and legal violations can be disseminated to all state licensing agencies.

Inconsistencies in regulations from state to state do exist, but practitioners and consumers are not without recourse. Practitioners who recognize weaknesses in their state statutes can work with their legislators to strengthen consumer protection measures. The imposition of national recertification on top of state licensure, initial certification, and school accreditation adds only another bureaucratic layer that increases cost with no demonstrable potential for improved consumer protection.

I reiterate my concerns about NBCOT’s lack of accountability to occupational therapy practitioners and consumers. Even in an imperfect world, state regulations can be influenced by consumer and professional involvement in the political process, and state agencies are accountable to voters and taxpayers for responsible operations. I can find no such safeguards in the composition and operations of the NBCOT board.

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No More Activity

I note that the March issue of AJOT is a special issue devoted in part to occupation. I have read many articles that implore practitioners of our profession to embrace the term occupation and use it whenever we refer to what we do. To shift us toward this term, it would be appropriate to refer to it more often. To that end, I propose that the terms we have been using be altered:

- No more will we refer to activity analysis. Instead, it will be occupational task analysis.
- No more will we refer to activities of daily living. Instead, it will be occupational tasks of daily living (OTDL) or daily occupational tasks (DOT).

These small changes will serve to make the term more concrete in our speech. Practitioners will no longer be able to look at what they do as anything but occupational therapy.

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Unsupervised New Graduates Are Not Incompetent

In “Working Solo, My First Job” (AJOT, October 1996, p. 753), Bergson expressed the same feelings of insecurity that I did as a new graduate in 1976. After graduation, I interviewed with no luck, took some odd jobs, travelled, and eventually took a job to establish an infant stimulation program in the outreach program of a state school. While I was trying to explain to the director why she should not hire me (e.g., my first job, I lacked experience) she was asking me to sign on the dotted line. For this new program, I had to introduce myself to physicians, public health nurses, and others in order to get referrals. One of the first physicians I met asked what program I was following, and when my answer seemed tenuous, he waved in my face a publication that described the Chapel Hill Infant Stimulation Program. With The Baby Exercise Book (by Janine Levy), an inflatable ball, and a boss who said, “Do it,” I proceeded to set up the program, the bookkeeping, and the files and evaluation protocols; order equipment; make contacts; build a client caseload; and conduct intervention over an 11-county area. The inpatient staff members of the state school (including one of my former instructors) were always willing to answer questions or give me ideas, but, in actuality, the program was my responsibility to carry out. After a slow start, the program grew and flourished.

Ms. Bergson’s concerns about whether the clients on her caseload were cheated, whether the reputation of the occupational therapy profession was in peril by having a new graduate as a therapist, and whether therapists who lack supervision in their first year after graduation grow are unfounded. She chose that scholarship and that position; there was nothing “unfair” about it. If practitioners build our practice on the basic principles of human development and occupational therapy theory, there is no reputation to be lost. As to whether an unsupervised new graduate will fail to develop clinical skills, leading to stunted professional development, what are books, conferences, and workshops for?

I learned a lot my first year, and 20 years later, I am still learning from colleagues, clients, families, and friends—in short, from anything and anyone. You have got to start somewhere.

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The American Journal of Occupational Therapy welcomes letters to the editor. If you have a comment about or reaction to something that has appeared in the journal or about an issue that affects us or the profession, let us know your views. Type the letter double spaced and forward it to Elaine Viseltear, Editor.