



THE AMERICAN
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
FOUNDATION

Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the

AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

June 2011

Dear Colleagues,

This month, we feature capacity-building as our theme for *Research Resources*. Since the phrase may seem a bit unusual in the context of research, some explanation may be in order.

Building research capacity involves having sufficient numbers of trained scientists with the right skills and experience and in the right places to be able to address key questions of concern to the profession. History shows that scientists develop best in groups where they can interact with experienced mentors who provide learning environments that function like "apprenticeships".

The socialization of a scientist typically takes several years, involving completion of a PhD followed by a post-doctoral experience and often leads to a mentored research program. At the end, the new scientist emerges as a career scientist with a beginning track record of successful grants and the ability to pursue an independent line of research. The bottom line is that growing scientists requires commitment and time. With enough qualified researchers, professions can undertake complex studies that involve networks of people at multiple sites.

We trust you will consider the complexity of the capacity-building process as you peruse the articles assembled by staff members in the Wilma L. West Library.

As always, thanks for reading *Research Resources*, and for supporting the work of the Foundation.

Sincerely,

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

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Wilma L. West Resource Notes

Capacity-building for conducting research

As early as 1983, the Research Advisory Council (RAC), supported jointly by the American

Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), developed and published a paper on the research competencies needed by clinicians and educators. This paper was republished in 2000.

Mitcham (1985) created a manual to assist educators in integrating research competencies in the curriculum of occupational therapy education, and in 1986, wrote an article for *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT)*. More recently, Crepeau edited a revision of *Research Across the Curriculum: A Guide for Occupational Therapy Educators* that may be purchased through the [AOTF marketplace](#).

Dr. Christiansen writes about the value of communities of scholars, a network of scholars with the right skills. Likewise, Lorenzo and Joubert ". . . focus[ed] on the reciprocal capacity building that occurred through collaborative research between occupational therapy departments from six higher education institutions in South Africa, community-based organizations and a disabled people's organization on disabled youth and their livelihoods." (2010 Nov 14). Hammel, Finlayson, Kielhofner, Helfrich & Peterson, (2001) describe the "steps to and benefits of creating [a] scholarly community," (2001, p. 157).

Two other aspects, Dr. Christiansen mentions are mentoring and the importance of post doctoral opportunities. Paul (2001) wrote a "The Issue is" article for *AJOT* on the need for postdoctoral training for blossoming occupational therapy researchers. The following year (2002), Paul, along with colleagues Stein, Ottenbacher and Liu, published a study on the role of mentoring on research productivity.

Of course, clinicians must understand and participate in research and use it in clinical decisions. For more on this topic, read Craik & Rappolt, 2006; du Toit, Wilkinson, Adam, 2010; and Murphy, Kalpakjian, Mullan & Clauw, 2010. Capacity-building for research concerns not only occupational therapy but also the larger field of rehabilitation medicine as you will learn by reading Frontera, et al., 2006; Murillo, Reece, Snyderman & Sung, 2006; Stucki, 2007; Stucki, Reinhardt, Grimby & Melvin, 2008, or Wagner, McElligott, Wagner & Gerber, 2005.

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Conference Announcements

[The National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) 2011 Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration \(June 22-24, 2011, Weston, Florida\)](#)

This seminar is intended to: demystify the application and review process, clarify federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern.

[Inequity to Equity: Promoting the health and wellness of women with disabilities \(October 17-18, 2011, Washington, DC\)](#)

Presented by the American Psychological Association, the Howard University Women's Health Institute, and Gallaudet University,

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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.

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

[Occupational Gaps in Everyday Life After Stroke and the Relation to Functioning and Perceived Life Satisfaction](#)

Mandana Fallahpour, Reg. OT; Kerstin Tham, Reg. OT, PhD; Gunilla Eriksson, Reg. OT, PhD; Hans Jonsson, Reg. OT, PhD

[Sensory Processing, Physiological Stress, and Sleep Behaviors in Children With and Without Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

Stacey

this interactive, interdisciplinary conference aims to foster an integrated health care agenda that will improve health outcomes for women with disabilities. Proposal deadline for posters, papers, and symposia is July 8, 2011.

[The State of the Science in Spinal Cord Injury \(SCI\) Rehabilitation: Informing a New Research Agenda \(June 4-8, 2011, Washington, DC\)](#)

The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) and the American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) present a unique educational opportunity for professionals in SCI medicine and rehabilitation. Saturday, June 4 is the Spine Symposium, Sunday, June 5 is the State of the Science symposium and Monday-Wednesday, June 6-8 is the International Congress.

[ENOTHE \(European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education Annual Meeting \(November 3-5, 2011, Ghent Belgium\)\)](#)

After the annual conference is a two-day (November 7-8, 2011) educational session to develop knowledge on the concept of occupation in relation with the contemporary health paradigm and in relation with the recent knowledge of occupational science. AOTF Executive Director Charles Christiansen will be the Thelma Cardwell Research Lecturer.

[The Sequential Oral Sensory \(SOS\) Approach to Feeding: Picky Eaters vs. Problem Feeders \(Basic Course-July 16-18, 2011, Advanced Course-July 19, 2011, Waltham, Massachusetts\)](#)

The SOS Approach to Feeding is a family-centered, transdisciplinary program for assessing and treating children with weight/growth problems from birth to 18 years. It integrates postural, sensory, motor, behavioral/ learning, medical and nutritional factors to comprehensively evaluate and manage children with feeding/growth problems.

[The 5th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy \(APOTC\) Congress 2011 \(November 19-24, 2011, Chung-Mai, Thailand\)](#)

This event includes educational symposia (November 19), pre-congress workshops (November 20), and the congress (November 21-24). A large number of internationally-renowned researchers and practitioners have been invited to speak at the Congress including AOTF's Executive Director, Charles Christiansen as a keynote speaker.

Grants, Fellowships, and Education Opportunities

[Community Transformation Grants \(CTGs\) from the Centers for Disease Control](#)

Funding is available to support evidence and practice-based community and clinical prevention and wellness strategies that will lead to specific, measurable health outcomes to reduce chronic disease rates. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will support intensive community approaches to reduce risk factors responsible for the leading causes of death and disability and to prevent and control chronic diseases in the nation. Letter of Intent is due: **June 6, 2011**

Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L; Shelly J. Lane, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Leroy Thacker, PhD

[Leisure and Social Participation and Health-Related Quality of Life in Caregivers of Children with Autism](#)

Sabrin Rizk, MS, OTR; Kris Pizur-Barnekow, PhD, OTR/L; Amy R. Darragh, PhD, OTR/L

Employment Opportunity

Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, programmatic arm of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. For qualifications and job description, see the AOTF [web site](#).

Join Our List

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Applications are due: **July 15, 2011**.

[Intensive Mentorships in Sensory Processing Disorder \(SPD\) in Denver](#)

The SPD Foundation provides clinicians with a unique opportunity to receive training in assessment and intervention for SPD during intensive, one-week programs including a combination of didactic lecture sessions and mentored clinical experiences at STAR Center.

Publications

[The National Academies Press Makes All PDF Books Free to Download; More Than 4,000 Titles Now Available Free to All Readers](#)

All PDF versions of books published by the National Academies Press will be downloadable to anyone free of charge. This includes a current catalog of more than 4,000 books plus future reports produced by the Press.

AOTF Institute Image of the Month

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



Therapist with pediatric patients.

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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For more information about the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health see our web site: www.aotf.org.

