ENCORE PERFORMANCE of the 23rd Sylvia Docker Lecture:
Occupational Therapy and the Research, Policy and Practice Nexus
- Natasha Layton

Were you amongst those unfortunate OTs who missed Natasha Layton deliver the 23rd Sylvia Docker Lecture at the National Conference in Adelaide earlier this year … or perhaps you caught the presentation, but would like to hear more, or have the opportunity to discuss the finer points with Natasha further?

Due to popular request, Occupational Therapy Australia, Victoria Division, has invited Natasha to do an encore performance of her lecture.

Who will this lecture appeal to?
This lecture discusses research for all the specialist generalist practitioners out there …
- for the OTs who see anyone who presents to them, whether or not there has been a RCT addressing their particular concerns.
- for the OTs who diligently visit the Cochrane Collaboration, or OT Seeker, looking for relevant evidence, and find there is none that addresses the complex and individualised situations which people present with.

When:
Monday 11 November 2013 4—5pm

Where:
VicHealth Seminar rooms
15-31 Pelham Street Carlton Victoria

How Much:
FREE for members! $10 for non-members

Register to attend:
Register to attend this forum in the PD section of the website: www.otaus.com.au

In this era of evidence based practice, Australian occupational therapists largely accept scientific perspectives of the quality of evidence and 'what makes a strong study'. Yet unequal power relationships are usual between funders who set the research agenda, researchers, and people who are the subjects of research. Emerging policy mandates partnerships with consumers in any health and research projects about them. Are we person-centered in our research practices? What difference would increased consumer direction make to our methods, scope and outcomes?

This lecture will describe some of the benefits and challenges of collaborative research partnerships with consumers and outline where this may take occupational therapy in future.

Approach
The disability community's calls for inclusive research will be contrasted with mainstream research approaches and with occupational therapy's commitment to person-centeredness. An example of inclusive research undertaken by the author and colleagues with disabilities which posed the question: What difference does assistive technology (AT) make to life for people living with impairment? will be presented.

Practice Implications
Collaborative research is best conceptualised as a mutually productive journey, with many factors influencing how fully inclusive research principles can be realised. This paper will outline for our profession the possibilities and complexities of conducting research which has inclusive credentials.

Conclusion
Inclusive research principles provide a means to enact person-centeredness in research as well as practice. To do so challenges occupational therapy practitioners and researchers to address nexus issues: that is, intersections between and beyond research, policy and practice.

About the presenter: Natasha is an occupational therapist practicing, teaching and researching in the areas of assistive technology, disability and ageing, and outcomes. Her current PhD study concerns the costs and outcomes of assistive technology solutions. Specialising in mixed methods and inclusive research, Natasha focuses on the nexus between research, policy and practice. Her publications and other dissemination activities are tailored to a range of stakeholder audiences, and many have been co-authored with consumers.