



November 2013

Research Resources



With Gratitude to *Research Resources* colleagues:

This month, we will provide an update on the NEW AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grant Program, the launch of the St. Catherine Challenge, and Resource Notes on recent research in emerging areas of practice for occupational therapy.

AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grant Program

The 2013 AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grant review process is underway! We are using a review process similar to NIH to select the projects with the most promise for larger intervention research studies and future funding. Our Scientific Review Group will be completing their reviews over the next six weeks and holding their meeting in December. We hope to announce the awards in January.

The St. Catherine Challenge

We are so pleased to announce that the Alpha Delta Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) chapter at St. Catherine University is launching The St. Catherine Challenge to raise money for AOTF research grants. This annual student-led, fundraising initiative will challenge students in occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs across the country to pledge their school's participation in a friendly competition to raise money for research grants. The St. Catherine Challenge is modeled after physical therapy's Marquette Challenge which was started about 25 years ago and has raised \$2.5 million dollars to date for physical therapy research grants. If your school is interested in participating and being listed in perpetuity as inaugural participants, visit the [AOTF website](#) or contact [Cara Archer](#) for more

In this Issue

- [Resource Notes](#)
- [OT History](#)
- [Online resources](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Post-doc opportunities](#)
- [Online resources](#)
- [Calls for papers](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Conference announcements](#)
- [OTJR](#)
- [About us](#)

The St. Catherine
CHALLENGE

OTJR Seeks Articles

OTJR: *Occupation, Participation and Health* encourages submission of

information. We are thrilled that students understand that: **Research + Evidence = Improved Practice.**

Emerging Areas

One of the objectives of the AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grant is to enhance occupational therapy contributions to pressing societal needs. Occupational therapy practice has had a long history of responding to the needs of the time. Occupational therapy research is also making important contributions in new areas and new arenas. And many of these contributions are coming from our international colleagues. As AOTF Director of Research, I regularly conduct environmental scanning to identify opportunities, track trends, and monitor emerging priorities. For many societal issues, there are opportunities for occupational therapy scientists, researchers, scholars, and practitioners to make a difference in the outcomes. I wholeheartedly believe our understanding of everyday living, persons, and environments is unique among the professions and may be applied to current and emerging research priorities to promote health and meaningful participation in life.

Some of our readers may have recently completed research that contributes to our understanding of occupations, participation, and health. Please consider submitting your manuscripts to *OTJR: Occupation, Participation, and Health* for review. *OTJR* is your journal for disseminating the evidence that informs practice.

As you survey the sample of publications that were assembled by our staff in the Wilma L. West Library, you will learn more about recent research on emerging areas of research and practice. 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 welcome your ideas on ways we can improve this monthly newsletter, and we thank you for your 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
[Back to top.](#)

Resource Notes:

Emerging areas of practice for occupational therapy practitioners

Under "Practice" on the web site for the [American Occupational Therapy Association](#) (AOTA), [broad areas of practice](#) such as children and youth are listed. By clicking on any of these, you will see an option titled "emerging niche." In the introductory paragraph, Stephanie Yamkovenko, like Dr. Bass, writes of the role of occupational therapy practitioners in response to changing societal needs. (Retrieved on October 31, 2013 from <http://www.aota.org/Practice/Children-Youth/Emerging-Niche.aspx>.) But, the occupational therapy profession has been considering societal changes and needs for many decades. Reread Wilma West's 1967 Slagle Lecture, *Professional responsibilities in times of change*. (Retrieved on October 31, 2013 from <http://www.aota.org/~media/Corporate/Files/Publications/AJOT/Slagle/1967.aspx>.)

[Read more](#)

original research reports of assessment/measurement development, efficacy of interventions (preventive, restorative, and compensatory), intervention outcomes, translational research, and basic research (including occupational science). Reports that examine OT interventions and contribute to the evidence for theoretically based occupational therapy practices are welcomed. High quality, rigorous quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research reports are especially encouraged. For more information on publishing in this peer-reviewed journal, see its [website](#).

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health: Fall 2013

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health, published quarterly by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, Inc.,

offers original research articles of professional interest to the practicing occupational therapist with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research. Visit: [OTJR Online](#).

EDITORIAL

[The Healthy Harvest](#)
Kathleen Matuska, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

FEATURE ARTICLES

[Relationship of Global Self-Evaluations of Activity to Psychosocial and Health-Related Aging Outcomes](#)
Mike Carlson, PhD; Ann Kuo, BSc; Chih-Ping Chou, PhD; Florence Clark, PhD

[Well-Being and Engagement in Valued Activities: Experiences of Young People With Psychosis](#)
Shalini Lal, PhD; Michael Ungar, PhD; Carl Leggo, PhD; Ashok Malla, MD, FRCPC; James Frankish, PhD; Melinda J. Suto, PhD

[A Comparison of the Play Skills of Preschool Children With and Without Developmental Coordination](#)

[Back to top.](#)

OT: History in Focus

Network science

in the progressive era:
Eleanor, George
Edward, and Will

Every dutiful occupational therapy student is led through the profession's "catechism" of history; typically memorizing the names of the OT founders pictured in the famous photo shown here. Of course, serious students know that some of the key players responsible for occupational therapy's emergence are not even pictured; and one who was pictured (Isabel Newton, secretary and paramour to Mr. Barton) was largely incidental.

Thus, the portrait serves mainly as an emblem for a key social movement, but it does depict three key figures, who, viewed from the standpoint of networks of people, played different but important roles.

[Read more.](#)

[Back to top.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Global Innovation Initiative Applications are Available

This [higher education partnership grant opportunity](#) established between the US and the UK is aimed at strengthening multilateral research collaborations. The Initiative will award 10 grants (\$150,000-250,000) to university consortia focusing on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-related issues of global significance that foster cutting-edge multinational research and strengthen institutional international partnerships. One of the four priority areas is public health and well-being. The grant competition will close **December 16, 2013**.

Applications are Available to SPD Foundation Level I Mentorship Program

This five-day program, headed by Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR and Sarah A. Schoen, PhD, OTR is a small group setting where mentees learn to apply clinical reasoning through lectures, treatment observation, and analysis with experienced therapists. For

information on dates, eligibility requirements, and application details, see the [SPDF web site](#). Applications are due **November 30, 2013**.

Graduate Scholarship for Research on Psychological Pain of Disabilities

The [Scott and Paul Pearsall Scholarship](#) of the American Psychological Foundation supports graduate work that seeks to increase the public's understanding of the psychological pain and stigma experienced by adults who live with physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy. Proposals with a clear



Pictured are (top row, from left), William Rush Duntton, Jr, Isabel Newton, Barton's secretary and future wife, and Thomas Kidner. Bottom row from the left: Susan Cox Johnson, George Barton, and Eleanor Clarke Slagle.

Disorder

Ann Kennedy-Behr, MoccThy, PhD, OTR; Sylvia Rodger, BOccThy, MEdSt, PhD; Sharon Mickan, BoccThy, MA, PhD

Public Transportation to Obtain Food: An Overlooked Instrumental Activity of Daily Living

Jeffrey L. Crabtree, OTD, MS, FAOTA; Christina Mushi-Brunst, PhD, MPH

Comparing Performance Within a Virtual Supermarket of Children With Traumatic Brain Injury to Typically Developing Children: A Pilot Study

Neta Erez, MSc, OT; Patrice L. Weiss, PhD, OT; Rachel Kizony, PhD, OT; Debbie Rand, PhD, OT

Clinical Reasoning in the Use of Slings for Patients With Shoulder Subluxation After Stroke: A Glimpse of the Practice Phenomenon in California

Kitsum Li, OTD, OTR/L; Naoko Murai, MSOT; Simon Chi, MSOT

Support AOTF

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

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

Dates to Remember

AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave

November 15-16, 2013, Jacksonville, Florida

plan for disseminating findings through media are given preference. One \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded. The deadline has been extended to **December 31, 2013**.

[Back to top.](#)

[AOTA Annual Conference](#)

April 3-6, 2014, Baltimore, Maryland.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Online Resources

Rehabilitation Measures Database

This [database](#) provides resources on rehabilitation measures, statistics review, and educational resources. It was developed through collaboration between the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research (CROR) at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the Department of Medical Social Sciences Informatics group at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (NU MSS) with funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education (grant award H133B090024, PI: Allen Heinemann, PhD).

Free educational modules and webinars on measurement are available, including: introduction to measurement, using outcomes, understanding measurement properties, strategies for successful implementation, fundamentals of measurement, and Rasch analysis. It is also critical that the OT community increase our participation in the database and contribute to the data on outcomes and measures, particularly in the area of activity and participation. If you would like to contribute to the rehabmeasures.org project, please contact rehabmeasures@ric.org.

Resources Available from the Institute on Disability at University of New Hampshire

The [Institute](#) has resources related to disability statistics and demographics, individual-level characteristics, and employment policy and measurement. The Institute also sponsors the Annual Compendium on Disability Statistics (December 11, 2013, Washington, DC.) The Institute was recently awarded a 5 year, \$4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). This is another five-year renewal of the grant, titled the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC), which works towards improving knowledge about and access to existing disability data, and generating the knowledge needed to improve future disability data collection and dissemination.

Ethical research principles

On Oct. 19, the General Assembly of the World Medical Association (WMA), Ferney-Voltaire, France, adopted [WMA Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects](#). The revised principles include a new provision for compensating people harmed as a result of participating in research and expanded requirements to ensure they are informed of the results and have access to any beneficial treatments that emerge. This is the seventh time the principles have been revised since they were first issued in 1964.

Warrior Resilience Conference -- Content Available for a Limited Time

The recent fifth annual [Warrior Resilience Conference](#) hosted by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury was the center's first large-scale virtual conference. There were more than 1,200 registered participants. Subject matter experts from across the country examined the relationship between physical and psychological resilience with presentations on the factors of sleep and fatigue, nutrition, exercise, family resilience, the role of chaplains in mental health care, posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.. Conference content can be accessed through **December 13, 2013**.

Financing Long-Term Services and Supports for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults: Workshop Summary.

The IOM-NRC Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence released this summary based on a workshop it held in June 2013. The [workshop summary](#) is available for free online.

Elder Abuse and Its Prevention: Workshop Summary

On April 17-18, 2013, the IOM Forum on Global Violence Prevention held a workshop on to shed light on this under appreciated and often overlooked form of violence. The [workshop summary](#) is available for free online.

Population Health Implications of the Affordable Care Act: Workshop Summary

This workshop was convened in June 2013 by the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Population Health

Improvement to explore the likely impact on population health improvement of various provisions within the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This public workshop featured presentations and discussion of the impact of various provisions in the ACA on population health improvement. The [workshop summary](#) is available for free online.

Establishing Transdisciplinary Professionalism for Improving Health Outcomes: Workshop Summary

This workshop was convened by the Institute of Medicine Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education to explore the possibility of whether different professions can come together and whether a dialogue with society on professionalism is possible. Most of the 59 members making up the Global Forum were present at the workshop and engaged with outside participants in active dialogue around issues related to professionalism and how the different professions might work effectively together and with society in creating a social contract. The [workshop summary](#) is available for free online.

[Back to top.](#)

Post-Doctoral and Other Opportunities

Boston University Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

A two-year [postdoctoral research fellowship](#) program in psychiatric rehabilitation and vocational recovery from serious mental illnesses will begin January 2nd, 2014 at the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University. Applications are due **November 8th, 2013**. Contact: [Dr. Zlatka Russinova](#).

Doctoral Level Interdisciplinary Leadership in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Optimizing Research-Practice Partnerships for Evidence-Based Outcomes

This interdisciplinary program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will prepare students to assume leadership positions in institutions of higher education and to guide research, practice, and policy regarding evidence-based outcomes for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Students must first be accepted into doctoral studies in the [Divisions of Speech and Hearing Sciences](#) and [Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy](#) and [Applied Developmental Sciences and Special Education \(ADSSE\)](#). The deadline is **December 17, 2013**.

Post-Doctoral Positions at New VA Research Centers

Veterans Administration (VA) research centers in Gainesville and Tampa have teamed up for a new center of innovation with a focus on disability and rehabilitation research. Funded by the VA and the Tampa and Gainesville Veterans Hospital Systems, brings the total funding to over \$15 million. Building on current research at the two sites, CIDRR investigators will identify and develop strategies for improving acute and outpatient rehabilitation services, as well as the long term management of disability including issues that impact family members, for veterans of all ages with central nervous system disorders/Injuries. CIDRR will focus on quality and outcomes of rehabilitation services and disability support, access to disability / rehabilitation-related services, and cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation and disability support interventions. The new Center also has post-doctoral positions that may include joint appointments at the University of Florida (Gainesville) or the University of South Florida (Tampa). For further information, contact [Dr. William Mann](#).

Post-Doctoral Position Available in Cognition and Aging in African-Americans

Rutgers University is seeking a post-doctoral fellow to develop and expand research projects relating to cognition and aging in African-Americans. The research is based at the [Center for Neuroscience](#) at Rutgers University-Newark, within the lab of [Mark Gluck](#), PhD, and is part of the university's broader African-American Brain Health Initiative. The program also has an opening for a PhD candidate; fellowship money is available. Application deadline for both: **December 15, 2013**. Contact [Dr. Gluck](#) for more information.

Boston ROC Seeks Pilot Studies, Visiting Scientists, and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Applications

Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Measurement Center (Boston ROC) is a NIH-funded rehabilitation research infrastructure center located at Boston University's Health and Disability Research Institute. Boston ROC is offering three programs:

1. [The Pilot Studies Program](#) provides researchers with an opportunity to obtain preliminary data and the guidance needed to design and evaluate measurement outcomes for use in clinical trials and related rehabilitation research in one of the three core areas: Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO), Performance-based Measures (PBM), and

Instrumented Outcomes Measurement (IOM). Deadline is **March 15, 2014**.

2. [The Visiting Scientist Program](#) provides opportunities for rehabilitation researchers to work with outcome measurement experts.

3. [Post-doctoral fellowship program](#)

designed to provide unique opportunities for advanced training and experience in rehabilitation outcome measurement.

[Back to top.](#)

Calls for Papers

2014 Joint International Occupational Science Conference; Globalization and Occupational Science: Partnerships, Methodologies, and Research (October 16-18, 2014, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

The Society for the Study of Occupation: USA, The Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists, and The International Society for Occupational Science are soliciting abstracts for a joint conference. [Proposals](#) are due **November 11, 2013**.

Fourth International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society (March 14-15, 2014, Vancouver, Canada)

This [conference](#) will provide a forum for those with a common interest in the fields of human health and wellness to address a range of critically important issues and their social interconnections and implications. Proposals for in-person presentations should be submitted by **November 19, 2013** (title and short abstract). Proposals submitted after this day will be accommodated in non-themed sessions at the conference or are eligible for virtual registrations (no attendance at conference required with virtual presentations).

1st Global Conference: Sexuality and Disability (May 6-8, 2014, Lisbon, Portugal)

This conference seeks to challenge popular conceptions and perceptions of sexuality and disability. In addition to academic papers, we are particularly interested in opening up a space for the discussion of personal experiences of disability and sexuality and the role of sex workers, community programs and the work of sex educators. Inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives are sought on sexuality and disability, including cross-cultural and transcultural perspectives. Non-traditional presentations are encouraged including workshops, performances and round table discussions: [the due date](#) is **December 6, 2013**.

Fourth International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society (March 14-15, 2014, Vancouver, British Columbia)

[Interdisciplinary forum](#) for discussion of health, human physiology, and the conditions of social life. Proposals for presentations, workshops, and more now accepted. Possible publication opportunities in peer-reviewed companion journal. There are monthly deadlines for [abstracts/proposals](#) until **January 21, 2014**.

Research in Social Science and Disability: Volume 8

Addressing the Environmental Context of Disability

This volume will address the environmental issues that support or restrict the participation of persons with functional limitations in society, thus potentially creating their disability either at the micro or macro level.

They are soliciting articles that address development of an understanding of environmental patterns that contribute to the supports or restrictions that a person with a limitation experiences. Submissions are due no later than **January 15, 2014**; contact [Barbara Altman](#) for more information.

30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, (May 19-20, 2014, Honolulu, Hawaii)

The conference theme is Learn from Yesterday. Live for Today. Envision Tomorrow. For proposal information and deadlines email [Erin Green](#) or see the [web site](#).

[Back to top.](#)

Publications

How We Die Now: Intimacy and the Work of Dying

Grinnell College Associate Professor of Sociology Karla Erickson moves readers through and beyond the many fears that attend the social condition of old age and reveals the pleasures of living longer and the costs of slower, sometimes senseless ways of dying.

Erickson, K. (2013) [How We Die Now: Intimacy and the Work of Dying](#). Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

[Back to top.](#)

Conference Announcements

International Stroke Conference (February 12-14, 2014, San Diego, California)

[The International Stroke Conference](#) is the world's largest meeting dedicated to the science and treatment of cerebrovascular disease. This 2½-day conference features more than 1,500 presentations that emphasize basic, clinical and translational sciences as they evolve toward a more complete understanding of stroke pathophysiology with the overall goal of developing more effective prevention and treatment.

Center for Enhancing Activity and Participation among Persons with Arthritis (ENACT) Conference and Workshop (April 6-7, 2014, Pentagon City, Virginia)

This State of the Science (SOS) Conference sponsored by ENACT of Boston University's Sargent College is titled [Promoting Activity and Participation among Persons with Arthritis](#). This conference will include innovative presentations and opportunities for participant discussion in three primary areas: rehabilitation, community, and employment bringing together experts in the fields of rheumatology, occupational therapy, physical therapy and rehabilitation. The conference will be preceded on April 6 by a [Capacity Building Workshop](#) on Advancing Arthritis Research. The workshop aims to enhance the capability of junior investigators to employ innovative and novel research methods that can be used to address critical clinical research questions. The workshop will include opportunities for individual mentoring, as well as presentations on using large data sets and selecting optimal outcome measures.

16th International Congress of World Federation of Occupational Therapists (June 18-21, 2014, Yokohama, Japan)

Presented in collaboration with the 48th Japanese OT Congress & Expo, the [WFOT Congress](#) themes are: disaster preparedness, response and recovery, inter-professional collaboration and the role of OT, wisdom: learning from the past, tradition for the future, innovations and challenges in OT, education and research: meeting the demands from the field, evidence-based practice and quality of OT, the nature of human occupation, community & OT.

30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, (May 19-20, 2014, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Pacific Rim International Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (May 17, 2014, Honolulu, Hawaii)

The conference theme is: Learn from Yesterday. Live for Today. Envision Tomorrow. [The Pac Rim conference](#) is considered one of the most 'diverse gatherings' in the world, and encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspectives including: people with disabilities; family members and supporters, educators, policy makers and more.

[Back to top.](#)

About Us

AOTF is a 501(c)3 dedicated to the advancement of research, education, and public awareness of occupational therapy so that all people may participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.

AOTF is concerned about privacy and will only send *Research Resources* to those individuals who wish to receive

it. If you no longer wish to receive *Research Resources*, or if you feel that you received this newsletter in error, please use the SafeUnsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. AOTF does not sell email addresses to other parties.

For more information about the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, see our web site: www.aotf.org.

[Back to top](#)

Resource Notes (continued)

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health (AOTF) has addressed a few of these emerging areas of practice in recent issues of [Research Resources](#):

[Chronic Disease](#)

[Community Mental Health](#)

[Health Promotion](#)

[Healthy/Productive Aging](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Technology for Rehabilitation](#)

[Path Finders](#) created by the staff of the [Wilma L. West Library](#) address other growing areas of practice.

[Diabetes](#)

[Low Vision](#)

[Multiple Sclerosis](#)

[Obesity](#)

Following are additional emerging areas of practice for you to consider with one or two sample articles to assist in beginning your study.

Adults with Autism

Haertl, K, Callahan, D, Markovics, J & Sheppard, SS. (2013). [Perspectives of adults living with autism spectrum disorder: psychosocial and occupational implications](#). *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health*, 29, 27-41.

Olsson, AK, Thorén-Jönsson, AL & Mårtensson, L. (2013). [Occupational therapists' experience concerning occupational performance in adults with Asperger Syndrome](#). *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health*, 29, 42-59.

Immigration or Resettlement of Refugees

Mirza, M. (2012). [Occupational upheaval during resettlement and migration: findings of global ethnography with refugees with disabilities](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 32, (Supplement), S6-S14.

Suleman, A & Whiteford, GE. (2013). [Understanding occupational transitions in forced migration: The importance of life skills in early refugee resettlement](#). *Journal of Occupational Science*, 20, 201-210.

Telehealth or Telecommunications

Jacobs, K, Blanchard, B, & Baker, N. (2012). [Telehealth and ergonomics: a pilot study](#). *Technology and Health Care*,

20, 445-458.

McMullen, E. (2012). [Use of audiovisual equipment \(SKYPE\) for the treatment of hand injuries for remote consultations](#). *Hand Therapy*, 17, 42-46.

Transitions for Older Youths

Mankey, T & Orentlicher, ML. (2012). [Educators' perceived role of occupational therapy in secondary transition](#). *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools, and Early Intervention*, 5, 105-113.

Shea, CK & Giles, GM. (2012). [Occupational therapists' and teachers' differing beliefs about how they can assist continuation high school students' transition to postsecondary education](#). *Occupational Therapy in Mental Health*, 28, 88-105.

Mary Binderman, MLS
The Wilma L. West Library
AOTF

[Back to top.](#)

OT: History in Focus (continued)

Popular writer Malcolm Gladwell, who wrote "The Tipping Point" and other best sellers, noted that successful social movements need groups that have three kinds of people within their network. He called these key individuals, connectors, mavens and salespeople. Connectors are important because they have many contacts and bring them together to form critical masses of motivated, committed people who have like minded goals. Edward Barton clearly served this role, even though his "official" involvement with the newly formed professional society lasted less than a year. Mavens are those who have wisdom and a breadth of knowledge about many topics. Their versatility and intellectual resourcefulness makes them essential for success in any group. In occupational therapy, William Rush Dunton, Jr., MD, clearly fit this archetype.

Finally, successful movements need persuasive and charismatic salespeople. These intelligent, motivated and intuitive individuals know how to find an opportunity and persuade people to individually and collectively support an idea. Perhaps no one in the history of the profession did this more effectively than Eleanor Clarke Slagle. It is written that her ability to create influence within a group began with her mere presence.

Yet successful social movements need more than assembling key people with important characteristics. Like plants, they need to be tended and grown in the right conditions. Although occupational therapy had Eleanor, Will and George Edward, it also benefited from timing. It germinated after many key individuals who were not in Clifton Springs at the founding did important work; and during a time when a nation was feeling optimistic, bold and daring, and just weeks before a world war would provide that "just right moment" for the new profession to get started.

Charles Christiansen
Executive Director
AOTF

References

Gladwell, Malcolm. (2000). *The Tipping Point*. Boston: Little Brown.
Quiroga, V. (1995). *Occupational therapy: The first 30 years*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press

[Back to top.](#)