August is the Month of Change: Occupational Therapy's Role in Life Transitions

August is National Wellness month, Back to School month, and is the month comprised of various life transitions. Many are starting a new role, ritual, and routine. Children will soon return to school, some to new environments, and others for the first time. Several occupational therapy education programs are welcoming a new class of future practitioners. Some clinicians are entering into new roles as instructors and assistant professors in academia.

When reflecting on these life events, I decided to focus our topic on occupational therapy's role in life transitions. There are various forms of life transitions. A few examples are:

- a family experiencing the shifting of early intervention services to school-based services
- an adolescent with Autism moving from high school and family living to group home living
- an individual recovering from substance abuse re-entering the community
- an individual transitioning post gender reassignment surgery
- refugees living in a new country
- an older adult leaving work to enter into retirement

These are only skimming the surface of the various forms of transition one may experience. I encourage you to reflect on what transitions you have experienced. More so, what transitions do your clients or research populations experience? The field of occupational therapy must be prepared to address the needs of a constantly evolving society and all that it brings. It is time to use the evidence and translate our research into practice.

While occupational therapists are well suited to address transition services, implementation efforts require further investigation. Transition services, particularly those mandated for children and adolescents, are team based and include state identified processes. Research, such as the evidence in Lifestyle Redesign®, provides support and clinical guidelines in this practice area. While our evolving society resulting in new forms of life transition emerges, OT practitioners must be equipped to implement the established evidence and investigate novel areas.

To this end, I would like to bring to your attention our recently announced Implementation Research Grant. This is a great opportunity to see the translation of research knowledge into practice. We intend to announce our Requests for Proposals for all of the grants in this cycle later this month. Please stay tuned as we update our grant submission platform to better support those interested in applying.
In closing, please join me in congratulating our colleague Helene Ross on 20 years at the Foundation! Helene is retiring this month; her work at the Foundation has been invaluable. Many of her efforts led to the inception of both online Foundation resources and those viewed at the annual American Occupational Therapy Association conference. Among various efforts related to communication, Helene maintains the Foundation’s website, and supports AOTF’s research efforts including the former Habits Conferences and research grant programs. She is the staff liaison to the Academy of Research, and edits the AOTF Annual Report. Additionally, Helene created this series Research Resources and has edited every issue since it began in 2007! While she will surely be missed, we wish her the best during this transition and new phase of life.

Varleisha Gibbs, PhD, OTD, OTR/L
Scientific Programs Officer

Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Research Training Opportunities

Graduate Research Assistantship - University of Florida
The Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida, invites applications for a graduate research assistantship as part of the Rehabilitation Science PhD Program. This assistantship, under the mentorship of Dr. Sherrilene Classen, will begin in January 2020. The graduate research assistant will engage in multidisciplinary research with a focus on driving, rehabilitation science, and community mobility, in medically at risk populations. This position will provide intensive training in all aspects of research and rehabilitation science.

Training Program in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) - USC
The USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging invites early career scholars to apply for an innovative training program that will build the next generation of scientists specializing in ADRD health disparities research that addresses the full range of biological, biomedical, behavioral, and health sciences supported by NIA/NIH. Their target audience will be comprised of talented assistant professors and postdoctoral scholars who want to develop expertise in interdisciplinary, team-based ADRD research that addresses health disparities across racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic dimensions especially for underrepresented older minorities. Their signature training activity is a two-part, invitation-only conference series which candidates will be expected to attend in Los Angeles, California, on October 24 and 25, 2019 and October 5 and 6, 2020. Call for Applications deadline: August 15, 2019.

Live Stream Webinar: Autism - Strategies for Self-Regulation, Learning, and Challenging Behaviours (November 5-6, 2019, 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Central Time)
This live stream workshop from the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute in Canada, provides practical strategies for working with high-need individuals around self-regulation, learning practices, and challenging behaviors.

Online Training Modules Designed to Provide Quality Healthcare for Persons with Disabilities
The Ohio Disability and Health Program offers online training modules that are designed to increase the capacity of health care providers to provide quality healthcare for persons with disabilities. Part I: Persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities (WB2695) and Part II: Persons with Developmental Disabilities (WD2564) trainings present various disability issues, serving to strengthen participants’ competence in physical/sensory and developmental disabilities are approved for continuing education by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for health professionals in multiple areas.

Cultural Competency in Rehabilitation (Live Webinar) (October 24, 2019, 3 p.m. ET)
What is cultural competency and why is it important in healthcare? Why is it relevant in the rehabilitation
workplace? How can individuals and organizations address the challenges that cultural sensitivity poses?

Christina Papadimitriou, PhD, of Oakland University and George Washington University, describes cultural competency, sensitivity, and humility as necessary principles and practices in responding to cultural diversity in rehabilitation in this webinar presented by the Brain Injury Association of America. Registration closes October 22, 2019. Includes 1 ACBIS CEU.

**Supported Decision Making And Independence After Brain Injury (Live Webinar) (November 6, 2019, 3 p.m. ET)**

Figuring out the appropriate level of support that a person with a brain injury needs can be challenging. Families and providers may struggle to understand the range of options available to help a person make decisions about his or her life. Too often it is assumed that a person either lives independently or requires a guardianship or conservatorship. The Brain Injury Association of America webinar featuring Ned Solomon, Director, Partners in Policy, Tennessee Council of Developmental Disabilities, will discuss the concept of Supported Decision Making, how it can be implemented, and what resources and information are available. Registration closes November 4, 2019, EST. Includes 1 ACBIS CEU.

**Rehabilitation Research Career Development Program (RRCD) -- NIH K12 Positions**

The goal of the program (presented by UTMB with UF and USC) is to provide OTs and PTs (with postdoctoral or related research experience) with the skills and research experience necessary to become independent investigators and future academic and scientific leaders in their professions. Scholars will receive mentored training in:

- Aging & geriatric rehabilitation (UF, USC, UTMB)
- Neuroscience & neurorehabilitation (UF, USC, UTMB)
- Muscle biology, exercise, physical activity, musculoskeletal rehabilitation (UF, USC, UTMB)
- Biomedical imaging & engineering, virtual reality, assistive technology (UF, USC)
- Developmental disorders, pediatric rehabilitation (UF, USC)
- Health services, prevention, wellness, health disparities, community integration, quality of life research (UF, USC, UTMB)
- Chronic pain, cognitive rehabilitation, behavioral and psychosocial support (UF, USC, UTMB)

Send any questions or requests to: rehab.info@utmb.edu

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**References for Occupational Therapy's Role in Life Transitions**


Grants and Funding Opportunities

The National Center for Advancing Translations Sciences (NCATS) is soliciting applications for upcoming funding opportunities. NCATS has two funding opportunities open for small business biotech entrepreneurs and researchers under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

2020 Contract Topics Solicitation: due Oct. 23, 2019
NCATS is soliciting applications for the 2020 SBIR contract solicitation (PHS 2020-1), due Oct. 23, 2019. The topic is "Alternatives to commercially available cell culture insert membranes and manufacturing techniques (Contract Topic #019)." For questions on NCATS SBIR contract topics, please contact NCATS Contracting Officer Jeffrey Schmidt.

2019 Omnibus Grant Solicitation: due Sept. 5, 2019
Small businesses and research organizations involved in commercializing innovative medical technologies are also encouraged to apply for the 2019 Omnibus Grant Solicitations (SBIR: PA-19-272 and STTR: PA-19-270), due Sept. 5, 2019. NCATS is particularly interested in applications that address research areas relevant to any stage of translation, from target validation through pre-clinical and clinical evaluation, to intervention implementation and dissemination, including:

- Preclinical Drug Discovery and Development
- Biomedical, Clinical and Health Research Informatics
- Clinical, Dissemination and Implementation Research

Questions? NCATS encourages applicants to email NCATS-SBIRSTTR@mail.nih.gov to discuss potential project ideas and related questions.

NIH Funding

- Project Summary/Abstract and Project Narrative: What's the Difference and What to Include
- National Library of Medicine. In 2019, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has about $64 million in funding for data science and biomedical informatics projects.
- National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). NCCIH conducts and supports research, and provides information about complementary health products and practices. Among the many topics they fund are studies involving yoga, tai chi, cognitive behavior therapy, mind-body interactions and many more.

For additional funding sources, see the AOTF website.

News and Resources

Network of Patient Safety Databases (NPSD)
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services was directed in the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act (PSQIA) (PDF, 191 KB) of 2005 to create and maintain a NPSD to provide an interactive, evidence-based management resource for health care providers. Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) listed by the Agency for
Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and others. AHRQ, the lead agency for patient safety, is authorized to implement the NPSD. An immediate goal for AHRQ is to encourage voluntary reporting of information that could be used for national learning to improve patient safety and prevent harm. Additionally, over the long term, AHRQ will assess the feasibility of a single point of access for qualified researchers.

Initially, the NPSD contains nonidentifiable data derived from patient safety work product (PSWP) submitted by PSOs from across the country. This rich data source makes it possible to identify and track patient safety concerns for the purpose of learning how to mitigate patient safety risks and reduce harm across health care settings nationally.

The NPSD will use visualization products to develop informational tools, including dashboards and chartbooks, to make the data available for meaningful, national learning purposes. One way that information resulting from analyses of trends and patterns of health care errors based on NPSD data will be made available to the public is through annual quality reports prepared by AHRQ, known as the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report. Data from the NPSD will be used to prepare a report on effective strategies for reducing medical errors and increasing patient safety.

**Supported Decision Making And Independence After Brain Injury (Live Webinar)(November 6, 2019)**
How can supported decision making be used to help people with brain injury live as independently as possible? This webinar will discuss the concept of Supported Decision Making, how it can be implemented, and what resources and information are available. Registration closes November 4, 2019.

**Boston Rehabilitative Impairment Study of the Elderly (Boston RISE), 2009-2014 (ICPSR 37045)**
The Center for Large Data in Rehabilitation Research (CLDR) announces the availability of the Boston Rehabilitative Impairment Study of the Elderly (Boston RISE) dataset for secondary analysis. Boston RISE is a prospective cohort study of older primary care patients. Boston RISE was a prospective cohort study of older primary care patients, aged 65 years and older, who were at risk for declining mobility and disability at baseline. The study was designed to investigate which combinations of neuromuscular impairments are most responsible for mobility decline and disability over 2 years of follow up.

**ACRM Webinar Library**
The ACRM Training Institute Committee has launched of the first step toward creation of a new member benefit, the ACRM Webinar Library. ACRM currently supports any community group that wishes to host educational webinars on topics of interest to their members. These webinars are available in one location -- the Resources tab on ACRM.org -- with 24/7 public access.

**MentorSpace - a new free resource from SAGE Publishing**
Sage recently launched MentorSpace, a free-to-access online community space that allows users to tap into the wisdom of those who have executed a specific aspect of the research process and want to share their knowledge with others. The site is a place for users to connect, share insights, learn from their colleagues, and broaden their professional networks.

A resource for undergraduate, graduate, and post-doc students, as well as researchers, instructors, and authors in the social and behavioral research field, MentorSpace content types include:

- "Methods in Action" - posts that describe a specific technique or report on particular research efforts that explore the methodology or innovation used
- "What I learned about doing research" - posts that describe the circumstances surrounding a research effort including key obstacles and takeaways. "What I learned about teaching research" - tips for teaching courses in the methods field
- Interviews - posts that examine problem solving in research, focusing on how to critically approach a problem and what steps to use

**New CDC funding will expand knowledge about children with autism spectrum disorder**
CDC has launched a new phase of funding for the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, the only collaborative network to monitor the number and characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities in multiple communities throughout the United States. The new phase of funding will include additional data collection in four ADDM sites, which will expand knowledge about children with ASD and other developmental disabilities. The new phase of funding will also include the development of a new data collection instrument, called the Multistate Autism Data Collection Instrument (MADCI), which will allow for more comprehensive data collection across sites.
States. Over the next four years, CDC will invest more than $16 million to enhance tracking at nine sites previously included in the ADDM Network, and to launch one new site. All 10 sites will track ASD among 4-year-old and 8-year-old children. One site will complete a follow-up of 16-year-old adolescents who were included in the ADDM Network in surveillance years 2010 and 2012, when they were 8 years old.

NIH News and Links

- Update on NIH’s efforts to address sexual harassment in science
- Biosketch help
- Revised NIH Grant Policy Statement for 2019
- New Video Provides Overview of New NIH Policies on Human Subjects Research and Clinical Trials
- NIH Grant website
- Advice from NIH on resubmitting grant applications
- Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (Parent K01)
- NIH Pathway to Independence Award (Parent K99/R00)
- Independent Scientist Award (Parent K02)
- Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (Parent K24)

Publications

**Qualitative Secondary Research: A Step-By-Step Guide**
This book will guide you through finding, managing and analyzing qualitative secondary data in an error-free way.

It provides an accessible introduction to the theory of secondary research and sets out the advantages and limitations of using this kind of research.

**Cooking Matters for adults -- a nutrition education intervention for adults with developmental disabilities (DD) and their direct support professionals (DSPs)**
Cooking Matters (published by the Ohio State Nisonger Center Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program) is a cooking-based nutrition education intervention, developed by Share Our Strength, for people with low health literacy. It was identified that both adults with DD and DSPs showed positive trends in healthy food preparation, eating a balanced diet, and reduction in cooking barriers at post-test and 6-months after the intervention. Qualitative data revealed that both participant groups reported that they learned about healthy food and beverage choices and various cooking skills. Both participant groups reported confidence in skills learned and were satisfied with the intervention and approach of including adults with DD and DSPs in the intervention together.

**Artificial Intelligence Applications for Older Adults and People with Disabilities: Balancing Safety and Autonomy: Proceedings of a Workshop-in Brief**
On October 24, 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a workshop which examined the state of the art and knowledge about artificial intelligence (AI) and explored its potential to foster a balance of safety and autonomy for older adults and people with disabilities who strive to live as independently as possible.

**Strengthening the Connection between Health Professions Education and Practice**
This workshop, held by the Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education, explored methods and methodology for bridging health professions education and practice in ways that improve information flow between learning and application. The workshop also explored various models of training by bringing together multiple health professions across the education-to-practice continuum.

**Functional Assessment for Adults with Disabilities**
The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) provides monetary benefits to eligible people with disabilities through its Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. As of December 2017, SSDI had approximately 10.4 million beneficiaries, and SSI served about 7.1 million recipients who were classified as blind or disabled. With support from SSA, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened an expert committee to look at ways to collect information about a person's physical and mental functional abilities relevant to work requirements. The resulting report lays out the
Evaluation of the Disability Determination Process for Traumatic Brain Injury in Veterans
At the mandate of the U.S. Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contracted with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene a committee to review the process by which the VA assesses impairments relating to TBI for purposes of awarding disability compensation. The resulting report outlines the committee’s findings and provides recommendations to the VA related to the health care specialists who diagnose TBI; the adequacy of the tools used by VA to provide clinical examinations and disability ratings for TBI; and the adjudication process (the overall process used to evaluate for disability compensation, from submission of claims through appeals).

Conferences and Calls for Papers

The theme for 2019 is Children, Young People & Families -- Learning Through Doing

AOTA Specialty Conference: Mental Health & Opioids (September 20-21, 2019, Chicago, Illinois)
Information will be available.

Conference of the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (October 3-5, 2019, Scottsdale, Arizona)
Theorem this year: The darker side of occupations, Illegal, taboo, risky. Ruth Zemke lecture in occupational science: Charlotte Brasic Royeen, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, The Meta-emotion of occupation, Feeling about feeling while doing.

Canadian Stroke Congress (October 3-5, 2019, Ottawa, Canada)
Experts share the latest research findings, clinical innovations, exchange ideas, and make the connections which will change the future of stroke.

AOTA Education Summit (October 18-19, 2019, Las Vegas, Nevada)
Information will be available.

11th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference (October 27-30, 2019, San Diego, California)
Researchers, educators and clinicians interested in improving communication in healthcare.

2019 Online Knowledge Translation (KT) Conference (October 28, 30, November 1, 2019, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm ET)
This year's conference theme is Innovative KT Strategies That Work. The conference will bring together research-based KT tools and strategies to increase the use of research findings. Presentations will address a range of effective and innovative approaches to translating, disseminating, and using knowledge and will describe methods designed to measure KT outcomes. Registration is free and will open Summer, 2019.

AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave (November 1-2, 2019, Chicago, Illinois)
Information will be available.

2019 American Public Health Association Meeting and Expo (November 2-6, 2019, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science, For action, For health.

ACRM 96th Annual Conference (November 5-8, 2019, Chicago, Illinois)
Core conference: November 5-8, 2019: Plenaries, hundreds of educational sessions, papers, posters, ACRM Community Meetings, receptions, networking, ACRM Rehab EXPO.
Pre-conference: November 3-5, 2019: Dozens of Instructional Courses, Cognitive Rehabilitation Training, ACBIS Training, Early Career Development Course.

22nd International 3S Symposium: Sense + SenseABILITY (November 15-16, 2019, Bethesda, Maryland)
This year's STAR Institute 3S Symposium is all about shaping human development: sensory processing and
sensory motor experience and their impact on development of sense of self and self-agency. A conference for all those working in sensory processing and integration across the lifespan; child development and education; and with neurodiverse populations. Symposium will be livestreamed.

**Experiential Design - Rethinking Relations Between People, Objects and Environments Conference (January 16-17, 2020, Tallahassee, Florida)**

Design - Wellbeing - Education - Accessibility This interdisciplinary event will link artists, designers, architects, and urbanists with health professionals, psychologists, and accessibility specialists to explore essential overlaps between these areas.
Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **November 20, 2019.**

**Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity (March 2-3, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii)**

Backed by 35 years of experience, Pac Rim is widely recognized as an international and diverse gathering. Participants represent disability; share the human experiences associated with disability; increase understanding through interdisciplinary research and best practice, and provide action plans to address social needs. Their goal is to harness the innovation and knowledge building that are occurring globally, to shape an informed collective that empowers individuals with disabilities, their families, and invigorates those who serve.
Call for proposals deadline: **December 1, 2019.**

**AOTA Annual Conference & Expo (March 26-29, 2020, Boston, Massachusetts)**

The largest gathering of OT professionals in the world features educational and poster sessions, exceptional speakers, and an Expo Hall filled with the latest products and opportunities. Pre-Conference Institutes take place on March 25.

**9th International Research Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) (April 22-25, 2020, Vancouver, British Columbia)**

Review Respond and Relate: Integrating Research, Policy and Practice Around the World Continuing on the work of eight previous conferences, there remains a clear need to examine relevant global research, programs and policies on adults and adolescents with FASD. What can we learn from practice-based evidence? What does existing or emerging research tell us? Are the results transferable from country to country and/or from laboratory to real life? Are there clinical implications of results from any of these areas of which we should be aware? What are the changes in our thinking, practice and directions that will be required to improve outcomes? What are the implications for the future? This interactive conference will provide an opportunity to be at the forefront of addressing these relevant global issues.
Call for abstracts submission deadline: **September 13, 2019**

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**The American Occupational Therapy Foundation**

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AOTF is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities.

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