



THE AMERICAN
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
FOUNDATION

Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the

AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

April 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The unbelievable events in Japan over the past few weeks have increased our awareness of the environment, and how important it is to our well-being. We all share in the hope that the Japanese people can overcome the profound effects of the devastating earthquake and Tsunami and soon experience their more typical routines.

When it comes to environments and routines, occupational therapy is unique among professions in emphasizing the role of the environment in supporting everyday performance. Environment and context are central features of decision-making for intervention, and the toolkit used by therapists is replete with documented approaches to enhancing performance through environmental modification and adaptation.

This month's *Research Resources* focuses on these issues. Our Wilma L West library staff have assembled some outstanding information that we hope will be of interest to you. As always we welcome your suggestions on ways we can make this monthly publication more useful and relevant to you. Thanks for being a subscriber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Christiansen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Christiansen
Executive Director
Interim Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

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Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

Universal Design and Environmental Modification

Occupational therapy practitioners are well aware of the environment's impact, tangible or intangible, on our performance of activities and on our engagement in occupations or society. Two official documents of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) address this aspect of practice, Occupational therapy's perspective on the use of environments and contexts to support health and participation in occupations, (AOTA, 2010) and specialized knowledge and skills in technology and environmental interventions for occupational therapy practice, (AOTA, 2010). AOTA also offers a specialty certification in the area of [Environmental Modification](#).

On March 23, 2011, the author retrieved 256 citations published since 2000 from OT SEARCH on this topic by using the subject headings ARCHITECTURAL ACCESSIBILITY, ENVIRONMENT DESIGN, ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION, INTERIOR DESIGN AND FURNISHINGS, and FACILITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION and the words "universal design." With the exception of ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION, searchers may use the same subject headings in PubMed, as well as entering the words "universal design", since it is not yet a Medical Subject Heading (MeSH). <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>

For the purpose of this brief *Research Resources* note, we offer a sample of articles highlighting different aspects of the topic.

- Aged - (Fänge & Iwarsson, 2005; Petersson, et al, 2009; Stark, et al, 2009)
- Facility Design and Construction - (Catlin, 2008).
- Fall prevention - (Pighills, et al, 2011)
- Interprofessional relations - (Gristbrooke & Scott, 2009; Joines, 2009 and Nord, et al, 2009)
- Pediatrics - (Prellwitz & Skèar, 2007; Roy, et al, 2008;)
- Program evaluation or Outcome - (Bendel, 2006, Fänge & Iwarsson, 2007; Stark, et al, 2010; and Stark, et al, 2008)

American Occupational Therapy Association. The Commission on Practice. (2010). [Specialized knowledge and skills in technology and environmental interventions for occupational therapy practice](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 64, S44-S56.

American Occupational Therapy Association. The Commission on Practice. (2010). [Occupational therapy's perspective on the use of environments and contexts to support health and participation in occupations](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 64, S57-S69.

Bendel, J. (2006). Decision support system for evaluating accessibility of facilities. *The Israeli Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 15, E88-E102.

Catlin JH. (2008). [Accessibility for all: a case study of the access living headquarters](#). *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation*, 15, 97-102. (free)

Fänge, A & Iwarsson, S. (2007). [Challenges in the development of strategies for housing adaptation evaluations](#). *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 14, 140-149.

Fänge, A & Iwarsson, S. (2005). [Changes in accessibility and usability in housing: an exploration of the housing adaptation process](#). *Occupational Therapy International*, 44-59.

Gristbrooke, J & Scott, S. (2009). [Moving into housing: experiences of developing specialist occupational therapy posts in local authority housing departments](#). *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72, 29-36

Joines, S. (2009). [Enhancing quality of life through Universal Design](#). *NeuroRehabilitation*, 25, 155-167. (free)

Nord, C, Eakin, P, Astley, P & Atkinson, AR. (2009). [An exploration of communication between clients and professionals in the design of home adaptations](#). *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72, 197-204.

Petersson, I, Kottorp, A, Bergstrøm, J & Lilja, M. (2009). [Longitudinal changes in everyday life after home modifications for people aging with disabilities](#). *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 16, 78-87.

Pighills, AC, Torgerson, DJ, Sheldon, TA, Drummond, AE & Bland, JM. (2011). [Environmental assessment and modification to prevent falls in older people](#). *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 59, 26-33.

Prellwitz, M & Skèar, L. (2007). [Usability of playgrounds for children with different abilities](#). *Occupational Therapy International*, 14, 144-155.

Roy, L, Rousseau, J, Allard, H, Feldman, D & Majnemer, A. (2008). Parental experience of home adaptation for children with motor disabilities. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 28, 351-366.

Stark, SL, Somerville, EK & Morris, JC. (2010). [In-Home Occupational Performance Evaluation \(I-HOPE\)](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 64, 580-9.

Stark, SL, Hollingsworth, H, Morgan, K, Chang, M & Gray, DB. (2008). [The interrater reliability of the](#)

[Community Health Environment Checklist](#). *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 89, 2218-2219.

Stark, SL, Landsbaum, A, Palmer, JL, Somerville, EK & Morris, JC. (2009). [Client-centred home modifications improve daily activity performance of older adults](#). *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 76, 235-245. (free)

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AOTF Events at the AOTA Conference, Philadelphia, April 13-17, 2011

Tickets can be purchased onsite.

Pre-conference Institute -- Wednesday, April 13, 12:00 pm-6:30 pm
(AOTA/AOTF)
Blending Quantitative and Qualitative Research: An Overview of Mixed Methods Research

Doctoral Network Reception and Annual Meeting -- Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm.
Research Priorities and Where You Fit In

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL): *Pathway to Evidence-Based*

Conference Announcements

[3rd Annual Health Literacy Research Conference \(HARC III\) \(October 17-18, 2011, Chicago, Illinois\)](#)

HARC III is an interdisciplinary meeting dedicated to health literacy research. The deadline for submissions is **June 10, 2011**. The themes of the conference this year are health disparities and health quality. The conference will include several overlapping activities with the [International Conference on Communication in Healthcare](#) (ICCH), the largest annual gathering of researchers, educators and administrators focusing on improving communication in healthcare.

[Resilience: new intervention perspectives on rehabilitation \(April 27-28, 2011 Montreal, Quebec\)](#)

Professionals and administrators from the healthcare and education sectors, researchers and students, professionals and representatives from various associations who work with users of healthcare services and their loved ones.

[5th Annual i-CREATe \(July 21-23, 2011 Bangkok, Thailand\)](#)

The International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology has a [Student Design Challenge](#) (entries **due May 1, 2011**) which will focus on the creative, innovative and systematic application of technologies and engineering methodologies to meet the needs of people with disabilities and help improve their quality of life in areas which include education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, and recreation.

Web Resources

[2011 IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Research Released](#)

The updated Strategic Plan, created by the [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee \(IACC\)](#) and the [Office of Autism Research Coordination \(OARC\)](#), contains 16 new research objectives covering a variety of issues, including use and accessibility of interventions for non-verbal people with ASD, health promotion for people with ASD, and issues related to safety for people on the spectrum.

[Ten Year Anniversary of the NIH Autism Listserv](#)

The NIH Autism Listserv was designed to facilitate distribution of NIH communications to the autism community. The various institutes that support autism research regularly post the latest information regarding research news, publications, grants, RFAs/PAs, and other autism-related activities.

[Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) Proposes to Update Rules Allowing Accessibility to Advanced Communications](#)

The FCC has issued three Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs). These NPRMs address the accessibility of video programming; advanced communications services (text messaging, video chat and Internet phone

Education -- Thursday,
12:30-3:30 pm
Andrea Bilics, John
White

17th Annual Breakfast
with a Scholar --
Friday, April 15, 2011,
7:30 am - 9:00 am
*A Conversation about
Moral Courage* -- Ruth
Purtilo, PhD, PT,
FAPTA

Research Colloquium
and Tea Honoring Pi
Theta Epsilon -- Friday,
April 15, 2011, 2:00 pm
- 5:00 pm
*Sensory Processing
Disorders in
Occupational Therapy:
Mapping Pathways of
Understanding from
Cages to Clinics to
Communities*
Moderator: Shelly
Lane, PhD, OTR,
FAOTA.

2011 Foundation
Gala: *Dancing With
the Stars (Philly-style)*
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

**OTJR:
Occupation,
Participation
and Health**
**Online
Advanced
Release**

**OTJR: Occupation,
Participation
and Health**, published
quarterly by the
American Occupational
Therapy Foundation,
Inc., offers original
research articles of
professional interest to
the practicing
occupational therapist
with a focus on
occupation and
fostering
interdisciplinary
research.

calls or VoIP); and the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund. Comments from the public can be sent by mail or submitted online.

[The FCC Challenges You - How Does Your Cloud Computing Vision Create New Opportunities for People with Disabilities?](#)

The FCC is challenging contestants to create an accessible multimedia presentation that depicts the value and benefits of cloud computing for people with disabilities. Two winners will each receive \$1,000. Presentations must be submitted by **May 1, 2011**.

[Toolkit for Ensuring an Inclusive Workplace](#)

The US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) in collaboration with the US Office of Personnel Management, designed a five-step process that agencies can readily follow to ensure an inclusive workplace for employees with disabilities. The toolkit guides users through five key steps toward a federal agency becoming a model employer, from initial recruitment to ongoing support and retention of employees with disabilities.

Grants, Fellowships, and Education Opportunities

[Applications Sought: Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics](#)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued two Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for new opportunities under its Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs). The CERT Forum seeks applications for the establishment of a Scientific Forum (CS Forum) with the primary goal of ensuring research synergy and collaboration among the CERTs Research Centers with each other and with stakeholders and partners in the larger therapeutics research and education community. AHRQ anticipates awarding one award of up to \$900,000 total costs per year for 5 years. Letters of intent are due **April 20, 2011**; applications are due on **May 18, 2011**.

AOTF Institute Image of the Month

From the [Archives of the AOTA](#), housed in the AOTF Wilma L. West Library.

Visit: [OTJR Online](#).

Articles appearing in this "Online Advanced Release" section have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in the OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health and posted online before print publication.

Occupations of Older Adults: A Cross Cultural Description

Gunilla M. Eriksson, OT (Reg.), PhD; Jenny C. C. Chung, OTR, PhD; Lim Hua Beng, OT, MOccThy, BAppSc(Hons)(OT); Adina Hartman-Maeir, OT, PhD; Eunyoung Yoo, OT, PhD; Elsa M. Orellano, PhD, OTR/L, ATP; Fenna van Nes, MSc OT; M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

The Relationship Between Behaviors Associated With Sensory Processing and Parental Sense of Competence

Ellen Cohn, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Teresa A. May-Benson, ScD, OTR/L; Alison Teasdale, BSc

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Overhead view of the exhibit hall at the AOTA Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1937.

The AOTF Institute makes this image, as well as the [Guide to the Archives of the AOTA](#), available publicly as part of its mission to honor the past and be the best possible steward of the unique body of knowledge that is occupational therapy. To this end, the AOTF Institute warmly welcomes individuals from within and beyond occupational therapy to explore the guide and use the archives for purposes of research, education, and leadership.

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