

The Consortium remains a vital part of the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association.

At the Spring Meeting of 2005, the Consortium voted to remain within the realm of WOTA in order to benefit from existing technical and administrative support, as well as increase access to the profession at large. In turn, the WOTA board voted in favor of accepting the Consortium's initial proposals and to assist our efforts to expand the current Special Interest Group of Sensory Integration.

Consortium membership, however, is not expected to be restricted by the requirement of WOTA membership. The Consortium will belong to all Occupational Therapists in Wisconsin who embrace sensory integration practice and who desire to participate in its overdue advancement in the public arena.

The Consortium remains in its infancy, though we currently have over 50 charter members. JOIN today!

How the Consortium is functioning to date:

Online exchanges with email communications.

1-2 meetings per year for those who desire face-to-face exchange of ideas, followed by online dissemination of meeting minutes. Voting rights still need to be determined.

No formal dues or fees to join to the Consortium. There may be extra benefits anticipated for also belonging to WOTA, but this remains to be determined by joint collaboration of the consortium membership and WOTA.

Soon to be established — Online Virtual Meetings

Soon to be established — Chat Room

Soon to be established — Research / Journal Club

Soon to be established — Speaker's Bureau

Find out more about the Sensory Integration Consortium of Wisconsin by :

Contacting the Consortium Coordinator:

Susan V. Kratz, OTR, BCP
Special Therapies, Inc.
W238N1690 Rockwood Drive, Suite 500
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188
(262) 347-2222 (or) specialtherapies238@yahoo.com

OR

For updates visit the Consortium's temporary website at www.specialtherapies.com

OR

Send this form to Susan at the above address.

Name _____

Place of work _____

Best way to reach you _____

Sensory Integration Consortium of Wisconsin



Definition: *Consortium*

An association; joining together in agreement / business / fellowship; Latin – (consors: one who shares the same fate)

The Consortium...

has a developing vision for Occupational Therapists who embrace Sensory Integration principles.

- ◆ Establish a professional network of clinicians and academia, including all practice settings.
- ◆ Develop a public service campaign for immediate and ongoing education and become a primary source of accurate information on the subject of sensory integration.
- ◆ Become a statewide resource for physicians, psychologists, and other professionals looking for a referral network.
- ◆ Advocate for the need of children and adults who could benefit from occupational therapy intervention. Promote the wisdom of recognizing and treating the subtypes of sensory processing disorders to insurance companies, school administrators, public health administrators, etc.
- ◆ Support research efforts to add to the growing body of scientific evidence.
- ◆ Establish a clinical mentoring network for all levels of experience and settings.
- ◆ Form a statewide speaker's bureau.

The Benefits of a Consortium

- ◆ There is power in numbers. The more occupational therapists on the membership ranks conveys a public image of unity and legitimacy to an approach. The larger the number can lend evidence for the increasing public demand for access to services. Larger numbers of membership can influence the direction of a given standard of acceptance.
- ◆ Sensory integration remediation is an ever-increasing neglected area of reimbursement and provision in many models of service delivery. Therefore, the consortium can help to shape and promote future policy decisions as to its availability and access.
- ◆ The consortium can create new markets, and support existing ones.
- ◆ To spread costs of advertising, market research, as well as advocacy time across multiple partners.
- ◆ Help create standards of qualifications and clinical readiness for practitioners. By increasing our own peer reviews will further add to the legitimacy of the aspect of sensory integration in our profession.
- ◆ The Consortium can approach certain bodies that currently discredit or devalue sensory integration and promote a clearer understanding of the approach to intervention. This united force can promote public awareness of the difference between supporting sensory needs vs. direct remediation. We should be in the forefront guiding other professions in supporting these clients, but Occupational Therapists should also be advocating that the profession holds specialization in the remediation of sensory processing dysfunction.

- ◆ A consortium can evolve from the current level of clinician support from WOTA's Special Interest Group into a broader scope of promoting sensory integration on a broader public forum.
- ◆ Publicly demonstrating a commitment within the profession to advance the 'best practice' model of sensory integration for all levels of expertise and practice settings.
- ◆ Expand on national models of advancing sensory integration with greater collaboration in the profession into an 'accessible' local and statewide entity.

Hopes & Dreams

- ✗ Establish a website that is frequently updated and maintained.
- ✗ Form a Wisconsin Therapist/Clinic Directory with expertise levels identified.
- ✗ Petition insurance companies and boards to review and reconsider policies discriminating against sensory integration and other neurodevelopmental needs.
- ✗ Petition medical societies and schools to receive educational presentations on the subject of Occupational Therapy and the delivery of sensory integration within the scope of our practice.
- ✗ Reduce conflicts within our own ranks by unifying our position and terminology of sensory integration theory & practice.
- ✗ Advance the Occupational Therapists in Wisconsin to a higher level of recognition of services worthy of prescription and referrals.

