

Reflection Article/Essay

# IV and V editions of the National Seminar on Occupational Therapy Research: memories registers, futures-present

*IV e V edições do Seminário Nacional de Pesquisa em Terapia Ocupacional: registro das memórias, futuros-presente*

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## **Abstract**

The report presents the last two editions of the National Seminar of Occupational Therapy Research (2016 and 2018), and the discussions and referrals resulting from its conferences, working groups, and plenary sessions. The schedules were similar and dedicated to promoting dialogue with key representatives of research support agencies at the national and state levels, as well as the creation of collective strategies aimed at strengthening the occupational therapy area and its subareas. Both events took place during two days, following the National Meeting of Occupational Therapy Professors, being the IV edition held at the Federal University of Espírito Santo (2016) and the V edition at the Federal University of São Paulo, Baixada Santista Campus (2018). The meetings had 166 and 172 participants, respectively, among professors, researchers, professionals/preceptors, and postgraduate students, promoting a space for the understanding of the productions and research in the different areas of occupational therapy and exchange of experiences and knowledge. Thus, it was possible to encourage shared reflections and elaboration of proposals about postgraduate teaching in occupational therapy, its implication for graduation, and the academic strengthening of the area. The challenge is related to the implementation of proposals that have been recurring and with little effectiveness in the time between editions, demonstrating the need for the professional category to review their forms of organization and accountability in the collective referrals.

**Keywords:** Occupational Therapy, Professional Training, Education, Graduate, Research.

## **Resumo**

Apresenta-se o relato da realização das duas últimas edições do Seminário Nacional de Pesquisa em Terapia Ocupacional, bem como as discussões e encaminhamentos decorrentes de suas conferências, grupos de trabalhos e plenárias. As programações foram similares e dedicadas a promover o diálogo com os principais representantes das agências de apoio à pesquisa no âmbito nacional e estadual, como também à criação de estratégias coletivas que visassem ao fortalecimento da área de terapia ocupacional e de suas subáreas. Ambos os eventos ocorreram durante dois dias, seguidamente ao Encontro Nacional de Docentes de Terapia Ocupacional, sendo a IV edição realizada na Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (2016) e a V edição na Universidade Federal de São Paulo, *Campus* Baixada Santista (2018). Foram reunidos 166 e 172 participantes, respectivamente, entre docentes, pesquisadoras/es, profissionais/preceptores e estudantes de pós-graduação, promovendo, assim, um espaço para a

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compreensão das produções e pesquisas nas diferentes subáreas da terapia ocupacional e troca de experiências e conhecimentos. Com isso, foi possível o incentivo a reflexões e elaboração compartilhadas de propostas acerca do ensino de pós-graduação em terapia ocupacional, sua implicação para as formações graduadas e para o fortalecimento acadêmico da área. O desafio que se coloca é referente à implementação das propostas que têm se mantido de forma recorrente e com baixa efetivação no ínterim entre as edições, demonstrando a necessidade da categoria profissional rever suas formas de organização e responsabilização em relação aos encaminhamentos coletivos.

**Palavras-chave:** Terapia Ocupacional, Formação Profissional, Educação de Pós-Graduação, Pesquisa.

## Introduction

Since 2009, the National Occupational Therapy Teaching and Research Network (*RENETO*) has organized editions of the National Occupational Therapy Research Seminar (*SNPTO*), through its Postgraduate and Research Working Group<sup>1</sup>, in partnership with professors from occupational therapy area of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that host the event.

It emphasizes strategies for strengthening research and graduate studies in the occupational therapy area, aiming to bring together researchers who work in HEIs and research groups linked to occupational therapy. It is also intended to add graduate students (master's and doctorate) who develop their work in this scope. The event aims to discuss and characterize the challenges in the production of knowledge in occupational therapy in the Brazilian scenario and to situate the development of graduate studies, in its strict sense, as part of the efforts to research the area. It especially aims to continue the delimitation of collective strategies that, at the same time, respond to the singularities of the different research sub-areas and are efficient for the development and consolidation of Brazilian occupational therapy, in the field of research, at the national and international level.

This text continues the historical series of the record of the synthesis of these events (Lopes & Malfitano, 2009; Lopes et al., 2009, 2014; Oliver et al., 2016), concomitantly reporting the *SNPTO* IV and V editions, based on their reports, documents and annals.

The fourth edition, named IV National Seminar on Research in Occupational Therapy: Challenges and Advances in the Production of Knowledge in Occupational Therapy (*IV Seminário Nacional de Pesquisa em Terapia Ocupacional: Desafios e Avanços na Produção de Conhecimentos em Terapia Ocupacional*) took place between November 7 and 9, 2016, in the city of Vitória, at the Federal University of Espírito Santo (*UFES*). The fifth edition - V National Seminar on Research in Occupational Therapy: Unique and Collective Propositions for Strengthening the Area (*V Seminário Nacional de Pesquisa em Terapia Ocupacional: Proposições Singulares e Coletivas para o Fortalecimento da Área*) took place between October 20 and 21, 2018, in the city of Santos, at the Federal University of São Paulo (*UNIFESP*), Baixada Santista Campus.

Historically, the *SNPTO* editions have had the institutional support of the main research promotion agencies in the country such as the Coordination for the *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES)*, the *Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq)* and the agencies state, depending on the state of the federation where the event is held. In 2016, it was supported by *CAPES* and, in 2018, by the *Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP)*<sup>2</sup>. Also, the event was supported by the universities that hosted the events.

<sup>1</sup>This Working Group was established in 2008 and the researchers who are currently part of it are: Profa. Dra. Roseli Esquerdo Lopes, Profa. Dra. Fátima Correa Oliver, Profa. Dr. Sandra Maria Galheigo and Profa. Dra. Ana Paula Serrata Malfitano.

<sup>2</sup>We should highlight that in the V edition only FAPESP provided financial resources, although, despite recognizing the academic merit of the proposal, both CAPES and CNPq did not respond to the request for financial support.

## The Design of the Events

Since its second edition, the *SNPTO* has been held jointly with the National Meeting of Occupational Therapy Professors (*ENDTO*), in an attempt to favor the presence of a greater number of people interested in the themes that involve the scope of graduation, postgraduate, and research in occupational therapy. Thus, in 2016, the composition was with the 1<sup>st</sup> *ENDTO: 30 years of the National Meeting of Occupational Therapy Professors: Valuing History to Firm the Future* and, in 2018, with the 16<sup>th</sup> *ENDTO: Resist and Advance: Occupational Therapy, Democracy and Current Diversity*, and the discussion of necessity, followed by proposals for the elaboration and the proposition of new national curricular guidelines for undergraduate occupational therapy courses, was a central theme in both events.

The *SNPTOs* 'programming follows a similar proposal since the researchers' dialogue with the representatives of the main research and graduate promotion agencies in the country is committed to situating the occupational therapy area and presenting the current challenges in the local-national panorama for the coming years, and the proposals to face them. Also, in a focused way, it follows the proposal to group researchers around their subarea, aiming at a collective articulation through the constitution of Working Groups (WGs).

Concerning the dialogue with representatives of development agencies, we have counted on the participation of representatives from the Coordination of the Physical Education Area, Speech-Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Occupational Therapy, Area 21 of CAPES, of the Advisory Committee of the Multidisciplinary Area of Health from CNPq and the Committee of the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Area of the FAPs (Research Support Foundation) in the states.

This theme is fundamental for the category allowing access to information in the area of occupational therapy, which has been institutionally grouped with physical therapy. The presentation of a portrait of the demands in the periods, the challenges for access to funding and research grants in the country, the necessary increase in graduate programs and publications as a means of scientific dissemination were the topics of discussion.

In the IV *SNPTO*, we have the table "Historical and Contemporary References of Occupational Therapy", with the participation of Prof. Dr. Roseli Esquerdo Lopes (Federal University of São Carlos - UFSCar) and Prof. Dr. Sandra Maria Galheigo (University of São Paulo). From a historical perspective and in terms of contemporary trends, the discussion approached the theoretical and methodological references that have informed the technical and professional development of the area. As pointed out by Lopes (2016), reflecting on the questions -

What is (are) the epistemology (s) that informs the practices in occupational therapy? What are the key concepts that refer to knowledge production and practice (s) in occupational therapy? Where? What are the references that we use to read the different problems of different people (individual and collective) to assist, through technical action, the promotion of emancipatory life processes? (Lopes, 2016, s/p)

- demonstrates our knowledge production stage and its challenges. In a study of the historical materials of the profession, Galheigo & Braga (2016) indicated that the training of the first professionals, in the 1950s, the critical dialogues carried out with the areas of collective health and human sciences, the constitution of fields of investigation, knowledge and the practice of occupational therapy and the consolidation and theoretical-conceptual, methodological and practical diversification in research and professional action offer clues to the paths we have taken and require further analysis through critical readings. Thus, the debate remains on the agenda.

This table fed the thematic discussion in the nine WGs that followed. They were defined through public consultation, open for one month in the year before the event that the organizing committee sent to the

scientific community in the area. In this sense, the WGs were: *WG1 - Mental Health and Occupational Therapy*; *WG2 - Assistive Technology and Occupational Therapy: Policies, Research, and Evidence*; *WG3 - Occupational Therapy and Social Policies*; *WG4 - Typical and Atypical Development in Childhood and Research in Occupational Therapy*; *WG5 - Health, Work and Occupational Therapy*; *WG6 - Occupational Therapy and Education*; *WG7 - Collective Health and Occupational Therapy*; *WG8 - Occupational Therapy and Perspectives for the Elderly people Care*; *WG9 - Social Occupational Therapy*.

In the 2018 edition, there was no such consultation, given the assessment made by the final plenary of the 2016 event due to the many difficulties in operationalizing this proposal, since WGs considered as “traditional” due to the history of the constitution of the area and for being part of previous editions did not send proposals and, on the other hand, there was a dispersion of themes in different subgroups, demonstrating the limits in their effectiveness, leading to tensions and the need for many mediations and negotiations between the organizers and demands of researchers, when confronted with their result (Malfitano et al., 2016).

Parameterized by this experience and facing a forecast of budget cuts in the promotion of science and education in Brazil, post-2016, the following eligibility criteria were chosen in the definition of the WGs for the organization of the fifth edition: the presence of WGs in previous editions and the presence of the subarea with the maintenance of regular bibliographic production in the main journals in the area (Lopes et al., 2016). In this way, a set of eight WGs was created: *WG1 - Mental Health and Occupational Therapy*; *WG2 - Assistive Technology Applied to Occupational Therapy*; *WG3 - Typical and Atypical Development in Childhood and Research in Occupational Therapy*; *WG4 - Health, Work and Occupational Therapy*; *WG5 - Occupational Therapy and Education*; *WG6 - Collective Health and Occupational Therapy*; *WG7 - Occupational Therapy and Perspectives for the Elderly people Care*; *WG8 - Social Occupational Therapy*.

After defining the sub-areas that would compose the V SNPTO in April 2018, the organizing committee asked the coordinators of the WGs, who have sought to maintain in the different editions, the prior elaboration of a material in the perspective of a study, in the molds of what has been called “state of the art”, of its respective subarea, that is, a situated panorama of bibliographic production, starting from the assumption that review studies can indicate what has already been built and produced, and then parameterize what has not yet been done (Ferreira, 2002) and also allow it to be reflected contextually, based on historical, political, social and academic demands, on the themes covered by the referred groups and the construction of new interinstitutional partnerships, in an attempt to deal more cohesively and coherently with these demands. This would imply thinking carefully about the best collective strategies, actions, and responsibilities that the WGs could have to remain active beyond space/time of the event.

A specific methodology for carrying out the required task has not been defined, nor are the sources and/or the bases to be sought, being left to the discretion of the coordinators.

Also on the schedule for the fifth edition, we had a great lecture: “Graduate Studies and Occupational Therapy in Brazil: challenges and advances”, with Prof. Dr. André Luiz Felix Rodacki (Federal University of Paraná and Coordinator of Area 21 at CAPES, in the period 2011-2017), and the round table: “Trends and Betting on Research Methodologies in Occupational Therapy in the face of contemporary demands”, with Prof. Dr. Livia de Castro Magalhães (Federal University of Minas Gerais).

Both events were free to members<sup>3</sup> of RENETO as a way to enable the participation of interested researchers in the area.

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<sup>3</sup>To access the event free of charge, the member needed to be even with the dues for the past two years, since they are biannual events.

## Participants

In the fourth SNPTO, there 166 people linked to 21 HEIs and, in the fifth SNPTO, there were 172 people linked to 21 HEIs. In both editions, UFSCar and the universities that hosted the events, UFES and UNIFESP, respectively, brought together the largest number of registrants, the first for having the first masters and doctorate courses in occupational therapy, demonstrating the adherence of their students to the participation and dissemination of their research.

Tables 1 and 2 detail the set of participants in each edition.

**Table 1.** Enrolled by educational institution and region – IV SNPTO.

Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Type	Region	Enrolled
1. University of Brasília – UNB	Public	Midwest	11
2. State University of Pará – UEPA	Public	North	3
3. University of Fortaleza – UNIFOR	Private	Northeast	3
4. Federal University of Sergipe – UFS	Public	Northeast	3
5. Federal University of Paraíba – UFPB	Public	Northeast	4
6. Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – UFRGS	Public	South	2
7. Federal University of Pelotas – UFPel	Public	South	3
8. Federal University of Santa Maria – UFSM	Public	South	3
9. Federal University of Paraná – UFPR	Public	South	4
10. Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas – PUC	Private	Southeast	2
11. University of Sorocaba – UNISO	Private	Southeast	2
12. University of São Paulo – USP/Ribeirão Preto	Public	Southeast	3
13. Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro – UFTM	Public	Southeast	3
14. State University of São Paulo – UNESP	Public	Southeast	5
15. Federal University of Minas Gerais – UFMG	Public	Southeast	6
16. University of São Paulo – USP/SP	Public	Southeast	8
17. Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – UFRJ	Public	Southeast	8
18. Federal University of São Paulo – UNIFESP	Public	Southeast	9
19. Federal Institute of Rio de Janeiro – IFRJ	Public	Southeast	11
20. Federal University of São Carlos – UFSCar	Public	Southeast	24
21. Federal University of Espírito Santo – UFES	Public	Southeast	24
22. Professionals			15
23. Others: Retired professors, enrolled without declared institutional affiliation, representatives of associations			10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>166</b>

Among the 141 enrolled with information about their HEIs, there is a predominance of those from the Southeast region, with 105 (74%) enrolled, followed by the South (9%), Midwest (8%), Northeast (7%), and North (2%). This is in part because of the higher concentration of HEIs with degrees in the area in the Southeast region and because this is the host region of the event<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>In the third SNPTO, held at UFPB, in João Pessoa (PB), the region with the largest number of subscribers was the Northeast (48%).

Among the 155 enrolled with information about their HEIs, there is a predominance of those from the Southeast with 119 (77%) enrolled, followed by the South (10.5%), Northeast (5%), Midwest (4, 5%), and North (3%), repeating the situation and the analysis of the previous edition.

**Table 2.** Enrolled by educational institution and region – V SNPTO.

Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Type	Region	Enrolled
1. University of Brasília – UNB	Public	Midwest	7
2. State University of Pará – UEPA	Public	North	5
3. University of Fortaleza – UNIFOR	Private	Northeast	1
4. Federal University of Sergipe – UFS	Public	Northeast	2
5. Federal University of Paraíba – UFPB	Public	Northeast	5
6. Federal University of Pelotas – UFPel	Public	South	5
7. Federal University of Santa Maria – UFSM	Public	South	6
8. Federal University of Paraná – UFPR	Public	South	5
9. Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas – PUC	Private	Southeast	2
10. Federal University of Sorocaba – UNISO	Private	Southeast	3
11. University of São Paulo – USP/Ribeirão Preto	Public	Southeast	2
12. Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro – UFTM	Public	Southeast	6
13. State University of São Paulo – UNESP	Public	Southeast	5
14. Federal University of Minas Gerais – UFMG	Public	Southeast	6
15. University of São Paulo – USP/São Paulo	Public	Southeast	10
16. Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – UFRJ	Public	Southeast	11
17. Federal University of São Paulo – UNIFESP	Public	Southeast	21
18. Federal Institute of Rio de Janeiro – IFRJ	Public	Southeast	6
19. Federal University of São Carlos – UFSCar	Public	Southeast	38
20. Federal University of Espírito Santo – UFES	Public	Southeast	9
21. Professionals			8
22. Others: Retired professors or from other institutions not mentioned, enrolled without declared institutional affiliation, representatives of associations			9
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>172</b>

## Working Groups and Profile of Papers Presented

In the IV edition, 103 papers were presented, whose abstracts and full papers were published in the proceedings of the event. In the V edition, 144 papers were also presented in poster format, but published only by abstracts. Tables 3 and 4 highlight the number of papers per WG.

The analysis of the works recorded in annals in the last four<sup>5</sup> SNPTOs shows the dispersed distribution between the themes, as shown in Figure 1.

<sup>5</sup>In the first edition, there was no presentation of papers.

**Table 3.** Papers presented by the working groups at the IV SNPTO.

Work Group – WG	Abstracts	Complete Papers	Total	Freq (%)
WG 1. Mental Health and Occupational Therapy	15	2	17	16.5
WG 2. Assistive Technology and Occupational Therapy: Policies, Research, and Evidence	8	0	8	7.8
WG 3. Occupational Therapy and Social Policies	8	0	8	7.8
WG 4. Typical and Atypical Development in Childhood and Research in Occupational Therapy	10	3	13	12.6
WG 5. Health, Work, and Occupational Therapy	3	0	3	2.9
WG 6. Occupational Therapy and Education	8	2	10	9.7
WG 7. Collective Health and Occupational Therapy	14	3	17	16.5
WG 8. Occupational Therapy and Perspectives for the Elderly people Care	8	0	8	7.8
WG 9. Social Occupational Therapy	13	6	19	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

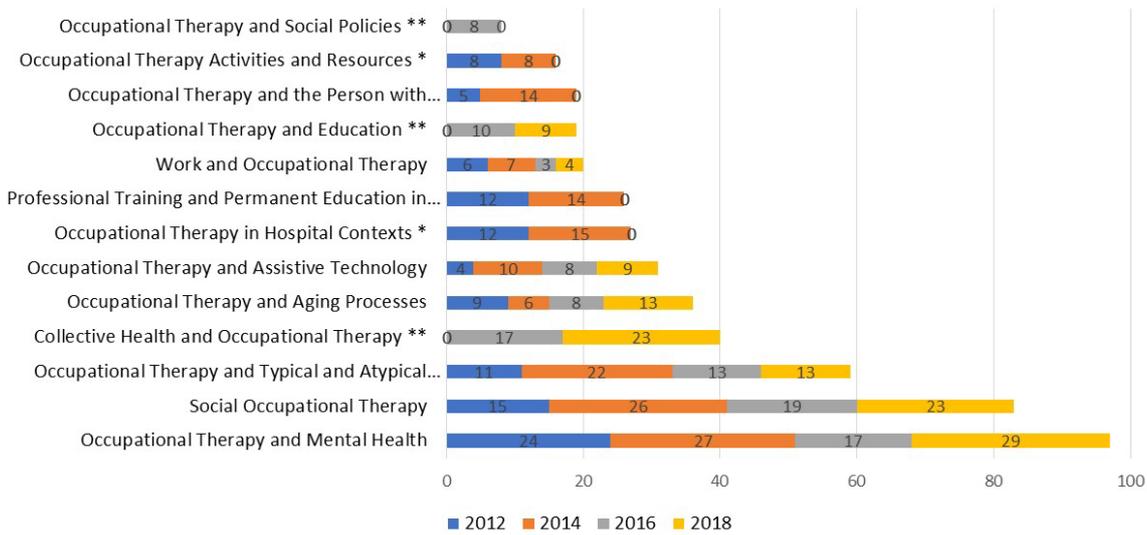
**Table 4.** Papers presented by the working groups at the V SNPTO.

Work Group – WG	Abstracts	Freq (%)
WG 1. Mental Health and Occupational Therapy	29	20.1
WG 2. Assistive Technology Applied to Occupational Therapy	9	6.2
WG 3. Typical and Atypical Development in Childhood and Research in Occupational Therapy	13	9.0
WG 4. Health, Work, and Occupational Therapy	4	2.7
WG 5. Occupational Therapy and Education	9	6.2
WG 6. Collective Health and Occupational Therapy	23	16
WG 7. Occupational Therapy and Perspectives for Elderly Care	13	9
WG 8. Social Occupational Therapy	23	16
WG - Occupational Therapy, Culture, Art and Body	13	9
WG - Hospital Contexts and Palliative Care	04	2.7
Others	04	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>

When comparing both events, there was an increase in the number of papers in 2016 (103) but less than the 2014 edition (146). Such information shows that, although occupational therapy has expanded the number of master teachers and doctors (Folha et al., 2018), this increase has not been reflected in the increase in papers at the event dedicated to research in the area.

In all the editions of the SNPTO, the WGs with the largest number of papers presented are those related to Mental Health and Occupational Therapy (97 papers, 20%) and Social Occupational Therapy (83 papers, 17%), followed by the Occupational Therapy and Typical and Atypical Development in Childhood (59 papers, 12%). Figure 2 shows the papers by WG in their entirety presented in all editions of the SNPTOs.

The Mental Health and Social Occupational Therapy WGs stand by their quantity and maintenance of an expressive number of papers presented in the four editions of the SNPTO, and in the last two editions, the WG on Collective Health and Occupational Therapy also added an expressive set of papers.



**Figure 1.** Papers presented in the II, III, IV e V SNPTO by the work groups. Source: SNPTO Annals, elaborated by the authors. \*Working Group extinct in the 2018 edition. \*\*Work Groups that came into existence in 2016.



**Figure 2.** Papers presented in the II, III, IV e V SNPTO by thematic group and year. Source: SNPTO Annals, elaborated by the authors.

## For Further Discussions and Some Considerations

We can state that the IV and V National Seminar on Occupational Therapy Research constituted representative events for the community of occupational therapist researchers, given the number of participants, the presence of the main HEIs in which there are active professional training courses in Brazil, and their regions.

Despite the political scenario faced in Brazil and the staggering decrease in financial contributions to the field of science and technology and education, precarious and weakening public HEIs, the area of occupational therapy, which has experienced an exponential increase in public places for graduate education in the last 10 years (Pan & Lopes, 2016), is now growing in postgraduate education in its strict senses, which brings direct reflexes in the scope of research. At the end of 2018, we went from a single Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy, at UFSCar, and in the academic modality, to three with the approval of the Academic Master's Course of the Graduate Program in Occupation Studies at the Federal University from Minas Gerais (Van Petten et al., 2019) and from the Professional Master's Course of the Postgraduate Program in Occupational Therapy and Social Inclusion Processes at the University of São Paulo (Almeida & Oliver, 2019). Such advances will certainly contribute to the increase in the number of researchers in the area and the strengthening of scientific production.

However, despite the increase in graduate programs and doctoral professors in universities (Folha et al., 2018), the number of papers presented as a result of the research is still simple, when observing the historical path of the SNPTO. The same occurs with the number of participating researchers, since taking the published work of Folha et al. (2018), an amount of 1,188<sup>6</sup> Brazilian occupational therapists with post-graduate degrees, reached only 14.47% of the researchers in the latest edition of the SNPTO.

Even more closely on the V SNPTO, the synthesis of the reports produced by the WGs, taken to their final plenary session and our active participation throughout the Seminar, demonstrates that the results of the WGs were proportional to the investments and/or the answers achieved by its coordinators, regarding the composition of synthesis on the “state of the art” of its thematic sub-area, as requested by the event's organizers. Such investments were expressed in different ways before and during the event, and the coordinators who were able to spend more time in this process before the SNPTO led WGs that managed to advance the deepening of the debate and the qualification of proposals, identifying the gaps in intellectual production of the subarea, with the creation of concrete collective strategies to leverage this issue and bring together researchers around a common object.

In this sense, we can affirm that the proposal of the WG coordinators of showing the “state of the art” of their respective areas without a detailed direction as to how to do it, left open the possibilities of discussions and referrals of the groups, as the understanding and investments of its coordinators.

In addition to the set of eight WGs previously presented, there were two other WGs organizing and discussing their internal strategies for creation and support: The Art, Culture and Occupational Therapy WG and the Hospital Contexts and Occupational Therapy WG.

We need to highlight the richness in promoting a meeting between interested people, drawing common plans, but unfortunately, the plans in the daily life and demands of university life end up not gaining concreteness and, when they gain, it has not been possible to know what it came from the meetings promoted by the SNPTOs.

Both the reports of the WGs of the IV and V edition in general, demonstrate that a large part proposed activities to be carried out between this edition and the next, such as the creation of own events, the creation of more effective communication channels among the members of the WGs, organizing intellectual productions through the publication of books, proposing dossiers to the main national journals in the area,

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<sup>6</sup>For a more accurate analysis, it is important to know how many are active and how many are in HEIs that require the exercise of research activities.

interinstitutional research proposals to compete for specific funding notices, among others. This ends up revealing a certain repetition of what is proposed in each edition of the event. Such recurrence needs to be faced, at least in what is the responsibility of the participants, especially in giving effective direction to the elaborated proposals.

The challenge of implementation remains despite some advances that have also been perceived. However, as we said, these cannot be credited, necessarily, to our national research seminar in the format that it had in its last editions.

Some reports from the V SNPTO also pointed out the need to guarantee the contents of their fields in the curricula, in compliance with the National Curriculum Guidelines (*DCN*) for occupational therapy. However, we consider that this was at the heart of the discussions that took place in the event before the V SNPTO, the XVI ENDTO, whose central theme was the *DCNs*.

The political contexts in which the events brought here were organized and carried out are very important. At the end of 2015, a troubled process was initiated, preventing the continuation of Dilma Rousseff's mandate as President of Brazil, for which she was legitimately elected in 2014, and in August 2016, this impediment was approved by National Congress. Thus, since September 2016 and until the end of 2018, in the government of former Vice President Michel Temer, there was a strong adherence of this administration, with majority support from the National Congress, to a political (dis) arrangement of the Brazilian State that served clearly to the interests of capital and the financial market, with the culmination of the approval of the Constitutional Amendment Proposal/241, known as the PEC of the Ceiling of Expenditures, which froze the budget for public expenditure and investments for 20 years, reaching the entire execution of social public policies, directly impacting the HEI and the professional field of occupational therapists. Also, the XVI ENDTO/V SNPTO took place after the results of the first round of elections for President of 2018 and, during discussions on proposals for the country's near future, we were experiencing a moment of important political intensification, with defenses opposing concerns about the guarantees of social rights, and a project won the scene that brandished the withdrawal of these rights and, even more seriously, of constitutional rights, in the case of the proposal of the labor and social security reform, revealing what was to come, in the wake of setbacks on the socioeconomic level, even in a liberal outlook, and of the conservatism of authoritarian and ideological bias, as we are all watching in amazement in this Brazil with little democratic tradition.

In this scenario, one of the referrals made at the final plenary session of the V SNPTO took place around a collective positioning, through RENETO as the representative entity of professors and researchers in the area, given the national context of dismantling social rights and advertisements restricting the teaching chair. In this sense, an open letter was drawn up in defense of education and health as public goods of the Public University, free, of quality, and socially referenced, in defense of freedom and democracy, which was approved.

Also, in the final plenary, the decision to hold the VI SNPTO together with the XVII ENDTO in 2020 was maintained, with the exemption of registration for RENETO members in the last two years. The collegiate of the Undergraduate Course in Occupational Therapy at the University of Brasilia will host these two events and organize them together with RENETO.

Since national resources for science and technology have suffered drastic cuts in the current government, and this has shaken the funding contributions for the performance of this last edition when compared to previous editions, the RENETO board has been looking at other possibilities of formats for the performance of the SNPTO and so that the WGs gain greater prominence, enabling their events, with themes relevant to their scope of research, with an independent organization, nevertheless, supported by RENETO.

Finally, all the papers and material of the reports of the WGs in full were disclosed in electronic annals<sup>7</sup>. The synthesis presented in this text is added to this material, fulfilling the task of recording the memory of events and, why not, a part of the memory of Brazilian occupational therapy and what is designed as its possible horizons.

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## Author's Contributions

Patrícia Leme de Oliveira Borba, Gabriela Pereira Vasters, Ana Paula Serrata Malfitano, Fátima Côrrea Oliver, Andresa Caravage de Andrade and Roseli Esquerdo Lopes contributed to the idealization, writing, review, and approved the final version of the text.

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