# Table of Contents

AOTF History in Review  
Focus on Research  
Special Projects  
Center Grants  
Special Interest Symposiums, Dissertation Awards, and the Summer Institute for Future Scientists  
Recent Foundation Grant History & Planning Grant Collectives  
Nedra Gillette Endowed Research Fellowship  
Newly Introduced Grant Programs  
IRG Seven-Year Review  
Executive Summary
AOTF SNAPSHOTS

FOUNDATION RESEARCH FUNDING AT A GLANCE

OVER $3 MILLION DOLLARS AWARDED SPECIFIC TO ADVANCING THE EVIDENCE OF OT

314 GRANT AWARD WINNERS

3 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

4 CENTER GRANTS

OVER $50 MILLION IN FOLLOW-ON FUNDING
I have been a member of AOTF’s Academy of Research for many years, and have seen the strong and sustaining impact that AOTF funding has had on my career. The growth of those I have mentored, and most importantly, on setting a course that continues to establish high standards for evidence-based practices for occupational therapy.

For example, AOTF funded the earliest project that led to the development of the Sensory Profiles, standardized assessments that are now used worldwide to support evidence-based practices. Additionally, the Sensory Profiles are now used in hundreds of research grants every year, and would not even exist without AOTF’s early insight to invest in this tool’s development.

We are currently working on an AOTF-funded telehealth coaching intervention that is proving to be highly effective; interdisciplinary colleagues are inviting us to join their research program because of this project, extending occupational therapy’s influence with other disciplines as well.

These are but a few reasons I support AOTF with my own contributions each year, and I hope others will follow my lead. Know that your practices today have been influenced by an investment that AOTF made to substantiate our work; investing in authenticated practices for those we serve – a worthy investment indeed, is in fact PRICELESS.

-Winnie Dunn PhD OTR FAOTA,
Distinguished Professor,
University of Missouri;
Academy of Research member;
Intervention Grant Recipient;
Formerly of the University of Kansas Medical Center
Figure 1. AOTF Historical Timeline. This figure is a brief overview of the Foundation’s history.
AOTF History in Review

The following report outlines the impact of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) to the science and growth of scholarly activity in the field of occupational therapy. While there is an emphasis on the preceding decade (2009-2019), an overview of the history is paramount to gain accurate insight regarding the evolution and impact of the Foundation (Figure 1). Since 1965, AOTF has impacted the advancement, and sustainability, of science for the field of occupational therapy.

Starting in 1969, the Foundation created efforts to build capacity to engage the field of Occupational Therapy (OT) in research which guides practice. Prior to procurement of funds for grant programming, initial awards supported a visiting lectures series to state associations. Topics included Creative Problem Solving, Cognitive Perceptual Motor Learning, Evaluation Procedures in Occupational Therapy, and The Scientific Approach to the Evaluation of Treatment. During this first year of inception, AOTF announced the inaugural Gundersen Scholarship for study in the field of mental health. Efforts to support the scholarship and educational initiatives continued to expand to include the Carolyn W. Kohn Scholarships, Guiliana Fund, and Rebecca Adams Fund. It was in 1974 that the Foundation established the Occupational Therapy Development Fund. Early fundraising efforts secured approximately $48,000. The first decade yielded $155,000 in funding (Table 1). During that timeframe, additional funding supported specialty projects and publications.

It was not until 1978 that the Foundation began focusing efforts towards research grant projects and programming. As the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) saw the need to expand the evidence of the profession, it was agreed that AOTF would take the lead and be responsible for the profession’s research agenda. In 1978, AOTA and AOTF announced $27,000 specifically allocated to fund research programs. However, the commencement of the research initiatives did not ensue until 1979 (Gillette, N., 1982). It was then that the Representative Assembly (RA) passed Resolution #537-79 formally recognizing all research activities as the responsibility of AOTF.

One of my junior faculty has received research funding through AOTF. Her research focuses on understanding and preventing suicide in autistic youth and young adults. This funding allows her to generate the preliminary data needed to be successful at obtaining future funding from larger grant funders.

~ Lorie Gage Richards, PhD, University of Utah
With the projects I am familiar with, I have been impressed with the direction of the research to make the outcomes of effective OT practice clearer and in a position where other non-OTs could find out about our profession. I believe AOTF grants have also been very helpful for researchers to get the structure and first steps of projects started so they may be more effective in applying for larger grants.

~ John Fleming, EdD, OTR/L, St. Catherine University

Table 1
Foundation Activities 1969-1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Foundation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Average Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Project Awards</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutes/seminars (1976-1978)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Grants (Range $175-$5,000)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$155,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Retrieved from The American Occupational Therapy Foundation Annual Report, 1979*
In 1982, the RA charged an AOTF ad hoc committee to develop a set of research competencies (Gillette, 2001). The competencies identified specific educational standards to include in the training of OT practitioners. Such efforts were to enhance scholarship within the field. To further support faculty members implementing the research competencies, the Foundation established mentorship and training programs (Provident, 2006). With the 1999 announcement of the mandated shift to an entry level Master’s degree by the year 2007, AOTF saw an additional need to further support the training of faculty members, future researchers, and to provide grant funding to support OT research (Table 2; Table 3). Research programming, and faculty development opportunities, occurred primarily through the early 2000s.

Table 2
AOTF Research Division Programs 1978-2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs Provided Through the AOTF Research Division 1978-2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Begins with a Little “r”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Research Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Case Study Workshops (Mental Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitating Client-Centered Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Scholarship and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentored Grant Writers Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameters of Practice and Research (Research Priorities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Colloquiums: Programs at AOTA Annual Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Funding Sessions: Programs at AOTA Annual Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement Workshop, TPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIS Research Symposia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships in Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Occupational Therapy Journal of Research</em> (publication)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Outcomes Research (CORE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Doctoral Fellowships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Poster Sessions: Programs at AOTA Annual Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute (advanced) on Research Methods: Programs at AOTA Annual Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement Symposium, UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi-annual Research Conferences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am very involved with the St. Catherine Challenge and am encouraged by its steady growth since its inception. I think it is a great way to connect students to AOTF research efforts and strongly support anything that can be done to strengthen and expand this connection.

~ John Fleming, EdD, OTR/L St. Catherine University

Table 3
AOTF Faculty Development Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Development: Research</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Integrating Research into the Curriculum, M. Mitcham (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bibliography of Completed Research (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research Competencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scientific Inquiry: Design &amp; Analysis Issues in Occupational Therapy, Ottenbacher &amp; Bonder (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Workshops on Evidence-Based Practice (ADHA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dissertation Research Grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional Workshops on Instructional Design and Media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mentor’s Curriculum Design Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research Across the Curriculum (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical Reasoning Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fundamentals of Research for Health Professionals, Cox &amp; West (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical FACT Sheets (Publication)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Workshops on Collaborative Research (TJU)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional Workshops on the Theoretical Basis of Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic Juggling Act: Programs at AOTA Annual Conferences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional Workshops on Curriculum Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus on Research

In 1978, the Foundation began providing small research funding in the form of Innovation Grants. The inaugural recipients were:


From the inception of the Small Grant Programs in 1978, the Foundation reviewed grant applications twice a year for a minimum of $175 and a maximum of $5,000 for projects one year in length (Gillette, 1990). During that time, they awarded approximately 12 to 18 grants annually. The first decade of the Small Grant Program yielded approximately $200,000 in grant funding with 90 grants awarded (Devereaux, 1990). Funded projects focused on mental disorders, preventable secondary conditions, health issues related to aging, developmental disorders, health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions, autism spectrum disorders, physical impairments, and cognitive impairments (Figure 2). The grant program eventually grew to include impact studies expanding the AOTF-funded research topics (Figure 3).

In 1981, the Doctoral Fellowship program began (later identified as Dissertation Grants). Kenneth Ottenbacher received the first award in the amount of $10,000 for his research on feeding therapy for children with severe developmental disability. Following this initial award, the AOTA Representative Assembly continued to support funding of one fellowship over a five year timeframe. The three year awards provided $15,000 to support completion of one’s degree. In 1984, the Foundation gave the first post-doctoral fellow award to Florence Clark. (Figure 4)
The 25th anniversary of AOTF highlighted the inclusion of funding for Impact Studies including the work of Craig Velozo, Wendy Coster & Linda Tickle Degan, Marilyn Cabay & Lorna Jean King, and David Nelson (The American Occupational Therapy Foundation Annual Report, 1989). The research division of AOTF continued to trail blaze funding for the science of OT not only through research grants, but also through special interest research symposium awards, workshops, student research grants, dissertation grants, post-doctoral fellowships, and center grants. (Gillette, 2000)

![Research Topics 1978-2002](image)

**Figure 3.** The graph provides a list of the various AOTF funded research topics from 1978-2002.


**Figure 4.** Illustrates funding for the AOTF Post-Doctoral Fellowships and Dissertation Research Grant Programs.
Special Projects

While there was an emphasis on Innovation, Impact, and student studies during the first decade, the Foundation allocated continued funding to support special projects (Figure 5; Figure 6). Those projects included a focus on the development of practitioners, standardized assessments, databases, or both. The following outlines such projects:

- **Gary Kielhofner et al.**: Occupational Performance History Interview
- **Craig Velozo**: Development of a National Data Base to Study the Effectiveness of Industrial Rehabilitation
- **Allen Heinemann**: Relation of Rehabilitation Intervention to Functional Outcomes (an analysis of national FIM data)
- **Monica Perlmutter**: Standardization of the I.W. J. Functional Assessment
- **Keh-Chung Lin**: A Meta-analysis Study of Sensory Integration in Persons with Learning Disabilities
- **Catherine Trombly**: The Relationship of Outpatient Occupational Therapy to Achievement of Occupational Performance by Brain-Injured Adults
- **Florence Clark et al.**: Occupational Therapy for Independent-Living Adults
- **Roger Smith**: OT FACT

*Figure 5. Special Projects supported through AOTF’s funding allocated outside of the Foundation’s established research priority areas. (Retrieved from Gillette, N. 2000. A Twenty-Year History of Research Funding in Occupational Therapy. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, July/August 2000, Volume 54, Number 4)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT FACT</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Hardening Database</td>
<td>$63,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBI Study</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIM Databases</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Supplement for NIA Study</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Meta-analysis Studies</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardization of the IWJ Functional Assessment</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy History</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$285,300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 6. Total amount funded through AOTF for Special Projects.*
In 1988, AOTA and AOTF partnered to provide seed money for Centers for Scholarship and Research. The charter institutions were the University of Illinois, Chicago and Boston University. The centers were:

- The Center for Research Tradition in Measurement in Occupational Therapy, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Illinois Chicago
- The Center for Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation Research, Department of Occupational Therapy, Sargent College of Allied Health Professions, Boston University

In 1996, AOTA/AOTF funded a third center, the AOTF Center for Scholarship and Research at the University of Southern California (USC). With Florence Clark PhD, OTR, FOTA as the principle investigator, the center focused on the Relationship of Occupation to Adaptation and its Implications for Occupational Therapy. All three centers matched the funds aimed at enhancing faculty and student research at their designated institutions. AOTA/AOTF provided $225,000 in total center grant funding (Gillette, 2000). Outcomes were astounding for each of the centers. All received federal and private research grant funding reaching several million dollars per year (Gillette, 2000). Boston University received over $1.2 million in combined federal funding from the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research; and the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR). The OT department received a T32 grant from NCMRR that supported full-time doctoral students. The students supported on the grant have since played major roles as OT researchers. Among them are Susan Fasoli, Nancy Baker, Kathy Lyons and Susan Lin. Funding also supported the standardization of the School Function Assessment, research training, and to study predictions of clinical effectiveness. The AOTA/AOTF funding provided to USC contributed to the landmark study Occupational Therapy Intervention for Independent Living Adults. The AOTF Center for Scholarship and Research at USC received additional funding from the National Institute on Aging, the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research; the RGK Foundation; Lumex, Inc; and Smith & Nephew Rolyan.

In 1999, The University of Illinois Chicago received funding to become a Center For Outcomes and Education (CORE). CORE (UIC) received a total of $300,000 of AOTA-AOTF funding. Yet, the center yielded $20 million in resulting proposals, two doctoral fellows, two postdoctoral fellows, and nine Academy of Research members. Through the orchestrated efforts of leaders, such as Gary Kielhofner, DrPh, OTR/L, FAOTA, CORE was a catalyst in the development of researchers that would produce outcomes to further establish the field of occupational therapy.

"CORE was a history-making opportunity to shape the future of the field. I am proud that we were able to deliver on the goals we originally promised to develop leaders and scholars in research to advance and document the outcomes of practice."

~Gary Kielhofner DrPh, OTR/L, FAOTA Principal Investigator (former faculty member and department head, now deceased)

University of Illinois Chicago
CORE (UIC) supported the development of pivotal scholarship for the OT profession. With a focus on assessment development, CORE related activities led to assessments concomitant to the Model of Human Occupation and Anne Fisher’s Assessment of Motor and Process Skills. (Communication from Fisher, G. April 5, 2016)

Occupational Therapy’s introduction to Rasch analysis occurred in the form of instruction through CORE (UIC) seminars greatly impacting assessment development. Through a community of scholars, the work expanded into Canada, Europe, and the establishment of three CORE centers in London, Stockholm, and Taiwan. The three year grant period’s (1999-2001) training and support led to CORE fellows submitting over $13 million in grant proposals, and resulted in 28 funded grants for over $8.7 million in funding.

(Communication from Fisher, G. April 5, 2016)

“The profession continues to see benefits as the assessments that were created as part of the first CORE grant provide pre- and post-measures for occupational therapy clients and are used around the world. Many of the research fellows and students from the second CORE grant have moved into leadership positions in the U.S, Canada, Sweden, and Scotland and have successfully completed high level national and international outcomes research studies. The investment in the CORE grants continues to pay off.”

Gail Fisher PhD, MPA, OTR/L, FAOTA, current faculty member University of Illinois Chicago

“CORE is about partnerships that ground and enhance our research.”

Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Co-Principal Investigator (current UIC faculty member and Endowed Chair) University of Illinois Chicago

“CORE has been extremely successful in providing promising OT researchers with advanced methodological training to elevate the level of research in the field.”

~Craig Velozo, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Medical University of South Carolina, Co-Principal Investigator (former UIC faculty member)
Special Interest Symposiums, Dissertation Awards, and the Summer Institute for Future Scientists

Special Interest Research Symposiums groomed almost 50 scholars with many entering into the Academy of Research and who continue to contribute to the body of knowledge today. The work of scholars, such as, Virginia Dickie, Winnie Dunn, Lucy Jane Miller, Anne Fisher, Roger O. Smith, Jane Case-Smith, Anita Bundy, Catana Brown, and Joan Rogers, just to name a few, continue to impact the field. While the early niche of the Foundation was smaller grant funding, the efforts yielded over $8.7 million in resulting funding influencing the development of science for the field of occupational therapy. As shared by Winnie Dunn, “… some of the earlier grants were pivotal to work of today. My earlier grant award in 1987 was A comparison of Service Delivery Patterns in occupational therapy for $8,000”. Dr. Dunn continues to mentor and further support young researchers. Such efforts began during her years as an early researcher with the support of funding through AOTF.

The Foundation focused efforts on grant dissertation awards from 2006 through 2009. The program was the successor of the former doctoral fellowship program which began in 1981. The revamped dissertation awards totaled $140,000, and included mentorship and peer collaboration. The grant supported twenty-eight awardees in their scholarly journeys. Their careers culminated in over 30 peer-reviewed publications, nineteen faculty appointments, one postdoctoral training appointment, two NIH K12 grants, and one AOTF Intervention Research Grant (IRG). Subsequently, assessment of the field revealed a need to enhance funding support to OT researchers. The dissertation awards ended to allow for more focused efforts to advance the knowledge related to intervention and provide additional mentorship for early researchers. Despite the dissertation cessation, the grant helped advance the Foundation’s mission in support of the science of occupational therapy.

The Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars, created by senior occupational therapy scientists under the leadership of Carolyn Baum, Florence Clark, Janice Burke and Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar brings OT scholars together with those interested in pursuing a research career. In 2016, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) joined forces to include the Summer Institute of Future Scientists in OT as a pre-conference event to the OT Summit of Scholars to ignite interest in potential future researchers. The program aims to reach entry-level OT students who are attending institutions with limited exposure to research-related activities.

“...I learned about how to simply go about getting a PhD, such as the logistics of applying, what to expect, tips and tricks to get through it, and a lot of other great advice. In the fall I will be starting my 3rd year in a PhD program (Rehabilitation Sciences) at the University of Utah, in Salt Lake City.~Jackie Einerson, Future Scientist
Participant 2016, University of Utah
In 2016, 20 entry-level students participated in the Summer Institute of Future Scientists. Two year post program survey data reports three of the participants entering into doctoral training following their entry level experiences (Figure 6). Two of those students are in PhD programs and two in a Post-professional doctorate of occupational therapy program. The remaining Summer Institute for Future Scientist participants indicate being clinical OT practitioners. Outlined in the 2018 survey, Ten respondents indicated participating in research projects including intervention research, translational research, randomized control trials, and publication of manuscripts. Of these respondents, 100% agreed that the participating in the event influenced their pursuing a career in research. Nine of the 20 participants shared an interest in pursuing a research career.

Three other summer Institute of Future Scientists followed with 30 students attending in 2017, 27 in 2018, and 29 in 2019. Hence 106 entry level students make up Future Scientist participants since the program’s inception.

The Summer Institute was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a part of. It not only taught me about pursuing a PhD, but also allowed me to meet many OT researchers that I continue to admire and learn from.

~Jackie Einerson, Future Scientist Participant 2016, University of Utah

Figure 6. The Future Scientist participants outlined their career path two years post attendance.
Recent Foundation Grant History & Planning Grant Collectives

In 2013, the Foundation developed the Intervention Research Grant (IRG) program supported through major funding from The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®), the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and the St. Catherine Challenge.

The IRG program is entering into the seventh year of funding supporting 30 grantees through 2019. Total funding amounts are $1,468,603. The grant application process replicates that of the NIH grant process to provide researchers the necessary experience to lay the groundwork for larger intervention studies. With a focus on early researchers and novel ideas, the program allots for projects which may not otherwise be awarded.

In the spring of 2017, AOTF began a series of Planning Grant Collectives (PGC). These workshops bring together researchers to plan future studies in the field. The Foundation also invites potential funders and organizations to present possible collaborative and grant opportunities to the research committee members. The pages to follow list PGC planning committee members and invited guests with the workshop topics listed below:

Stimulating Research to Enhance Aging in Place: A Continuum of Home and Community-based Services (2019)

Catalyzing Research to Optimize Participation in Work & Life Roles of Cancer Survivors: Moving Beyond Symptom Management (2018)

Understanding and Enhancing Community Function in Serious Mental Illness (2017)

Following the PGC workshops, research groups continue to work together to develop grant proposals and white papers for publication. The following publication resulted from the second PGC workshop in 2018.

2019 PGC Participants (*Planning Committee Member)

- Sajay Arthanat, PhD, OTR/L, ATP, Telehealth Practice Center. University of New Hampshire
- Tracy Chippendale, PhD, OTR/L, New York University
- Carrie Ciro*, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, University of Oklahoma
- Malcolm P. Cutchin, PhD, Wayne State University
- Chanee Fabius, PhD, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
- Beth Fields, PhD, OTR/L, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Heather Fritz, PhD, OTR/L, Wayne State University
- Vanessa Jewell, PhD, OTR/L, Creighton University
- Mary C. Lawlor*, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, University of Southern California
- Danbi Lee, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, University of Washington
- Catherine Lysack*, PhD, Wayne State University
- Elizabeth Marfeo, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, Tufts University
- Margaret McDonald, MSW, Visiting Nurse Services of New York
- Tracy M. Mroz*, PhD, OTR/L, University of Washington
- Elsa M. Orellano-Colon, PhD, MSc, OTR/L, ATP, University of Puerto Rico
- Melissa Park, PhD, OT/L, McGill University
- Catherine Piersol, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Jefferson Elder Care, Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences (JCRS)
- Barbara Resnick, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, University of Maryland
- Juleen Rodakowski*, OTD, MD, OTR/L, University of Pittsburgh
- Shlomit Rotenberg, OT, PhD, Rotman Research Institute Baycrest
- Stacey Schepens Niemiec, PhD, OTR/L, University of Southern California
- Emily Somerville, OTD, OTR/L, Washington University in St. Louis
- Pamela Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, University of Pittsburgh
- Jennifer Womack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2018 PGC Participants (*Planning Committee Member)

- **Catherine Alfano**, PhD, Vice President, Survivorship, American Cancer Society
- Brent Braveman, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Director, Dept. of Rehabilitation Services, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Arash Asher, MD, Director, Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Ashley Leak Brant, PhD, RN-BC, OCN, Asst. Professor, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Andrea L. Cheville, MD, Chair of Research, Dept. of Physical Medicine, Mayo Clinic
- Allison King, MD, MPH, PhD, Medical Director, Survivorship Program for Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University in St. Louis
- **Wendy J. Coster**, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Director, Behavior & Health Program, Director, Patient/Clinician Reported Outcomes Care, Boston Rehab Outcomes Center, Boston University
- **Mary C. Lawlor**, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, AOTF Chair, Professor & Associate Chair of Research, Mrs. T.H. Chan Div. of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California
- **Kathleen Lyons**, ScD, OTR/L, Scientist, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Kirsten K. Ness, PT, PhD, FAPTA, Epidemiology & Cancer Control, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- **Robin Newman**, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Boston University
- **Mackenzi Pergolotti**, PhD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Colorado State University
- **Mary Radomski**, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Senior Scientific Advisor, Courage Kenny Research Center, Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute
- Alexandra (Alix) Sleight, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, Cancer Prevention Fellow, National Cancer Institute
- Piyush Srivastava, MD, Medical Oncology, Walnut Creek Medical Center, The Permanente Medical Group
- Gerald T. Voelbel, PhD, Director of Rehab. Sciences PhD Program, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, New York University
- Rachel K. Walker, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Nursing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Grant Williams, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology & Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship, University of Alabama at Birmingham,
2018 PGC Participants (*Planning Committee Members) continued

• Kerri M. Winters-Stone, PhD, FACSM, Enora E. Thompson Distinguished Professor, Oregon Health & Science University

• Timothy J. Wolf, OTD, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Professor & Chair, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, University of Missouri

Organization Partners and Special Guests

• Elvan Daniels, MD, MPH, Program Director, American Cancer Society *(Organizational Partner)*

• Janet S. de Moor, PhD, MPH, Behavioral Scientist and Program Director, Office of Cancer Survivorship, National Cancer Institute *(Organizational Partner)*

• Ralph Nitkin, PhD, Deputy Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research *(NCMRR)* *(Organizational Partner)*
2017 PGC Participants (*Planning Committee Members)

- Antoine Luc Baillard, PhD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Div. of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Skye Pamela Barbic, PhD, OT, Assistant Professor, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of British Columbia
- M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L FAOTA, Elias Michael Executive Director, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Washington University School of Medicine
- Bette Bonder*, PhD, FAOTA, Former Dean, College of Sciences & Health Professions, Professor Emerita, Cleveland State University
- Catana Brown*, PhD, OTR, Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, Midwestern University – Glendale
- Judith A. Cook, PhD, Professor & Director, Center on Mental Health Services, Research, & Policy, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Katherine A. Burson, MS, OTR/L, CPRP, Independent Consultant
- Wendy J. Coster*, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Director, Behavior & Health Program, Director, Patient/Clinician Reported Outcomes Care, Boston Rehab Outcomes Center, Boston University
- Lisa Dixon, MD, MPH, Professor & Director, Division of Behavioral Health Services and Policy Research, Columbia University Medical Center, New York State Psychiatric Insititute (NYSPI)
- Sharon A. Gutman*, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, Professor of Rehabilitation & Regenerative Medicine, Programs in Occupational Therapy, Columbia University Medical Center
- Bonita Kraft*, OTR/L, Benefactor
- Jeffrey Krollick, MA, Director of Special Projects, Oregon Center for Excellence for Assertive Community Treatment, Options for Southern Oregon
- Terry Krupa, PhD, MEd, BSC(OT), Professor & Associate Director, School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queens University
- Nadine Lariviere, erg, OT(C), PhD, Director & Associate Professor, OT Program, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Sherbrooke
- Susan McGurk*, PhD, Senior Researcher, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Professor, Occupational Therapy, Boston University
- Penelope A. Moyers, EdD, OT/L, FAOTA, Dean of the Henrietta Schmoll School of Health and Graduate College, St. Catherine University
- Kim. T. Mueser, PhD, Professor, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Sargent College, Boston University
- Heather Parson, MSOT, Director of Federal Affairs, AOTA
- Nadine Rebheim, PhD, OTR/L, Program Director - Psychologist, St. Joseph's Medical Center
- Mark Salzer, PhD, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Rehabilitation Sciences, Temple University
2017 PGC Participants (*Planning Committee Members) continued

- Virginia (Ginny) Stoffel, PhD, OT, BCMH, FAOTA, Associate Professor, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- Margaret Swarbrick, PhD, OTR, CPRP, Director of Practice Innovation and Wellness, Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ) & Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care

Organization Partners and Special Guests

- Leslie J. Caplan, PhD, Rehabilitation Program Specialist, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (Organizational Partner)
- Elizabeth Francis-Connolly, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, Dean, Westbrook College of Health Professions, University of New England (Special Guest)
- Theresa Cruz, PhD, Program Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation (Organizational Partner)
- Adam J. Haim, PhD, Chief, Treatment and Prevention Interventions Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health (Organizational Partner)
- Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor, Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California (Special Guest)
- Susan Noyes, PhD, OTR/L, Chair, AOTA Mental Health Special Interest Section, Assistant Professor, Master of Occupational Therapy Program, University of Southern Maine (Special Guest)
In 2017, the Foundation also awarded the first Nedra Gillette Endowed Research Fellowship. The one time $5000 award supported the following post-doctoral researchers:

### 2019 Carol Haywood, PhD, OTR/L
Comparing the feasibility and acceptability of global versus momentary sampling strategies to assess patterns of participation among individuals with spinal cord injuries and their caregivers. Center for Education in Health Sciences, Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. Mentor: Allen W. Heinemann, PhD, ABPP.

### 2018 Amber Angell, PhD, OTR
Using an Interest-based Approach with Young Adults with Autism: An Exploratory Mixed Methods Study. Mentors: Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Susan Magasi, PhD.

### 2017 Jaclyn Stephens, PhD

Per awardee report, the Nedra Gillette fellowship significantly contributed funding to initiate post-doctoral research, receiving one K12 NIH funded Career Development Award, and receipt of a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant.

*AOTF’s Nedra Gillette Fellowship has allowed me to actually conduct my current research by covering the expenses of the research itself. For example, paying for participants, transcribers and attending of conference.*

-Dr. Haywood

2019 Nedra Gillette Awardee
One major factor of receiving the Nedra Gillette Fellowship award is that it contributed to getting a career development award at the University of Florida. Specifically, this award is a K12 NIH funded Career Development Award. Having any funding during post-doctorate work, specifically prestigious funding coming from AOTF, helped to contribute to the next step. This definitely was the biggest impact, and being able to do an independent study and present that to AOTA and work on a publication is amazing.

I just received the HRSA Grant for another study with the topic of disparities in Autism services, which is the next grant after the Nedra Gillette Fellowship. I believe the Nedra Gillette Fellowship helped me achieve this grant. For my role, I am a research assistant professor at a research-intensive university, and 75% of my time is protected for research under the K12 Research Development Award. I am an early career researcher.

Dr. Angell
2018 Nedra Gillette Awardee
Newly Introduced Grant Programs

The Foundation announced a new grant program in 2018 in partnership with NBCOT®. The Health Service Research Grant program is positioned to examine how people get access to health care, how and what care is delivered, the cost of that care, and what happens to patients as a result of receiving or not receiving care. Applicants can apply for one or two year grants. The initial grant cycle resulted in three grants with a total of $236,764.98 in funding for 2019-2021.

In August 2019, the Implementation Research Grant became our third grant program, funded with support of NBCOT®. The intent of the grant is to examine barriers to implementation, determine how to more efficiently deliver evidence-based practice in the practice setting, address scaling up smaller pilot research studies into larger health systems, measure performance within a practice setting, and develop methods to measure successful implementation specific to the field of OT.

In summary, AOTF grant funding continues to show growth since 1965. Between the years of 2006-2011, there was a decrease in the amount of AOTF grant support (Figure 7). As previously mentioned, OT educational programs transitioned from a baccalaureate to a master’s entry-level degree in 2007. Along with this change, there was a focus on enhancing faculty scholarship and research training opportunities. As a result, AOTF directed Foundational resources to faculty development (Table 3). It is suspected that the Foundation allocated funds towards such efforts, providing minimal grant funding as reflected in Figure 7 during the years of 2006-2011. Additionally, the dissertation award program ended in 2009 possibly contributing to the dip in funding reflected below. To further elaborate on the timeframe of 2013-2019, the section to follow provides detailed outcome data on the IRG grant program.

![Over Five Decades of Grant Support](image)

*Figure 7. Five decades of AOTF funding to support OT research.*
IRG Seven-Year Review
I believe AOTF was ahead of the curve in terms of recognizing the need for cognitive intervention research in Parkinson’s Disease, and specifically strategy-based approaches (rather than cognitive process training).

~Erin Foster PhD, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L, 2014 IRG Recipient

While not directly related to this application, I recently received my first R01 funding from the National Cancer Institute. Directly as a result of the IRG, the occupational therapist who served as the interventionist on our IRG study was able to secure protected time (0.10FTE) from her clinical department to allow her to continue to work in my research program. Prior to the IRG project the clinicians in the rehabilitation department did not have the support of management to participate in research so this positive experience has helped to change the culture and opportunities for clinicians at our hospital.

- Maureen Russell PhD, OTR/L, 2017 IRG Recipient

Figure 8. IRG outcomes in summary.
The Foundation’s niche is support of early career investigators and development of preliminary proof-of-concept research data to support the advancement of novel research ideas. The IRG program is our flagship of this effort. The investment is starting to pay off with publications, grant application submissions, and career advancement for our recipients. The outcomes for the IRG program greatly aligns with the grant objectives and AOTF mission. With grant award winners continuing to receive follow-on funding, capturing an actual dollar amount is a challenge. However, from most recent reports, related IRG projects are quickly approaching $19.5 million in additional funding (Figure 8). Publications and presentations continue to grow as well. Detailed information regarding each IRG project is outlined in the Appendix.

The IRG research topics align with the AOTF established research priorities of: Health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions; Functional cognition; Safety and injury prevention in home; clinical and community settings; Technology and environmental supports in home and community; Development and transitions for individuals and families; Emotional and physiological influences; Family and caregiver needs; Health care experience: access, care coordination, utilization (Figure 9).
The majority of funded projects are pilot or feasibility studies. As a result, IRG grant recipients receive follow-on funding from both private and federal government agencies (Figure 10). The majority (93% of IRG researchers) receive federal funding leading to larger studies. IRG grantees are funded with grants from the National Institute of Health (NIH) in various divisions such as: the National Center for Complementary Integrative Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Aging, and the National Institute in Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. In addition, IRG grant recipients receive follow-on funding through international agencies such as the Canchild Centre for Childhood Disability Research of Canada. When reviewing demographic data, IRG researchers span the United States with the vast majority being female (Figure 11; Figure 12).

Figure 10. IRG Grantees received follow on funding from the listed agencies.
**Figure 11.** The IRG Awardees span across the United States.

---

**"I was recently awarded tenure, which has increasingly high expectations. My external reviewer letters were very strong and could point to the receipt of the IRG grant as proof of the importance of my work on a national level.**

~Simone Gill PhD, OTR/L, 2015 IRG Recipient
My collaborator on this project was the public health researcher, Dr. Rosenfeld. Prior to working on the AOTF IRG project, she had only worked at the systems level. However, her exposure to intervention research and working directly with families catapulted her to a new area of research. For this, she was awarded the Allen Crocker Family Fellowship.

~Jessica Kramer PhD, OTR/L, 2015 IRG Recipient

Figure 12. The majority of IRG grantees are female.
The following are general outcomes for the completed IRG projects to dates. The IRG researchers have disseminated these outcomes. Hence, they are accessible to the OT community through the various publications and presentations outlined in the Appendix.

- Eight studies addressed Caregiver Support and Intervention Protocols
- Seven studies produced outcomes related to Autism or Developmental Delay Intervention
- Six projects resulting in Manualized Intervention Protocols for clinical use
- Three projects addressed technology in the form of Telehealth Intervention, Software Development, and M-health app Development
- Two studies targeted intervention protocols for Adults with ASD
- Two studies addressed Stroke Intervention
- One study addressed Parkinson’s Disease Intervention
- One study targeted Primary Care and OT
- One study investigated Sleep Intervention
- One study addressed Cancer Caregiver Support
Beth Pfeiffer, PhD, OTR/L, BCP  
IRG Recipient 2014  
Temple University  
Manualization of an Intervention to Improve Work Environments for Adults with ASD

“We have developed an approach to supporting adults with ASD in the workplace. Additionally, we identified sensory barriers and facilitators so that these can be considerations when supporting individuals with ASD in work. We also identified that transportation was a primary barrier which resulted in us extending our work in that area.

Following the IRG, we have received 3 federal grants this past year that have some connection with the IRG grant. One is an R01 with collaborators that I met due to the IRG grant on developing an employment measure for individuals with IDD. The other two were funded through NIDILRR and are related to transportation interventions that we are developing based on the barriers and needs identified in the IRG. The IRG: 1) Helped me develop a number of new collaborations which has lead to grants awarded and submitted, as well as publications. 2) The grant helped me move on to a tenure track position at a high level research institution. 3) Served as the Foundation for a number of the federal grants that we were awarded.”
"Our IRG project focused on developing a OT-disability peer led healthcare survival skills training for people with acquired physical disabilities. Negotiating the healthcare system is a hidden occupation and our intervention provides a structured format to address physical and attitudinal barriers to care. Field work students are implementing the intervention in diverse community-based settings. Elements of the intervention, especially worksheets were integrated into community newsletters and area valuable resource for consumers.

This grant helped me towards tenure. It provided opportunities for collaborations across institutions, led to my involvement with the AOTF Scientific Review Committee (which gives me an opportunity to share the future of research). The IRG provides support for larger grants via provision of pilot data and proof of concept.”
Researcher Testimonials

Mary Khetani, ScD, OTR/L
IRG Recipient 2016
Colorado State University
Feasibility test of the PEM-Plus: An innovative Intervention Planning Guide

“The IRG has strengthened international collaboration and provided unique opportunities for mentoring students who seek research engaged careers as clinicians. They have been involved in product development projects to fulfill their degree requirements. The grant program also provides support for larger OT grant-funded research, though the mentoring component could be thought of in more contemporary terms (peer mentoring through collaboration, versus senior-junior investigator pairings).”
Mansha Mirza, PhD, OTR/L, MSHOR
IRG Receipient 2016
University of Illinois at Chicago
Piloting an Occupational Therapy intervention in a Primary Care Clinic

“My AOTF grants have contributed to the development of two faculty practice initiatives within our department. Our faculty practice with children and families was informed in part by our IRG on promoting participation among Latino children with ASD. Similarly, our faculty practice in a family medicine clinic was supported in part by findings from our IRG on the role of OT in Primary Care. In addition, this grant also roped in an experienced MS-trained clinician who is developing an OTD project to identify appropriate screening measures for OT referrals in primary care. Getting the IRG was a definite boost to my career and allowed me to acquire greater visibility in the field. I was also recently promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor. While I have other sources of external funding, being an IRG-recipient surely helped my promotion. The IRG on the role of OT in Primary Care has also allowed me to make connections with the Midwest Royal Center for Aging and Health Promotion. I think the biggest value is providing support for larger OT grant funded research and also building preliminary evidence for role of OT in non-traditional practice areas.”
Leah Stein Duker, PhD, OTR/L  
IRG Recipient 2017  
University of Southern California  
Environmental Barriers for Adults with ASD During Primary Care Health Encounters

“The IRG has significantly assisted me in opening up a new line of research. To this end, new collaborations have been made, and existing collaborations have turned into partnerships. Mentoring has assisted in my growth as a occupational therapy researcher and I am excited about the future of this research, as I truly believe it has the potential to positively impact the health and quality of life of a large number of people. A hearty thank you to the stakeholders. This grant has provided me with opportunities to explore an area that I am passionate about that I would not otherwise been able to pursue. I am excited about the future of this research, as I truly believe it has the potential to positively impact the health and quality of life of a large number of people.”
Maureen Russell, OTR/L, MHI, PhD
IRG Receipt 2017
Northern Arizona University
Sleep Interventions for Caregivers and Their Young Children in Part C Programs

“I think that the research I have completed through the IRG has helped to make early interventionists in Northern Arizona more aware of the importance of sleep for both caregivers and for their children with developmental disabilities. For example, early interventionists in two Part C programs are now routinely asking for consultation or for educational materials for children’s sleep issues. This project has given me experience in preparing grant proposals and preparing for the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board. In turn, I have been able to assist my colleagues in the IRB process. I am also mentoring some OTD students in a project where we are adapting sleep materials from the IRG for individuals with low literacy levels. Additionally, my department is applying for a grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that would use the sleep intervention developed through IRG as a component of an intervention for families who have children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Because of receiving the IRG grant, I was promoted to the position of Assistant Research Professor. I believe that receiving the IRG gave my employer confidence that I could write grants and manage other research projects. I think the IRG has the most value as a starter grant for OTs who would like to pursue research but do not have any funding history. The IRG was very helpful to me in moving my career towards research. I am very grateful that I was given this opportunity!”
IRG Recipients

2019 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Kelly Anderson, PhD, OTR/L  East Carolina University  
The Role of Success and Failure in the "Just Right Challenge"  (Mentor: Anne Elizabeth Dickerson, PhD, OTR/L, SCEDCM, FAOTA, FGSA)

Karen Atler, PhD, OTR/L  Colorado State University  
Merging Yoga, Occupational Therapy and Education in Diabetes Management  (Mentor: Arlene A. Schmid, PhD, OTR, FAOTA)

Kris Barnekow, PhD, OTR/L, IMH-E  University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Healthy Transitions from NICU to Home: A Pilot Study of the SMILE Curriculum  (Mentor: Deborah Brandon, PhD, RN, CNS, FAAN)

Annamarie Connor, PhD, OTR/L  Florida Gulf Coast University  
A Peer-mediated Vocational Social Skills Program for College Students with Autism  (Mentor: Connie Sung, PhD, CRC, LPC)

Candice Osborne, PhD  University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Facilitated Learning in Stroke Rehabilitation: Using Problem Solving and Technology to Address Health and Risk Factors  (Mentor: Kathleen Bell, MD)

2018 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Angela Caldwell, PhD, OTR/L, CLT  University of Pittsburgh  
Partnering for Prevention: Promoting Healthy Habits in Underserved Communities  (Mentor: Roxanna Bendixen, PhD, OTR/L)

Susan Fasoli, ScD, MS, OTR/L  MGH Institute of Health Professions  
A Paradigm Shift: Rehabilitation Robotics, Cognitive Skills Training and Function  (Mentor: Teresa Jacobson Kimberly, PhD, PT)

Anne Kirby, PhD, OTR/L  University of Utah  
Pilot Study of the MAPSS (Maximizing Adolescent Post-Secondary Success) Intervention  (Mentor: Himle Michael, PhD)

Lauren Little, PhD, OTR/L  Rush University  
Bridging a Service Gap in Autism: A Hybrid Education-Coaching Intervention  (Mentor: Winifred Dunn, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA)

Rachel Proffitt, OTD, OTR/L  University of Missouri  
Feasibility of the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment(R)-BIG Intervention in Stroke  (Mentor: Timothy Wolf, OTD, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA)
2017 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Evan Dean, PhD, OTR/L- University of Kansas
Supporting Employment Through Self-determination for Young Adults with ASD (Mentor: Karrie Shogren, PhD)

Leah Stein Duker, PhD, OTR/L- University of Southern California
Environmental Barriers for Adults with ASD During Primary Care Health Encounters (Mentor: Sharon Cermak, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA)

Kathleen Lyons, ScD, OTR/L- Dartmouth College
Supporting Caregivers of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Patients: A Feasibility Study of the Ready to CARE program (Mentor: Stephen Bartel, MD, MS)

Maureen Russell, PhD, OTR/L, MHI- Northern Arizona University
Sleep Interventions for Caregivers and Their Young Children in Part C Programs (Mentor: Carol Baldwin, PhD, RN, NCC, CT, AHN-BC, FAAN)

Heather Williamson, DrPH, MBA, OTR/L, CPH- Northern Arizona University
Health Equity for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Mentor: Julie Ann Baldwin, PhD)

2016 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Mary Khetani, ScD, OTR/L- University of Illinois at Chicago
Feasibility Test of a Pediatric Web-Based Care Planning Guide (Mentor: Mary Law, PhD, FCAOT)

Mansha Mirza, PhD, OTR/L, MSHOR- University of Illinois at Chicago
Piloting an Occupational Therapy Intervention in a Primary Care Clinic (Mentor: Anders Kottorp, PhD)

Juleen Rodakowski, OTD, MS, OTR/L- University of Pittsburgh
Empowering Caregivers after Stroke (Mentor: Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L)
2015 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Winifred Dunn, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  University of Kansas Medical Center
Feasibility of Telehealth Coaching for Rural Families of Children with Autism

Simone Gill, PhD, OTR/L  Boston University
Use of Motor Learning Principles to Reduce Fall Risks After Surgical Weight Loss

Jessica Kramer, PhD, OTR/L  Boston University
An Environment Problem-Solving Strategy for Parents of Youth with Disabilities

Elizabeth Larson, PhD, OTR, FAOTA  University of Wisconsin-Madison
5Minutes4Myself: Motivational Occupational Coaching & Mindfulness for Caregivers

Susan Magasi, PhD  University of Illinois at Chicago
Negotiating the Healthcare System: a Peer-OT Lead Intervention

Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L  Virginia Commonwealth University
Effects of Deep Pressure on Arousal and Performance in Person with Autism
Roseann Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  Thomas Jefferson University
Testing Outcomes of a Manualized OT Intervention for Children with Autism

2014 Intervention Research Grant Recipients

Erin R. Foster, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L  Washington University School of Medicine
Feasibility and Optimization of a Cognitive Intervention for Parkinson Disease

Sandy Magaña, PhD, MSW  University of Illinois at Chicago
Promoting Participation Among Latino Children with ASD

Beth Pfeiffer, PhD, OTR/L, BCP  Temple University
Manualization of an Intervention to Improve Work Environments for Adults with ASD

Arlene Schmid, PhD, OTR, FAOTA  Colorado State University
Merging Yoga and group Occupational Therapy (MY-OT)

Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, MS, OTR/L  Rush University
Bilateral Priming for Upper Extremity Hemiparesis in Older Adults
Executive Summary

Since 1978, AOTF has focused efforts towards building evidence to improve practice and health through funding OT research. The Foundation has directly impacted OT scholarship by providing direct funding in the form of individual grants, center grants, special project grants, dissertation grants, awards, and post-doctoral fellowships. AOTF funded researchers have multiplied Foundation dollars from the inception of the Small Grant Program to present day. As a result, AOTF research grants have led to over $50 million in follow-on funding.

Since the inception of the IRG program, AOTF has awarded close to $1.5 million in IRG funding. The Foundation also revised the eligibility criteria to include a mentor to support the early researchers. The IRG grant continues to lay the groundwork to address the Foundation’s mission and vision. Current follow-on totals are nearing $19 million of funding to awardees as Principle Investigators or Co-Investigators. Two researchers are also part of larger NIH funded projects as part of the research team or as consultants. Such studies received approximately $22 million in funding. With IRG winners receiving close to $4 million a year after project completion, AOTF will likely see follow-on amounts well over $25 million once current grant projects are complete.

The newly developed grant programs, Health Services Research and Implementation Science Research, will continue to contribute to the growth and impact of the Foundation. Recent additions, such as Dr. Gary Kielhofner Doctoral Research Scholarship, will further support future OT researchers. Additionally, the Early-Career and Mid-Career Awards highlight the great work being performed by current investigators.

In summary, the Foundation will continue to grow and enhance efforts to support research in the field of OT. This retrospective report not only revealed successes, yet opportunities for the Foundation to consider. Future efforts should address the need to expand the diversity pool of OT researchers, as it relates to region, gender, race, and ethnicity.

In closing, the AOTF grant programs would not be possible without NBCOT®, AOTA, donors who have directed their Foundation gift to the IRG program, and the great work of the OT students who support the St. Catherine’s Challenge. These partnerships are vital to continue building evidence for the field of Occupational Therapy.
References


The American Occupational Therapy Foundation Annual Report, 1979

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation Annual Report, 1989
Appendix