Greetings and Salutations to the OT community, scholars, practitioners, and stakeholders

Addressing the needs of health disparities in underserved populations tends to be priority areas for several research funding sources. While it's crucial to investigate populations such as minorities and those of low socioeconomic status, we often limit this dynamic topic. One's definition of health disparities must include the various scenarios regarding disproportionate rates of morbidity/mortality, prevalence, and impact of the condition on the individual, group, and population. During June, we observe two areas that seem to be lacking in our investigations of health disparities -- Father's Day/National Men's Health Week and Pride Month celebrations. Are you aware of the health disparities for both the male and LGBTQIA populations?

It is time we revisit specific topics of men's health such as the disproportionately higher rates of substance abuse and suicide. There is also a need to investigate men's seeking and adherence to healthcare services. How does disease and illness impact the male role especially relating to being a father or partner? Moreover, we are a female-driven profession. To become more diverse and inclusive, we must research and address the underlying causes related to the small amount of male OT practitioners. Perhaps this could enhance research in the area of men's health.

OT research must also address other subsets of males as well as females. We must expand our investigations of health disparities to inform our clinical preparation for working with and supporting the LGBTQIA population. This includes non-gender specific resources, language, and treatment areas to address what may be unique to the population. LGBTQ+OT has a wonderful page discussing how such identities can impact occupational performance and participation. There are unique occupations which may be overlooked and not considered in OT intervention and lacking evidence-based interventions.

Below you will find some wonderful resources including journal articles, toolkits, and websites. I encourage you to expand your definition of health disparities and start a conversation around this matter. Perhaps it will lead to a new OT lead research project!

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

In this Issue
- Resources on Health Disparities, Inclusion, and Underserved Populations
- Grants and Funding Opportunities
- Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities
- News and Other Resources
- Conferences and Calls for Papers
- Volunteer Opportunities
- OTJR
- Publications
- About us

Watch for AOTF SPO Dr. Varleisha Gibbs hosting on Science and the Profession on the Society for the Study of Occupation:USA (SSO) chat: Sunday June 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m. EST, 4:00 p.m. PST. 
@OccSci_USA
#occscichat

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health
OTJR, published quarterly by AOTF, offers original peer-reviewed research articles of professional interest to the practicing OT with a focus on occupation and fostering inter-disciplinary research. OTJR is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed. To download current, past, and future OTJR articles -- see the OTJR website.

OTJR's impact factor is now 1.00, a 26% increase in just one year.
Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Research Training Opportunities

**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 behaviours.

**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.

**Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research (TIGRR) (January 7-11, 2020, Isle of Palms, South Carolina)**

The application period for mentees is **July 1 through August 7, 2019**. Selected mentees will come prepared to complete the specific aims for a grant proposal for submission to the NIH, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), and other agencies funding rehabilitation research. They will bring together a nationally recognized group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives of federal funding agencies.

**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

Redefining Health Disparities and Inclusion

Online resources that include some references (Men's health is a bit more challenging to locate resources in OT):

- Karrie Kingsley MA '01, OTD '07 Strategies for inclusion. originally published in A Champion for Diversity in the Summer 2016 issue of the USC Chan Magazine.

Resources from the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.


- Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns in Occupational Therapy.

- Cultural Competency Tool Kit

Key Resources

- LGNTQ + OT References
- Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Resource kit and report on health issues for LGBT individuals from National Resource Center on LGBT Aging
- Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
- Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

Resources especially relevant for school-based practice and understanding transgender and gender non-conforming issues:

- Gender Spectrum Education and Training


Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP): Assistive Technology to Promote Independence and Community Living (Development) (HHS-2019-ACL-NIDILRR-DPGE-0355)

The goal of this DRRP is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). Under this particular DRRP priority, applicants must propose a development project that is aimed at improving technology solutions to improve assistive technology to promote independence and community living outcomes of people with disabilities. NIDILRR plans to make three DRRP awards under this grant competition. HHS is inviting both research applications and development applications. This forecast is for a Funding Opportunity Announcement for DRRP development projects toward technology solutions to promote independence and community living outcomes of people with disabilities -- with a particular emphasis on seniors with disabilities.

Closing date for applications: June 17, 2019.

NIH Funding

- 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.
- Research Project Grants in Pediatric Rehabilitation (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)(RFA-HD-20-005). In this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research within NICHD invites applications for research project grants addressing the rehabilitation needs of children with chronic, physical disabilities.

Application Deadline: June 27, 2019.

For additional funding sources, see the AOTF website.

News and Resources

Trans-NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation - Request for Information

NIH is mandated by Congress to review and update the trans-NIH Research Plan on Rehabilitation every five years. The plan is responsible for setting priorities for rehabilitation research across all NIH institutes and centers. The plan is also responsible for collaborating and coordinating rehabilitation research priorities with other federal agencies (NIDILRR, NSF, DOD, VA, etc).

The current plan, approved in 2016, is attached for your review. It is now time to restart this process so that it may be complete by 2021.

Steps for the review process:

1. There is currently a request for information on what the scope and structure of the new plan should be.
2. Later, there will be requests for comments on the drafts of the research plan at several points.
3. A state of the science/research planning conference has been scheduled for October 2020.

Deadline for comments is June 17, 2019.

Invitation for Input on topics for the 2020 National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to invite comments and suggestions for the second National Research Summit on Care, Services, & Supports for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers, set to occur on March 24 & 25, 2020. The National Institute on Aging (NIA), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), seeks input on topics of consideration from its stakeholders, including persons living with dementia, caregivers, members of the scientific community, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies,
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 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. 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)
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 committee's findings and conclusions.

**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
Navigating from Volume to Value. A live stream option is available for the same cost as in-person attendance. A CE course on PDPM will be available sometime after conference for purchase.

2019 Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars (June 20–June 22, 2019, Charleston, South Carolina)
Presented by the Medical University of South Carolina’s Division of Occupational Therapy, this Summit is focused on advancing the scientific foundation of occupational therapy by:

- bringing OT scholars together to share their research and obtain feedback;
- providing a venue for scientists to network, develop new contacts, and formulate innovative ideas to advance the field;
- offering opportunity to mentor young scientists; and
- building knowledge of occupation and health.

This year’s Summit symposia will center around the theme “Imagine your research trajectory: Boosting rigor and innovation.”

The Summer Institute of Future Scientists in Occupational Therapy, presented by AOTF and AOTA, will introduce select students to a career in research, connect them with mentors in the occupational therapy scientific community, and immerse them in a research-focused professional experience. Students will attend the one-day Institute on June 20, 2019 and the 2-day Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars on June 21-22, 2019.

AOTA Specialty Conference: Children & Youth (July 26–27, 2019, Orlando, Florida)
(pre-conference sessions on July 25) Focused on the latest research, developments, and challenges facing practitioners working with children and youth, this specialty conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to explore the newest methods for improving outcomes for clients.

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)
Theme 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.
Call for Late-Breaking Research closes June 18, 2019.

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.

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 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.

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

Read more about AOTF and its activities to Build Evidence to Improve Practice and Health at www.aotf.org.

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