

## Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the

AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

June 2010

Dear Colleagues:

Accessibility and participation are on my mind these days. I am privileged to serve on the National Advisory Board For Seniors and Persons with Disability.

Anyone who follows demographic trends is well aware that the population in the United States and many other countries is getting older. With normal aging, people experience sensory decline, and chronic diseases are commonplace, often coming with disability. This makes accessibility and universal design more important than ever. Participation is essential for a high quality of life.

This month, we feature information on accessibility and participation. We have highlighted weblinks, articles and announcements that pertain to this theme. We welcome your submissions on articles and links that you think will be interesting and useful to our subscribers.

As always, thanks for your interest in *Research Resources* and for your support of the AOTF.

Cordially,



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

Please take a moment to visit the AOTF website and make a tax deductible [donation](#) to support our research capacity building efforts. Thanks!

### Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

#### Research on the Role of Environments in Promoting Occupation, Participation, and Health

The topic for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) Research Colloquium and Tea at the 2010 Annual Conference and Exhibition of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) was Research on the Role of Environments in Promoting Occupation, Participation, and Health. Consideration of the significance of the physical, social, or intangible environment on the successful performance of activities of daily living (ADLs) and other meaningful occupations, as well as on their level of participation in various communities been in the clinical reasoning of occupational therapy practitioners for many decades.

The earliest article in OT SEARCH dates to 1942 (Anderson). As early as 1977, Estelle Breines studied the effect of familiarity with an environment on perception in the elderly for her master's thesis. Five years later, Howe and Briggs published a paper on a theoretical model of the relationship between ecology and human performance (Howe & Briggs, 1982), with further development and publications by Dunn, et al. (1994a and 1994b). In 1996, a group of Canadian occupational therapists introduced the Person-Environment-Occupation Model (PEO) (Law, Strong, Stewart, Rigby & Letts). Many publications have appeared since 1996 that further develop the PEO model and discuss its use in practice settings. Of course, developing instruments to assess the environment in relationship to occupations will also be necessary (Bundy, Waugh & Brentnall, 2009).

In 1991, social geographer, Dr. Graham D Rowles, shared his research on the impact of being in a particular place on the everyday lives of an aging population in a town in the Appalachian Mountains with the occupational therapy community. A later publication (Rowles, 2000) adds another occupational therapy concept, habit, to place or environment, and still later (2008), Rowles discusses "place" and occupational science.

As of May 4, 2010, a search in OT SEARCH for all materials indexed to one of the eleven subject headings concerned with the environment will yield 1,823 references. Obviously, this is too many to list here. In an effort to provide a sample of this material, one or two recent articles for each term listed below is cited. Of course, there will be overlap in articles. If the reader is interested in a more detailed literature search on this topic, contact the Wilma L. West Library, [wlib@aota.org](mailto:wlib@aota.org) to discuss having a literature search completed for you on OT SEARCH.

*BODY ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS* - Roy, Rousseau, Fortier & Mottard, 2009  
*ENVIRONMENT* - Erikson, Park & Tham, 2010, Lynch, 2009 and Shaw, 2009  
*ENVIRONMENT DESIGN* - Egilson & Traustadottir, 2009  
*ENVIRONMENT, CONTROLLED* - Sachs & Nasser, 2009  
*ENVIRONMENT, PHYSICAL* - Letts, et al., 2010 and Yang & Stark, 2010  
*ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH* - Ripat, Redmond & Grabowecky, 2010  
*ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (SOCIAL POLICY)* - Leclair, 2010  
*ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION* - Gristbrooke & Scott, 2009 and Chard, Liu & Mulholland, 2009  
*ENVIRONMENTAL STIMULATION* - Dickie, et al. 2009 and Chard, Liu & Mulholland, 2009  
*ORIENTATION TO ENVIRONMENT* - Rowles, 2008  
*SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT* - Simmons, Griswold & Berg, 2010 and Yang & Stark, 2010

Anderson, CL. (1942). The social environment of occupational therapy. *Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation*, 21, 333-336.

Breines, EB. (1977). The Effect of Familiarity of Environment on Perception in an Aged Population. Union, NJ: Kean College.

Bundy, AC, Waugh, K & Brentnall, J. (2009). [Developing assessments that account for the role of the environment: an example using the Test of Playfulness and Test of Environmental Supportiveness](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 29, 135-43.

Chard, G, Liu, L & Mulholland, S. (2009). [Verbal cueing and environmental modifications: strategies to improve engagement in occupations in persons with Alzheimer disease](#). *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, 27, 197-211.

Dickie, VA, Baranek, GT, Schultz, B, Watson, LR & McComish, C. (2009). [Parent reports of sensory experiences of preschool children with and without autism: a qualitative study](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63, 172-181.

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- Egilson, ST & Traustadottir, R. (2009). [Participation of students with physical disabilities in the school environment](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63, 264-272.
- Erikson, A, Park, M & Tham, K. (2010). [Place Integration through daily activities 1 year after stroke](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 30, 68-77.
- 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.
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- Law, M, Strong, S, Stewart, D, Rigby, P & Letts, L. (1996). The Person-Environment-Occupation Model: a transactive approach to occupational performance. *The Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63, 9-23.
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- Letts, L, Moreland, J, Richardson, J, Coman, L, Edwards, M, Ginis, KM, Wilkins, S & Wishart, L. (2010). [The physical environment as a fall risk factor in older adults: Systematic review and meta-analysis of cross-sectional and cohort studies](#). *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 57, 51-64.
- Lynch, H. (2009). [Patterns of activity of Irish children aged five to eight years: city living in Ireland today](#). *Journal of Occupational Science*, 16, 44-49.
- Ripat, JD, Redmond, JD & Grabowecy, BR. (2010). [The Winter Walkability project: Occupational therapists' role in promoting citizen engagement](#). *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7-14.
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- Sachs, D & Nasser, K. (2009). [Facilitating family occupations: family member perceptions of a specialized environment for children with mental retardation](#). *The American Journal of Occupational*

Therapy, 63, 453-462.

Shaw, L. (2009). [Reflections on the importance of place to the participation of women in new occupations](#). *Journal of Occupational Science*, 16, 56-60.

Simmons, CD, Griswold, LA & Berg, B. (2010). [Evaluation of social interaction during social engagement](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 64, 10-17.

Yang, HY & Stark, SL. (2010). [The role of environmental features in social engagement among residents living in assisted living facilities](#). *Journal of Housing for the Elderly*, 24, 28-43.

### In This Issue

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**OTJR:  
Occupation,  
Participation  
and Health  
Spring 2010  
Issue**

**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](#).

### Conference Announcements

[Health and Wellbeing in Children, Youth, and Adults with Developmental Disabilities: Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders \(September 29 - October 1, 2010, Vancouver, British Columbia\)](#)

This conference will provide education and informative updates on psychiatric, behavioral and complex health components specific to individuals with developmental disabilities, and showcase best practices in the field.

[2nd Conference on Positive Aging: An Interdisciplinary Team Approach for Health Professionals \(November 26 - 27, 2010, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada\)](#)

The aim of this conference is to bring together an interdisciplinary audience of health professionals and researchers to address some of the issues and challenges facing the aging population today. The importance of purpose and meaning of the later life as well as lessons for health and longevity will be emphasized.

[The One Event Where Cutting-Edge Research, Mobile Technologies, Evidence-Based Practice and Policy Come Together \(November 8 - 10, 2010, Washington, DC\)](#)

The 2010 mHealth Summit is the key opportunity for leaders in government, private sector/industry, academia, and not-for-profit organizations to share information and experiences related to the intersection of mobile technology, health research, and policy.

[Presentation abstracts](#) are due **July 1, 2010**.

[2010 Special Olympics National Education Conference \(July 18 - 21, 2010, Omaha, Nebraska\)](#)

The 2010 Special Olympics National Education Conference will provide an opportunity to engage educators while increasing their knowledge and skills to motivate, educate and activate students with and without intellectual disabilities.

[Culture, Spirituality & Ethics in Critical Care, Chronic Care &](#)

### Guest Editorial

[Questions to Keep in Mind When Reading New Contributions to Qualitative](#)

[Research](#) Gelya Frank, PhD

### Feature Articles

[Qualitative Research in Occupational Therapy: From the First to the Second Generation](#)

Gelya Frank, PhD;  
Donald Polkinghorne, PhD

-  
[Occupation and Meaning: Narrative in Everyday Activities of Women With Chronic Rheumatic Conditions](#)

Sissel Alsaker, PhD  
candidate OT; Staffan  
Josephsson, PhD,  
OTR

[Place Integration Through Daily Activities 1 Year After Stroke](#)

Anette Erikson, OT,  
Lic. Degree in Med.;  
Melissa Park, OTR/L  
PhD; Kerstin Tham,  
OT, PhD

-  
[Psychological Well-Being and Meaning-Making When Caregiving for Children With Disabilities: Growth Through Difficult Times or Sinking Inward](#)

Elizabeth Larson,  
PhD, OTR

-  
[Struggling to Maintain](#)

### [Mental Health Care \(June 17 - 18, 2010, Ottawa, Ontario\)](#)

Healthcare Conferences Canada, Inc. (HCCI) is an educational service established by caregivers, medical professionals, students and other allied healthcare specialists to promote an effective integration of the multicultural and spiritual resources as indispensable components in the delivery of a person-focused and holistic care.

### [Health Literacy Research Conference \(October 18 - 19, 2010, Bethesda, Maryland\)](#)

The main goals of this meeting are to: advance core health literacy definitional issues; highlight emerging techniques for measurement of health literacy, present health literacy oriented interventions, and promote career development and networking for those engaged in health literacy research. The Special Themes of this year's conference will be health disparities and patient safety. [Abstracts](#) are due **June 11, 2010**.

### [Jerusalem International Conference on Integrated Medicine \(October 19-22, 2010, Jerusalem, Israel\)](#)

This unique international meeting will deal with the growth of integrative medicine, its achievements, its problems, and the current way advances in the medical world.

## Publication Announcements

### [Bridging the Evidence Gap in Obesity Prevention](#)

This book identifies a new approach to decision making and research on obesity prevention to use a systems perspective to gain a broader understanding of the context of obesity and the many factors that influence it. Kumanyika, S.K., Parker, L. & Sim, L.J. (Eds.). (2010) *Bridging the Evidence Gap in Obesity Prevention: A Framework to Inform Decision Making* Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

## AOTF Institute Image of the Month

[Occupation While Dealing With Risk: The Experiences of Older Adults With Low Vision](#)

Debbie Laliberte Rudman, PhD, OT Reg. (ON); Suzanne Huot, MA, PhD Candidate; Lisa Klinger, MSc., OT Reg. (ON); Beverly D. Leipert, PhD, RN; Marlee M. Spafford, OD, PhD, FAAO

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Think of AOTF when you search the internet or shop online. Use these sites by entering the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and AOTF benefits from every search or purchase!



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

The month of May witnessed the passing of two long-time friends of the Foundation, Carlotta Welles and Elizabeth Devereaux. They will be greatly missed.



Carlotta Welles, MA, OTR, FAOTA, was the recipient of both the AOTA Award of Merit (1975) and of the AOTA-AOTF Presidents' Commendation in honor of Wilma L. West (1992). Ms. Welles's long career truly exemplified the criteria for awarding the Presidents' Commendation; that is, the gift of leadership along with enthusiasm and commitment to the profession exemplified by a lifetime of achievement. Ms. Welles achieved, lead, and gave to the profession of occupational therapy since receiving her diploma from the Boston School of Occupational Therapy in 1941. In 1953, she earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California and later, in 1970, teacher training at the University of California, Los Angeles. Ms. Welles filled the positions of a clinician, consultant, educator, and financial advisor to both AOTA and AOTF. Donations in the memory of Ms. Welles can be made to the [American Occupational Therapy Foundation](#).



Elizabeth Devereaux, MSW, ACSW/L, OTR/L, FAOTA, was a former president and honorary life board member of the Foundation, serving as president from 1988-1994. She retired in 1994 after serving for 16 years as Associate Professor and Director, Division of Occupational Therapy, in the Department of Psychiatry, Marshall University School of Medicine. Ms. Devereaux earned her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the Ohio State University and her Master of Social Work from West Virginia University. She received the AOTA Award of Merit (1984), a richly deserved honor recognizing her many leadership roles in that organization. Liz, as her friends affectionately knew her, received the AOTA-AOTF Presidents' Commendation in honor of Wilma L. West (2004) for her sustained contributions to the profession of occupational therapy over a lifetime of service. Donations in the memory of Ms. Devereaux can be made to the [Elizabeth B. Devereaux Scholarship of the West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association administered by AOTF](#) or [The Hospice of Huntington, Huntington, West Virginia](#).

*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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