

Crucial events in South African Occupational Therapy (1963-1974) inspired initiatives which rooted Occupational Therapy in measurable practice. The Pretoria Multi-motivational Therapeutic Apparatus (PMTA) and the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) were important outcomes of this process.

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Introduction: From the 1940s till the early 1960s occupational therapy practice in South Africa relied largely on the use of crafts and recreation as therapeutic activities. The use of these did not necessarily result in measurable outcomes acceptable to the medical community of the time.

Critical events led to an urgent need to demonstrate the value of our profession. To this end, from 1963 the Pretoria College of Occupational Therapy led a transformative movement to root the profession in measurable practice.

Objectives: To lead attendees to an appreciation of some early struggles of South African Occupational Therapists and their successes through the implementation of an approach and diverse strategies initiated in Pretoria.

Approach: Anecdotes and authentic documentation will add to an oral chronology and exposition of critical events and transformative actions, including those promoting the credibility of the profession and the elements of measurable practice. Of significance is an existential philosophy expounded in a seminal paper in 1963 which is the basis for the Theory of Creative Ability, a construct which informs the VdTMoCA of today. In complementary fashion the PMTA allowed for a diversity of motivations while providing measurable grading and outcomes.

Practical implications: This sound theoretical basis gives longevity to ongoing work, in particular the VdTMoCA, which is vibrant, current and positioned for impact today!

Conclusion: Through the contributions of Vona du Toit, the influence of these initiatives expanded across South Africa to WFOT and beyond. WFOT now appropriately serves as a platform for this paper.