

Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the
AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health
March 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I recently visited an eye care specialist for my regular check up and it quickly became apparent that vision professionals are much more focused on everyday function these days than I remember them being in the past. I'd like to imagine that occupational therapy had something to do with this, but I'm skeptical because my web sleuthing did not reveal any confirmatory evidence of such an influence. I'm quite certain that where OTs and eye care professionals work together, this influence is apparent, but in the broader arena of public awareness, this sounds like a "connect the dots" public education project to me!

So, this month's issue of *Research Resources* is dedicated to the work of occupational therapy in low vision. Our experts in the Wilma West Library have assembled a few articles of interest from the occupational therapy literature and we have included a link to the comprehensive pathfinder on low vision. I hope you find this information as useful as I have!

We welcome your suggestions for future topics of focus for our "Research Notes" feature. Please drop us a note at the AOTF with your ideas-and we will be pleased to consider them. Meantime, as always, thanks for your loyal support.

Cordially,



Charles Christiansen
Executive Director

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In This Issue

[AOTF Events at AOTA Conference](#)

[Support AOTF](#)

[OTJR Online Advanced Release](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Wilma L. Library Resource Notes](#)

Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

Occupational Therapy in Low Vision Rehabilitation

The earliest article on low vision found in OT SEARCH was in a September 1989 issue of the *Gerontology Special Interest Section Newsletter* by Sally Bennett. In 1994, Warren and Lampert authored a paper on the daily living needs of older persons with low vision problems.

Almost seventeen years ago, in October 1995, *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy* published a [special issue on low vision](#). In this issue, Mary Warren, MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA, authored the

Conference Announcements

Online Resources

Education Resources

OT: History in Focus

AOTF Events at the AOTA Annual Conference, Indianapolis, April 26-29 2012

AOTF is pleased to announce its events at the AOTA Conference in Indianapolis. Information on registration can be found on the [AOTA web site](#).

Breakfast with the Scholar - Friday, April 27, 7:30-9:30 a.m. Notable disability rights leader Lex Frieden will reflect on the implementation and aftermath of the Americans with Disability Act.

Research Colloquium - Friday April 27, 2:00-5:00 p.m. This year's Colloquium will focus on the current state of evidence for cognitive assessments and interventions, what needs to be done from a research perspective, and how to implement what is known in clinical practice.

AOTF Gala - Dancing with the Stars "Indy" Style - Friday, April 27, 8:00-11:00 p.m., Westin Indianapolis. Cheer on your favorite dancer competing for bragging

"Nationally Speaking" article titled Including Occupational Therapy in Low Vision Rehabilitation. Professor Warren continues to be a noted occupational therapy practitioner in this area of practice and to develop programs to train other therapists. The following paragraph concerning Ms. Warren was retrieved on February 25, 2012 from <http://www.uab.edu/ot/intro/11-faculty/10-mary-warren>.

Mary is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Director of the Graduate Certificate in Low Vision Rehabilitation Program. She is the editor of the Self-Paced Clinical course: Low Vision: Occupational Therapy Intervention with the Older Adult, published by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and co-editor with Beth Barstow for the textbook: Occupational Therapy Interventions for Adults with Low Vision from AOTA Press. She served as the chair of the panel that developed AOTA specialty certification in low vision rehabilitation and has participated in numerous national ad hoc committees addressing issues in low vision rehabilitation.

For further information on these sources authored by Mary Warren as well as to see a list of recent references concerning the role of occupational therapy in low vision rehabilitation, go to the [Path Finder on Low Vision](#) on the AOTF web site. Pathfinders, created by the staff of the Wilma L. West Library, provide starting points from which to begin to do research about a topic by pointing the way to specific and reliable sources of information.

Bennett, SH. (1989 Sep). Low Vision Aids and the Elderly: An Overview for Occupational Therapy Personnel. *Gerontology Special Interest Section Newsletter*, 12, 4-5.

Warren, M. (1995). Including Occupational Therapy in Low Vision Rehabilitation. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 49, 857-860.

Warren, M & Lampert, J. (1994). Considerations in addressing the daily living needs in older persons with low vision. *Ophthalmology Clinics of North America*, 7, 187-195.

Conference Announcements

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Summer Research Institute on Developing Behavioral Intervention Research, Center for Innovative Care in Aging (June 14-16, 2012, Baltimore)

This Summer Research Institute is designed to help investigators: (1) develop testable interventions that have potential to be implemented in practice environments if proven effective, and (2) advance appropriate trial designs. For more information or to request notification of availability of the application, please contact: [Laura N. Gitlin](#), Director, Center for Innovative Care in Aging, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

[Third International Institute on the Model of Human Occupation \(October 11-12, 2012, Stockholm\)](#)

rights at the 3rd Dancing with the Stars gala. See dancer profiles and "vote" for your favorite on the [AOTF web site](#).

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning - Sunday, April 29, 8:00-11:00 a.m. Drs. Andrea Bilics, John White, and Anne James will facilitate the focus on ways to foster collaborative research that provides evidence for best practices in education.

Support AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting our profession today and for the future. Gifts to AOTF help us continue to make a real difference for so many people in our profession through:

- * Scholarships
- * Research support and publications including *Research Resources* and *OTJR*
- * Development and recognition of leadership * Education and maintaining the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country. Learn more at www.aotf.org or [Donate Now](#).

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

Presented by The Swedish Association of Occupational Therapists, The University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Occupational Therapy, and the Model of Human Occupation Clearinghouse; the Institute is now accepting abstracts for research papers, symposia, roundtable discussion topics and MOHO Mentors, and student thesis or dissertation papers due **April 1, 2012**. For more information contact [Baily Zubel](#).

[2012 Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists \(CSOS\) Conference](#)

The theme of this year's CSOS conference is Fostering Interdisciplinarity & Interprofessional Excellence in Occupation (May 3-5, 2012, Edmonton). Dr. Debbie Rudman is the 2012 recipient of the Townsend & Polatajko Lectureship.

[2012 Southwest Conference on Disability \(October 10-12, 2012, Albuquerque\)](#)

The conference is now accepting proposals on the conference theme - Access For All: To Boldly Go Where Everybody Else Has Gone Before with special emphasis on: access to health, physical access, access to employment, access to technology, and access to behavioral Health Through High-quality service partnerships. The deadline for proposals is **May 11, 2012**.

[Sixth Australasian Occupational Science Symposium \(December 6-7, 2012, Canberra\)](#)

The theme of this symposium, presented by the Occupational Therapy Australia ACT Division & the University of Canberra is Occupation for Population Health. For further information contact [Alison Wicks](#).

[9th COTEC Congress of Occupational Therapy \(May 24-27, 2012, Stockholm\)](#)

The theme of this congress is Occupation Diversity for the Future.

[The Science of Science Communication \(May 21-22, 2012, Washington, DC\)](#)

This National Academy of the Sciences colloquium will survey the state of the art of empirical social science research in science communication and will focus on research in psychology, decision science, mass communication, risk communication, health communication, political science, sociology, and related fields on the communication dynamics surrounding issues in science, engineering, technology, and medicine with five distinct goals.

[5th National Spinal Cord Injury Conference Translating Neural Engineering and Novel Therapies \(October 18-20, 2012, Toronto\)](#)

This gathering of clinicians, research scientists and consumers from Canada and North America are focuses on understanding and achieving recovery among the spinal cord injury population. The deadline for workshop and poster abstract submissions has been extended to **March 19, 2012**.

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.

[Validity of the Health Enhancement Lifestyle Profile-Screener \(HELP-Screener\)](#) Jengliang Eric Hwang, PhD, OTR/L

[Parenting Stress and Sensory Processing: Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders](#)

Tracy Jirikowic; Heather Carmichael Olson; Susan Astley

[Successful Aging in Older Adults With Disability](#)
John L. Liu, Jr.; Pamela K. Richardson

Funding Opportunities

[SSO:USA Student Research Grant in Occupational ScienceRequest for Proposals](#)

Online Resources

[Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence](#)

The new Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence, hosted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Academies' Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE), will provide a neutral venue for broad ranging discussions for coordination and integration of aging and disability stakeholders, particularly among public and private entities. With the ultimate goal to serve all individuals with respect to long-term supports and services preferences regardless of age or disability, the Forum will: highlight capacities in which aging and disability network coordination is strong; examine the historic challenges faced by aligning the aging and disability networks; define the scope of the challenges; explore new approaches for resolving problem areas; elevate the visibility and perspectives of the many relevant stakeholders; and set the stage for future policy actions.

[Learning What Works: Infrastructure Required for Comparative Effectiveness Research: Workshop Summary](#)

As part of its Learning Health System series of workshops, the IOM's Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care hosted a workshop to discuss capacity priorities to build the evidence base necessary for care that is more effective and delivers higher value for patients. Learning What Works summarizes the proceedings of the seventh workshop in the Learning Health System series. This workshop focused on the infrastructure needs--including methods, coordination capacities, data resources and linkages, and workforce--for developing an expanded and efficient national capacity for CER. Learning What Works also assesses the current and needed capacity to expand and improve this work, and identifies priority next steps. This report can be read online for free.

Education Resources

Ruth Zemke Lecture in Occupational Science (RZLOS).

[The Society for the Study of Occupation \(SSO\)](#) is taking nominations for the 2013 Ruth Zemke Lecturer in Occupational Science. The person selected to deliver this honorary lecture will give his or her speech at the 2013 SSO:USA Conference (conference site is soon to be determined). Deadline for nomination is May 25, 2012. For nomination form contact [Dr. John White](#).

[The George Washington University's Graduate Program in Clinical and Translational Research \(CTR\)](#)

Highlights of the CTR Program include: joining an elite cohort of fellow researchers interested in expanding their knowledge and work in translational research; expanding your network of transdisciplinary collaborators across the translational research spectrum, from bench to bedside to community to policy; core courses offered online; 36 credit Master's degree or 21 credit graduate certificate; program of study designed with electives to meet your individual career goals and research interests.

SSO:USA invites occupational science students to submit research grant proposals that demonstrate direct relevance to at least one of the priorities of the society. Awards of up to \$1,500 will be given. Proposals are due **March 31, 2012** with award notification in May 2012. Details are available on the [SSO:USA](#) website under Research Resource.

[Support for Innovative Technology Applications
Motorola Mobility Foundation:
Empowerment Grants](#)

This program supports the development of digital, social, and mobile technology applications that will make a positive change in nonprofit organizations, communities, and schools by broadening a stakeholder group, enhancing the skills of constituents, and encouraging the development of new innovations. Funded programs must serve communities in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, or Texas or be an online or national program. Applicants must demonstrate the ways that digital technology can be used to further the following funding priorities: education, health and wellness, arts and culture, or community. The application deadline is

[Mild TBI Web-Based Case Studies](#)

Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) helped develop a series of 12 modules for providers to improve their knowledge of TBI-related issues and deliver better care to service members coping with mTBI. The platform enables providers to learn at their own pace and includes screening, diagnosis and management of symptoms in the non-deployed setting.

[Postdoctoral Trainee Opportunities in Translational and Transformational Research to Improve Home, Community & Work Participation Access and Opportunities with People with Disabilities](#)

The Department of Occupational Therapy and the Joint Doctoral Programs in Disability Studies and in Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago is inviting applications from qualified candidates in any relevant discipline for postdoctoral research training experiences in community-based participatory research (CBPR) to improve community living, participation and work opportunities with people with disabilities, including the development and evaluation of innovative demonstration projects done collaboratively with people with disabilities. This interdisciplinary post-doctoral program emphasizes preparing scholars to conduct research that has real world impact and translates to disability communities, systems and policies. For more information contact [Dr. Joy Hammel](#).

Occupational Therapy: History in Focus

The Man Whose Work Helped Build a Canal and Enable a Profession

The photo below depicts a group of reconstruction aides being photographed with the Surgeon General of the Army, sometime between June of 1917 and October 1918. The photo on the bottom depicts the same man, W.C. Gorgas, before he became Surgeon General. General W.C. Gorgas was responsible for caring for wounded soldiers from the American Expeditionary Force when the US entered World War I in March, 1917. He authorized the use of Reconstruction Aides in the war effort.

Gorgas, who retired in 1918 and died two years later, had a distinguished career in the Army that spanned 38 years. He earned his well-deserved reputation under President Theodore Roosevelt during the construction of the Panama Canal, serving as the public health officer whose work controlled the mosquitoes that transmitted yellow fever and malaria. His success is widely credited as key to enabling the United States to succeed in the Panama Canal project since in 1906, over 80% of the workforce required hospitalization for those diseases.

For his work, Gorgas was given a medal by the National Academy of Sciences and an honorary knighthood by King George V of England. He died in London and was given a special funeral in St. Paul's

March 23, 2012

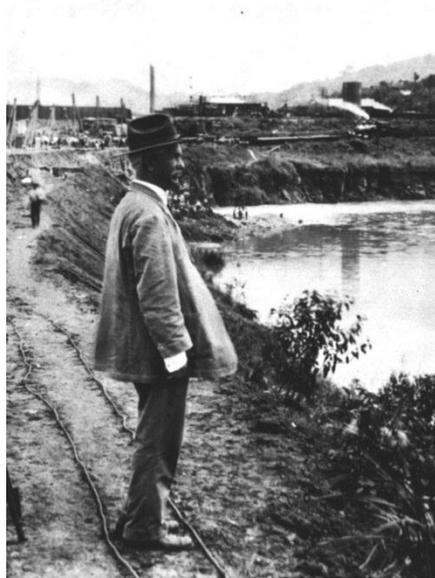
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Cathedral. Occupational therapy owes him a debt of gratitude for taking a chance on an emerging profession.



*Archives of the AOTA, Wilma L. West Library,
American Occupational Therapy Foundation*



*Public Domain Collection of the
History of Medicine Division,
National Library of Medicine.*

AOTF is pleased to begin a new historical feature, in which we recollect, through photos and reports, the events and people that have shaped and defined the profession during its distinguished history.

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