



1965-2015

Celebrating fifty years of advancing the science of occupational therapy

February 2015

AOTF Research Resources



February Greetings to Research Resources colleagues!

We continue our 50th anniversary tribute to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation by highlighting the people and events that make its mission (to advance the science of occupational therapy that supports people's full participation in meaningful life activities) possible. We explore some resources for research in neuroscience, meet the next group of Academy of Research members, and glance back at the years 1970-1974.

Neuroscience: An Interdisciplinary Science Opportunity for Occupational Therapy

There are some exciting developments occurring in [neuroscience](#) and occupational therapy is part of them! Robert Sainburg, PhD, OTR, has established a new neurorehabilitation network for occupational therapy researchers. The group gathered at the Society for Neuroscience meeting last fall and has been sharing their work with each other. This issue of *Research Resources* explores some of the journals, meetings, and funding opportunities they find valuable.

Academy of Research Member Profiles: A to Z

[Last month](#), AOTF profiled Drs. Ayres, Baker, Baranek, Baum, Bourbonnais, and Bundy. This month we highlight:

- [Leeanne Carey](#)
- [Sharon Cermak](#)
- [Florence Clark](#)
- [Sherrilene Classen](#)
- [Helen Cohen](#)
- [Wendy Coster](#)

Many of our Academy of Research members are contributing their responses to the following Q and A. I am enjoying learning about our Academy of

In this Issue

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Celebrate AOTF's 50th Anniversary at the 2015 AOTA Annual Conference.

Research members through this Q and A; I know you will, too. These responses will also be available on our website so you can share them with others.

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

- How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
- What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?
- Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?
- Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
- Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
- What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

1970-1974

Back to the early 1970s. A [1975 article](#) in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* highlighted the accomplishments of AOTF in its first decade.

A variety of other resources were used to capture a few of the significant events during these early years of AOTF.

- [The beginnings of AOTF](#)
- [A few significant events in health science and policy](#)

We invite our readers to submit research opportunities to our communications associate, [Helene Ross](#) for publication in *Research Resources*. As always, we thank you for the news alerts you share with us, your ideas on ways we can improve this monthly newsletter, and your financial support of AOTF.

Warm regards,



Julie D. Bass, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health
Director of Research

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Neuroscience: An Interdisciplinary Science Opportunity for Occupational Therapy

Neuroscience is a natural interdisciplinary science for occupational therapy research. As occupational therapists, we understand that "the nervous system plays a role in nearly every aspect of our health and well-being-from everyday activities such as waking up, to simple activities such as breathing, to complex processes such as thinking, reading, remembering, and feeling emotions."

Occupational therapy may contribute to [several areas of neuroscience](#), including: developmental neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, behavioral neuroscience, and clinical neuroscience.

Discover Nashville on our bus and walking tour, Wednesday, April 15 and help us celebrate our anniversary at our gala, *Champagne and Chocolate*, in the Conservatory of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Friday evening, April 17.

The Breakfast with a Scholar (Friday morning, April 17) will be a moderated discussion on the future of occupational therapy with Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA (moderator), Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.

The inaugural AOTF State of the Science Symposium will feature internationally renowned scientists Leanne Carey, PhD, BAppSc(OT), MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA and Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA to summarize the current evidence regarding the influence of sensory function on daily life, Friday 2:00-4:30 p.m. April 17.

AOTF Intervention Research Grants: An Overview of Priorities and Process will be held Thursday, April 16, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and is included in the conference registration.

Ticket and registration information are available on the [AOTA website](#).

Contribute photos of past AOTF events for inclusion in a special anniversary commemoration.

Send to:

aotfis50@aotf.org

Sage Publications, in celebration of the addition of [OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health](#) to its line of journals, is offering free online access through March 9, 2015. Don't miss out on this generous offer!

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and

An awareness of the professional associations, research journals, and funding mechanisms for research provide a starting point for occupational therapy professionals who are interested in interdisciplinary research in neuroscience.

Professional Association and Conference

The [Society for Neuroscience](#) (SfN) was founded in 1969 and has almost 40,000 members, representing 90 countries and 130 chapters worldwide. The Society achieves its mission through major initiatives: an annual meeting, journal, professional development programs, science outreach, and advocacy. The SfN provides [higher education and training resources](#) at all levels of career development. The annual SfN conference attracts 30,000 attendees and 15,000 abstracts.

Neuroscience Journals

A sample of higher impact factor (IF) neuroscience journals that regularly have articles of relevance to occupational therapy are summarized here.

- [Journal of Motor Behavior](#) IF 5yr - 1.8

(Note: Dr. Robert Sainburg is the current editor-in-chief for the

[Journal of Motor Behavior](#) and invites submissions to the journal especially related to clinical research.)

- [Brain](#) 5 yr IF 10.8
- [Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair](#) IF 4.6
- [Journal of Neuroscience](#) IF 6.9
- [Journal of Neurophysiology](#) IF - 3.0
- [Experimental Brain Research](#) IF 2.2
- [Brain Research](#) IF - 3.0
- [PlosOne](#)
- [Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#) IF - 2.4

Evidence-Based and Research Resources for Neuroscience

University Library Guides. [The University of Michigan Library Guide](#) is an example of a neuroscience resource that is available from many universities. It provides information on a variety of digital resources in neuroscience, including point of care resources, keeping current, evidence-based medicine, and image searching.

[The Neuroscience Information Framework \(NIF\)](#) provides a web-based inventory of neuroscience resources related to public research data and tools. . It is an initiative of the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research.

The [NIH Toolbox for the Assessment of Neurological and Behavioral Function](#) is a multidimensional set of brief measures for assessing cognitive, emotional, motor, and sensation domains.

There is a new listserv for occupational therapy neuroscientists. The purpose of this listserv is to provide a forum for translational research in neuroscience and occupational therapy. To subscribe to the listserv, send an email to L-TRANSLATIONALOT-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu

Funding Mechanisms for Neuroscience Research

Several resources for learning about grant opportunities in neuroscience are provided here.

Health

[OTJR](#) is published quarterly by the AOTF and offers original peer-reviewed research articles of professional interest to the practicing OT with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research.

January 2015

EDITORIAL

Valuing the Past, Investing in the Future
Sherrilene Classen

ARTICLES

Cognitive Rehabilitation After Traumatic Brain Injury: A Reference for Occupational Therapists
Jaclyn A. Stephens, Karen-Nicole C. Williamson, and Marian E. Berryhill

Identifying and Evaluating the Therapeutic Strategies Used During a Manualized Self-Advocacy Intervention for Transition-Age Youth
Jessica M. Kramer

Looking Backward, Thinking Forward: Occupational Therapy and Autism Spectrum Disorders
Nancy Bagatell and Ashley E. Mason

Psychometrics of the Fitness-to-Drive Screening Measure
Sherrilene Classen, Craig A. Velozo, Sandra M. Winter, Michel Bédard, and Yanning Wang

Tailored Calendar Journals to Ascertain Falls Among Older Adults
Susan L. Stark, Tara J. Silianoff, H. Lyn Kim, Jane W. Conte, and John C. Morris

[OTJR seeks original research](#) reports of assessment/measurement development, efficacy of interventions (preventive, restorative, and compensatory), intervention outcomes, translational research, and basic research (including occupational science). [OTJR](#) is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

TIGGR (Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research)

The centerpiece of the TIGRR Workshop is the one-on-one mentorship that maximizes the chance for success. TIGRR participants are not "attendees" that pay a fee and show up. They are Mentees selected by the review committee from the many applications we receive each year, and this is what makes TIGRR so distinctive! The selected mentees will come prepared to complete at least the specific aims for a grant proposal for submission to the NIH or other funding agency.

NIH: NICHD and NINDS

All mechanisms including project grants R01, small project grants R03, R21 (exploratory grants). In addition K01's are available to OT's through NICHD.

American Heart Association

AHA most notably provides supports for post-doctoral and early career awards. Different regional agencies provide slightly different mechanisms. Society for Neuroscience (SfN): Neurorehabilitation Social and Meeting



Occupational therapy researchers at the SfN Neurorehabilitation Social Bob Sainburg: back row, second from right. Ralph Nitkin, program director for Biological Sciences and Career Development from NCMRR of NICHD NIH: third from left

Dr. Sainburg convened occupational therapy scientists at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting. They networked at the Neurorehabilitation Social and gathered for an occupational therapy research meeting. AOTF and AOTA contributed to sponsorship of the Neurorehabilitation Social. There was increased attendance by occupational therapy scientists at this important neuroscience meeting and conference.

Thanks to Dr. Sainburg for his contributions to this feature article on neuroscience.

1970-1974: The Beginnings of AOTF

AOTF was growing in the years, 1970-1974. AOTA made a consistent financial commitment to the Foundation and donors began to invest in scholarships and professional development programs. The Foundation became more visible through its public awareness materials and conference programs.

2% of AOTA Membership Dues.

In 1969, AOTA adopted a resolution that "2% of the amount realized from the annual dues of each member of the American Occupational Therapy Association be allocated to the support of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation." This commitment began to provide some stability to the financial picture of the Foundation in the years 1970-1974.

Scholarships and Professional Development Programs.

Donations for the purpose of scholarships and professional development grew in the first decade. In 1974, the Occupational Therapy Development Fund was established after the AOTF received a donation of \$48,000 from two

anonymous friends.

Dissemination of Public Service Materials.

Public knowledge and understanding of occupational therapy was advanced through several brochures: children with minimal brain dysfunction, needs and gaps in services for older adults, barriers experienced by adults with physical dysfunction, and the care and re-integration of individuals with mental illness who had been discharged from the hospital.

Growing the Donor Base.

At the AOTA annual conference, AOTF offered a financial planning workshop to assist individuals in estate planning and designating part of their estate to the Foundation. In 1974, an issue of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* provided an envelope for donations to support the AOTF's Annual Giving Campaign.

Research Initiatives.

AOTF developed a grant-writing workshop for the 1975 AOTA annual conference to help occupational therapists secure resources for research projects and activities.

[. \(1975\). The Foundation : The First Decade : 1965-1975. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 29, \(10\), 636-641.](#)

1970-1974: A few significant events in health science and policy

Training Support for Allied Health Professions

The [Health Training Improvement Act of 1970](#) focused on expansion of allied health professions training and development and support of new health professions educational assistance schools. (P.L. 91-519.) Occupational therapy was listed as one of the allied health professions.

National Institute of Aging

[The National Institute of Aging](#) was established in 1974. The Research on Aging Act authorized the NIA to conduct and support biomedical, social, and behavioral research and training related to the aging process and the diseases and other special problems and needs of the aged. (P.L. 93-296.)

Imaging

[Magnetic Resonance Imaging \(MRI\), Computed Tomography \(CT\), and Positron Emission Tomography \(PET\)](#) were in the development and early application phases to improve medical diagnosis of conditions and advance knowledge in neuroscience.

MEDLINE

In 1971, [MEDLINE \(MEDLARS Online\)](#) began national implementation and operations. This large reference database became available to librarians and information specialists who conducted searches to support researchers and clinicians in their work.

Rights for People with Disabilities

[The Rehabilitation Act](#), the first U.S. federal civil rights protection for people with disabilities, was passed in 1973. Section 504 of the Act stated "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, shall, solely by reason of his [sic] handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." This was the first U.S. federal civil rights protection for people with disabilities.

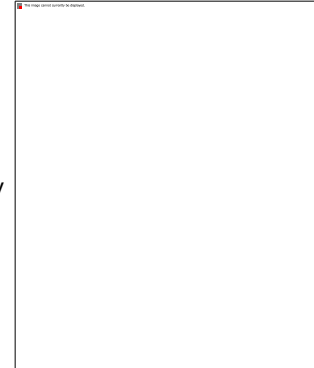
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The Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy

Leeanne M. Carey, BAppSc(OT), PhD

Dr. Carey heads the Neurorehabilitation and Recovery research group in the Stroke Division, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and is professor of Occupational Therapy, School of Allied Health, La Trobe University in Australia. Dr Carey's research program focuses on stroke rehabilitation and recovery: in particular how the brain adapts and how we might harness that potential in rehabilitation. She uses tools such as MRI to investigate changes in the brain and how this knowledge may be used to better understand recovery and target rehabilitation most optimally to individual stroke survivors. Research includes the impact of depression and cognition on stroke recovery. An important focus has been to translate these discoveries into clinical practice and better outcomes for stroke survivors. (Retrieved on February 5, 2015 from <http://www.florey.edu.au/about-florey/our-people/staff-directory/39/leeanne-carey>.)

[For more information on Dr. Carey.](#)

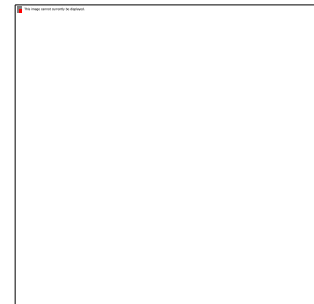


Sharon A. Cermak, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Cermak is professor, Mrs. TH Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles and has a joint appointment with the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Cermak is renowned for her expertise in Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder, a long-standing interest of hers. . . [Her] current research focuses on health promotion in children with disabilities, which is a critical area of national health concern for children. (Retrieved on January 29, 2015 from http://chan.usc.edu/faculty/directory/Sharon_Cermak.)

In 1991, Dr. Cermak was a recipient of AOTF's [A. Jean Ayres Award](#).

[For more information on Dr. Cermak.](#)



Florence A. Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Clark is professor and chair of Mrs. T. H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles and associate dean in the School of Dentistry, USC. She is the immediate past president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). In 1992, Dr. Clark was a recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, AOTA's highest academic honor, and in 1999 she received AOTA's Award of Merit. (Retrieved from <http://www.aotf.org/aboutaotf/boardofdirectors/florenceclark>.)

Since 1985, Florence Clark has attracted more than \$10 million in extramural funding from NIH, NIDRR, and other federal agencies for research and training in the areas of healthy aging and the secondary conditions that impede the flourishing of people with disabilities in their real life circumstances. Dr. Clark's research programs in healthy aging and in the prevention of pressure ulcers in persons with spinal cord injury have followed a blueprint for translational research which she first developed with colleagues in connection with the USC Well Elderly Study. Initiated in 1993, the Well Elderly Study (RO1 AG11810) was a randomized controlled trial which demonstrated that preventive occupational therapy forestalls the declines associated with typical aging and improves the health of independently living elders. (Retrieved on January 29, 2015 from http://chan.usc.edu/faculty/directory/Florence_Clark/.)

[For more information on Dr. Clark.](#)



Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OT Reg(Ont.), FAOTA

Dr. Classen is professor and director of the School of Occupational Therapy, Elborn College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. She is the current



editor-in-chief of AOTF's research journal, *OTJR: Occupation, participation and Health*. (Retrieved on January 29, 2015 from <http://www.aotf.org/Portals/0/documents/news/pressreleases/06%2006%202014%20classen%20named%20editor%20of%20otjr.pdf>.)

Dr. Classen's research interests include:

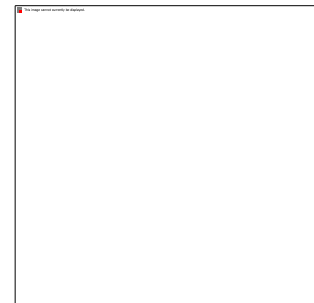
- Driving screening, evaluation, and intervention pertaining to:
- Older drivers
- Drivers with neurological conditions (Parkinson's Disease and Returning Combat Veterans with TBI and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder;
- Driving cessation; and
- Alternative transportation options.

(Retrieved on January 29, 2015 from http://www.uwo.ca/fhs/ot/people/faculty/classen_s.html.)

[For more information on Dr. Classen.](#)

Helen S. Cohen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Cohen is professor, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. She is the 2014 recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship and will deliver her lecture, *A career in inquiry*, at AOTA's 95th Annual Conference & Expo, in Nashville on Friday, April 17, 2015. This excerpt from the AOTA 2014 Awards brochure describes Dr. Cohen's research and practice interests. (Retrieved on January 31, 2015 from (<http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/EducationCareers/Awards/By-Year/2014-AOTA-AOTF-Award-Recipients.PDF>.)



"Dr. Helen S. Cohen receives the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award for her scholarly research, clinical practice, and teaching, which has been instrumental in developing strong evidence and expanding the scope of practice for occupational therapists in the area of vestibular rehabilitation. Dr. Cohen has presented internationally to therapists and physicians on how vestibular dysfunction reduces independence and participation in personal self-care skills and instrumental activities of daily living, and her work has provided evidence about the value of vestibular rehabilitation programs and occupational therapy for clients with many different types of vestibular disorders. Her collaborative work with investigators in the Neuroscience Research Laboratory at NASA/Johnson Space Center has provided an occupational therapist's perspective on specific on-going research projects and on general recommendations for the neuroscience research program for space exploration. . ."

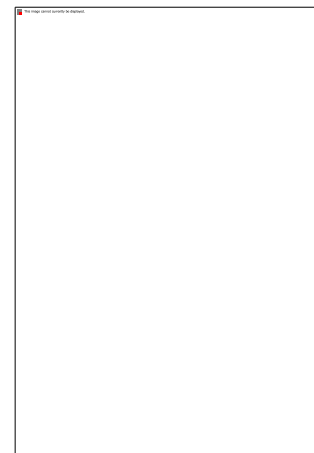
[For more information on Dr. Cohen.](#)

Wendy J. Coster, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Coster is professor and chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, Boston University Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Boston as well as director, Behavior and Health Program, and director, Patient/Clinic Reported Outcomes Core, Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Center. Dr. Coster is a recipient of AOTF's A. Jean Ayres Award. In 2007, she received the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, AOTA's highest academic honor. Currently, Dr. Coster is the vice-president of the AOTF Board of Directors.

Below is Dr. Coster's description of her scholarly, research and/or practice interests. (Retrieved on January 29, 2015 from <http://www.bu.edu/sargent/profile/wendy-coster/>.)

"The primary focus of my research program is the development of conceptually grounded, psychometrically sound measures of activity, participation, and environment. My overarching concern is to create measures for the field of rehabilitation that appropriately reflect individuals' ability to engage in activities and participate in situations that are important for their satisfaction and well-being. Some of these measures are directed to practice, i.e. to provide assessment that gather information on the issues of greatest relevance to



consumers. Others are designed to support outcomes measurement purposes (either research or program evaluation). Although my primary clinical work has been with children, my work extends to adult populations as well. The long term goal of this work is the development of a series of measures that help to advance rehabilitation science and support best practice. . . ."

[For more information on Dr. Coster.](#)

Scientist Development Awards

DRDC/NCBDDD 2015 Research Grant Opportunities

Grant application deadline: February 27, 2015.

The Disability Research and Dissemination Center (DRDC), in coordination with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC, announces [three new grant opportunities](#) for 2015.

- * [RFA - R15 - 01: Learn the Signs. Act Early. \(LTSAE\) Impact on Parents](#) Does exposure to LTSAE influence parents' actions related to early identification of developmental delay?
- * [RFA - R15 - 02: Assessing Impact of EHDI](#) Assessing impact of early identification and intervention on children with permanent congenital hearing loss.
- * [RFA - R15 - 03: Learn the Signs. Act Early \(LTSAE\) Book Testing](#) Formative research/audience testing of innovative health education product.

International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA)

Announcement(s) (KO1)(PAR-13-072)

[Upcoming application deadline: March 4, 2015](#)

The IRSDA provides support and protected time (three to five years) to advanced postdoctoral (at least two years beyond conferral of doctoral degree) U.S. research scientists for an intensive, mentored research career development experience leading to an independent research career focused on global health.

The experience will be in a low- or middle-income country (LMIC) as defined by the World Bank. Low-income, lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries are included.

Applications are invited from biomedical, epidemiological, clinical, biostatistical, social and behavioral scientists in the formative stages of their research careers.

Rheumatology Research Foundation Announcement

Deadline: August 1, 2015

The purpose of the [Scientist Development Award](#) is to encourage physicians and health professionals without significant research experience to consider careers in biomedical or clinical research by supporting a structured research training program in arthritis and rheumatic disease.

National MS Society Announcement

Deadline: August 5, 2015

The [Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research](#) provides support for a mentor-institution combination which is responsible for the recruitment, selection, and training of postdoctoral fellows to pursue a career in rehabilitation research applied to MS and similar disorders. The mentor should be an established and active researcher in MS or a related field. The mentor and fellow may come from a variety of different fields including medicine, physical, occupational, or speech therapy, psychology, rehabilitation engineering, nursing, or other fields.

News to Use and Share

NIH FY 2016 Budget Roll-Out

On February 2, 2015, [Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director](#), presented the [NIH FY2016 budget request](#). The proposed increase of \$1 billion in FY 2016 would allow over 1,200 more new and competing Research Project Grants.

New Home for Disability Research Agency

The main federal agency supporting applied research to improve the lives of people with disabilities is transitioning from the Department of Education to the Department of Health & Human Services. [AOTA and many disability researchers and advocates](#) believe the new move is a positive change for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

Call for Peer Reviewers

US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Training and Service Programs Division is seeking [qualified peer reviewers](#) for their two grant upcoming grant competitions: 84.129B - Rehabilitation Long-Term Training - Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling and 84.315C - Capacity Building - American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Training Institute. For details and forms contact [Dr. Diandrea Bailey](#).

In order to qualify as a peer reviewer, you must:

- Have related experience in the field
- Have an active DUNS number from [Dun and Bradstreet](#)
- Register your DUNS number with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
- Submit the OPR Data Form and a copy of your resume

Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Disability Policy Research

[The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy](#) invites applications from qualified candidates for one- or two-year fellowships under the mentorship of the nationally-recognized faculty of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Qualified candidates are invited to join a community that thrives on rigorous research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and supports the mission of knowledge advancing social justice. A range of exciting research opportunities is available to fellows, including investigations of the health and well-being of children and adults with disabilities and their caregiving families. Training of post-doctoral fellows will include immediate engagement in an existing research program coupled with opportunities to develop skills in preparing grant proposals, managing research projects, developing scholarly articles and scientific presentations and disseminating findings to advocates and policy makers. Fellows will also have the opportunity to develop their own independent research programs.

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Resources

The National Academies Press Guide to Science Issues and the State of the Union

The [2015 State of the Union address](#) focused on topics such as 21st century skills, climate change, and cybersecurity. The National Academies Press has resources directly related to these national issues; they have posted the full transcript of the President's speech, annotated their related materials for free downloads.

Bullying: The Social Destruction of Self

[This book by Laura Martocci](#), sociologist and the founder and director of the S.A.R.A. Project® (Students Against Relational Aggression), explores the "bully culture" and moves beyond the identification of aggressive behaviors to an analysis of how and why we have arrived at a culture that thrives on humiliation.

Free Webinars on TBI and Psychological Health

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) hosts free monthly webinars on topics related to psychological health and TBI. See their [website](#) for more information and a list of all 2015 webinars.

- Stress and Anxiety Following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Feb. 12, 2015; 1-2:30 p.m. (EST)

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Conferences and Calls for Papers

International Stroke Conference (February 11-13, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)

[The International Stroke Conference](#) features more than 1,500 presentations that emphasize basic, clinical and translational sciences as they evolve toward a more complete understanding of stroke pathophysiology with the overall goal of developing more effective prevention and treatment.

18th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference (AEC) (March 16-19, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)

[GOERGO, The Global Organization of Ergonomics](#), presents a conference where attendees gather from around the world to share best practices with other professionals in ergonomics, healthcare, safety, human resources and risk management.

AOTA Annual Conference (April 16-19, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)

Join thousands of OT colleagues for [educational sessions and institutes](#).

International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health (May 6-9, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia)

[This conference](#) is presented by The American Psychological Association, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology with the theme: "Work, Stress and Health 2015: Sustainable Work, Sustainable Health, Sustainable Organizations."

Pacific Rim International Conference (May 18-19, 2015, Waikiki, Hawaii)

[The Pacific Rim International Conference](#), encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspective across numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability and diversity areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying diversity and disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, and; action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world. In 2015, new topic areas will promote thoughtful discussion and suggest new ways to integrate education, technology, advocacy, activism and interdisciplinary research.

ICOST 2015 - 13th International Conference on Smart Homes, Assistive Technology and Health Telematics: Advances in Cognitive Technologies (June 10-12, 2015, Geneva, Switzerland)

[ICOST](#) brings together stakeholders from clinical, academic and industrial perspectives along with end users and family caregivers to explore how to utilize technologies to foster independent living and offer an enhanced quality of life.

RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Annual Conference (June 10-14, 2015, Denver, Colorado)

RESNA is the premier professional organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of people with disabilities through increasing access to technology solutions. [Their annual conference](#) theme is New Frontiers in Assistive Technology.

Call for Papers:

* Student Design Competition: April 3, 2015 - registration, April 17, 2015 submission

6th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress (APOTC) (September 14-17, 2015, Rotorua, New Zealand)

[APOTC's vision is "Doing Well Together"](#) and aims to disseminate and celebrate research and examples of clinical practice across the themes of:

- Sharing practice insights and stories
- Sharing the best of practice and theory
- Sharing technology in practice
- Creative partnerships with community and colleagues
- Strengthening communities

- Practicing across cultures

Submissions may take the form of research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods), systematic reviews, practice exemplars, case studies, program evaluation, policy development or position statements.

The First International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury (September 16-18, 2015, Liverpool, United Kingdom)

Short oral presentation and poster abstract deadline: March 9, 2015.

[This conference](#) (Supporting Young People and Their Families to Maximise Good Outcomes and Quality of Life) seeks to bring together with all those an interest in the development of innovative treatments for acquired brain injuries in children, adolescents and young adults, supported by evidenced-based research.

AOTA 2015 Education Summit (October 17-18, 2015, Denver, Colorado)

[The AOTA 2015 Education Summit](#) invites all who share the common vision of enhanced understanding of teaching and learning in occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant degree programs to submit a proposal. Summit themes are: Pedagogy & Instructional Design, Building Capacity/Faculty Development and Resources, Learner Characteristics & Competencies) within the practice of occupational therapy education (entry, post professional and specialty workshops). Priority will be given to proposals that use data/evidence to formulate problem statements and analyze outcomes, and that include recommendations for future work.

Society for Neuroscience 2015 Annual Conference (October 17-21, 2015, Chicago, Illinois)

The [Society for Neuroscience](#) is the world's largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to understanding the brain and nervous system. The nonprofit organization, founded in 1969, now has nearly 40,000 members in more than 90 countries and 130 chapters worldwide.

Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) 44th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting (October 23-25, 2015, Calgary, Alberta)

The CAG announces their 2015 conference -- [From Possibility to Practice in Aging: Shaping a Future for All](#). This multidisciplinary conference is for those interested in individual and population aging. Abstracts are welcome from all disciplines and interests in gerontology and geriatrics including research, practice, policy and related work. Abstracts are due by April 15, 2015.

International BIOPHILIA Rehabilitation Conference (IBRC) (October 23-27, 2015, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan)

The 12th annual conference, [IBRC 2015](#) is a leading international forum for Rehabilitation Medicine. BIOPHILIA represents the process of functional recovery.

ACRM 92nd Annual Progress in Rehabilitation Research & Expo (October 25-30, 2015, Dallas, Texas)

In 2015, the [ACRM annual conference](#) will focus on brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, cancer and pain. Submission deadlines have been extended: preconference instructional courses (four- or eight-hours of instruction) and core conference symposia (75-minute presentations) have been extended to February 23. Proposals for oral and poster presentations of scientific papers are due March 2.

American Public Health Association (APHA) (October 31-November 4, 2015, Chicago, Illinois)

[APHA's Annual Meeting & Exposition](#) is where public health professionals convene, learn, network and engage with peers. The theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting is Health in All Policies, they hope to strengthen the profession of public health, share the latest research and information, promote best practices, and advocate for public health issues and policies grounded in research.

Call for Papers Submission Deadline: Abstracts are due between February 9-13.

Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting (November 18-22, 2015, Orlando, Florida)

GSA is the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. The principal mission GSA is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision makers, and the general public. Watch the [web site](#) for conference details and call for papers information.

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Carey continued

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.
Visionary, dedicated, collaborative.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
I hope to harness real world drivers of neural plasticity to help stroke survivors realise their full potential. I also hope to grow research-clinicians and research capacity in occupational therapy.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?
Go for it! If you have a question and a passion then seek an active research environment with strong supervisory team and make it happen! The benefits for you, your clients and our profession are immeasurable.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?
I believe occupational therapists should be leading the way in conducting research that creates the right environment for healing and realising one's full potential.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
Belief and challenge that help open the door to new perspectives and opportunities.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
Spending time with friends, family and colleagues who are also friends.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?
Learning something new from each participant and student I work with, and seeing the difference new discoveries can make to the lives of people who have experienced brain injury.

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Cermak, continued

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Clark, continued

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Tenacious, creative, hardworking.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

By developing cost-effective interventions that prevent chronic disease and disability.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

Stay focused and be open to learning from mentors.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

Demonstrating the efficacy of occupational therapy intervention approaches in improving quality of life of individuals on the autism spectrum.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

They were extremely encouraging, believed in my potential, and trusted that I was highly motivated to serve the public good.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

Reading.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

I have been surprised to discover that components of interventions I assumed were accounting for certain beneficial effects were irrelevant. What has been most rewarding is providing evidence that interventions we develop actively produce positive health outcomes cost-effectively in underserved, ethnically diverse populations.

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Classen, continued

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Driven, innovative, energetic, resilient.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

- *Continue to make excellent contributions to the science of driving rehabilitation*
- *Provide knowledge translation of driving rehabilitation science to occupational therapy practitioners (and*

others) to ensure best practices

- *Training 1000's of therapists, worldwide, in a newly established post-professional Master's Program in Driving Rehabilitation Therapy, to build capacity through the globe, in providing driving and community mobility services.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

- *Follow your passion-that is the fuel propelling us to become refined, successful and joyous human beings;*
- *Create a bold vision that embodies your ultimate purpose;*
- *Plan action steps (types and mechanisms of grants, publications, conference presentations) purposefully-starting with the end in mind;*
- *Be true to yourself, appreciate your mentors, respect your colleagues, and support those who are looking up to you;*
- *Expect disappointments, manage them, and be grateful for them, for they do make one stronger;*
- *Nurture those who you love-they are your safe harbors;*
- *Seek excellence;*
- *Contribute to the well-being of humanity.*

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

Ensure our measures are valid and interventions are effective -regardless of the practice area or population.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

Identifying potential in me and providing me with opportunities to pursue a variety of scientific or leadership roles.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

Road cycling, cross-country skiing, theater, spending time in my beloved Cape Town, South Africa.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

Embarking upon a task -- driven by a bold vision-- and experiencing how one becomes a co-creator in fulfilling the mission.

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Cohen, continued

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Hardworking, focused, intellectual.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

With greater knowledge comes the power to give better care, to improve the lives of our patients.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

Be focused on one area of interest and learn everything you can about it.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

Research related to the many problems of aging. The population is aging; if we are going to have a significant role in

the care of seniors then we need to be involved in research on all aspects of aging and care of elderly people, from behavioral mechanisms of motor problems and treatment of age-related weakness and balance disorders to the psychosocial aspects of care.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

Every teacher, professor, mentoring therapist has had advice and has served as a role model in some way. Even negative feedback has been useful to tell me how I appear to others and what I need to work on.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

Walking, observing nature.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

1. *Great people I have met.*
2. *The opportunity to participate in fascinating research in other areas of science that were not my initial focus, but for which my skills and background have been appropriate. Also, the opportunity to influence the direction of the science in grant reviews and manuscript reviews.*
3. *The opportunity to travel to interesting places for scientific meetings.*

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Coster, continued

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Organized, patient, a listener.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

I hope that my work enables others to look at people with disabilities and to see what they can do and to think creatively about how to enable meaningful participation.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

Network! You never know when one of those connections turns out to be the key that opens a new door for you.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

Understanding more about the cognitive and emotional underpinnings of everyday life activities.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

Mentors taught me "the ropes" - the things you need to do to build a successful career that you don't learn in courses or by reading books.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

I love walking in the woods with my dogs, in all seasons - although not in the rain.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

I never expected to find measurement so fascinating and I've been gratified to see the measures I've worked on really change both practice and research.

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AOTF is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. Gifts to AOTF help us make a real difference through:

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