



1965-2015

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

May 2015

## AOTF Research Resources



### May Greetings to *Research Resources* colleagues!

This has been an exciting time for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation! During this anniversary year, there have been a growing number of people and organizations who recognize that an investment in AOTF is an investment in building knowledge and research capacity in occupational therapy.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to [Dr. Charles Christiansen](#) for his steadfast leadership of AOTF from 2008-2015. Dr. Christiansen served as CEO of the Foundation as we launched the Intervention Research Grant Program and expanded scholarship opportunities for students. He was the first editor of *OTJR: Occupation, Participation, and Health* and was instrumental in making AOTF's 50th anniversary celebration so memorable.

We also welcome [Dr. Scott Campbell](#) as the new CEO, effective May 1, 2015. Dr. Campbell brings a passion for science in occupational therapy, a commitment to growing strong partnerships, and an exceptional track record of enlarging capacity for funding research programs. We look forward to working with Dr. Campbell as AOTF rounds the 50th anniversary corner and begins the next 50 years.

In this issue of *Research Resources*, we explore resources for [rehabilitation research](#) and continue our 50th anniversary tributes to the history of AOTF and the Academy of Research.

### In this Issue

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## Rehabilitation Research: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

[Rehabilitation medicine](#) is perhaps occupational therapy's most established area of interdisciplinary research. 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 involved in this interdisciplinary science.

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

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:

- [Marcia Finlayson](#)
- [Anne Fisher](#)
- [Susan Garber](#)
- [Erika Gisel](#)
- [Laura Gitlin](#)
- [Joy Hammel](#)
- [Betty Hasselkus](#)

## 1985-1989

This month, we look back at the first half of AOTF's third decade. This era was marked by the launch of a federal institute focused on genome research, emphasis on research in public health and health promotion, and a report summarizing the health care issues of children with special needs. During this same time, AOTF celebrated its 20th anniversary and strengthened support for research in several areas: curriculum development, library resources, and scholarships. A few highlights are included in this issue of *Research Resources*.

- [The history of AOTF 1985-1989](#)
- [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 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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Thank you, everyone, for supporting the Foundation at the AOTA Conference in Nashville. We enjoyed seeing our loyal supporters and friends.

## *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*

AOTF publishes *OTJR* quarterly. *OTJR* 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](#).

## April 2015

Editorial

Sherrilene Classen

[Incubators of Innovation, Accelerators of Opportunities](#)

Kathleen D. Lyons, Ingrid A. Svensborn, Alice B. Kornblith, and Mark T. Hegel

[A Content Analysis of Functional Recovery Strategies of Breast Cancer Survivors](#)

Kareisha Sackaloo, Emily Strouse, and Martin S. Rice  
Degree of Preference and Its

[Influence on Motor Control When Reaching for Most Preferred, Neutrally Preferred, and Least Preferred Candy](#)

Amiya Waldman-Levi, Anita Bundy, and Noomi Katz  
[Playfulness and Interaction: An Exploratory Study of Past and Current Exposure to Domestic Violence](#)

Joseph E. Campbell, Michele Morgan, Veronica Barnett, and Scott Spreat  
[Handheld Devices and Video Modeling to Enhance the Learning of Self-Help Skills in Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Adriana de França Drummond, Ana Maria Rabelo Gomes, Wendy J. Coster, and Marisa Cotta Mancini  
[Predictive Factors of Household Task](#)

**[Join Our Mailing List!](#)**

[Participation in Brazilian Children and Adolescents](#)

Beth Pfeiffer, Gillian Rai, Tammy Murray, and Eugene Brusilovskiy  
[Effectiveness of the Size Matters Handwriting Program](#)

Jenny Martinez and Natalie Leland  
[Language Discordance and Patient-Centered Care in Occupational Therapy: A Case Study](#)

## Rehabilitation Research: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

Rehabilitation research is an important area of interdisciplinary science for occupational therapy. Areas of interdisciplinary rehabilitation research include brain injury, stroke, and spinal cord injury as well as other conditions.

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 related to rehabilitation research.

### Rehabilitation Research Journals

A sample of interdisciplinary rehabilitation journals that regularly have articles of relevance to occupational therapy are summarized here. (IF is Impact Factor, the measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year.) There are many additional journals that focus on specific medical conditions or areas of rehabilitation research.

[Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#): IF 2.44

[Clinical Rehabilitation](#): IF 2.18

[Disability and Rehabilitation](#): IF 1.84

[International Journal of Rehabilitation Research](#): IF 1.14

[Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine](#): IF 1.90

[Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development](#): IF 1.69

### A Sample of Research and Evidence-Based Resources for Rehabilitation

[Blue Ribbon Panel on Rehabilitation Research at the NIH final report](#)

[Rehabilitation Measures Database](#)

[NINDS Commons Data Elements](#)

[UTMB CRRLD \(Center for Rehabilitation Research using Large Datasets\) Rehabilitation Database Directory](#)

[National Rehabilitation Information Center \(NARIC\)](#)

[National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#)

[Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury \(COMBI\)](#)

[ACRM Research, Evidence and Practice Resources](#)

[Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects](#): List of all NIDILRR projects.

[Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers \(RRTCs\)](#): List of all NIDILRR RRTCs.

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

### A Sample of Funding Mechanisms for Rehabilitation Research

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

[National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research \(NCMRR\)](#)

[National Multiple Sclerosis Society](#)

[Kessler Foundation](#)

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Research and Development Service](#)

[Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs](#)

[American Hand Therapy Foundation](#)

[NIDILRR/ACL FY2015](#)

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## The History of AOTF continued, 1985 - 1989

On April 14, 1985, the American Occupational Therapy Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary. A 1985 article summarized the Foundation's status in its three major areas of interest: scholarships, research, and publications.

**"Scholarships:** In 1965 money was not available for scholarships or special projects. Today the Foundation has eight active endowed scholarship funds totaling \$192,000, with several smaller funds 'working toward endowments. More than 240 scholarships totaling more than \$210,000 have been awarded. To commemorate the Foundation's 20th anniversary, the Foundation will award 20 scholarships to occupational therapy students in 1985.

**Research:** The Foundation's Office of Professional Research Services is responsible for a number of research programs including the Annual Conference Research Forum, Regional Research Consultants Program, Research Grant Awards, OT Oral History Program, and the Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program.

**Publications:** One of the Foundation's objectives is to present occupational therapy's advocacy role on behalf of its patients and clients. Popular brochures have included "The Child with Minimal Brain Dysfunction," "Growing Old.... A Guide for Understanding and Help," and "Watch Me Grow."

*The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research (OTJR)*, initially published in 1981, had its first change of editors from Charles Christiansen (who later went on to be AOTF's second executive director) to Kenneth Ottenbacher in 1987.

The Bibliography of Completed Research in Occupational Therapy brought together material of all known research studies, theses, grants, and published reports relative to occupational therapy (AOTF, 1985, p. 273).

The AOTF mission statement in 1986 read "AOTF promotes the development of the knowledge base for occupational therapy through its support of research and education and promotes increased public understanding of the value of occupation to the health and wellbeing of society" (Snyder, 1988, p. 7).

During this period, we see the blending of two areas mentioned in this mission statement, education and research in Dr. Maralynne Mitcham's publication *Integrating Research into Occupational Therapy: A Teaching Guide for Academic and Clinical Educators*.

AOTF's first executive director, Martha Kirkland, was hired in 1985 (Anon, Aug, 1986). She will steer the Foundation for the next twenty-one years (Kirkland, 2006 and Strzelecki, 2007). Her first hire is Mary Binderman (the author of this piece) as librarian for the growing collection of occupational therapy resources. This collection was named the Wilma L. West Occupational Therapy Library in 1988 to honor Miss West's dedication. (Anon, 1988).

In 1989, the Wilma L. West Library unveiled its online bibliographic database, OT BibSys, known now as OT SEARCH, making its collection accessible to occupational therapy students, practitioners, and researchers around the world (Binderman, 1989).

[The A. Jean Ayres Award](#) is established in 1988 "to recognize or support individuals who are committed to the research-related development or testing of theory in occupational therapy with priority given to work in the area of sensory processing."

As research in occupational therapy grows, the profession concerns itself with the ethics involved (Sharrot, 1985). Guidelines for ethical conduct in the designing of research studies and the seeking of research funds through grant proposals are published by the Research Advisory Council (RAC, 1989)

[For References](#)

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## 1985-1989: A few significant events in health science and policy

### National Human Genome Research Institute

In 1989, the [National Human Genome Research Institute](#) was launched. During the following year, plans were developed for an international initiative to map the human genome. Project goals included: 1) identify all human

genes (the human genome), 2) make the human genome accessible for further study, and 3) determine the complete sequence of the 3 billion DNA bases in the human genome.

### **Surgeon General's Report on Children with Special Health Care Needs**

The 1987 [Surgeon General's Report on Children with Special Health Care Needs](#) introduced the unique health care needs of children with special health care needs. The report provided recommendations to the "define the scope of the problem, develop standards, develop systems of care, improve methods of financing, support research, and support training for health professionals."

### **The Future of Public Health**

In 1988, the Institute of Medicine published [The Future of Public Health](#). This report emphasized the contributions of the public health system to health in the U.S. and proposed three core functions and ten essential services.

### **National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**

In 1988, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) established the [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion \(NCCDPHP\)](#). Today, the Center has action areas in epidemiology and surveillance, environmental approaches, health care system interventions and community programs linked to clinical services.

### **PHS Office of Scientific Integrity and Office of Scientific Integrity Review**

After a series of investigators were charged with scientific misconduct, the Public Health Service created the [Office of Scientific Integrity and Office of Scientific Integrity Review](#) in 1989 to "investigate scientific misconduct and provide information and support for universities." These offices are later merged into the Office of Research Integrity (ORI). During this same year, the NIH being requiring education on research integrity for all graduate students on training grants.

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

### **Marcia Finlayson, PhD, OT(C), OTR**

Dr. Finlayson is vice-dean (Health Sciences), School of Rehabilitation Therapy, and Director, Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. "Dr. Finlayson's research program focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating self-management programs and rehabilitation services to enhance the health and well-being of people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). These people include individuals with the disease, their family members and caregivers. The ultimate goal of Dr. Finlayson's scholarship is to enable these groups to lead healthy, meaningful lives, and exert choice and control over their participation in daily activities at home and in the community. Within this context, Dr. Finlayson's specific topical interests include fatigue management, falls prevention, caregiver support, aging with MS, and health care service utilization." (Retrieved on April 16 from [https://rehab.queensu.ca/people/faculty/marcia\\_finlayson](https://rehab.queensu.ca/people/faculty/marcia_finlayson).)



From 2006 -2011, Dr. Finlayson was the editor of the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy, (Retrieved on April 16, 2015 from <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=6>). In 2013, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) awarded the Muriel Driver Memorial Lectureship to Dr. Finlayson. This honor is bestowed on a CAOT member who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession through research, education and the practice of occupational therapy. (Retrieved on April 16, 2015 from <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1357>)

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



### **Anne G. Fisher, ScD, OT, FAOTA**

Dr. Fisher is professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy, Department of Community Medicine and Rehabilitation, Umeå University, Sweden. "The focus of her research has been on the development of occupation-centered tools that support the implementation of occupation-based and/or occupation-focused occupational therapy services. Among them are (a) the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) that is used to evaluate a person's quality of ADL task performance; (b) the School Version of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (School AMPS), the only existing observational assessment of a student's ability to perform schoolwork tasks that have been assigned by the teacher and performed within the student's

natural classroom milieu; and (c) the Evaluation of Social Interaction that is used to evaluate the quality of social interactions of persons when they are engaging in natural social exchanges with typical partners. She has also developed the Occupational Therapy Intervention Process Model, a professional reasoning model that enables occupational therapists to implement occupation- and client-centered services to their clients." (Retrieved on April 26 from [http://www.nmota.org/newsletter/2013\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.nmota.org/newsletter/2013_newsletter.pdf).)

Dr. Fisher was awarded the AOTF A. Jean Ayres Award in 1991. In 1997, Dr. Fisher was the recipient of the AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship. She is currently living in Fort Collins, Colorado, after living 10 years in Sweden, and continues to work part time as a professor for Umeå University. (Retrieved on April 26, 2015 from [http://www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff/anne\\_fisher.aspx](http://www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff/anne_fisher.aspx))

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

### Susan L. Garber, MA, OTR, FAOTA, FACRM

Ms. Garber is professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. Her research interests are in the areas of spinal cord injury, prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers, rehabilitation outcomes, technology and rehabilitation, and patient and family education. (Retrieved on April 28 from <https://www.bcm.edu/people/view/b2559e16-ffed-11e2-be68-080027880ca6>)



"Ms. Garber was awarded the 2015 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award from the American Occupational Therapy Association. Garber is being recognized for her work in advancing the management and education of pressure ulcers, or bedsores. She will deliver the lecture at the 2016 AOTA conference." (Retrieved on April 23, 2015 from <http://www.tmcnews.org/2015/03/susan-l-garber/>)

[For more information on Ms. Garber.](#)

### Erika G. Gisel, PhD, OTR, erg



Dr. Gisel is professor emerita, School of Physical & Occupational Therapy, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada. "Dr. Gisel's research interests are directed toward the assessment and treatment of individuals with neurologically based eating impairments. Studies examining early markers of oral sensory problems in infants with feeding disabilities, as well as the influence of repetitive behaviors on motor development in children with autism spectrum disorders are currently in progress." (Retrieved on April 28 from <https://www.mcgill.ca/spot/faculty/gisel>)

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

### Laura N. Gitlin, PhD

Dr. Gitlin is professor, School of Nursing and Director, Center for Innovative Care in Aging, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. She holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. "Her programs of research include understanding adaptive processes in old age-particularly with the use of assistive devices and environmental modifications-psycho-social-environmental approaches to helping older people with physical frailty age in place, nonpharmacologic approaches to enhancing quality of life of persons with dementia and their family caregivers, mental health disparities in older African Americans and depression treatments, and translating and implementing evidence-based interventions for family caregivers, individuals with dementia, and older adults with functional difficulties." (Retrieved on April 23 from [http://nursing.jhu.edu/faculty\\_research/faculty/faculty-directory/community-publichealth/laura-gitlin.](http://nursing.jhu.edu/faculty_research/faculty/faculty-directory/community-publichealth/laura-gitlin.))



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



### Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Hammel "is professor, Department of occupational therapy and Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois and has been named the Wade/Meyer Endowed Chair in Occupational Therapy. Dr. Hammel is a nationally and internationally recognized leader, scholar and educator in the areas of community living and participation disparities with people with disabilities as well as community-based participatory research." Retrieved on April 29 from <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/news/title,11430,en.html>)

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

### Elizabeth (Betty) R. Hasselkus, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Hasselkus "is an Emeritus Professor of Kinesiology/Occupational Therapy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she served as Program Director for ten years. . . . Dr. Hasselkus has focused her research, teaching and practice on the everyday occupational experience of people in the community, with a special emphasis on family care giving for older family members, physician-family caregiver relationships, meanings of everyday occupation to dementia day care staff, and the meaning of doing occupational therapy. . . .



In 2005, she was awarded the AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award and subsequently gave the award lecture in 2006. Dr. Hasselkus was editor of *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy* from 1998-2003." (Retrieved on April 29, 2015 from <https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/people/emeritus/betty-hasselkus>)

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

## Scientist Development Awards

### Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs

[Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2015-ACL-AOA-FP-0092](#)

This funding opportunity is designed to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities at risk for falls who participate in evidence-based community programs to reduce falls and falls risk, while concurrently increasing the sustainability of these programs through innovative funding arrangements.

Application deadline: June 1, 2015.

### Empowering Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities through Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs

[Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2015-ACL-AOA-CS-0094](#)

This funding opportunity is designed to bring to scale and sustain evidence-based self-management education programs that empower older adults and adults with disabilities from underserved areas and populations to better manage their chronic conditions. The grants are intended to increase the number of chronic disease self-management education program participants, while concurrently increasing the sustainability of these proven programs through innovative funding arrangements and by embedding the programs into the nation's health and long-term services and supports systems.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2015

### Advanced Rehabilitation Research Policy Fellowship.

[CFDA Number: 84.133P-5](#)

The purpose of [NIDILRR's ARRT](#) program is to provide advanced research training and experience to individuals with doctorates, or similar advanced degrees, who have clinical or other relevant experience. ARRT projects train rehabilitation researchers, including researchers with «disabilities», with particular attention to research areas that support the implementation and objectives of the Rehabilitation Act, and that improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act.

Application deadline: May 15, 2015.

### NIDILRR's Research Fellowships Program

[CFDA number 84.133F-2.](#)

The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to highly

qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to conduct research on the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. The Plan is organized around the following outcome domains: (1) Community living and participation; (2) health and function; and (3) employment.  
Application deadline: May 15, 2015.

### 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.

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## Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

### National Space Biomedical Research Institute's (NSBRI) First Award Fellowship Program

[NSBRI's First Award Fellowship Program](#) allows future space life scientists, engineers, and physicians to train as independent investigators with one year of support at any U.S. university, research institute, government laboratory, or commercial entity conducting space-related biomedical or biotechnological research. The fellowship will enable young scientists to manage their own space-related biomedical research projects while continuing to learn from experienced faculty mentors. Applicants are required to submit proposals with the support of a mentor and an institution, and all proposals will be evaluated by a scientific peer-review panel. Selected applicants receive a stipend, allowance for health insurance, and travel funds for related scientific meetings. This year's applicants can potentially spend part of their fellowship in Russia, via the NSBRI-Institute of Biomedical Problems (IBMP) International Postdoctoral Exchange Program.

[The application deadline](#) is June 5, 2015 at 5 p.m. EST.

### Developing Behavioral Interventions: A Summer Research Institute

[The summer research institute](#), offered by the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Center for Innovative Care in Aging, is designed to help participants develop testable interventions that have the potential for implementation in practice environments and advance appropriate trial designs.

- Getting Started: Developing and Testing an Intervention: Three Day Institute on Developing and Testing Your Intervention June 8-10, 2015
- Advancing Intervention Plans Through Grant Writing: June 11-12, 2015

### 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

### 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.

### NIDILRR (formerly NIDRR) Now Part of HHS

[The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDRR\)](#), now the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), has been transferred to the [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. More information on NIDILRR's new web site will be posted soon. In the meantime, you may continue to find information regarding NIDILRR on ED.gov.

### Falls Prevention Resources Now Available on CDC Web Site

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) now has several resources on falls prevention available on their web site.

### National Academies Press Reports:

- [Cognitive Aging](#) assesses the public health dimensions of cognitive aging with an emphasis on definitions and terminology, epidemiology and surveillance, prevention and intervention, education of health professionals, and public awareness and education. This report makes specific recommendations for individuals to reduce the risks of cognitive decline with aging. Ultimately, this report calls for a societal commitment to cognitive aging as a public health issue that requires prompt action across many sectors.
- [Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science](#) synthesizes and integrates the available research to provide guidance on assembling the science team; leadership, education and professional development for science teams and groups. It also examines institutional and organizational structures and policies to support science teams and identifies areas where further research is needed to help science teams and groups achieve their scientific and translational goals. This report offers major public policy recommendations for science research agencies and policymakers, as well as recommendations for individual scientists, disciplinary associations, and research universities.
- [Healthy, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities After Disasters](#) identifies and recommends recovery practices and novel programs most likely to impact overall community public health and contribute to

resiliency for future incidents. This book makes the case that disaster recovery should be guided by a healthy community vision, where health considerations are integrated into all aspects of recovery planning before and after a disaster, and funding streams are leveraged in a coordinated manner and applied to health improvement priorities in order to meet human recovery needs and create healthy built and natural environments.

### 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: Clinician's Guide: Assisting Family Members Coping with Traumatic Brain Injury, May 14, 2015, 1-2:30 p.m. (ET).

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## Conferences and Calls for Papers

### The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 20th Annual International Meeting (May 16-20, 2015, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

[ISPOR](#) promotes the science of pharmacoeconomics (health economics) and outcomes research (the scientific discipline that evaluates the effect of health care interventions on patient well-being including clinical, economic, and patient-centered outcomes) and facilitates the translation of this research into useful information for health care decision makers to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of health care to improve health.

### 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.

### 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.

The deadline for proposals is May 16, 2015.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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)

Proposals are invited that address aging and society through 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  
[Call for Papers](#) (a title and short abstract) deadline: June 9, 2015.

### 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.

### 32nd International Seating Symposium (March 1-4, 2016, Vancouver, British Columbia)

[This international symposium](#) addresses current and future developments in the areas of seating, positioning and mobility. Topic areas include service delivery, product development, research and outcomes. Deadline for abstracts/proposals: May 31, 2015

### 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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## The History of AOTF 1985-1989 (continued)

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## Finlayson (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Organized, focused, driven

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

*My research program is focused on developing, implementing and evaluating self-management and rehabilitation interventions that support the quality of life of people affected by multiple sclerosis; this includes people with the disease as well as family and friends. If my research program is successful, people affected by MS will have choice over and control of the daily activities in which they engage, and the ways in which that engagement occurs.*

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

*Having a career in science and research requires a long term vision (what is the problem you are going to solve 10 years from now?) and the ability to break down this vision into a series of small manageable, sequential steps. This type of career requires passion, patience and resilience because everywhere you turn there are people evaluating the quality of your work and making decisions about whether you should get funding or get an article published. You have to remain focused and committed, and you have to be able to create networks and systems to get the support you need (scientifically, practically and personally) to be successful.*

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?

*We need to evaluate the efficacy, effectiveness and costs of providing "standard" or "typical" occupational therapy services in hospitals, home care and nursing homes. In other words, we need to build the evidence for the work that most clinically based occupational therapists are doing on a daily basis.*

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

*I have had several mentors in my career. The most important thing that each one of them did for me was to provide honest, constructive feedback about my written work (grants, manuscripts).*

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

*Anything on the water - kayaking, canoeing and dragon boat racing are my favorites.*

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

*The most surprising aspect - is having people recognize my name when I am traveling internationally. The most rewarding - is having people affected by MS tell me that what I am doing is important and will make a difference in the lives of other people like them.*

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## Fisher (continued)

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## Garber (continued)

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### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Conscientious, focused, precise.*

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

*Research Improves the health and recovery of patients/clients by questioning and testing existing approaches and exploring opportunities for their enhancement or effectiveness. I hope to teach health professionals how to evaluate and treat pain, especially in vulnerable populations like youths with physical disabilities.*

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

*Actually, there are two: first: have enough clinical experience to determine area(s) of interest in order to ask the right questions; second, initially, identify a mentor whose work you admire and whose work interests you. Do not try to "plug yourself into" a research project that is of no interest to 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?

*Again, there are two: development of research skills through structured academic courses as well as during clinical fieldwork where all students should be required to develop a research project; identify a mentor with a track record in research design and implementation.*

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

*Initially, mentors outside the field of occupational therapy (engineers) included me, supported my growth and development as a researcher and challenged me to adapt traditional occupational therapy interventions to solve the clinical problems at the core of the Rehabilitation Engineering Center (effect of pressure on tissue), problems not usually part of the occupational therapy purview.*

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

*Travel; reading; spending time with my 5 grandchildren.*

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

*In part, through my efforts, I have managed to bring a focus on the creation of new knowledge to the profession of occupational therapy. It is most rewarding that I have contributed to a body of knowledge that now is included in the armamentarium of innovative solutions to the clinical problems which our patients face daily.*

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## Gisel (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Creative, persistent, dedicated.*

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

*It allows me to give more evidence based answers to questions of parents of my patients.*

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

*If you are uncertain about the treatment approaches we use, it is time to seek these answers through 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?

*Multidisciplinary approaches to complex questions.*

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

*They allowed me to make my own mistakes and to learn from them, but at the same time pointed to future directions of my work.*

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

*Classical music.*

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

*The work with students.*

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## Gitlin (continued)

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## Hammel (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Passionate, Creative, Participatory.*

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

*I hope to make a difference by doing participatory research with disability communities that can be translated back to and inform communities, rehabilitation professionals and systems, and policy makers about participation disparities people with disabilities face and effective strategies and environmental interventions to respond to and address these disparities and instead create participation opportunities.*

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

*Collaborate with a respected mentor(s) and build strong community of learning/scholarship in which you can learn, thrive and be supported and challenged in your scholarship.*

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?

*Comparative effectiveness studies of interventions related to transitioning across the lifespan (K-12 to post secondary and independent living/work, nursing home to community living and work, transitions to home and community following rehabilitation, and aging in place transitions as an older adult).*

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

*They have inspired, empowered and critically challenged me at the same time-all of which are critically needed to become a scientist and scholar. My mentors in the disability community have also grounded me in real life needs and issues from within the community.*

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

*Traveling all over the place and meeting lots of different people.*

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

*That research and evidence generated from it (qualitative and quantitative) can really make a difference in people's lives and in changing systems to support participation for many.*

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## Hasselkus (continued)

### 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), mentors 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:

- Scholarships
- 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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