Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health. We look forward this month to the Annual Conference of the American Occupation Therapy Association (AOTA) in Long Beach, California. Previous issues of Research Resources featured spotlights on AOTF programs at this conference, including the AOTF Qualitative Research Exchange (QRE) and AOTF Doctoral Network. This month, we spotlight the session organized by another AOTF program, Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE). PTE is the honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni, which recognizes and encourages superior scholarship among students enrolled in professional entry-level programs at accredited schools across the United States. If you plan to attend the AOTA annual conference, we hope you will be able to participate in this exciting program and learn from the experiences of its speakers. If you cannot attend and wish to receive a copy of the program brochure which contains further information, please do not hesitate to contact the AOTF offices via a reply to this newsletter.

Thank you as always for your support of AOTF's mission to advance research, education, and leadership. Our unwavering goal is to promote greater understanding of the impact of occupation on the health of individuals, families, and communities.

And thank you again for your interest in receiving Research Resources. If you wish to receive a PDF version to distribute to your colleagues, please contact Helene Ross, the AOTF Institute’s program assistant.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Reznick, PhD
Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

Families and Communities at the Center of Disaster Response: A Matter of Social Justice for Occupational Therapy

Sponsored by Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), a program of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Participation in meaningful roles and productive occupations is critical to maintaining health and well-being. During times of natural and human-made disasters, people experience abrupt disruptions in their daily routines and occupational repertoires. Families are at greatest risk during these uncertain times as they experience dislocation and cope...
NIMH Announces New Research Opportunity in Autism and Related Disorders

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has released two new RFAs for applications on research into novel interventions for neurodevelopmental disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Public Health Systems and Services Research: A Burgeoning Field

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and its partners are building the field of Public Health Systems and Services Research (PHSSR) to answer some of the most important and challenging questions about how best to structure, fund and support our public health system so people live longer and healthier lives.

Lex Frieden - Senior Vice President at Memorial Hermann/Texas Institute Rehabilitation Research (TIRR) in Houston, TX and Director of TIRR's Independent Living Research Utilization Program.

Elizabeth Townsend, PhD, OT(C), Reg NS, FCAOT - Professor and Director, School of Occupational Therapy, Professor, School of Nursing, and Associate Professor, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Moderator - M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA - Professor, Occupational Therapy and Neurology and Elias Michael Director, Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.

Please join us on Friday, April 11, 2008, 8-11 a.m., in the Renaissance Hotel Ballroom IV-V, for what promises to be an exceptional PTE/AOTF-sponsored event. This event is open to all.

2008 Southwest Conference on Disability

This conference seeks proposals that reflect one or more of the following themes: opening opportunities, supporting wounded warriors—meeting the needs of veterans with disabilities, or support for at-risk families when parents have cognitive disabilities. Conference organizers seek presentations that focus on the elimination of barriers to achieving equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Proposal submission deadline is May 30, 2008.

The Sensory Processing Foundation’s (SPF) 6th National Symposium, April 18-19, 2008

This symposium will include two full days of informational seminars, panels, and exhibits for teachers, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, physicians, and parents of children with special needs.

Diabetes & Obesity Disparities in Healthcare Systems Conference

The Howard Hughes...
Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland, has announced a $300 million program that will provide support to some of the nation’s best early career faculty.

**Publication Announcements**

**New Book on Writing and Motherhood**


**Watch for AOTF Events at the AOTA 2008 Conference in Long Beach, California**

Events noted in red are sponsored by the AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health.

**Wednesday, April 9**

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. *Japanese Garden Tour and Lunch*

12:00 - 6:30 p.m. *AOTA/AOTF Academic Writing in Occupational Therapy*

Institute 005 *Scholarship of Teaching & Learning*

6:30 - 10:00 p.m. *Doctoral Network (DocNet)*

**Friday, April 11**

8 - 11 a.m. *Pi Theta Epsilon*

(NIDDK), the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) wish to promote healthcare-based research aimed at reducing or eliminating disparities in diabetes and obesity-related outcomes. This one-and-a-half day conference on June 30-July 1, 2008 at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland will feature presentations about important factors in healthcare-based disparities research as well as discussion of unique design, measurement, and methodology issues. Concurrent with this conference, the NIDDK has issued a [Program Announcement (PA) for R01s](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-announcements.html) on identifying and reducing diabetes and obesity-related health disparities within healthcare systems.

The afternoon of the second day of the conference will be devoted to a “Grant Writing Workshop” targeted to junior investigators or investigators new to the field who are interested in submitting research proposals related to healthcare-based research to reduce disparities. Grant Writing Workshop Registration and Submissions are due Friday, May 30, 2008 and speaker presentations are due Monday, June 16, 2008.

**Pain, Mind and Movement II**

This is the second symposium of the special interest group on Pain and Movement, part of the International Association for the Study of Pain. This multidisciplinary symposium at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin, Ireland, August 13-15, 2008, will bring together scientists and clinicians interested in understanding and translating research into clinical practice. Presentations will focus on 1) imaging and understanding pain and movement; 2) understanding and managing people with pain and movement difficulties; and 3) understanding practitioners, therapies and the therapeutic milieu.

**Hope - Probing the Boundaries**

This interdisciplinary conference will explore contemporary definitions, meanings and expressions of hope. It will examine the individual, social, national and international contexts within which hope emerges as well as its counterpart, hopelessness. The conference will take place on September 22 -24, 2008 in Mansfield College, Oxford, England and abstracts should be submitted by Friday, April 18, 2008.

**Autreat - Conference Focuses on Living with Autism**

Autreat is an opportunity for individuals with autism and those with related developmental differences, friends, and supporters to come together, discover and explore autistic connections, and develop advocacy skills, all in an autistic-friendly environment.

**Web-based & Related Resources**

**March's NIH Technical Assistance Workshop on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**


**Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Recognizes Autism Awareness Month**

Early. campaign.
The United Nations (UN) designated April 2, 2008 as World Autism Day. The UN will host a variety of activities, including a panel discussion on autism on April 3, 2008 with Ed Trevathan, MD, MPH, Director of the CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD).

The CDC will highlight NCBDDD's activities regarding autism with a feature article each week in April. This week’s feature article focuses on the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED), the largest collaborative scientific study to date of the causes of autism.

Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Disseminates Social Science Research

This network is composed of specialized research networks in each of the social sciences. Each network encourages the early distribution of research results by publishing submitted abstracts and by soliciting abstracts of top quality research papers around the world. The SSRN eLibrary consists of two parts: an Abstract Database containing abstracts on over 179,400 scholarly working papers and forthcoming papers and an Electronic Paper Collection currently containing over 143,400 downloadable full text documents in Adobe Acrobat pdf format. The eLibrary also includes the research papers of a number of fee-based partner publications.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive Releases 2006 Series Data

Archive has the most up-to-date national substance abuse and mental health data.

National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
NSDUH is the primary source of statistical information on the prevalence, incidence, and correlates of alcohol and drug use by the US population. It is designed to produce national estimates and report the consequences and patterns of use and abuse. It also includes questions on mental health, access to care, and special topics asked of youth aged 12-17.

Proceedings of the 2006 Surgeon General’s Workshop on Improving Health Literacy

This workshop took place on September 6, 2006 at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland and the proceedings are now available on the Surgeon General’s web site.

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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