



# AOTF THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOUNDATION

1965-2015

*Celebrating fifty years of advancing the science of occupational therapy*

June 2015

## AOTF Research Resources



### Research Matters!

Watch the video on AOTF's role on advancing the science of occupational therapy on our home page: [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org)

## Dear Colleagues,

Ah, June!!! "And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days..." (James Russell Lowell). I marvel at the technology that allowed me to finish this *Research Resources* newsletter while sitting on my porch this rare day in June. I know assistive technology has also made it possible for many people to participate in everyday life in ways that would have not been possible for them a very short time ago. In this issue of *Research Resources*, we explore resources for assistive technology research and continue our 50th anniversary tributes to the history of AOTF and the Academy of Research.

### Assistive Technology: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

[Research in assistive technology](#) has grown in importance in all areas of occupational therapy practice. The [1998 Assistive Technology Act](#) defined assistive technology as "as any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities." Interdisciplinary research in assistive technology poses unusual opportunities and challenges, including the need for: timely knowledge translation due to rapid changes in technology, communication

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and collaboration among team members from very different backgrounds (engineering, information technology, occupational therapy, education, and psychology), and research methods that incorporate the individual and community context as well as technical details.

### Academy of Research Member Profiles: A to Z

The Academy of Research honors individuals who have made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy. The next installment of our AOTF Academy of Research member profiles includes:

- [Christine Helfrich](#)
- [Margo Holm](#)
- [Noomi Katz](#)
- [Gary Kielhofner](#)
- [Mary Law](#)
- [Mary Lawlor](#)
- [Catherine Lysack](#)

We also have a Q and A for [Betty Hasselkus](#) who was featured in our [May issue](#).

### 1990-1994

This month, we look back at the latter half of AOTF's third decade. [This era](#) was marked by the passage of the [American with Disabilities Act](#), the establishment of the [National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research \(NCMRR\)](#), and the launch of the first [Healthy People](#) initiative. During this same time, AOTF celebrated its 25th anniversary and continued to address the growing needs for knowledge and research capacity in the profession. A [few highlights](#) are included in this issue of *Research Resources*.

We invite our readers to submit research opportunities to our Communications Associate [Helene Ross](#) for publication in the next edition of *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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### Call for 2016 AOTA Conference Research Proposal Reviewers

AOTA seeks researchers to review research abstracts for the 2016 AOTA Conference. Qualifications are a completed research doctoral degree and at least one peer-reviewed journal article using data analysis. Questions? contact [Susan Lin](#) at AOTA.

There are two opportunities for reviewing research abstracts.

The Intervention Research Grant RFA will be available by July 1, 2015. Watch the [AOTF web site](#) for information.

### *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*

*OTJR*, published quarterly by AOTF, offers original peer-reviewed research articles of professional interest to the practicing OT with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research. *OTJR* is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed. To download current, past and future *OTJR* articles -- see the [OTJR website](#).

### Online First

[Forthcoming articles](#) are published online before they are scheduled to appear in print.

Gael I. Orsmond and Ellen S. Cohn  
The Distinctive Features of a Feasibility Study: Objectives and Guiding Questions

Michelle L. Elliot  
"What Do You Think We Should Do?": Relationship and Reflexivity in Participant Observation

Christine Berg, Mary McCollum, Esther Cho, and Dawn Jason  
Development of the Adolescent and Young Adult Activity Card Sort

Simone Thomas, Anita C. Bundy, Deborah Black, and Shelly J. Lane  
Toward Early Identification of Sensory Over-Responsivity (SOR): A Construct for Predicting Difficulties With Sleep and Feeding in Infants

Suzanne Huot and Debbie Laliberte Rudman  
Extending Beyond Qualitative Interviewing to Illuminate the Tacit Nature of Everyday Occupation: Occupational Mapping and Participatory Occupation Methods

- July 15-August 12, 2015
- Early to mid-January 2016

If you are able to review, please submit your information [at this site](#) by noon on June 28, 2015.

Consuelo M. Kreider, Roxanna M. Bendixen, William C. Mann, Mary Ellen Young, and Christopher McCarty  
Mixed-Method Exploration of Social Network Links to Participation

Bethan Collins and Paul O'Mahony  
Physically Disabled Adults' Perceptions of Personal Autonomy: Impact on Occupational Engagement

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## Assistive Technology: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

Assistive technology research is an important area of interdisciplinary science for occupational therapy. An overview of professional associations and conferences, journals, research resources, and funding mechanisms is provided as a starting point for occupational therapy researchers who want to become more familiar with this interdisciplinary science.

### Professional Associations and Conferences

[Rehabilitation, Engineering, and Assistive Technology Society in North America \(RESNA\)](#): was founded in 1979, has about 1,200 members with 7 special interest groups (SIGs) and 6 professional specialty groups (PSGs). The mission of RESNA is "promoting the health and well-being of people with disabilities through increasing access to technology solutions." RESNA hosts an annual conference and publishes the journal, *Assistive Technology*. RESNA also offers a variety of resources for professional development.

#### [Assistive Technology Industry Association:](#)

is a not for profit membership organization of manufacturers, sellers and providers of technology-based assistive devices and/or service.

[Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe \(AAATE\)](#): has about 250 members with a mission as an "interdisciplinary pan-European association devoted to all aspects of assistive technology, such as use, research, development, manufacture, supply, provision and policy." AAATE hosts conferences and workshops on alternating years.

### Assistive Technology Journals

A sample of interdisciplinary assistive technology journals that regularly have articles of relevance to occupational therapy are summarized here. There are many additional journals that regularly feature articles on assistive technology research.

[Assistive Technology Journal](#) 2013 IF: 1.30

[Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology](#)

[Journal of Special Education Technology](#)

[Technology and Disability](#)

### A Sample of Research and Evidence-Based Resources for Assistive Technology

[RESNA's Guidelines and Priorities for Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering Research](#)

[Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers \(RERCs\): List of all RERCs](#)

[Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research \(KTDRR\): Assistive Technology Standards Work Group](#)

Clayback, D., Hostak, R., Leahy, J., Minkel, J., Piper, M., Smith, R. O., & Vaarwerk, T. (2014). [Standards for assistive technology funding: What are the right criteria?](#) Austin, TX: SEDL, Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

[University programs with a special focus on rehabilitation engineering / assistive technology](#)

[AbleData](#)

[Disability.gov's Guide to Assistive & Accessible Technologies](#)

[Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children \(TAM\)](#)

[Center for Implementing Technology in Education \(CITEd\)](#)

[Center on Technology and Disability \(CTD\)](#)

[Assistive Technology Coalition \(ATC\)](#)  
[Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology\(DO-IT\)](#)  
[RESNA Assistive Technology Standards Board \(ATSB\)](#)

### **A Sample of Funding Mechanisms for Assistive Technology Research**

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

[Craig C. Nielson Foundation \(spinal cord injury\)](#)  
[NICHD Rehabilitative and Assistive Technology Opportunities](#)  
[National Science Foundation](#)  
[Department of Defense Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program](#)

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## **The History of AOTF continued,1990-1994**

### **Scholarships**

By 1990, the AOTF was awarding 50 student scholarships a year. This initiative was possible because of a collaborative program with 15 state associations and 8 named scholarships offered in perpetuity (Devereaux, 1990).

### **Presidents' Commendation**

In 1990, the governing boards of both the AOTF and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) established the [AOTA-AOTF Presidents' Commendation in Honor of Wilma L. West](#). The purpose of the award is "honor a respected leader of the profession who has made sustained contributions to occupational therapy over a lifetime of service."

### **Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE)**

From 1990-1994, Pi Theta Epsilon launched a number of initiatives to strengthen the organization. In 1990, all PTE chapters ratified a constitution that included uniform dues and a fee structure that gradually allowed the organization to have financial independence. AOTF provided a temporary loan through 1994 to establish an operating budget and support PTE goals: "(a) increase the number of existing chapters; (b) incorporate the society; (c) register its trademark (used for the pin worn by Pi Theta Epsilon members); and (d) apply successfully to ACHS [Association of College Honor Societies]." (Pi Theta Epsilon, 2012).

### **Centers for Research & Scholarship**

In the [April Research Resources](#), we mentioned the long-range research plan created by the Research Advisory Committee. Goal VI was to "Promote centers for research in occupational therapy," (RAC, 1982, p.117). In the mid to late 1980s, "AOTA and AOTF provided \$225,000 to establish three centers for Scholarship and Research. . . - the University of Illinois at Chicago, Sargent College at Boston University, and the University of Southern California. These centers matched the AOTA-AOTF funds, and agreed to secure funding to continue the operation of the centers for an indefinite period of time. The purpose of the program was to stimulate research among faculty and students, to promote research by providing consultation to local clinicians, and to recognize the centers as leaders in scholarly and scientific activity. The result (into the late 1980s and early 1990s) was an outstanding record on each center's part with regard to federally and privately funded research grants, sometimes in the several million dollars per year range," (Devereaux, 1990, p. 441.) In the July/August issue, we'll look at the creation of the Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE) at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### **Measurement**

Measurement and assessment were identified as important issues in both practice and research. The University of Illinois at Chicago offered a symposium of "selected leaders from practice, research, and administration to examine the present range of measurement and assessment devices available to the field; to anticipate the needs for good assessment in light of current trends in practice; to examine at least some elements of measurement theory that might be particularly pertinent; and to gain an appreciation of some aspects of the social, political, and economic parameters that will have increasing influence on the rehabilitation process." The symposium was funded by the AOTA and coordinated by AOTF (Gillette, 1993).

Devereaux, EB. (1990). [American Occupational Therapy Foundation: milestones of a quarter century](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 44, 295-297

Gillette, NP. (1993). [Partners in Promoting Measurement: AOTF and AOTA](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 47(4), 367-367.

Pi Theta Epsilon. (Updated 2012). *Pi Theta Epsilon. PTE. The National Honor Society for Occupational Therapy: New Member Orientation Handbook*. Retrieved from

<http://www.aotf.org/Portals/0/documents/PTE/NewMemberHandboo%20UpdatedApril2012.pdf>

Research Advisory Committee.(1982). [The Foundation: A long-range research plan for occupational therapy](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 36, 116-118.

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## 1990-1994: A few significant events in health science and policy

### American with Disabilities Act of 1990

In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed as equal opportunity legislation and "the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications."

### National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR)

In 1990, NIH Amendments (Public Law 101-613) establish the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) within the NICHD to "conduct and support programs for the rehabilitation, health, and well-being of individuals with physical disabilities resulting from birth defects and diseases."

### Healthy Start Initiative

In 1991, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded the Healthy Start Initiative to "identify and develop community-based systems approaches to reducing infant mortality by 50% over the five-year period and to improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children and their families."

### Institute of Medicine (IOM), Disability in America: Toward a National Agenda for Prevention

In 1991, the IOM released the report, *Disability in America: Toward a National Agenda for Prevention*. This report outlined a "five-prong strategy for reducing the incidence and prevalence of disability as well as its personal, social, and economic consequences." This report was used as the foundation for later reports that also focused on disability issues.

### Healthy People 2000

In 1990, the DHHS Healthy People 2000 initiative was launched with 319 objectives and 22 priority areas for improving the health of Americans by the end of the century. The priority areas addressed health promotion, health protection, and preventative services and required an infrastructure to track the objectives. This public health initiative would lay the foundation for Healthy People 2010 and Healthy People 2020.

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## The Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy (continued)

### Christine Helfrich, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Helfrich is an adjunct instructor at Bristol Community Massachusetts and Co-Investigator Project Team, Boston Massachusetts. Dr. Helfrich describes her research in this way: community based with vulnerable populations including been homeless, survivors of domestic violence and their with mental illness. Working with these populations I have assessments, developed interventions and evaluated on June 4 from <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/christine->

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



College, Fall River, University, Boston, "My research is individuals who are/have children and individuals completed needs outcomes." (Retrieved [helfrich/83/b19/1b7](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/christine-helfrich/83/b19/1b7).)

### Margo Holm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, ABDA

Dr. Holm is professor emeritus, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Occupational Therapy Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her research interests are in functional outcomes of medical, psychiatric and rehabilitation interventions and evidence-based practice. (Retrieved on May 27 from <https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/mbholm/>.) Dr. Holm was awarded the American Occupational Therapy Association's 1999 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship and their Award of Merit in 2014.

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



### Noomi Katz, PhD, OTR

Dr. Katz is director of the Research Institute for Health and Medical Professions and professor emeritus, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. She was the founder of the *Israel Journal of Occupational Therapy* and editor from 1991-1997. (Retrieved on May 27, 2015 from

Dr. Katz's research interests are in the areas of cognition and occupation, relationships to health and quality of life. Cognitive rehabilitation, evaluation and intervention of individuals with neurological deficits and disabilities. Metacognition, awareness to abilities/disabilities and executive functions/dysfunctions implications for daily activities. Neuronal and behavioral recovery after right hemisphere stroke with unilateral spatial neglect (USN). Effectiveness of treatment methods, Cross-cultural cognitive performance, comparisons of different cultural groups, implications for learning and daily performance." (Retrieved on June 9 from [\)](http://www.huji.ac.il/dataj/controller/ihoker/MOP-STAFF_LINK?sno=8205746&Save_t=)

In 1997, Dr. Katz was the recipient of the first Award of Excellence Lectureship from the Israeli Society of Occupational Therapy.

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



### Gary Kielhofner, DrPH, OTR, FAOTA

At the time of his death in 2010, Dr. Kielhofner was professor and Wade-Meyer Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Kielhofner is, of course, almost synonymous with his theoretical model -- the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO). In their tribute to Dr. Kielhofner Drs. Braveman, Fisher, Suarez-Balcazar wrote the following (Braveman, Fisher, Suarez-Balcazar, 2010. p. 829).

"In 1980, Gary and Janice Burke introduced a theoretical model under the mentorship of Mary Reilly to fill a gap in understanding and addressing clients with disabilities' psychosocial challenges in the rehabilitation process (Kielhofner & Burke, 1980). This groundbreaking theory, the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO), is currently the most widely used theory in occupational therapy research and practice. This model presented practitioners with a conceptual framework and practical tools to guide their assessment and reasoning process, effect change, and measure the impact of their intervention. It guides occupational therapy practitioners to consider the personal values and interests, roles and responsibilities, and environmental contexts of each client. The model also provided a foundation for program development and research initiatives. Gary's book, *Model of Human Occupation: Theory and Application*, now in its fourth edition, has served to educate generations of occupational therapy students (Kielhofner, 2008). More than 500 articles, books, and chapters have reported research, case studies, intervention approaches, and programs based on MOHO."



In 2011, Dr. Kielhofner, received the American Occupational Therapy Association's [Award of Merit](#) (posthumously). AOTA created the [The Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award](#) and awarded for the first time in 2014 to Rachel Dargatz. AOTF created [The Gary W. Kielhofner Graduate Fellowship in Occupational Therapy](#) to also further his impact.

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

### Mary Law, PhD, OT(Reg)(Ont), FCAOT

[Dr. Law](#) is professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science and also associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. She holds the John and Margaret Lillie Chair in Childhood Disability Research. Dr. Law, an occupational therapist by training, is co-founder of CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, a multidisciplinary research center at McMaster University.

Dr. Law's research centers on the development and validation of client-centered outcome measures, evaluation of occupational therapy interventions with children, the effect of environmental factors on the participation of children with disabilities in day to day activities, and transfer of research knowledge into practice. Dr. Law is the lead author of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure, a client-centered outcome measure for occupational therapy, and has written books on Client-centered Occupational Therapy, Evidence-based Rehabilitation and Measurement of Occupational Performance. Dr. Law has been chair of the USA NIH Rehabilitation Research Committee and co-editor of Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics. Honors received nationally and internationally include the Muriel Driver Lectureship, the top award in Canadian Occupational Therapy; the Whittaker Award for pediatric rehabilitation research; Queen's University Legacy of Achievement Alumni Award, and Fellow, Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. Retrieved on June 2, 2015 from <http://www.pearsonclinical.com/authors/law-mary.html>.



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

### Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L

Dr. Lawlor is associate chair of research and professor, Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, California and has a joint appointment with the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Lawlor's interests are in examining the meanings of illness and disability in family life, the social nature of therapeutic experience, and cultural influences on health care and developmental processes. (Retrieved on June 9, 2015 from [http://chan.usc.edu/faculty/directory/Mary\\_Lawlor](http://chan.usc.edu/faculty/directory/Mary_Lawlor).)

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



### Catherine Lysack, PhD, OT(C)

Dr. Lysack is the deputy director of the Institute of Gerontology (IOG) and a professor in the Department of Health Care Sciences (Occupational Therapy) at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. "Dr. Lysack's research focuses on the social, physical and environmental influences on health, and understanding how older adults and people with disability redevelop active and meaningful lives in the community after illness and injury. She has conducted numerous studies including recent studies to evaluate methods to strengthen occupational therapy practice skills in mental health, and identify factors that facilitate community participation after spinal cord injury. She is presently conducted research on two projects: 1) Household Downsizing in Late Life, funded by the National Institute on Aging, and 2) Social Reintegration of Service-members and Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury Returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense." (Retrieved on June 9, 2015 from [http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/research/occupational\\_research.php](http://www.cphs.wayne.edu/research/occupational_research.php).)



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

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## Scientist Development Awards

### Rheumatology Research Foundation Announcement

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. Application deadline: August 1, 2015.

### National MS Society Announcement

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. Application deadline: August 5, 2015.

### RWJF: Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research

[This new initiative](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) seeks to support rigorous, high-impact, creative research projects to build and disseminate information for evidence-based approaches to building a Culture of Health. The program will also support efforts to assess outcomes and set priorities for action by encouraging and supporting creative, rigorous research on the impact of innovative programs, policies and partnerships on health and well-being, and on novel approaches to measuring health determinants and outcomes. Approximately \$2.2 million will be awarded annually. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### RWJF: Funding Leadership Programs

RWJF is developing [four new boundary-spanning leadership programs](#) that reflect their vision to work with others to build a national Culture of Health. This solicitation invites eligible applicants to serve as a national leadership program center for one or more of RWJF's new leadership programs.

The four new programs are:

1. RWJF Diversity in Health Policy Research will support a large cadre of doctoral students from diverse backgrounds whose research, connections, and leadership will contribute to a Culture of Health.
2. RWJF Interdisciplinary Research Leaders will support a network of researchers whose leadership and community-relevant, policy-relevant, and action-oriented research will help to drive social change that builds a Culture of Health.
3. RWJF Multisector Leaders for Health will develop and leverage a diverse group of leaders representing key sectors (e.g., education, transportation, public health and policy, social work, business, community engagement, urban planning, and health care) who, as a result of this program, will take their leadership and influence to the next level to lead communities, organizations, and the nation toward a Culture of Health.
4. RWJF New Clinical Scholars will develop networked cohorts of clinicians who have attained a terminal clinical degree and who have the competencies and capabilities to lead transformative change that helps to build a Culture of Health in communities across the country.

Online application process will close at 3:00 p.m. ET on July 29, 2015.

### American Hand Therapy Foundation Grants

[These grants](#) will support novice or experienced researchers who are able to expand the scientific evidence, visibility, and quality of upper extremity and hand rehabilitation. As a goal of the funding process, opportunities are provided for new researchers to complete standard grant application forms, to demonstrate expertise as a principal investigator, to be responsible for handling budgeted funds, and to collect pilot data for larger funding opportunities.

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## Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

### Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research (TIGRR): January 12 - 16, 2016

The centerpiece of the [TIGRR Workshop](#) is the one-on-one mentorship that maximizes the chance for success. 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.

Applications accepted: July 1- September 1, 2015.

### The University of Michigan Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Program in Community Living and Participation (U-M AR RTP-CP)

[The U-M AR RTP-CP](#) will provide advanced rehabilitation research training to persons with doctoral or similar advanced degrees who have clinical or other relevant experience, with the goal of enhancing their capacity to conduct high quality multidisciplinary rehabilitation and disability research to improve outcomes for those with disabilities in the areas of community living and participation. The position will close when filled; start time is fall 2015.

### 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 in the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. A range of 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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## Other Resources

### Persevering in science: Advice from Nobel Laureates

[Free webinar](#) from Science magazine published by AAAS. A panel of Nobel Laureates, moderated by the editor-in-chief of the journal Science, will share their wisdom and answer your questions on how to succeed in a career in science.

Monday, June 29, 2015, 8 a.m. Pacific, 11 a.m. Eastern, 4 p.m. UK, 5 p.m. Central Europe

### Updates from the IOM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Profession Education

[Envisioning the Future of Health Professional Education Workshop](#): videos and PPTs are now available from this April workshop.

### Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Education (IPE) on Collaborative Practice and Patient Outcomes

[The IOM Board on Global Health study](#), Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Education (IPE) on Collaborative Practice and Patient Outcomes, was released on April 22, 2015 and is now available for free download.

### The White House Conference on Aging

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security. [The 2015 White House Conference on Aging](#) is an opportunity to recognize the importance of these key programs as well as to look ahead to the issues that will help shape the landscape for older Americans for the next decade. The White House is encouraging people to submit their ideas and get involved in the Conference.

### Resources at the The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)

UTMB offers a variety of research resources for investigators, including pre-award, post-award, and new [investigator toolkits](#), a [rehabilitation database directory for secondary data resources](#), and a [cross-dataset variable catalog](#).

### NIH and AHRQ Adopt New Requirements for the Biosketch for Research Grants

[This format](#) provides alternative strategies for describing researchers' past experiences and qualifications. The page limit is extended from four to five pages and it allows researchers to describe up to five of their most significant contributions to science, along with the historical background that framed their research. In addition to the descriptions of specific contributions and documentation, researchers will be allowed to include a link to a full list of their published work as found in a publicly available digital database such as MyBibliography or SciENcv. However,

it should be noted that some published work in occupational therapy may need to be entered manually.

### ASSISTance Options for Submitting Your Application to NIH

[ASSIST \(the Application Submission System and Interface for Submission Tracking\)](#) is now available as an option for submitting your R01 applications, as well as most individual career development (K) award applications. ASSIST is a web-based system that was developed by NIH, in close partnership with Grants.gov, to address common application submission challenges identified by the community. When applying, a button to use ASSIST is linked from the required application instructions section of funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) if ASSIST as an option for that opportunity.

### 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.

Next webinar: June 15, 2015, 1-2:30 p.m. Assessing and Reducing Violence in Military Veterans.

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## Conferences and Calls for Papers

### The Journal of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences

[Call for Papers](#) for a special issue on Successful Aging: Contentious Past, Productive Future to be published January or March 2017.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The role of technology in successful aging
- How positive psychology can influence models of successful aging
- Social structural influences on successful aging
- Comparisons and assessments of other psychosocial models of successful aging and their relation to Rowe and Kahn's (2015) model.
- The challenges and potential benefits of population aging for individuals, institutions, and societies
- Populations left behind? Obstacles to successful aging in the 21st century

Abstract submission deadline: August 1, 2015

Invitations to submit full manuscripts: October 1, 2015

Manuscript submission deadline: February 1, 2016

### 9th World Congress of the International Society for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) (June 19-23, 2015, Berlin, Germany)

This [Congress](#) will feature experts in the following fields:

- Clinical Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Sciences
- Biosciences in Rehabilitation
- Biomedical Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering
- Integrative Rehabilitation Sciences
- Human Functioning Sciences

### Occupational Therapy Australia 26th National Conference and Exhibition (July 1-3, 2015, Melbourne, Australia)

With the theme of 'Changes, Challenges, Choices', the [2015 conference](#) will provide an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the choices, both as individuals and as a profession, that we need to make to respond to and thrive in a changing and challenging landscape.

### Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Summit: Continuum of Care and Care Transitions in the Military Health System (September 9-11, 2015, Falls Church, Virginia)

[This virtual and in-person training event](#) is geared towards professionals involved in all aspects of psychological

health and traumatic brain injury (TBI) care, education and research for the military population. The summit's psychological health and TBI tracks will address factors that challenge and facilitate the provision of quality, sustained health services across care transitions and the continuum of care. [Abstract submission](#) deadline: May 29, 2015.

### 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)

[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.

### Southwest Conference on Disability (Oct 6-9,2015 Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Disability Rights Are Civil Rights: Advancing the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

[The Southwest Conference on Disability](#) is soliciting [proposals](#) that focus on areas such as employment, education, access, health, voting, housing and others concerning:

- Disability advocacy to bring about systems change;
- Research on disparities faced by people with disabilities;
- Policies and programs that have promoted equal rights for people with disabilities; and
- Barriers to attaining or preserving those rights and ways to overcome those barriers.

[Proposals](#) are also welcome on three-related special emphasis themes:

- Using assistive technology to promote equal rights of people with disabilities
- Employment as a right for people with disabilities: knowledge, action, tools
- Moving towards equal rights to health for people with disabilities

Proposals are welcomed which are cross-disability in nature, as well as those that focus on a particular type of disability including physical and intellectual disabilities, age group (e.g., seniors, youth in transition), gender or region.

### Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation 18th Annual Symposium (October 9-10, 2015, Orlando, Florida)

[The conference theme](#) is Strategies, Science & Success. and will present the latest finding and evolving trends in sensory processing.

### 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.

European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (October 22-24, 2015, University of Ruse, Bulgaria)

Abstract submission is open. [Conference information](#) on ENOTHE's web site will be available soon.

The 4th International Institute for the Study of the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) (October 23-24, 2015, Indianapolis Indiana)

[The 4th International Institute](#) aims to advance theory and evidence-based practice using MOHO through showcasing the latest developments in MOHO research, education and clinical application. This conference is focused on the following four themes:

- Collaborative Partnerships
- MOHO in Broader Perspective
- International Collaborations
- Teaching MOHO to Support Translation into Practice

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.

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](#) consisting of a main CORE Conference and a pre-conference, will focus on six days of evidence-based content on brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, cancer and pain. On October 27, Ken Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR will present Making Science: Characteristics of Successful Scholars, an early career development course. ACRM is seeking proposals for scientific poster presentations of late-breaking research. Proposal deadline: August 14, 2015.

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.

6th Annual Online Virtual Knowledge Exchange (24VX) Created by [OT4OT](#)

[Expressions of interest](#) on the theme: Being an Agent of Change. The 24VX is Monday, November 2 at 2000GMT/UTC to Tuesday, November 3 at 2000GMT/UTC.

Do you have something interesting to share with occupational therapy professionals? You might work in an expanding occupational therapy area of practice, or have a new twist on a traditional occupational therapy skill. You might have cutting edge research you would like to tell the world about, or have developed personal insights and understandings that are too good to keep to yourself.

Expressions of interest are due by July 1, 2015. Notification acceptance will be by August 1, 2015.

7th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference (November 2-3, 2015, Bethesda, Maryland)

[This interdisciplinary meeting](#) is an opportunity to advance the field of health literacy, a method to raise the quality of research, and a venue for professional development. Their aim is to attract a full range of investigators engaged in health literacy research including those involved in a broad array of public health, health services, epidemiology, translational, and interventional research activities.

Abstract Submission Deadline: July 2, 2015.

Aging and Society: Fifth Interdisciplinary Conference (November 5-6, 2015, Washington, DC)

[The 2015 Aging and Society Conference](#) special focus on inter-generational relationships will explore the barriers,

benefits, and ways to facilitate inter-generational relationships. Proposals are due July 14, 2015 on one of the following themes:

- Economic and Demographic Perspectives on Aging
- Public Policy and Public Perspectives of Aging
- Medical Perspectives on Aging, Health, and Wellness
- Social and Cultural Perspectives on Aging
- Special Focus: Inter-generational Relationships
- 2015 Special Focus: Inter-generational Relationships

### 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. Call for late breaking poster session abstracts: July, 2015.

### The 3rd Conference on Rehabilitation Medicine and Health Care (December 18-20, 2015, Guilin, China)

[This conference](#) will cover issues on rehabilitation medicine and health care. It dedicates to creating a stage for exchanging the latest research results and sharing the advanced research methods. Paper or abstract submission due: September 3, 2015 .

### ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) Conference (February 4-6, 2016, Orlando, Florida)

[The ATIA conference](#) is the largest international conference showcasing assistive technology tools and services. Attendees hear from the biggest names in AT about the latest trends and methods, as well as view state-of-the-art AT tools and services in the exhibit hall. [Call for Presentations](#) will be open until June 19, 2015 on topic areas including: accessibility, assistive technology for improved function (ATIF), AT and college and career readiness standards, augmentative and alternative communication.

### AOTA's 96th Annual Conference & Expo (April 7-10, 2016, Chicago, Illinois)

Share your practice innovations, research, and experience by submitting a proposal to present. Proposal deadline: June 29, 2015. Go to the [AOTA web site](#) and click on "Call for Papers."

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## Helfrich (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.  
*Innovative. Collaborative. Generous.*

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?  
*I would like my work to support occupational therapists to assist individuals, particularly those who are marginalized, to develop the skills they need and a sense of their own competence and worth so that they are free to be themselves and do what is important to them.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?  
*Don't be afraid to do what you believe is important, the most motivating words to me are "You won't be able to do it." Focus on an area that you are passionate about, so that when you encounter internal or external barriers, you will be motivated to keep going.*

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?  
*The field needs to continue to educate others about the importance of occupation and that involving human beings needs to be translational and community based even if the tradeoff means smaller sample sizes. We must educate*

*federal funders about the importance of our role in all areas of rehabilitation.*

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

*They believed in my ideas, encouraged my "non-traditional" applications of occupational therapy and supported my dreams and endeavors.*

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

*Supporting my daughter to believe she can become whatever she wants and to be proud of who she is. Travelling and making every day an adventure!*

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

*That my work has been more far reaching than I ever imagined and that it has helped a wide variety of people in a number of ways clinically and has supported the work of occupational therapists in various settings.*

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## Holm (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Mentor. Advocate. Principled.*

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

*The ability to carry out meaningful everyday activities is closely related to one's quality of life, regardless of country or culture. How "ability to carry out" is measured can subsequently determine which interventions are appropriate and acceptable to clients. Methods and outcomes of measurement has been a thrust at Pitt, and our research has changed policies, protocols, and patient outcomes.*

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

*Unless you like delayed gratification, this is the wrong career 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?

*Systematic collection of occupational therapy assessment data, intervention mechanisms, and client outcomes to evaluate and document the effectiveness of occupational therapy.*

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

*My primary mentor, Dr. Joan C. Rogers, led by example. "People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do" could easily be her motto. For me, that was a powerful learning strategy.*

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

*Travel. I enjoy immersing myself in other cultures and learning which daily activities are important, as well as the habits and routines that surround them.*

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

*Most surprising.....after years of recruiting human subjects only to lose them to long term follow-up, I am developing an affinity for rat studies.*

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### Katz (continued)

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### Kielhofner (continued)

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## Lysack (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.  
*Curious. Tenacious. Diplomatic.*

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

*I hope my work assists future therapists to be bold and creative in their work -- to examine functional problems in new ways so their patients can more easily achieve their goals.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?  
*Work on your writing skills now. Scientists and researchers devote a great deal of time and effort to grant writing and publication of research findings. Excellent writing skills are absolutely essential.*

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?  
*Science in general and science in the field of OS and OT should devote more resources to studying the root causes and effective treatments for mental health conditions, particularly depression. Depression alone may be the single greatest cause of disability and lost productivity there is. We should work harder on these large human problems.*

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.  
*Mentors make you believe you can do it, when you are less sure. Mentors open doors to understanding and insight and they inspire. You will not go far, or anywhere worthwhile without mentors.*

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.  
*Playing competitive squash and working outside planting green things!*

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?  
*It is a pleasure seeing my work make a difference in practice. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing a student or a clinician use my research findings to make life better for someone else. That is the greatest reward.*

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## Betty Hasselkus

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.  
*Well Organized; Smart; Down to Earth*

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?  
*To expand therapists' understandings about the experience of working together with people within their social contexts, and to increase our appreciation of the everyday lives of our clients.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?  
*Have a love of learning.*

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?  
*Link our areas of research to research in other professions; strengthen our place in the therapeutic research world.*

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.  
*Most important early on (Master's level); mentor kept me from feeling separated from the profession when I had little*

*kids, brought part-time opportunities to my attention. Later I was much more on my own and I guess more or less "mentored" myself.*

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.  
*Piano, piano, piano -- I love it.*

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?  
*For me, I think the fact that being a published researcher in a world-class university opened up doors for me around the world. I had never thought in those terms as I was working on the doctorate, but it happened for me and definitely changed my life.*

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## About Us

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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- Research support including the Intervention Research Grants program
- Maintenance of the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country, the Wilma L. West Library.



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