lead the development of best practice based on the best evidence.
* Offer networking opportunities through virtual webinars and virtual/in person events and specialist section annual conference.

# Research and development

We assist members with their research and development. Research requests can be included within the newsletter for members to participate in if they wish to. All requests to share a research project should have ethical approval in place before submitting. Anyone who has any queries or would like to share a research project, please contact our research and education lead.

## Specialist Section – Trauma and Musculoskeletal Health Bursary Scheme

The NEC is delighted to offer members an opportunity to apply for a bursary. We are keen to support professional development opportunities or innovation/ service development projects which have defined costs such as attending conferences, training opportunities, study/day fees or travel costs.

The bursary cannot be used to cover costs for working parties or committee membership activities which are already covered by other reimbursement schemes.

Successful applicants must present the benefits of receiving their bursary in written or oral format within 6 months of having received their award for publication in the newsletter.

For further information, please visit our web pages.