The OATA is the voice of the Athletic Therapy profession in Ontario. There are many benefits to joining this peer-driven professional Association.

JOIN US!
To practise as an Athletic Therapist (AT) under an Ontario Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) regulatory body, you must also register with the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario (CKO) as an R.Kin. Athletic Therapist, or with another College. Close to 500 ATs currently are registrants of RHPA Colleges.

The OATA is the voice of the profession in Ontario representing over 900 AT students and practitioners across the province. Joining the AT profession’s Association provides members with a competitive advantage because they become active, informed members of Ontario’s health care sector. Association members lead busy professional lives and depend on their Association to brief them on important health care sector trends, new legislation, new programs, public policies and advances in practice scope, techniques and technology.

“**Athletic Therapy is at the frontline of health care keeping Ontarians actively engaged in the Athletic Pursuit of Daily Living.**”

Being an active OATA member brings you the benefits of advocacy, professional development, an annual conference, workshops and training courses, professional networking and mentoring, career opportunities and pathways to your own leadership skills. There are opportunities at the District level, by joining committees of the Board, by organizing events for AT Month and by running for election to the OATA Board. Being involved in any of these ways broadens your own knowledge base as to how health care is delivered in Ontario, helps you take charge of your own career and even builds clinical owners skills and support or helps you become a better academic researcher. It’s really up to you.
ADVOCACY

Strong Voice
As an OATA member, you’ll be adding your voice to the Association’s collective one on matters important to advancing the AT scope and to promoting the profession of Athletic Therapy.

The OATA is very active tracking and responding to health legislation, health policy and funding initiatives. We are also strong advocates for Athletic Therapy’s core competencies and practice specialties that promote health in motion.

Clear Positions
The OATA has been at the table representing the profession, taking clear stands and positions on a range of matters such as Rowan’s Law, concussion management, seniors’ falls strategy, issues related to the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act. and the WSIB. The Association has been working to promote AT coverage with key employer groups such as the Ontario secondary and elementary teachers’ federations, police forces, sport associations and other extended health benefits providers.

Risk of Harm Proponents
The OATA has been working with the CKO, in the public interest, making the case for the AT Specialty to recognize the distinctive risk of harm associated with field of play. The Association has actively engaged global stakeholders including the UK Professional Standards Authority and its “Right Touch Assurance” model as an empirically-based risk of harm assessment tool.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Summit, as part of a Symposia Series on Joint Replacement and Rehabilitation: Hip (2018), Knee (2019), Ankle (2020), has set the bar high in terms of professional continuing education.

Specialty Workshops such as Muscle Energy Techniques (Mitchells), Taking Care of AT Business and Programs of Care keep ATs on top of their practice “game”.

Exam prep courses for CATA certification and CKO registration have been developed to prepare OATA members to improve scores and acceptance while achieving important certification.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

An annual OATA Research Grant is open to all OATA members, AT scholars and academics to support research into topics that provide proof of competency and efficacy of Athletic Therapy.

OATA engages the academic institutions and Members actively involved in research to support submissions to the Ministry of Health and to the CKO on the AT profession.

Evidence-based practice remains a priority for the AT profession and the OATA as data continues to define and distinguish best practices and outcome measures as required by insurers, WSIB, union and employer groups, policy development in concussion and other point of injury areas of health care.

COMMUNITY

The OATA has benefitted from adopting the CKO’s District structure with six active Districts across Ontario serving and providing ATs with local community support.

The annual Athletic Therapy Month in June is an ideal way for ATs in Districts and the province to come together and to celebrate the role of Athletic Therapy in Ontario health care.

The AT community is a close-knit profession, proud of the AT advantage in delivering specialized rehabilitation assisting Ontarians in the athletic pursuit of daily living and sports at all levels.
MEMBER PORTAL  
Member communication is regular and often “entre-nous” confidential. To this end, there is a password protected Member Portal on the OATA website. The Member Portal is accessible 24/7 and includes lots of current and archived information.

COMMUNICATION  
The OATA communicates almost monthly with the District Leaders via a quick e-news called BLAST.

Members get information by e-blast or the e-news called SPRINT (as needed usually every two months) or by the quarterly e-magazine REACH. If there is a time-sensitive or important emerging issue Members may receive a call from a voice-blast.

Making sure your contact information is complete and updated is an important Member task at the time of registration renewal. You don’t want to miss out. Members are encouraged to join our Social Media communities.

PROMOTION  
The OATA has branded swag available from the online storefront (OATA logo on vests, coats, hats, pens, etc.). There are also promotional brochures you can use at your clinics or at events.

There is a terrific series of public education posters available and two zip banners you can borrow for local events and AT promotions. Ideas and materials are prepared and shared to support Members launching local “June is AT month” events or story ideas to send to local community papers to generate media coverage.

WE ARE PROUD TO BE ATHLETIC THERAPISTS!
BE INSPIRED. BE MOTIVATED. BE A MEMBER.

When you love what you do an Association can help that passion for the profession be continually rekindled, keeping you inspired and motivated to practise at the leading edge. That’s when Association membership also serves the public interest.

The OATA is inching towards its 50th anniversary.

Be part of making AT history. Be a proud Athletic Therapist through your Association membership.