Dear Colleague,

The World Health Organization’s Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse is forming a global network of mental health professionals to help inform the development of the classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders for the next version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), currently planned for publication in 2017.

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is encouraging occupational therapists, working in the mental health field, to lend their professional experience to help develop the ICD-11 by registering for WHO’s Global Clinical Practice Network (GCPN). As a part of this international group of health professionals, you will be asked to provide information and feedback, to WHO, based on your clinical expertise, experience, and knowledge as they develop the new classification of mental and behavioural disorders. This is of vital importance to ensuring that the new classification is clinically useful, easy to use and accurate.

As of April 2014, the GCPN has over 10,000 members from 127 countries, representing all global regions. WHO is committed to engaging mental health and primary care professionals from a wide range of disciplines, including occupational therapy. Your participation in the GCPN and global field studies of the ICD-11 chapter on mental and behavioural disorders is essential to evaluating the new diagnostic system’s clinical utility, applicability and acceptability in varied clinical contexts and by diverse mental health professionals.

If you choose to participate, you may be asked to review materials, offer feedback about ideas or concepts that we are developing, or participate in specific types of field studies. The information you provide will inform our decisions about the content and structure of the new classification system, as well as how that information will be presented to different users. The surveys that we send to you will be based on your own professional interests and areas of expertise.

Once registered in the GCPN, you will receive survey requests no more than once a month, and each survey will take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete. You participation will be completely voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential, secure, and will not be released to anyone else. We will never ask you to provide information that could be used to identify any of your patients. Data are to be analyzed in aggregate form and used exclusively for the purpose of ICD revision. The first studies have already begun.

From the main link below, you can choose to register in any of nine languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish).

To register for WHO Global Clinical Practice Network, please click on this link or paste it into your Internet browser:

http://www.globalclinicalpractice.net

If you have any questions about the Global Clinical Practice Network or about your participation, please contact Dr. Tahilia Rebello, GCPN Project Coordinator, at gcpn@who.int.