

## Report from the World Federation of Occupational Therapists' (WFOT) Global Survey of Current Assistive Technology Use

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**Rationale:** The World Health Organisation highlights an unmet global need for assistive technology (AT), given that improved universal access would support people across the world to live healthy and independent lives. Occupational therapy uses AT widely to enable engagement in occupation. However, international variance in current use, needs to be better understood in order to meet local and global health priorities.

**Objectives:** To identify the status of AT access across WFOT member countries; and determine perceived barriers and facilitators to AT universal access locally and globally.

**Approach:** WFOT conducted an international survey of 92 member organizations, asking representatives to identify policy, resources, guidelines and activities which have national implications for AT provision. A follow-up survey asked individual occupational therapists to assess the accessibility and perceived barriers and facilitators to AT. Survey data were analyzed in conjunction with a review of current literature.

**Practice Implications:** Results of the international survey data will be presented. Identifying barriers and facilitators to AT will assist researchers and clinicians to develop short and long terms strategies to address such challenges. In addition, scoping the current AT landscape is critical if advocacy efforts and professional development strategies are to be designed and deployed.

**Conclusion:** Providing good quality, timely and affordable AT is critical to realizing the rights of people living with disabilities and a core tenet of occupational therapy service. WFOT asserts that improving global universal access to AT is an occupational justice issue and a priority for the profession.