

# OTA shows OTs how it's done



Jacqui Schon

The Model of Creative Ability Interest Group (MCAIG) Award for OT Support Workers, established by Wendy Sherwood, senior lecturer at London South Bank University and head of MCAIG and the International Creative Ability Network (ICAN), is available annually to OT support workers who have been nominated by colleagues to receive recognition for making a significant contribution to developing the use of the model within their work setting.

'As a lecturer in occupational therapy one of my tasks is to

teach undergraduate OT students about OT models of practice,' Wendy explains. 'Many of these students have a lot of experience of contributing to the delivery of occupational therapy services. Many carry a great deal of responsibility for carrying out assessment and intervention, often with large caseloads.

'One of several models taught on the BSc (Hons) programmes at London South Bank University and the University of Essex, is the Model of Creative Ability (MCA). This model enables therapists to identify clients' level of motivation and occupational performance.'

Wendy goes on: 'In recognition of the important contribution that OT support workers make to practice, and to emphasise the importance of including them in the use of OT models, in 2007 I established this award.'

The award of £100 is for the recipient to use for continuing

professional development activities, and its first recipient was Jacqui Schon, OT technician, Basildon community learning disability team and OT student at the University of Essex.

Nominated by Rachel Cole, senior OT at the Basildon community learning disability team, the nomination was made in recognition of the valuable work that Jacqui has done towards enabling the team to understand the model in greater depth, including how the model can inform group based therapy provision and pre-group assessment.

'Jacqui's passion for the model has inspired the team to learn more about the model and to use it in their everyday practice, and is supporting qualified OTs and support workers to increase their knowledge and understanding,' says Wendy. 'I was delighted to formally present Jacqui with this award at the first national MCA OT conference in May last year.'

'I first learnt about the MCA from Heidi Morgan, a tutor at

the Essex School of OT,' says Jacqui. 'Having used it on practice placements, and integrated the theory into assignments, I felt I developed a good base understanding. I was keen to support OTs to integrate the model when it became apparent that the model was being adopted.

'The diverse abilities and complex needs of our clients meant this was challenging, but enlightening in terms of understanding how to provide intervention that would provide the "just right challenge" to bring about therapeutic change and reach potential.

'Being offered the MCAIG award was a surprise, but I was obviously pleased to accept and grateful to my colleagues who are supportive of my development. With the award money I purchased four books, which I'm sure will be valuable throughout my final year of training and long awaited OT career.'

For further information about the model visit: [www.modelofcreativeability.com](http://www.modelofcreativeability.com).