

**Title: WFOT: Occupational Therapy and Disaster Preparedness and Response
WFOT: Preparación y Respuesta ante Desastres y Terapia Ocupacional'**

Duration: 100 mins

Room: WI 21

Lead Facilitators: Kerry Thomas, Kit Sinclair, Nancy Rushford & Enrique Henny

Introduction:

Natural and man-made disasters are increasing in frequency and complexity, affecting local and global communities. They are depriving people of their right to participate in life-sustaining and meaningful occupations. Marginalized groups and people living in poverty are especially vulnerable.

These realities are compelling occupational therapists to extend their boundaries into the realm of Disaster Preparedness and Response in search for ways to make a difference.

Objectives: During this participatory workshop participants will have an opportunity to:

- 1) Share ideas and experiences, conceptual reflections and practical innovations related to occupation in disaster preparedness and response practice contexts
- 2) Consider implications for Occupational Therapy in preparedness, response and recovery
- 3) Identify professional development and support needs and options for addressing these
- 4) Learn about WFOT's DP&R Project and related 'disaster and development' initiatives

Conclusion: Enhancing participation in occupation for *all persons*, as reflected in the WFOT's position statement on Human Rights, etc, requires occupational therapists to expand their roles and responsibilities into disaster preparedness and response. But we need to do this carefully and responsibly. This workshop is a step towards enhancing participants' – OTs' - capacity to consider our contribution and how we can develop capability to do this successfully.