September Greetings to Research Resources colleagues!

Part of my role as Director of Research entails tracking trends in research that are relevant for occupational therapy. This is no small task as you might imagine! We rely on regular input from our scientists and continually scan the horizon for new occupational therapy research opportunities.

In 2010, Title XI of the Social Security Act was amended to include the establishment of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and designate funding for clinical comparative effectiveness research. PCORI has a mission to improve health care through "producing and promoting high integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers and the broader healthcare community." Five priorities for patient-centered outcomes research were established: assessment of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options, improving healthcare systems, communication and dissemination research, addressing disparities, and accelerating patient-centered outcomes research and methodological research. PCORI funding supports proposals that have the highest scientific quality, are most patient-centered, and include patients and caregivers at all stages of the research. Letters of Intent for the next cycle of PCORI grants are due in March, 2015.

PCORI has extraordinary levels of funding targeted for patient-centered research. However, the payline (percentile-based cut-off point for funded research based on projected number of applications for the available funds) is about 10%. Thus, investigators must do their homework to submit a competitive proposal. PCORI has various training opportunities for investigators; some opportunities are specific to PCORI.

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while others would be helpful in other research projects as well (e.g., Promising Practices of Meaningful Engagement in the Conduct of Research). This issue of Research Resources has information on PCORI's Online Application Training Tutorial scheduled for September 19.

Occupational therapy has had growing involvement and interest in the PCORI program. Dr. Janet Poole, University of New Mexico, (a 2008 inductee into the AOTF Academy of Research) was awarded over $1.7 million dollars for her three-year project, Taking Charge of Systemic Sclerosis: Improving Patient Outcomes Through Self-Management. PCORI also has other ways to get involved in patient-centered outcomes research, including 1) professional and lay reviewers for research applications, 2) ambassador programs, 3) research question submissions, 4) advisory panels, and 5) webinar workshops. The American Occupational Therapy Association is planning to offer a session on PCORI at the 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition in Nashville, Tennessee.

Our Intervention Research Grant (IRG) Program encourages patient-centered outcomes research by enabling researchers to lay the foundation for larger intervention studies and future funding through programs like PCORI. We hope you will make an investment in this AOTF initiative by providing financial support to the IRG Program. The profession and people we serve will realize the dividends from your support. The online donation site at www.aotf.org is always open.

We invite our readers to submit research opportunities to our communications associate, Helene Ross for publication in the next edition of Research Resources. As always, we thank you for the news alerts you share with us, your ideas on ways we can improve this monthly newsletter, and your financial support of AOTF.

Warm regards,

Julie D. Bass, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health
Director of Research

Resource Notes:

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

These selected articles demonstrate that occupational therapy practitioners and researchers are ready to become active participants in patient-centered outcomes research. Patient-centered outcome measures are in place and have been validated (Carlson, et al., 2013; Dür, et al., 2014; Enemark Larsen & Carlsson, G, 2012; Eyssen, ICJM, et al., 2011, Garcia, et al., 2014; and Laverdure, 2011). Studies dependent on the reported outcomes and/or selected goals of patients, parents, caregivers, or spouses have been completed (Areberg & Bejerholm, 2013; Custer, et al., 2013; Kniepmann, 2014; Kniepmann & Cupler, 2014; Miller, et al., 2013; Naelder et al., 2012; Reinseth, et al., 2012; and Schepens, et al, 2012). Fieldhouse (2012) and Hancock and colleagues (2012) collaborate with patients/consumers in their studies.
Funding Opportunities

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Fall Funding Cycle Opens

PCORI Funding Application System opens August 6, 2014. PCORI has approved 313 awards to advance patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research projects to date. Several improvements to the funding announcements have been made.

AAHD Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability

The American Association on Health and Disability created this scholarship for undergraduate (junior/senior status) and graduate students with disabilities who are majoring in a field related to disability and health. Applications are due November 15, 2014.

Justus Lehmann Research Grant Application

The Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is now accepting applications for research related to biomechanics/biophysics in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. One grant of $10,000 will be made. All applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2014.

Library of Medicine
Kathleen Matuska, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Feature Articles
Translation and Cross-Cultural Adaptation of the Perceived Efficacy and Goal Setting System (PEGS): Results from the First Austrian-German PEGS Version Exploring Meaningful Activities for Children Ursula M. Costa, MA (OT), PhD (PH)


What Is Occupational Therapy's Role In Addressing Sleep Problems Among Older Adults? Natalie E. Leland, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA; Nicole Marcione, BS; Stacey L. Schepens Niemiec, PhD, OTR/L; Kaivalya Kelkar, MA; Don Fogelberg, PhD, OTR/L

Occupational Needs and Intervention Strategies for Military Personnel with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Persistent Post-Concussion Symptoms: A Review Alison M. Cogan, MA, OTR/L

The Correlation Between Physical Activity and Grade Point Average for Health Science Graduate Students Eugenia C. Gonzalez, PhD, OTR; Erika C. Hernandez, OTR/L; Ambrosia K. Coltrane, OTR/L; Jayme M. Mancera, OTR/L

Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

Post-doctoral Fellows -- Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH)

HSPH is seeking applicants for a two-year post-doctoral position in work disability prevention/return to work research, starting in the summer or fall of 2015. They will soon be accepting applicants through a very similar program based at the University of Massachusetts / Lowell (UML). Post-doctoral researchers conduct ergonomics, safety, injury epidemiology, or disability and return to work research in close collaboration with injury research scientists at the at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, Massachusetts and with the Harvard ERC faculty in the HSPH. Duties include data collection and analysis, publishing in the peer-reviewed literature, participating in seminars and work groups, and collaborating on research grant applications.

Applications for the Harvard program are due by September 15, 2014.

Veterans Program at Colorado State University

The New Start for Student Veterans program at the Colorado State University provides educational and
community-based supports for post-9/11 veterans with significant disabilities seeking college degrees. A comprehensive research and development program has been initiated which integrates evidence-based intervention programs fostering resilience and enhanced academic and participation outcomes for student veterans. In offering a PhD in Occupation and Rehabilitation Science, the Department of Occupational Therapy faculty intend to integrate occupational science and rehabilitation science: two highly synergistic academic areas. For more information see the program flyer and direct inquiries to Dr. Aaron M. Eakman. Application deadline: February 2, 2015 but applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapy Doctoral Fellowship
This interdisciplinary PhD program in Occupation and Rehabilitation Science at Colorado State University focuses on the study of human performance and participation in everyday occupations and contexts across the lifespan. This mentored doctoral fellowship will support in-depth immersion of a doctoral student in the study of the efficacy of equine-assisted activities and therapy in relationship to participation in everyday occupations. Applicants are asked to contact Dr. Wendy Wood in advance of the February 1, 2015 deadline.

Other Resources

Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Resources
PCORI offers archived resources and online training materials on a variety of topics for applicants. Programs include the PCORI online application and a training tutorial.
- Webinars
  - Translating Research into Practice: Using AHRQ and PCORI Evidence-Based Research for Nursing Practice, September 10, 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. (EDT)
  - PCORI in Practice: Highlighting Opportunities for Medical Specialty Societies, September 11, 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. (ET)

Resources from the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research
The Rehabilitation Measures Database (RMD) is used by thousands of clinicians and investigators around the world every month to find the best way to measure rehabilitation outcomes in patients with a variety of conditions such as spinal cord injury, stroke, and brain injury. Researchers at the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research (CROR), in partnership with clinicians at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), created the database with funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Outcome Measurement Teaching Modules have been developed by researchers and clinicians. These modules form the base of a measurement course designed for rehabilitation professionals. The examples used in these modules focus on Occupational & Physical Therapy outcome measures.

University of Michigan Course on Clinical Research Management Capacity
This online course on clinical research management capacity and success will prepare its participants to assist investigators in developing and conducting clinical research studies, both investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored. This course begins October 15. Contact questions.

Occupational Therapy Research Coordinators Forum
This forum is looking for occupational therapists working in clinical research to add to our growing email list. The purpose of the forum is to have a mechanism for communicating with other individuals in similar positions, with the hope that we will be able to help each other solve common problems and identify future opportunities for collaboration. Contact Kelly Tanner to join the forum.

Women of Color Research Network
WoCRn offers support, information, and networking opportunities to women from diverse backgrounds, their mentors, and others in the research community. The network is for women of color as well as everyone who values diversity in the scientific workforce. Started in 2011 by the Women of Color Committee of the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, it’s already up to 1,200 members. Submitted by AOTA.
Free Webinars on TBI and Psychological Health
The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) hosts free monthly webinars on topics related to psychological health and TBI. See their website for more information and a list of all 2014 webinars.

Conference Announcements

Specialty Conference: Effective Documentation - The Key to Payment & Articulating Our Distinct Value (September 12-13, 2014, Alexandria, Virginia)
For more information see the AOTA web site.

American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) Annual Meeting (September 18-20, 2014, Boston, Massachusetts)
With a theme of Tradition Meets Tomorrow, this program will consider how our past will inform our future: from traditional concepts to new ideas, evidence-based practice to clinical application.

Mobile Health in Rehabilitation Conference (October 24, 2014, Boston, Massachusetts)
This conference, sponsored by the Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Measurement Center (Boston ROC), seeks to promote the use of mobile health technologies to measure rehabilitation outcomes. The conference brings together mobile health technology experts and rehabilitation researchers to develop and implement advanced measurement applications appropriate for rehabilitation. This conference is intended for health care providers and administrators, researchers, engineers and developers of mobile health technology, and academicians. Attendance is limited to 100 participants, so we recommend that you register early. Registration is free; the deadline is October 10, 2014.

Healthography: How where you live affects your health and well-being.

International Stroke Conference (February 11-13, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)
The International Stroke Conference features more than 1,500 presentations that emphasize basic, clinical and translational sciences as they evolve toward a more complete understanding of stroke pathophysiology with the overall goal of developing more effective prevention and treatment.

AOTA Annual Conference (April 16-19, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)
Join thousands of OT colleagues for educational sessions and institutes.

Pacific Rim International Conference (May 18-19, 2015, Waikiki, Hawaii)
The Pacific Rim International Conference encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspective across numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability and diversity areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying diversity and disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, and; action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world. In 2015, new topic areas will promote thoughtful discussion and suggest new ways to integrate education, technology, advocacy, activism and interdisciplinary research.


About Us

AOTF is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. Gifts to AOTF help us make a real difference through:

- Scholarships
- Research support including the Intervention Research Grants program
- Maintenance of the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country, the Wilma L. West Library.

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For more information about the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, see our web site: [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).

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