



1965-2015

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

October 2015

## AOTF Research Resources



Dear Research Resources colleagues,

How does engagement in everyday activities or occupations support health and function? Variations on this question are popping up throughout the scientific literature. In this issue of *Research Resources*, we explore a few interdisciplinary research articles on everyday activities and continue our 50th anniversary tributes to the history of AOTF and the Academy of Research.

### Everyday Activities: A Sample of Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

It might seem a bit odd to some people that "everyday activities" is identified as an interdisciplinary science opportunity for occupational therapy. However, those readers who do regular scanning of interdisciplinary research know everyday activities (as well other terms for what we call occupations) has become a central focus in many studies.

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**Research Matters!**

[View the new AOTF home](#)

At the September AOTF Board meeting, we discussed research priorities for advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. Across all the themes, there was an emphasis on the need to build knowledge regarding the preventative and protective role of occupations in health and the mechanisms that support occupational performance and participation.

Not long after the meeting, one of our Scientific Advisory Council members\* alerted me to a recent article on the benefits of everyday activities to motor function for people with Parkinson disease. For this article, I did a little additional exploration to find out more about the investigators, their institutions and research labs, areas of expertise, and the grant support for the study. This was an interesting exercise as it provided yet another example of potential opportunities for occupational therapy on interdisciplinary research teams. For this issue of

*Research Resources*, three studies on everyday activities are briefly summarized and examined in terms of investigator background, institution and department, research lab, and grant support.

In other areas of science that have begun to focus on everyday activities, how might a mapping of potential occupational therapy and interdisciplinary partners extend the reach of occupational therapy researchers into new teams? There are a growing number of tools for doing this and we will highlight these opportunities in a future issue of *Research Resources*.

### 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:

- [Mary Reilly](#)
- [Sylvia Rodger](#)
- [Joan Rogers](#)
- [Mary Schneider](#)
- [Surya Shah](#)
- [Elizabeth Skidmore](#)
- [Roger Smith](#)

As we near the end of our Academy of Research profiles in *Research*

## Call For Papers: *OTJR* Supplement on Occupation and Justice

Elizabeth Anne Kinsella & Evelyne  
Durocher, Guest Editors

This [call for papers](#) invites studies that consider occupation and occupationally-oriented health and social care practices in the interests of fostering justice at individual, organizational, community and/or global levels. Attention to occupation in the interests of justice calls for critical reflection and reflexivity into social, cultural, historic, discursive, economic, ethical, epistemic, and political factors that enable or create barriers to occupation, participation, and wellness.

Papers are welcome that undertake rigorous empirical or conceptual investigations that inquire into the links between occupational perspectives and occupational therapy practices as they relate to justice from a variety of perspectives and angles.

Submission open: September 1,  
2015

*Resources*, we hope you will direct students to the [AOTF website](#) to learn about the contributions and areas of research of the Academy's members.

## 2005-2009

This month, we look back at the first half of AOTF's fifth decade. This era was marked by increased access to information on research studies, new policies related to health information privacy, and growing awareness of the need for more knowledge in disaster planning and health disparities. During this same time, AOTF co-sponsored the International Conference on Evidence-based Practice with grant funding from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AOTF also experienced transitions and changes in longtime leadership and staffing.

A few highlights are included in this issue of *Research Resources*.

- [The first half of the fifth decade of AOTF](#)
- [A few significant events in health science and policy](#)

We invite our readers to submit research opportunities to our Communications Associate [Helene Ross](#) for publication in 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

\* Thanks to Dr. Joan Rogers, AOTF Scientific Advisory Council member, for alerting me to this important new direction in Parkinson Disease research and planting a seed regarding the focus for this issue of *Research Resources*.

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Submission deadline: February 1, 2016

Expected publication: October 2016.

## *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](#).

### OnlineFirst

Forthcoming articles are published online before they are scheduled to appear in print.

Bryna Luchauer and Timothy Shurtleff  
[Meaningful Components of Exercise and Active Recreation for Spinal Cord Injuries](#)

Sherrilene Classen and Liliana Alvarez  
[Caregivers' Impressions Predicting Fitness to Drive in Persons With Parkinson's](#)

Sherrilene Classen, Jeffrey D. Holmes, Liliana Alvarez, Katherine Loew, Ashley Mulvagh, Kayla Rienas, Victoria Walton, and Wenqing He  
[Clinical Assessments as Predictors of Primary On-Road Outcomes in Parkinson's Disease](#)



Hui-Xin Wang: Associate Professor, Medicine, Karolinska Institutet

[Sujuan Gao](#): Professor, Departments of Biostatistics, Psychiatry, Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center.  
Research Lab: [Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center](#)

Funding related to this publication:

National Institute on Aging (R01 AG019181). Selenium, Other Risk Factors and Cognitive Decline in Rural Elderly Chinese. 2014: \$501,679

Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research. Award information not available.

Swedish Brain Power. Award information not available.

Gamla Tjänarinnor Foundation. Award information not available.

Söderström-Königskas Sjukhemmet Foundation. Award information not available.

Gun and Bertil Stohnes Foundation. Award information not available.

## Structure in Everyday Activities and Self-Directed Executive Functioning in Children

Barker, J. E., Semenov, A. D., Michaelson, L., Provan, L. S., Snyder, H. R., & Munakata, Y. (2014). [Less-structured time in children's daily lives predicts self-directed executive functioning](#). *Frontiers in psychology*, 5.

Brief Summary:

"We hypothesized that time spent in less-structured activities would give children opportunities to practice self-directed executive functioning, and lead to benefits. To investigate this possibility, we collected information from parents about their 6-7 year-old children's daily, annual, and typical schedules. ... The more time that children spent in less-structured activities, the better their self-directed executive functioning. The opposite was true of structured activities, which predicted poorer self-directed executive functioning."

Author, Department, Institution, and Lab Information:

University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Psychology; University of Denver, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

Jane Barker: Doctoral student, Department of Psychology, University of Colorado Boulder

[Yuko Munakata](#): Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Colorado Boulder

Research Lab: [Cognitive Development Center](#).

Funding related to this publication:

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01 HD37163). Representations Yielding Task-Dependent Flexibility. 2014: \$287,877

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

### Mary Reilly, EdD, OTR, FAOTA (1916 - 2012)

Dr. Reilly was among the first three individuals inducted into the AOTF Academy of Research in 1983. The other two were A. Jean Ayres, PhD, OTR, FAOTA and Elizabeth J. Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA, her California colleagues. Dr. Reilly was on the faculty of the Occupational Therapy Department of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles California. "In the 1960's, [she] redesigned the USC's master's program in occupational therapy around core theoretical and philosophical knowledge rather than merely technical skills," (Clark, 2012, p. 16). She retired from USC in 1978 and was named Emeritus Professor.



Many people are familiar with this quote from Dr. Reilly's 1962 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture:

*Man through the use of his hands as they are energized by mind and will, can influence the state of his own health.* (Reilly, 1962, p. 2).

Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA wrote:

*The quote encapsulates what Dr. Reilly became internationally renowned for in the 1960's and 1970's: developing a frame of reference for occupational behavior that described the biopsychosocial nature of man through the occupations of work, play, and self-care.* (Clark, 2012, p. 16).

Linda Florey, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA wrote:

*Dr. Reilly is responsible for the rich resources occupational therapy now possesses in the areas of play, occupation, work, and the work-play continuum otherwise known as "occupational behavior". She did not do all of the work herself but skillfully directed and influenced a cadre of over 90 occupational therapy students pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Southern California. These students moved around the country and seeded practice, education, and organizational leadership in their areas.* (Florey, 2012).

Dr. Reilly read in many disciplines and some books from her remaining library are part of the "Mary Reilly Collection" in the Wilma L. West Library.

*Note: Many years ago, the author [Mary Binderman] of these highlights had the opportunity to meet Dr. Reilly. She was a contemporary and long-time friend of Wilma West who had encouraged Dr. Reilly to donate her books to the library, later named for Miss West. The "Mary Reilly Collection" is an interesting mix reflecting Dr. Reilly's interest in many disciplines.*

[For more on Dr. Reilly.](#)



**Sylvia Anne Rodger, PhD, BOcc Thy, MEd St**

Dr. Rodger is Professor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and Director of Research and Education at Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Autism CRC), (Retrieved on September 13, 2015 from <http://www.shrs.uq.edu.au/Professor-Sylvia-Rodger> and <http://www.autismcrc.com.au/professor-sylvia-rodger>)

Her research interests are primarily in the areas of Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), top down interventions, Cognitive Orientation for daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), early intervention, family centred practice and parent education.

(<http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/133>)

Dr. Rodger is the 2011 recipient of the Sylvia Docker Lecture, established in 1964 by Occupational Therapy Australia, to honor Miss Sylvia Docker who established the first training school for Occupational Therapists in Sydney in 1941. The purpose of the lecture is to encourage occupational therapists in their professional careers and to honor those who have outstanding contributions to occupational therapy. (Retrieved on September 20, 2015 from <http://www.otaus.com.au/about/association-awards/award-winners>.)

[For more on Dr. Rodger.](#)

### Joan Rogers, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Rogers is Professor Emeritus, Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. Her research interests include functional assessment, the relationship between pathology, impairment, and disability (activity limitations and participation restrictions) in adults and older adults; and enabling dementia care. (Retrieved on September 13, 2015 from <https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/jcr/>.)



In 1982, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) awarded Dr. Rogers the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, its highest academic award and in 1990 its Award of Merit. From 2007 - 2010, Dr. Rogers chaired the newly created AOTA/AOTF Research Advisory Panel. AOTA and AOTF recognized Dr. Rogers's longstanding contributions to practice and research with the AOTA/AOTF 2010 Presidents' Commendation in Honor of Wilma L. West.

[For more on Dr. Rogers.](#)

### Mary Lynn Schneider, PhD, OTR

Dr. Schneider is Professor, Departments of Kinesiology and Psychology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin. Her research statement reads:

*Our research program focuses on behavioral and neurobiological effects from fetal alcohol exposure alone or in combination with prenatal stress. We study rhesus monkeys, examining growth and development, learning and memory, and stress reactivity across the life span. We also use state-of-the-art neuroimaging techniques to elucidate possible abnormalities in neural processing. We assess dopamine system function, using positron emission tomography, to determine whether altered DA function might underlie some of the motor, learning, and neuroendocrine outcomes associated with these prenatal treatments. We have recently expanded our nonhuman primate model to examine the neurochemical and developmental basis for sensory regulation disorders and risk factors for excessive alcohol consumption in adulthood. Our work is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (Retrieved on September 16, 2015 from <https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/pi-Schneider-Mary.htm>.)*



[For more on Dr. Schneider.](#)



### Suryakumar (Surya) Shah, PhD, OTD, MEd, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Shah was Professor, AT Still University, Mesa, Arizona and a Senior Research Fellow of the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) before his retirement after a fifty-seven year career.

Dr. Shah describes his research interests below.

*[I have] have researched many aspects of quality of life of people with disability, with*

*the primary focus of [my] research on people with cerebrovascular stroke and issues such as admission patterns, incidence, measurement, rehabilitation, outcomes such as prediction, efficiency and effectiveness and wellness after transient ischemia. One of [my] functional measures, the Modified Barthel Index (MBI) for dependency needs of people with disability has been translated in numerous languages and is one of the most translated modifications by an occupational therapist. . . [My] other research was on the use of EMG for activity analysis; spinal injuries, orthotics, evaluation of clinical learning, and teaching cultural competency. . . [My] current research is with Genesis Rehab Care involving 35,000 persons following rehabilitation in nursing homes and assisted living. (Retrieved on September 22, 2015 from [http://www.esciencecentral.org/editor/Surya\\_Kumar\\_Shah/.](http://www.esciencecentral.org/editor/Surya_Kumar_Shah/))*

[For more on Dr. Shah.](#)

### Elizabeth R. Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Skidmore is Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA with secondary appointments to the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Dr. Skidmore describes her research interests:



*My NIH-funded research program examines the influences of cognitive impairments and mood symptoms on activities of daily living outcomes, and interventions designed to ameliorate these influences, focusing in two areas: Interventions designed to improve rehabilitation outcomes for individuals with cognitive impairments after acquired brain injury (stroke, traumatic brain injury). Activities of daily living disability among community-dwelling older adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Major Depression Disorder. Currently, I am conducting a series of studies examining client-centered, activity-focused strategy training programs designed to promote independence and community integration among adults with stroke-related cognitive impairments. These studies examine active ingredients that promote learning and generalization of strategy training principles delivered in acute rehabilitation, as well as neurological and behavioral moderators and mediators of intervention response. (Retrieved on September 16, 2015 from [https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/skidmore/.](https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/skidmore/))*

[For more on Dr. Skidmore.](#)



### Roger Smith, PhD, OT, FAOTA, RESNA Fellow

Dr. Smith is Professor, Occupational Science and Technology, College of Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Director, Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability (R2D2) Center. Dr. Smith's interests and expertise are described as follows.

*Roger O. Smith's research focuses on measurement related to disability and the application of assistive technology and universal design. In measurement, Smith examines assessments to determine their reliability and validity in use. He has created a software-based evaluation system that uses a branching question structure called TTSS (Trichotomous Tailored Sub-branching Scoring.) One component of Smith's current research specifically investigates the utility of the TTSS methodology as embedded in OTFACT software. Smith also investigates the effectiveness of assistive technology and universal design interventions on the lives of people with disabilities. (Retrieved*

[For more on Dr. Smith.](#)

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## The History of AOTF continued, 2005-2009

Two unique programs were implemented before the period under discussion and were reported on during it.

### Curriculum Mentoring Project

Ingrid Provident, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA reported on the Curriculum Mentoring Project in her 2004 doctoral dissertation and later in 2006 in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT). This project occurred between October 2000 and June 2002. It was ". . . a yearlong formal curriculum-mentoring project sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Five occupational therapy faculty groups were selected through a competitive application process and paired with mentors to assist in curriculum change," (Provident, 2006, p. 563).

The overall goals of the Curriculum Mentoring Project were:

1. Engage faculty groups in an interactive process of formal instruction, independent faculty work, and on-site consultation in curriculum design.
2. Shepherd participating faculty groups through the development or refinement of graduate education programs.
3. Foster graduate educational programs that will produce clinician-scholars who can work autonomously across practice environments as colleagues in service delivery and research with a variety of interdisciplinary professionals. (N. Gillette, personal communication, September 26, 2000). (Provident, 2006, p. 564-565)

### International Conference on Evidence-based Practice

The AOTF collaborated with AOTA for The International Conference on Evidence-based Practice held in Bethesda, Maryland, July 11-14, 2004. The international community of occupational therapy researchers and practitioners had recognized the need ". . . to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of services through increased integration of research evidence into clinical decision making," (Coster, 2005, p. 356). It also recognized that individual nations did not ". . . have a sufficiently large pool of occupational therapists or sufficient resources to undertake the range of activities needed for optimal support of evidence based occupational therapy," (Coster, 2005, p. 356). The conference was supported through a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and had these objectives (Coster, 2005, p. 356).

1. To identify a set of priority initiatives that would facilitate efficient and effective evidence-based practice (EBP) in occupational therapy.
2. To identify current efforts to address these needs as well as areas where new initiatives are needed.
3. To design a collaborative structure that could support efforts directed at priority initiatives.
4. To generate consensus guidelines for evaluating and reporting research evidence to ensure high quality, consistency, and accessibility to the primary users (practitioners, health care service administrators, and consumers).
5. To set specific target outcomes for the next year to achieve progress in addressing the priority needs.

Occupational therapists from thirteen countries attended the conference that was organized around three major topics: critical review and synthesis of the literature, knowledge transfer, and practitioner education (Coster 2005).

### OTJR

Since its early days, researchers from around the globe have submitted articles to the *Occupational Therapy*

*Journal of Research* (OTJR), now titled *OTJR: Occupation, participation, and Health* (OTJR). In mid-2004, Helene Polatajko, PhD, FCAOT, OT(C), OT Reg, (Ont.), from the Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was named editor-in-chief of this journal (Polatajko, 2004).. She was the first non-U.S. editor of this journal and served from 2004-2008.

In 2005, AOTF celebrated the 25th anniversary of *OTJR*. See the editorial by Kenneth Ottenbacher and Charles Christiansen, editors of the *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* (OTJR) from 1987-1990 and 1980-1986, respectively.

### Leadership Mentoring Program

AOTA and AOTF launched another joint program in 2007 -- the Leadership Mentoring Program for occupational therapy faculty (Strzelecki, 2007 Feb 19). This program was created to "... [address] the critical need within the profession to support development of new leaders in the academic community. Inspired by the Centennial Vision for the profession, the program aims to strengthen the capacity of occupational therapy practitioners to be an influential and leading force in meeting societal needs. The goals of the program included:

- reinforcing best leadership practices and applying them to academic leadership,
- serving as a tool for developing the next generation of academic leaders,
- creating cross-functional collaboration and
- building networks of academic leaders" (Strzelecki, 2007 Feb 19, pp 3-4)

### Research Advisory Panel

Partner organizations AOTA and AOTF joined yet again in 2007 to form the Research Advisory Panel (RAP) "to support and promote the role of the profession in science and research. . . . The panel will advise the two organizations' Boards of Directors on several fronts, including making feasibility recommendations to further the research interests of the profession, and facilitating the translation of science to education and practice. The panel will also offer guidance on keeping the research agenda of the profession aligned with national research priorities and emerging social and technology issues, and on raising the visibility of research within and outside of the profession." (Strzelecki, 2007 Sep 10, p.3).

### Staff Changes

In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2007, staff retirements signaled a "new beginning" for AOTF and its programs (Strzelecki, 2006 Dec 25). Nedra Gillette, MEd, OTR, Director of Research since 1979, and Mary Binderman, MLS, Director of the Wilma L. West Library since 1986 retired from their positions. Martha Kirkland, the first AOTF Executive Director, retired in June 2007 after more than 20 years at the helm (Kirkland, Dec 25, 2006 and Strzelecki, 2007 July 9). Mindy Hecker, MBA, MLS, assumed the position of Director of the Wilma L. West Library immediately after Ms. Binderman's retirement. Jeffrey S. Reznick, PhD, was appointed as the Director of the Institute of Occupation and Health in February 2007.

In February 2008, the Board of Directors of AOTF announced the appointment of Charles (Chuck) Christiansen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA to the position of Executive Director (Strzelecki, 2006, March 10 and Strzelecki, 2008, April 28). A new era for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation began.

*Mary Binderman, MSLS*  
*The Wilma L. West Library*

[Click here for references.](#)

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**2005-2009: A Few Significant Events in Health Science and Policy**

## Hurricane Katrina and Emergency Preparedness

On August, 26, 2005, Hurricane Katrina entered the Gulf of Mexico and strengthened, beginning its approach to New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf Coast. It was by most measures the [largest natural disaster](#) in U.S. history. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina resulted in increased funding for emergency preparedness and disaster planning in all levels of government. One outcome of these efforts is an online resource center for research during emergencies, the [NIH Disaster Research Response](#) (DR2).

## NIH Public Access Policy

In 2007, Congress mandated through [The NIH Public Access Policy](#) that "NIH-funded investigators must deposit peer-reviewed articles resulting from work supported by NIH in the [PubMed](#) Central archive for public release no later than 12 months after publication."

## ClinicalTrials.gov

In 2008, [ClinicalTrials.gov](#) is launched as a "a registry and results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies of human participants conducted around the world." The registry currently includes almost 200,000 trials.

## Health Information Privacy

From 2005-2009, [rules for health information privacy and patient safety](#) were strengthened. Enforcement policies for [HIPAA](#) (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) were put in place and the [PSQUIA](#) (Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005) was passed and implemented.

## Financial crisis of 2007-08

The [financial crisis of 2007-2008](#) affected all sectors of the economy, including non-profit organizations like AOTF. It was described as the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Publications documented the impact of the global financial problems on health, health care, and health equity.

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## Grants and Funding Opportunities

### Center for Sharing Public Health Services: Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Implementation and Impact Measurement Program

[Cross-jurisdictional sharing \(CJS\)](#) has been the focus of interest for some years from policymakers and public health officials wishing to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of public health services. In order to better understand the impact of CJS among public health agencies, RWJF seeks to fund up to seven projects to participate in a implementation and impact measurement program.

Proposal Deadline: October 20, 2015 (3:00 p.m. ET)

### Advancing Implementation Science in Community/Academic Partnered Research

The AAMC and The Patrick Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation have partnered to offer [Advancing Implementation Science in Community/Academic Partnered Research](#), an opportunity for academic medical centers to collaboratively engage in research that has the potential for near-term impact to improve population health outcomes. The research should facilitate collaborations among researchers, community organizations, and health system leaders.. Proposals are due October 16, 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.

### 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

### PhD Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The Ohio State University

The Child & Adolescent Health, Rehabilitation, & Evaluation (CAHRE) Lab at The Ohio State University is seeking exceptional, experienced pediatric occupational therapists that are interested in completing a PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. They are currently conducting two NIH-funded RCTs of Pediatric Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy (PCIMT; R01-HD0683 & R01-HD074574) and are looking for pediatric practitioners. Students are fully funded and receive: 1) tuition, 2) stipend, and 3) health insurance. Interested therapists should submit a CV and letter of interest to Drs. [Andrew Persch](#) or [Amy Darragh](#).

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows

[The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows program](#) provides mid-career health professional and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health and health care policy a comprehensive learning experience in Washington, D.C. Fellows participate in the policy process at the federal level and use that leadership experience to improve health, health care, and health policy. The fellowship requires, at a minimum, a 12-month residential experience in Washington, D.C., with additional support for health policy leadership development activities. The program will select up to seven fellows. Optional applicant web conference calls: October 6, 2015 and November 5, 2015. Application deadline: November 12, 2015

### 2016 NCHS/AcademyHealth Health Policy Fellowship

[This fellowship program](#) brings visiting scholars in health services research-related disciplines to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in Hyattsville, Maryland. During the 13-month tenure, the selected fellow will work closely with an NCHS staff member who can provide technical expertise related to the fellow's research, assist in accessing NCHS data systems and other resources, and help identify other collaborative opportunities within the Center.

### Postdoctoral Fellow Position: Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University in St. Louis

The [Participation, Environment and Performance Laboratory](#) at Washington University in St. Louis is recruiting a full-time postdoctoral fellow to be a part of a team of scientists and trainees from diverse backgrounds. The fellow will conduct research in the area of function and the environment for cognitively normal older adults aging in place. The focus will be on identifying functional changes over time for older adults with and without

preclinical Alzheimer disease and preventing falls among community dwelling older adults. If interested, email a letter describing your research interests and a CV to: [Dr. Susan Stark](#).

### Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation - William Drenttel Innovation Fellowship

The [Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation's William Drenttel Innovation Fellowship](#) post-doc candidate will ideally possess an area or areas of expertise that expand the core skills of the Center for Innovation, helping Mayo Clinic better understand and address the challenges and opportunities in transforming the experience and delivery of health care. This is a hybrid model, which includes working remotely following on-site project(s) initiation with up to 90 days on site as a research collaborator.

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## News and Other Resources

### International Occupational Therapy Research Foundations

- [Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation \(COTF\)](#)
- [Occupational Therapy Australia Research Foundation \(OTARF\)](#)
- [UK OT Research Foundation \(UKOTRF\)](#)

### Envisioning the Future of Health Professional Education

[This April 2015 Institute of Medicine workshop summary](#) published by the National Academies Press discusses opportunities for new platforms of communication and learning, continuous education of the health workforce, opportunities for team-based care and other types of collaborations, and social accountability of the health professions. This study explores the implications that shifts in health, policy, and the health care industry could have on HPE and workforce learning, identifies learning platforms that could facilitate effective knowledge transfer with improved quality and efficiency, and discusses opportunities for building a global health workforce that understands the role of culture and health literacy in perceptions and approaches to health and disease.

This study serves as a follow-up to the 2009 Lancet Commission report on health professions education for the 21st century and seeks to expand the report's messages beyond medicine, nursing, and public health.

### Mental Disorders and Disabilities Among Low-Income Children

[This Institute of Medicine report](#) provides evidence-based findings and conclusions concerning trends in the prevalence of mental disorders in children and also the diagnosis and treatment of these children. This report includes a novel review of previously unreleased data on the rates of mental disorders and disabilities among low-income children from the SSI program and from Medicaid.

### World Mental Health Day (October 10, 2015)

[Theme: Dignity in Mental Health.](#)

### 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 an archive of past webinars.

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## Conferences and Calls for Papers

### SSO:USA 14th Annual Research Conference (October 1-3, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Florida)

[The Society for the Study of Occupation: USA conference](#) highlights include: a Research Institute on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015 by Marjorie DeVault on "Institutional Ethnography" and the Ruth Zemke Lecture in Occupational Science by Ruth Humphry on "Appropriation and transformation of occupations: So what is know-how anyway?"

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

[The Southwest Conference on Disability](#) adopted the slogan of the ADA Tour - Disability Rights are Civil Rights -- as their main theme.

### 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.

### World Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH 2015). (October 16-19, 2015. Cairo, Egypt)

[Theme: Mental Health](#) in Times of Crisis: Building a Comprehensive Health Care System.

### 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.

### Aging: Complexities, Opportunities, and Impacts on Society (October 19, 2015,

## Washington, DC)

The National Academy of Medicine will host a [daylong scientific program](#) exploring the biology of aging; its public health and social impacts; and innovations that could catalyze progress in extending the lifespan and fostering healthy aging.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

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

[The AOTA Annual Conference](#) provides attendees with opportunities for dialogue through general sessions, workshops, networking and peer to peer connections. Leaders exchange information and ideas, provide input on AOTA initiatives and advocacy and policy agenda items.

## The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity (April 25-26, 2016, Honolulu, Hawaii)

[The Pac Rim conference](#) is in its 32nd year; it is one of the largest in the country for diversity and disability. This year the theme will be "From the Margins to the Center".  
Submission deadline: December 17, 2015.

## WCNR 2016: 9th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation (May 10-13, 2016, Philadelphia,

## Pennsylvania)

[From Science to Society](#), the theme that has been chosen for this Congress, will cover both inspiring innovations in neurorehabilitation and their societal impacts.<http://www.wcnr2016.org/>

[Abstract Submission Deadline](#): November 9, 2015

## International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP). (September 18-22, 2016. Calgary, Alberta )

[Conference theme](#): Fighting Stigma, Promoting Resiliency and Positive Mental Health.

Abstract Submission deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

## World Bank Group and the World Health Organization (April 2016, Washington, DC)

Theme: Out of the Shadows - Making Mental Health a Global Development Priority. Enquiries and pre-registration: [Patricio Marquez](#), Lead Health Specialist.

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## Mary Reilly (continued)

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## Sylvia Rodger (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Visionary, persistent and determined, innovative.*

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

*My research to date has focused on real world issues and real world solutions, such as through leadership in scholarship and capacity building our emerging academic leaders and researching effective mechanisms to address this challenge. My future clinical research will focus on making a difference to the lives of Australians with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) through the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). As CEO I will have the capacity to shape the national research agenda of the CRC over the next 8 years to be coordinated, relevant, end user focused, and embedded into the health, education, community service sectors. and to ensure that we tackle the real world issues that are important to our end users.*

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

*You will be surprised what doors can be opened for you. In my experience by being open to opportunities, there are possibilities to make the most of situations. Mentors have provided me many opportunities and they have been astounding. You don't always know what the outcome will be but sometimes you have trust the journey (not just the destination). While it is good to be strategic and plan your future, there are times where serendipity and opportunities present themselves, so take risks and have a go! If someone opens a door for you and provides you an opportunity, seize it even if you don't know where it might lead you. What happens when you go through the door is up 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?

*Establishing how and why occupation makes such a difference in people's lives, how it is health giving and nurturing; how its absence or limitations impacts negatively on health and well-being. I have a sense that many people (outside of OT) are beginning to see that doing, activities and being engaged in life situations are health giving. This is the essence of OT and something we need to research and develop the evidence base for, namely the engagement in purposeful and meaningful occupation. Finding the right tools, methodologies and evaluation strategies remains critical to this agenda. Much has been done but so much more is still needed, so that we can provide solid evidence for the most crucial theoretical underpinnings of our profession.*

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

*In my professional career I have been fortunate to have had access to and support from different mentors. At different stages of my career, I have needed different mentors - the right person for the right time. But some have hung in with me for a long time! Don't be afraid to ask someone really senior within the profession nationally or internationally for help or advice. My experience is that these people are extremely generous and they are keen to share their tips and mistakes with you and to assist with the development of the next generation of researchers. No one has ever turned a call for help down in my experience, so be brave and ask!*

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

*Recently my husband and I have become dog owners thanks to our son who bought a Border Collie puppy two years ago. She has introduced us to dog parks, off-leash areas and the joys of talking to other dog owners as we walk. People stop and talk to you when you have a dog! It has been life changing! Dogs always love to see you no matter how bad your day has been, they just love to see you when you get home!*

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

*Probably what I have learned from research participants. Any time you think you have it together as a*

researcher, your participants have another view, that needs to be heard, considered, and often leads to new research directions that we would never have followed had we not listened to what is important to them and what their experiences are. This has often been the most humbling and inspiring of experiences. As researchers it is a privilege that participants trust us enough to engage in our research. We owe them a debt of gratitude and we owe them the respect to listen and learn. Their expertise in their lived experience when we really listen, makes our own pale into insignificance.

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Joan Rogers (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Ethical, integrity, wisdom.*

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

*Advancing best practice.*

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

*Develop a research focus (not just plan a study) and pursue it with perseverance.*

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?

*Developing our research capacity -- we need practitioners educated to develop our science.*

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

*Providing opportunities for mentees.*

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

*Travel.*

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

*Seeing health policy change based on evidence.*

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## Mary Schneider (continued)

### Q and A

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

*I think that making a difference in the world is a tall order. I developed the only existing primate model for the study of prenatal alcohol exposure, prenatal stress, and sensory processing disorder, conditions highly relevant to occupational therapy practice. I hope that my work will contribute to detailed understandings of brain pathways and neuroadaptations regulated by dopamine and serotonin -- understandings that will potentially aid in the development of new targets for prevention and interventions. My work is designed to address a fundamental gap in understanding how prenatal conditions and genotype induce mental health and alcohol disorders.*

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

*Find the best mentor -- someone who is doing what you would like to do someday and spend as much time shadowing/volunteering with this person as feasible.*

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?

*Intervention research with cutting edge assessments, including state-of-the-art brain neuroimaging. Investigate how certain genotypes interact with intervention outcomes, such that some individuals respond better than others. Tailor the intervention to the genotype and brain function.*

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

*Mentors are critical. Ginny Scardina was my first mentor -- she was an extraordinary OT/human being. She taught me so much and inspired me for life.*

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

*Meditation and mindfulness is the most important occupation in my life.*

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

*The people I have met have been extraordinary. I have made lifelong friends within the context of pursuing research and science.*

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Surya Shah (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Assiduous, Doyen, Resplendent.*

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

*Tap dormant potential in each individual, instill an attitude to strive higher, and challenge borrowed occupational therapy concepts to make their own distinct impact on quality of life of patients we serve.*

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

*Please define your purpose, stay focused, and work hard. Don't be discouraged even if things look insurmountable - be persistent. Do not waste time dichotomizing the intertwined patient care, research and science.*

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?

*Occupational therapy publications should actively solicit "Letters to the Editor" that challenge proposed concept/s from theorists to maximize scientific impact.*

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

*The surgeons demonstrated by example the importance of documenting every patient interaction and encouraging converting interactions to generating new knowledge.*

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

*Travel with the family that explores environments, exchanges cultural heritages and enhances capacity to participate globally for sensitivity to culture rich differences.*

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

*The openness of medical journal editors to accept novel contributions without prejudice or hidden agenda to explore all research dimensions for interconnectedness and interdependence.*

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### Skidmore (continued)

#### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*I didn't know how to answer this question, so I asked my mentors and colleagues. These are the words they provided: Diligent, Insightful, Dedicated.*

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

*I hope to strengthen the focus on cognitive and mood changes after stroke, and to generate science that not only improves our understanding of these phenomena, but also provides tools to reduce disability associated with these changes.*

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

*To truly be successful as a career scientist, I think that immersion, training, mentoring, and long-term relationships in a scientifically-rich environment is critical. Just as we require focused training, fieldwork, and supervision to acquire clinical skills in occupational therapy, I think the same is necessary to acquire scientific skills that inform the science and practice of occupational therapy.*

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?

*Theories and mechanisms of behavioral activation as they pertain to occupation, participation, and health are critical for our field. I think it is important that we lead the charge in this area, as many scientific disciplines examine theories and mechanisms that support healthy behavior choices, but occupational therapy scientists are uniquely equipped to examine the mechanisms through which individuals select occupations that support participation and overall health.*

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

*There are so many roles that mentors have played, it is difficult to identify one. I have had several mentors - academic mentors, clinical mentors, scientific mentors, career development mentors - and each has been important in their own right as I have gleaned something from each of these individuals to shape my science and my career. If forced, I think that the most important role has been one of "guided discovery" - providing an environment and guidance for me to learn and grow while still allowing me to develop an independent trajectory unique to me.*

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

*I really enjoy camping and hiking in remote areas. My favorite locations are in northern Michigan.*

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

*I really enjoy mentoring doctoral and postdoctoral trainees and early career scientists. I find it very rewarding to "pay it forward" and partner with trainees as they formulate, implement, and "realize" their research programs.*

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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
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