

## Occupational Therapy Serving the Community in an Era of Rapid Change

*Susanne Iwarsson*

Traditionally and well developed in many countries around the world, community-based occupational therapy delivers qualified programs for preventive home visits, community-based rehabilitation, fall prevention, lifestyle redesign, assistive technology provision, etc. Research findings are to an increasing extent being transferred to practice contexts and serve to successively strengthen the quality of occupational therapy practices. During the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, at the international political level a number of grand challenges have been identified, in areas such as global warming, tightening supplies of energy, water and food, ageing societies, public health, pandemics and security. Challenges must turn into sustainable solutions, and the question is what is required for occupational therapy to efficiently serve the community in this era of rapid change? What is needed from education and research to support a future-oriented development of occupational therapy practice? Framed in the context of experiences and results from cross-national and interdisciplinary research on ageing, this keynote will describe current trends and developments and outline opportunities and challenges for the development of occupational therapy.