Dear Colleagues,

Everyday, it seems the reality of our existence in a global community becomes more evident. The concept embodied in "the butterfly effect", which originated with chaos theory and the scientist Edgar Lorenz forty years ago, was formulated to show that small changes in one part of a large system can have dramatic effects later at another part of the system.

We can apply the concept to world events in ways that everyone now clearly understands. Irrational exuberance in real estate can lead to loan defaults that result in global economic consequences; and events in far off places reverberate more quickly and deeply throughout the system—largely because of digital communication.

Yet, there are also happy consequences to our connected world. As occupational therapy has grown internationally, so too has its educational programs and the activity of its larger scientific community. Today, groundbreaking occupational therapy research is being conducted in numerous countries.

So our topic in this month's Research Resources focuses on the global research community in occupational therapy, and the evidence of this appearing in the field's many publications worldwide. We at AOTF salute the great research being done outside the United States. As always, thanks for your support of scholarship and research in occupational therapy.

Cordially,

Charles Christiansen
Executive Director

AOTF Awards Applications

Find information on how to apply to AOTF Awards including the Volunteerism Award at www.aotf.org. The AOTF Award for Community Volunteerism celebrates those that respond to a need in their community, deadline November 20, 2011.

Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes
Research in occupational therapy around the globe and across cultures

As Dr. Christiansen wrote, each of us, whether intentionally or not, is touched by global events every day. The following six references lift up more intentional efforts of the OT community to seek out international collaboration, to find the means to make it happen, or to report on it.


Among the happy consequences of our connected world, Dr. Christiansen mentions the growth of occupational therapy internationally and the increasing research being done by this international scientific community. There are so many studies that can be cited, we are providing only a few to whet your appetite.

Standardized assessment development and reliability or validity studies across different cultures have resulted in international collaborations. Here are four examples.


Theoretical models provide the impetus to expand and test their application around the world. Certainly the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) is a prime example, and the list of such studies is long. The US Lifestyle Redesign® is another, while Hammell points out that "dominant theories of occupation
reflect specific Western perspectives . . . [and ] . . . exhorts occupational scientists and occupational therapy’s theorists to draw from a diversity of cultural perspectives” (2011. p. 27).


Finally, a half dozen recently published research from different areas of the world.


Su, CY, Tsai, PC, Su, WL, Tang, TC & Tsai, AYJ. (2011). Cognitive profile difference between Allen Cognitive Levels 4 and 5 in schizophrenia. The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 65, 453-461. Note: Study was done in Taiwan.


OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health is seeking interested candidates to serve on a panel to review submissions and/or for openings on the Editorial Review Board. Review panelists will be responsible for reviewing from 3-5 articles per year. Members of the Editorial Review Board may be asked to review 2-3 submissions and providing advice and counsel to the Editor on matters related to journal policy, publication decisions, or other issues related to the general development and welfare of the journal.

Those interested should send their name, credentials, contact information along with a note about their clinical/research areas to the new editor, Kathleen Matuska.

Conference Announcements

4th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics (July 20-25, 2012 San Francisco)

The conference objective is to disseminate and exchange information on theoretical, generic, and applied areas of ergonomics, including physical ergonomics, cognitive ergonomics, social and organizational ergonomics, crosscultural aspects of decision making, ergonomics modeling and usability evaluation, human digital modeling, healthcare and special populations, safety and ergonomics in manufacturing, human factors in transportation, affective and pleasurable design, and human side of service engineering. Abstract deadline is November 15, 2011.

Public Health and Disability

The 2012 Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity (March 26-27, 2012 Honolulu, Hawaii) is introducing the topic of public health to disseminate and harness the big ideas, evidence-based practices, and latest research on how public health can best serve and support persons with disabilities. Presentation deadline is December 16, 2011.

Online Resources

Federal Government Seeks Input on Major Accessibility Issues

Airline Websites and Airport Kiosk Accessibility

Under the proposed rule, airlines would be required to make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities over a two-year period. Websites would be required to meet the standards for accessibility contained in the widely accepted Website Content Accessibility Guidelines. The proposal asks for comment on the cost and feasibility of retrofitting existing kiosks to make them accessible. The proposal is available on the Internet at www.regulations.gov, docket DOT-OST-2011-0177. In addition, the Department has partnered with Cornell University's eRulemaking Initiative (CeRI), Regulation Room, designed to improve the public's ability to understand and participate in this rulemaking process.

The FCC has taken a critical first step in implementing a major part of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. Manufacturers of communications services and equipment must make their services and equipment accessible to
OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health, published quarterly by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, Inc., offers original research articles of professional interest to the practicing occupational therapist with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research. Visit: OTJR Online.

EDITORIAL
Perspectives on Family-Centered Intervention
Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

FEATURE ARTICLES
Leisure and Social Participation and Health—Related Quality of Life in Caregivers of Children With Autism
Sabrin Rizk, MS, OTR; Kris Pizur-Barnekow, PhD, OTR/L; Amy R. Darragh, PhD, OTR/L

The Relationship Between Behaviors Associated With Sensory Processing and Parental Sense of Competence
Ellen Cohn, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Teresa A. May-Benson, ScD, OTR/L; Alison Teasdale, BSc

Occupations of Older Adults: A Cross Cultural Description
Gunilla M. Eriksson, OT (Reg.), PhD; Jenny C. C. Chun, OTR

Publications

Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury: Evaluating the Evidence
The Institute of Medicine has released the conclusions of its study, requested by the Department of Defense, to determine the effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation therapy (CRT) for treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The report can be downloaded for free.

New report finds children in rural areas face different health challenges
Children in rural areas are more likely to face different challenges to their health and have less access to care when compared with children in urban areas, according to a new report from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH): The Health and Well-Being of Children in Rural Areas: A Portrait of the Nation in 2007, which is published every four years, examined the overall health of rural children in the United States from birth to 17 years. Technical appendices at the end of the book present information about the survey methodology and sample.

Grant Opportunities

Extension of Expiration Dates for Several AHRQ Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has extended the expiration dates for several AHRQ Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) by one year.

Grant on Differential Response in Child Protective Services
The Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services re-released a Request for Applications for up to $50,000 over 18 months to support a doctoral student in their research as it relates to differential response in child welfare. Applications are due on January 16, 2012 and the award announcement will be made in March.

Innovations for Health: Solutions that Cross Borders
The Pioneer Portfolio at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is partnering with Ashoka Changemakers to launch Innovations for Health: Solutions that Cross Borders, a competition to find cutting-edge health care solutions from anywhere in the world that have the potential to be applied in other countries. Entries accepted through February 13, 2012, 5:00 p.m. ET. Early entry deadline: December 12, 2011, 5:00 p.m. ET. The FCC would like your feedback on several related issues. Submit your comments online by November 21, 2011. The FCC has also asked for comments on ways to update the voice-based 911 system to a Next Generation 911 system that would let people send texts, photos, videos and other data to 911 call centers. The FCC is also seeking comments on how to prioritize calls to 911 during emergencies, which are usually the times when wireless networks are the busiest and calls fail to go through. Submit your comments online by December 21, 2011.
The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Second Annual Go Viral to Improve Health Data Collegiate Challenge

Interdisciplinary teams of students will have an opportunity to utilize the abundance of available health data to develop effective, innovative, new applications that take on the nation's pressing health issues. $10,000 in prize money will be awarded to the Challenge winners. Teams can register between now and February 10, 2012.

Foundation Announces $100,000 Developer Challenge

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has announced an Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) $100,000 "app challenge"—a competition among technology developers to create easy-to-use online tools that help consumers find information on the quality of their local physicians and hospitals. Data to fuel the app will come from RWJF's Aligning Forces for Quality initiative, the Foundation's signature effort to improve the quality of health care in 16 targeted communities nationwide. The deadline for entry submission for phase one is December 31, 2011.

AOTF Institute Image of the Month

From the Archives of the AOTA, housed in the AOTF Wilma L. West Library.

US soldier modeling clay, 1946.
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