Greetings and Salutations,

This October introduced the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) for those working in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). With this outcome driven model, gone are the days that treatment minutes, hours, and RUG systems drive reimbursement. Clinicians are now having to emphasize quality of care. While the model is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) payment rule, other healthcare networks and private health insurers have taken on the model as well. (Resources)

In addition to PDPM, the Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) adopted by CMS, goes into effect on or after January 1, 2020. Similar to PDPM, volume of services is not considered to determine payment. It relies on clinical characteristics and unique patient information and discourages unnecessary care. One major change is that the billing periods shift from 60 days to 30 day payment periods; however, PDGM maintains 60-day episodes of care and OASIS requirements remain the same.

Like most of you, I wonder how the changes will impact the field of occupational therapy. I recently attended a conference where staff from AOTA encouraged clinicians to share stories and concerns related to these changes in their workplace. Personally, I have received anecdotal reports of some unsettling outcomes. We need to ensure we take ownership of our profession. The acknowledgement and appreciation of our distinct value depends on a data-driven healthcare field. The profession of OT is being asked to implement evidence-based interventions and demonstrate the value in such practices. To this end, AOTF is announcing a late call for Letters of Intent for our Health Services Research Grant.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) awards Health Services Research Grants 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. Specifically, HSR is a multidisciplinary field that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and costs of health care, and ultimately, the health and well-being of health care consumers.

Health Services Research has a high value to both individuals and society. Past research has yielded information on intervention trends and risk factors, outcome of treatments, and patterns of care. It has established new health policies, led to significant discoveries, and to the development of new therapies. The current call for letters of intent is open to all topics. Preference will be given to those relating to the current healthcare changes such as investigating value-based services, those delivering such services, and the patient populations. Please email your inquiries to: Research@aotf.org. Detailed information is located in the RFA. Submit by 11/22/19, 11:59 p.m. PST.
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. Download current, past, and future OTJR articles.

The 2018 OTJR's impact factor has increased to 1.234, and the 5-year impact factor is now 1.478.

October 2019 OTJR

Free Access Editorial: OTJR's Occupational Science Section: An Incubator and Accelerator for Collaboration and Convergence Around Occupation- Rebecca Aldrich

Other Article Topics Include:

- Cancer Survivors
- Spirituality in Practice
- Competence and Satisfaction in Occupational Performance
- U.S. Student Service Members/Veterans
- Military Service Members
- Turkish Adaptation of the MQE-SF
- Smart Home Technology

Save the Dates:

March 25, 2020 | Boston
AOTF Pre-Conference Institute
Manuscript Writing and Reviewing Academy

March 26, 2020 | Boston
AOTF OTJR Short Course
Advances in Technology to Enhance Manuscript Writing and Publishing

Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Research Training Opportunities

Postdoctoral Associate for the Youth and Young Adults Empowerment, Leadership and Learning Lab- University of Florida
Application review will begin November 1, 2019.

Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Program
The University of Michigan Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Program in Community Living and Participation (U-MARRT-CP) is accepting applications for two full-time two year post-doctoral positions through January 31, 2019.

Fellowships at Northwestern University
Open fellowship positions in the Integrated Fellowship Program in Health Services Research at Northwestern University.

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

Live Stream Webinar: Autism - Strategies for Self-Regulation, Learning, and Challenging Behaviours (Nov. 5-6, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CT)
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
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.

Supported Decision Making And Independence After Brain Injury Webinar (Nov. 6, 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

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Extended: HSR Grant Letter of Intent Deadline Nov. 22

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

2020 Contract Topics Solicitation: due Oct. 23, 2019

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

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

National Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes Funding Opportunity

NIH Grants and Contracts

Additional Funding Sources
News and Resources

**NIMHD Loan Repayment Program**
(NOT-MD-20-005)
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

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

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

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

**ACRM Webinar Library**
The ACRM Training Institute Committee has launched of the first step toward creation of a new member benefit, the ACRM Webinar Library. ACRM currently supports any community group that wishes to host educational webinars on topics of interest to their members.

**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.
CDC will invest more than $16 million to enhance tracking at nine sites previously included in the ADDM Network, and to launch one new site. All 10 sites will track ASD among 4-year-old and 8-year-old children. One site will complete a follow-up of 16-year-old adolescents who were included in the ADDM Network in surveillance years 2010 and 2012, when they were 8 years old.

**NIH News and Links**

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

**Resources for Common Data Elements**

NIH Common Data Elements (CDE) Initiatives:


Article on CDE:


**Conferences and Calls for Papers**

**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 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET)**

This year's conference theme is Innovative KT Strategies That Work. The free 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.

**NINDS is hosting an informational webinar on October 29, at 12 p.m. ET, regarding RFA-NS-20-003: NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research Education Program on Translational Devices (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed).**

**AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave (November 1-2, 2019, Chicago, Illinois)**

**2019 American Public Health Association Meeting and Expo (November 2-6, 2019)**
ACRM 96th Annual Conference (November 5-8, 2019, Chicago, Illinois)
Core conference: November 5-8, 2019: Plenaries, hundreds of educational sessions, papers, posters, ACRM Community Meetings, receptions, networking, ACRM Rehab EXPO.
Pre-conference: November 3-5, 2019: Dozens of Instructional Courses, Cognitive Rehabilitation Training, ACBIS Training, Early Career Development Course.

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

Experiential Design - Rethinking Relations Between People, Objects and Environments Conference (January 16-17, 2020, Tallahassee, Florida)
Design - Wellbeing - Education - Accessibility This interdisciplinary event will link artists, designers, architects, and urbanists with health professionals, psychologists, and accessibility specialists to explore essential overlaps between these areas. Deadline for abstracts/proposals: November 20, 2019.

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity (March 2-3, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii)
Backed by 35 years of experience, Pac Rim is widely recognized as an international and diverse gathering. Participants represent disability; share the human experiences associated with disability; increase understanding through interdisciplinary research and 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.

References and Links:
What led to these changes? Source:
Medicare Payment Advisory Commissions Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy | March 2017: http://www.medpac.gov/docs/default-source/reports/Mar11_Ch08.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Additional Resources:
https://www.aota.org/Practice/Manage/value.aspx
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/HH-PDGM.html
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/Downloads/PDPM-101_Final.pdf

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