

Press Release May 2012

Lisa Dibsall is announced as winner of the first College of Occupational Therapists (COT) and Pearson Assessment Award for education, research or continuing professional development

Lisa Dibsall, a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT), has been named as the winner of the first COT and Pearson Assessment award for education, research or continuing professional development.

Lisa, who has an MSc in Advanced Occupational Therapy, works part-time as an occupational therapist in social care for Wiltshire Council. She is currently in her first year as a part-time, self-funded PhD student with the University of the West of England.

On hearing of her success, Lisa said: 'I was thrilled to receive the Pearson Award this year. I applied for the Award to fund a place on a specific course on the design, analysis and reporting of randomized controlled trials... to support my PhD studies and to develop my role as an occupational therapy senior practitioner.

My objective is for the results of my doctoral research to inform the potential for a randomized controlled trial, to be undertaken as a post-doctoral study. Attendance at this course will help me achieve this goal by giving me in-depth knowledge of the design of randomized controlled trials and how they could be utilized more expansively in the social care field. I am keen to encourage evidence-based occupational therapy practice.'

The Award was developed as a joint initiative between the College of Occupational Therapists and Pearson Assessment, and opened to entrants in October 2011. It aims to provide support for an individual professional or student BAOT member towards an activity that forms part of their education, research or continuing professional development. A sum of £1,000 was made available to fund Lisa Dibsall's course, which is due to begin in the new academic year.

Naomi Hankinson, Chair of the Awards Panel and Chair of COT Council said of the new Award: 'I am delighted with the outcome of the 2012 Pearson Award and am grateful to Pearson for supporting the ongoing education and research interests of our members. The College received a number of high quality proposals for this new award, reflecting members' interests in their continuing professional development. The winner will benefit from support for her doctoral studies, both enhancing her own research development and also contributing to the development of the evidence-base for occupational therapy practice.'

Shelley Hughes, Occupational Therapy and Training Manager for Pearson Assessment, commended Lisa Dibsall on her success: 'Pearson Assessment would like to congratulate Lisa on the outcome of her application for the new Pearson award. We wish her every success in her course later this year and are confident it will benefit her continuing research. Our aim in working with the College of Occupational Therapists and forming this Award is to continue to support the fantastic work and commitment that individuals make to the profession of occupational therapy.'

Pearson Assessment is the leading publisher of assessments for professionals working in health, psychology and educational settings. Their portfolio covers a range of bestselling standardised assessment and intervention tools in areas including: motor, visuo-perceptual, sensory, functional skills and wellbeing. These include the *Movement Assessment Battery for Children - Second Edition (Movement ABC-2)*, *Sensory Profile™* and the newly published *The Functional Living Scale - UK Version (TFLS UK)*.

- Ends -

For more information, please contact Simone Gilson, Marketing Communications Manager, on 0207 010 2880 or email simone.gilson@pearson.com

Notes for editors

About Pearson Assessment

- Pearson Assessment is the world's largest commercial developer and distributor of educational assessments and psychological testing materials with a 90 year history of commitment to researching and developing products to a reliable high standard.
- Pearson Assessment is dedicated to the pursuit of professional excellence, leadership, and growth through acquisition, development, publication, and the maintenance of quality assessment tools in order to anticipate and meet the needs of its customers.
- Drawing on our knowledge and capabilities, Pearson Assessment is dedicated to creating proven standardised assessments and interventions that transform lives and help professionals in education, health services and other areas to provide the best possible diagnosis and care.
- For more information, visit www.pearsonclinical.co.uk or follow @PsychCorpUK

About the College of Occupational Therapists

- The College of Occupational Therapists is the professional body for occupational therapists and support workers and is the voice of occupational therapy in the UK. We champion the unique and vital work of occupational therapy staff, promoting value, excellence and innovation across the profession
- The College sets the professional and educational standards for the occupational therapy profession and represents the profession at national and international levels
- The College has over 28,000 members including researchers, practitioners, students and overseas members. Practitioners work in a range of settings including hospitals, health centres, schools, residential and nursing care, childrens' centres, prisons, workplaces, voluntary organizations and independent practice.