



Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Occupational Therapy Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)?

The Occupational Therapy Priority Setting Partnership, or PSP, is a project to identify the top 10 research priorities for occupational therapy in the UK. The Royal College of Occupational Therapists has partnered with the James Lind Alliance to identify questions that research could answer to make a real difference to people accessing occupational therapy and improve the quality of people's lives.

What is the aim of this project?

The project aim is to identify the top 10 research priorities for occupational therapy in the UK. RCOT will use these priorities to create a research agenda, and direct researchers to develop research projects answering the questions that matter most to the people who access occupational therapy, their carers and occupational therapists themselves. This will build the evidence base for the profession and add to its authority and standing.

What is the James Lind Alliance?

The James Lind Alliance is a non-profit initiative, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), that brings patients, carers and clinicians together in Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) to identify and prioritise the top 10 unanswered questions or evidence uncertainties affecting their particular interest that they agree are the most important.

PSPs aim to ensure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to the people who need to use the research in their everyday lives. More information on the James Lind Alliance is available at: <http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/>

Why is RCOT investing in a PSP?

As the only professional body for occupational therapists in the UK, we are committed to positioning our members and the profession for the 21st century. Developing the evidence base that informs members' practice to ensure the best quality of care and outcomes for the people they serve is an important part of this. It is equally important that RCOT's research agenda reflects the needs of people who access occupational therapy and those who care for them. RCOT last set its research priorities in 2007 and with the publication of the new RCOT Research and Development Strategy coming soon, the time is right to identify an updated list of priorities to ensure future research is relevant and important to our members, other occupational therapists and the people they support.