

Expert Profile

Jessica Thurston

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| Profession | Occupational Therapist |
| Qualifications | MSc Occupational Therapy, BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy |
| Specialisms | Upper & Lower Limb Amputees, Care of the Elderly, Falls, Trauma & Orthopaedics, General |
| Registration | HPCP OT22906 |

Introduction

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1994 and specialised in the field of adult physical disability including trauma and orthopaedics, care of the elderly, falls and general surgery. I have since 1996 developed a particular interest in poly trauma and amputee management (upper and lower limb) and in the management of the limb deficient child and adult. I have considerable experience of working with individuals who have lost limbs secondary to meningococcal septicaemia. I also have extensive experience of upper and lower limb prosthetics and the application of these to function. I maintain my knowledge and skills in amputee and prosthetic management through my private clinical work with PACE Rehabilitation, my expert witness work, through attending up-dates and training and through my membership of the special interest group for occupational therapists working in prosthetics.

I joined Somek and Associates in 2002 as an Occupational therapy / Care Expert and I have written many reports for medico-legal purposes, being instructed by Claimant, Defendant and as a Single Joint Expert. I have undertaken a considerable number of assignments relating to personal injury and clinical negligence cases in respect of Care, Occupational therapy reports and Loss of Service / Dependency and wrongful birth claims. I have undergone formal training in the medico-legal process and am fully aware of my responsibilities under the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) pertaining to Expert Witnesses. I have given oral evidence in court on a number of occasions and have been highly recommended by both Claimant and Defendant lawyers and counsel.

In 2008 I was employed as a Medico-legal Casework Supervisor and in this role I mentored a range of other experts, reviewed case reports and was involved in running training courses for Somek and Associates experts.

In 2010 I assumed the position of Medico-legal Services Manager and since this time I have held responsibility for the day to day operational side of Somek and Associates, from monitoring our capacity and demand, to setting and overseeing our recruitment strategy whilst through active participation in our mentoring and training systems, ensuring the reports we provide are both of an excellent standard and cost proportionate. I am passionate about maintaining the independence and integrity of the expert witness role.

In addition, I continue to work as an independent practitioner undertaking clinical work for PACE Rehabilitation (upper and lower limb amputee prosthetic rehabilitation).

I accept instruction from both claimant and defendant solicitors and insurers. I have undergone formal training in the medico-legal process and am fully aware of my responsibilities under Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) pertaining to expert witnesses.

**Provision of Expert Witness Services in
Occupational Therapy/Care, Physiotherapy,
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Professional Affiliations

British Association of Occupational Therapists
British Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Amputee Rehabilitation (BACPAR)
The College of Occupational Therapy Specialist Section -Trauma and Orthopaedics
Member of Upper Limb Prosthetic Occupational Therapy Network (ULPOT)

Professional Education

2016 Cardiff University Bond Solon EW accreditation (for completion in October 2017)
2002 MSc Occupational Therapy with distinction, University of Plymouth
1994 BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, St Andrew's, Northampton

Publications

1998 "Driving after Amputation: A guide for patients and healthcare professionals", published by the Ex-Serviceman's Association (BLESMA) in association with Banstead Mobility Centre and members of the Upper and Lower Limb Prosthetic Occupational Therapy Groups. The book continues to be in circulation.

Presentations

2003 Paper presentation at the College of Occupational Therapists annual conference about the management of the elderly patient within the acute hospital setting.

Current Employment

Medico Legal Services Manager, Somek and Associates Ltd

Start: **February 2010** - End: **Current**

Please see the introduction for details of my current clinical practice.

Occupational Therapist, PACE Rehabilitation

Start: **2009** - End: **Current**

I provide occupational therapy to upper and lower limb amputees on an independent basis

Clinical Effectiveness Lead Occupational Therapist (Deputy Head of Service), Royal Free Hospital

Start: **2005** - End: **2010**

I was the Clinical Effectiveness Lead Occupational Therapist (Deputy Head of Service) at The Royal Free Hospital, London.

I was additionally the Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist for the musculo-skeletal and Amputee Service and as such held a large clinical caseload and provided clinical advice internally and externally to the Trust on complex case management for amputees. I chaired the Amputee Steering Development Group for the Trust. I was responsible for the education and training needs of the staff as well as the development of the services provided. I frequently ran seminars for staff on topics such as Occupational therapy in the management of the musculo-skeletal and amputee management, and I have been a supervisor of Occupational therapy students for many years.

Associate Manager Of Occupational Therapy Services, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

Start: **2001** - End: **2005**

From 2004, I was the Associate Manager of Occupational Therapy Services at Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, Cambridge, where I also held a large clinical caseload of amputee patients (both upper and lower limb amputees). Prior to this, I was Team Leader / Senior 1 Occupational Therapist for the Department of Medicine for the Elderly, at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

I have worked extensively in the areas of acute general surgery, trauma and orthopaedics and the Accident and Emergency department'

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Occupational Therapy Instructor, Fukuoka Rehabilitation Hospital, Japan

Start: **1998** - End: **2001**

I worked as an Occupational therapy Instructor in the Occupational therapy department in Fukuoka Rehabilitation Hospital (mainly involving neurological conditions) in Japan. In association with Kyudai Medical Centre in Japan, I also held the post of research therapist.

Prior to this I gained experience in the field of neurology, involving management of patients with stroke and brain injury following multiple trauma. In elderly medicine I was required to undertake cognitive assessment and risk analysis in relation to patients with dementia.

Senior 1 Occupational Therapist, Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, Cambridge

Start: **1996** - End: **1998**

During this period I specialised in the management of the upper and lower limb amputee. I worked both on the acute wards and in the Disablement Services Centre. I developed an interest in the management of the Meningococcal Septicaemia amputee and presented to Occupational therapy colleagues on the subject.

Basic Grade Occupational Therapist, Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust

Start: **1994** - End: **1996**

After qualifying I undertook a rotation encompassing a number of clinical areas such as orthopaedics, general surgery, neurology, hand injuries, stroke and brain injury rehabilitation.

Courses / Events

I maintain my CPD by attending clinical and other relevant courses throughout the year.

Medico-legal courses attended include:

2017: Cardiff university Bond Solon Expert Witness Accreditation

2017: Somek & Associates Annual Conference, Somek & Associates

2016: Somek & Associates Annual Conference, Somek & Associates

2016: Live In care, the Complete Care group

2016: Loss of Service/Dependency, Bevan Brittan

2015: Annual Conference, Bond Solon

2015: Presented a case study at the OT Show, NEC, Birmingham

2014: Annual Conference, Bond Solon

2014: Presentation at OT Show, NEC, Birmingham.

2011: The Actual Costs of Case Management, Somek and Associates / Independent Living Solutions

2010: Medico-Legal Workshop for Care / Occupational therapy experts, Somek and Associates / Irwin Mitchell

2009: Care and Case management; How much and why? A day for care experts, BABICM

2009: College of Occupational Therapists, Medico-Legal Forum, Annual Conference

2006: Medico-Legal Workshop for Advanced Practitioners, Somek and Associates

2002: Introduction to Medico-Legal Practice and Report Writing, Somek and Associates