

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## **Richard Stockton College Professor Earns National Recognition by Occupational Therapy Foundation**

Dr. Surya Shah Attains “Highest Scholarly Honor” of Foundation

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – Dr. Suryakumar Shah, associate professor of occupational therapy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has received an invitation from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) to join its Academy of Research, the group’s highest scholarly honor.

Dr. Shah, a resident of Mays Landing, “is joining an elite group of scientists and scholars,” according to Dr. William C. Mann of the University of Florida, who serves as chair of the Academy.

“Membership in the American Occupational Therapy Foundation’s Academy of Research represents the highest honor an occupational therapy investigator can receive. (The honor is) in recognition of significant contributions to the profession’s knowledge base leading to evidence-based practice,” Dr. Mann said.

Selection to the AOTF is based on criteria of outstanding contributions through research to the advancement of knowledge of occupational therapy.

Dr. Shah’s selection to the group will be recognized later this year in a ceremony at the AOTA’s conference in Philadelphia.

“This is an extraordinary achievement, and we are honored to have Dr. Shah as a member of our outstanding faculty at Stockton,” Provost Dr. Harvey Kesselman added.

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Dr. Shah has been an occupational therapist for more than a half century and a member of AOTA for more than 40 years. Before coming to Stockton in 2008, he was a professor of occupational therapy at the University of Tennessee, Memphis and a visiting professor of neurorehabilitation with Leeds Metropolitan University in England. His work in the field began with an occupational therapy practice in his native country, India, and has taken him to Queensland, Australia, where he worked for 27 years.

“Being admitted to the ‘Roster of Fellows’ by the AOTA for advancing ‘evidence-based occupational therapy and science’ and being recognized with this highest honor by the AOTF for ‘outstanding contributions through research to the advancement of occupational therapy’ are my greatest achievements in my short time span in the U.S.,” said Dr. Shah.

He continued, “I am indebted to my three distinguished nominators for nominating me to the AOTF and to the members of the Academy of Science for recognizing my generating, disseminating and evaluating new knowledge in occupational therapy. I am also indebted to my wife, Anamika, who has always been my backbone and daughter, Radhika, 26, for articulating frustrations in pursuing higher education and for teaching me how to enrich daily living.”

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