EDITORIAL........................................

AIOTA showed its displeasure before the committee members, on inclusion of Occupational Therapy in the proposed Allied Health Professionals’ Council Bill 2015 and made it clear that members of AIOTA, OT Educational Institutions and OT Professionals in India will not accept this bill because of its heterogeneous structure. The letters of resentment in large no. have also been sent to ministry from members, branches and institutions. AIOTA received letter of invitation from Director, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to meet the Committee Members at Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi on Oct. 27, 2015 at 11.00 A.M. AIOTA President and Hon. Secretary put forth AIOTA’s view point on the proposed Allied Health Bill’2015 in the meeting. AIOTA officials emphatically suggested that, the Independent ‘Central Council of Occupational Therapy’ should be constituted which is pending decision since decades. However it may accept Central Council with inclusion of like profession of Physiotherapy only, having identical qualification and status under the title. ‘Central Council of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy’ with Separate Cells in the pattern of ‘Delhi Council of PT/OT’ and ‘Maharashtra Council of PT/OT’ already in function successfully, since last more than 15-20 years. As an alternative all the existing councils of health sector including MCI, DCI, Pharmacy and Nursing Council may be dissolved to constitute one council under the title ‘Indian Council of Medical and Health’ with separate cells of the medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Allied Health professionals.

Promoting Research and Innovation in Occupational Therapy is foremost requirement for advancement of the profession for providing quality treatment & rehabilitative care for well-being of our citizens. Pursuing research in the profession is essential for continuous advancement of the science and also has a personal, professional and societal impact. It is a natural wish of every one to live a long, happy and quality life, and it becomes our professional and moral responsibility to try best to make this happen. With ongoing research and development we can find the new, safer and more effective interventions to cater the needs of ailing population. With this aim the theme chosen for OTICON’2016 at S.R.M. Chennai is ‘Innovations in OT: The Key towards Excellence’. I wish that this theme would encourage our talented young OT’s to further advance the profession with more research & innovations, added with evidence based practice in their work setups. AIOTA EC and Organizing Committee are pleased to invite members of AIOTA, students, overseas faculties, clinical therapists and guests to participate in the OTICON’2016: the 53rd Annual National Conference of AIOTA, at S. R. M. University Chennai from Jan. 29-31, 2016.

It is encouraging to note that Members, State Branches & Institutions have celebrated World OT Day on Oct. 27 with great enthusiasm as in past years. The OT Day being celebrated in the country as OTINDIA Week, provides us an opportunity to reach to the masses for OT promotion, which is an essential requirement of the country in respect to OT awareness to the masses and fellow professionals.

Academic Council of OT is working enthusiastically for updating the members by regularly organizing Continuing Education Programs in one or other institutions. ACOT has collaborated with Infinity Exhibitions and Conferences Pvt. Ltd. to arrange two days’ workshop on ‘Combining NDT & SI in the Clinic, the Home and the School from Nov.20-21, 2015 during India Rehab & Care Expo at Bombay Exhibition Center, Goregaon, Mumbai. The workshop will be conducted by renowned pediatric OT, Dr. Erna Imperatore Blanche from University of South California, USA. It is imperative that members of AIOTA must pursue at least one such COTE if not yearly, at least in two years to update themselves with the advancements in the profession.

AIOTA Election is in process. Members of AIOTA are requested to actively participate in elections to elect the new Executive Committee of AIOTA for 2016-2020. The election result will be announced after GB Meeting at Chennai on Jan. 30-2016.

Dr. Anil K. Srivastava
Editor-in-Chief