Greetings to Research Resources colleagues:

Have hope - spring is just around the corner! I always welcome the signs of new growth and beginnings. At AOTF, we look forward to our sponsored events at the April AOTA Conference and Exposition in San Diego and the recognition of new members of the AOTF Academy of Research (AoR).

The AOTF Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy was established in 1983 to recognize individuals who have made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy. Each year, the Academy considers nominations and supporting materials and selects individuals to be inducted into this distinguished body of researchers. As of this year, there are 55 members of the AOTF Academy of Research; scientists who have devoted their careers to building knowledge that is the foundation for occupational science and occupational therapy practice.

The members of the Academy of Research provide important leadership in research, practice, public policy, and education. We recognize their contributions to occupational therapy because they have developed evidence that supports measures, interventions, and programs for the individuals we serve. Academy members also serve as important mentors to students and early stage scientists who will be the next generation of scholars. In our February Research Resources, we summarized the work of three Academy members (Drs. Sherrilene Classen, Wendy Coster, and Kenneth Ottenbacher) who will also be presenting at AOTF events at the AOTA Annual Conference.

In this Research Resources, we introduce the newest members of the AoR, Drs. Christine Helfrich, Stephen Page, and Sylvia Rodger, who will...
be recognized in the Awards Ceremony at the AOTA Conference. I hope you will enjoy learning about their extraordinary work that is building our knowledge and supporting occupational therapy practice. We have also invited these newest members of the Academy to participate in a Q and A which will give you more of a personal window on their perspectives and professional journeys.

We have also included a sample of publications by the newest members of the AoR assembled by our staff in the Wilma L. West Library. As always, we welcome your ideas on ways we can improve this monthly newsletter, and we thank you for your 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

Educational Opportunities

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Summer Research Institute on Developing Behavioral Interventions (June 12-14, 2013, Baltimore, Maryland)
This institute is designed to help participants develop testable interventions that have the potential for implementation in practice environments and advance appropriate trial designs. AOTF is offering partial scholarships for two OTs. Find the application here.

Fellowship Opportunity

National Space Biomedical Research Institute's (NSBRI) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
These two-year fellowships are available in any U.S. laboratory carrying out space-related biomedical or biotechnological research. NSBRI, funded by NASA, is a consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight and developing the medical technologies needed for long missions. Detailed program and application submission information is available. The application deadline is June 7, 2013.

Online Resources

PCORI Holds Public Teleconference/Webinar (March 12, 12:00-1:00 p.m. ET)
The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute’s Board of Governors will consider for approval PCORI's Fiscal 2012 audit and a staff conflict of interest policy. The board also will hear a presentation about four research projects recently approved under PCORI's Addressing Disparities program. The projects were among the 25 approved by the Board in December 2012 in PCORI's first round of primary research funding. Register for webinar here.

Grant Opportunities

AHRQ's Health Services Research Dissertation Grant Program: * Research support and publications including Research Resources and OTJR
* Development and recognition of leadership
* Education and maintaining the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country.

Learn more at www.aotf.org or Donate Now.

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health
OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health encourages submission of original research reports of assessment/measurement development, efficacy of interventions (preventive, restorative, and compensatory), intervention outcomes, translational research, and basic research (including occupational science). Reports that examine OT interventions and contribute to the evidence for theoretically based occupational therapy practices are welcomed. High quality, rigorous quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research reports are especially encouraged. For more information on publishing in this peer-reviewed journal, see its website.

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health: Online Advanced Release
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.

Articles appearing in this "Online Advanced Release" section have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health and posted online before print publication.
New Starts
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's dissertation research grant program provides 14 one-year awards to full-time predoctoral students enrolled in accredited research doctoral programs in the United States, including Puerto Rico and other U.S. Territories and possessions.

OT: History in Focus
Recognizing Research Excellence: A short history of the Academy of Research

A. Jean Ayres, Mary Reilly, and Elizabeth Yerxa, inaugural members of the AOTF Academy of Research

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Academy of Research (AOR), and the growth of the Academy provides an interesting parallel to the development of research in the profession. During its first decade, the AOR inducted fifteen distinguished scholars and scientists. In contrast, a larger number (18) have been inducted during the past five years. Given that it has become more difficult to be recognized with this prestigious honor; there has clearly been significant research development in occupational therapy since the Academy was formed.

Read more.

New Members of the AOTF Academy of Research
Christine Helfrich, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Christine Helfrich has produced seminal work in the areas of domestic violence and homelessness that has shaped the role of occupational therapy with these populations. Her research includes needs assessment, intervention development, effectiveness and feasibility studies, using a participatory action research approach with peer involvement. She is the principle investigator on her third field initiated project funded by the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research investigating the efficacy of a life skills intervention designed to increase residential stability among adults with disabilities who are homeless. She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and a recognized expert in intervention research.

Link to more on Dr. Helfrich and a sampling of her research and publications.

Q and A with Dr. Helfrich

Identify three words that others have used to describe you. innovative, collaborative, generous.

Participation Patterns of Urban Preschoolers Attending Head Start
Meredith P. Gronski, OTD, OTR/L; Ann Niemann, MA Ed; Christine Berg, PhD, OTR/L

Effect of Gravity on Movement and Muscle Characteristics for Daily Occupational Performance in Sitting and Side-lying Positions in Adults
Kinsuk Maitra, PhD, OTR/L; Hae Yean Park, PhD, OT

Differential Item Functioning in a Computerized Adaptive Test of Functional Status for People With Shoulder Impairments Is Negligible Across Pain Intensity, Gender, and Age Groups
Bhagwant S. Sindhu, PhD, OTR; Ying-Chih Wang; Leigh A. Lehman, PhD; Dennis L. Hart, PhD

AOTF Events at AOTA Conference, San Diego, April 25-28, 2013

For more information and registration info see the AOTA web site.

The Millennial Generation: Promoting Professionalism in the Workplace WS 300
-- Dr. Jean Twenge will discuss developing professionalism in young OT students and clinicians with a focus on teaching, mentoring, and communication between generations. Saturday, April 27, 8:00-11:00 a.m. included with conference registration
Sponsored by PTE.

Breakfast with a Scholar -- Rear Admiral Marty Evans, US Navy (Retired) will speak on learning from past failures of imagination. Friday, April 26, 7:30-9:00 a.m. $50 includes breakfast.

Research Colloquium -- A New Era of Rehabilitation Research in Occupational Therapy: Science and Scientists. Friday, April 26, 2:00-5:00 p.m. $35 includes refreshments.
How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
I would like my work to support occupational therapists to assist individuals, particularly those who are marginalized, to develop the skills they need and a sense of their own competence and worth so that they are free to be themselves and do what is important to them.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?
Don't be afraid to do what you believe is important, the most motivating words to me are "You won't be able to do it." Focus on an area that you are passionate about, so that when you encounter internal or external barriers, you will be motivated to keep going.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?
The field needs to continue to educate others about the importance of occupation and that involving human beings needs to be translational and community based even if the tradeoff means smaller sample sizes. We must educate federal funders about the importance of our role in all areas of rehabilitation.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
They believed in my ideas, encouraged my "non-traditional" applications of occupational therapy and supported my dreams and endeavors.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
Supporting my daughter to believe she can become whatever she wants and to be proud of who she is. Traveling and making every day an adventure!

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?
That my work has been more far reaching than I ever imagined and that it has helped a wide variety of people in a number of ways clinically and has supported the work of occupational therapists in various settings.

Stephen Page, PhD, MS, MOT, OTR/L, FAHA
Dr. Stephen Page has devoted his scientific research to restoring language and movement function after stroke. He is the author of over 85 peer reviewed articles and has made over 150 national and international professional presentations. Dr. Page has served as principal investigator of over $6,000,000 in extramurally funded research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Stroke Association, and other organizations, and has held uninterrupted extramural funding for over a decade. His many awards include being named a fellow of the American Stroke Association (2006) and the first ever Deborah Wilkerson Early Career Award, presented by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (2006).

Links to more on Dr. Page and a sampling of his research and publications.
Q and A with Dr. Page
Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
$30 includes refreshments.

Gala -- AOTF Takes Flight -- AOTF will salute the military at the San Diego Air & Space Museum.
Friday, April 26, 8:00-11 p.m.
$115 per person, $60 per student.

Balboa Park Garden Tour -- Take a docent-led tour of the Alcazar and Japanese Friendship Gardens.
Wednesday, April 24, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
$72 includes round-trip bus and box lunch.

Dates to Remember
AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave, November 15-16, 2013, Jacksonville, Florida
AOTA Conference, April 25-28, 2013, San Diego, California

Join Our Mailing List!
How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
Stroke remains the country's leading cause of disability and its prevalence is rapidly expanding. For over a decade, my team has developed and tested therapies to restore function and independence in this growing population. My hope is that, through this research, we are able to increase the evidence base for the OT profession, improve lives, improve systems of care delivery, and advocate for both the profession and the recipients of our services.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?
Dedicate time to write daily.

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?
Establishing a more substantive evidence base supporting the efficacy and cost effectiveness of mental health services that OTs provide. When I was on my fieldwork we actually tried to find such research and were unsuccessful...we know it works but need to better substantiate its high value.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
The most important mentoring "role" was that of facilitator; my mentors showed great restraint and trust to step back and let me lead.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
Exercise.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?
Collaborating closely with clients and their families. While we spend a considerable amount of time with individuals who are enrolled in our studies, it is also common for me and my team to spend an hour or two with individuals who do not qualify for our studies, as many are so in need of basic information (e.g., What is a stroke? What can I do to prevent a future stroke? Even though I don't qualify for the study what are some things that I might try at home or community that might impact my recovery?). This is extremely rewarding.

Sylvia Rodger, BOcc Thy, MEd St, PhD
Dr. Sylvia Rodger has a long-standing interest in pediatric occupational therapy from both a clinical perspective and in terms of undergraduate and postgraduate student education. She has scholarship and research interests in curriculum development and reform, professional competencies, interprofessional education, curriculum mapping and the integration of theory and practice in professional clinical programs. Dr. Rodger's clinical research interests include: cognitive interventions for children with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) and Asperger Syndrome, early intervention and play for children with autism spectrum disorders, family centered practice, the impact of disability on families, pediatric occupational therapy service delivery, occupation centered and evidence based practice.

Link to more on Dr. Rodger and a sampling of her grants and publications.

Q and A with Dr. Rodger
Identify three words that others have used to describe you.
Visionary, persistent and determined, innovative.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
My research to date has focused on real world issues and real world solutions, such as through leadership in scholarship and capacity building our emerging academic leaders and researching effective mechanisms to
address this challenge.

My future clinical research will focus on making a difference to the lives of Australians with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) through the establishment of a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). As CEO I will have the capacity to shape the national research agenda of the CRC over the next 8 years to be coordinated, relevant, enduser focused, and embedded into the health, education, community service sectors. and to ensure that we tackle the real world issues that are important to our end users.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

You will be surprised what doors can be opened for you. In my experience by being open to opportunities, there are possibilities to make the most of situations. Mentors have provided me many opportunities and they have been astounding. You don't always know what the outcome will be but sometimes you have trust the journey (not just the destination) While it is good to be strategic and plan your future, there are times where serendipity and opportunities present themselves, so take risks and have a go! If someone opens a door for you and provides you an opportunity, seize it even if you don't know where it might lead you. What happens when you go through the door is up to you!

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

Establishing how and why occupation makes such a difference in people's lives, how it is health giving and nurturing; how its absence or limitations impacts negatively on health and well-being. I have a sense that many people (outside of OT) are beginning to see that doing, activities and being engaged in life situations are health giving. This is the essence of OT and something we need to research and develop the evidence base for, namely the engagement in purposeful and meaningful occupation. Finding the right tools, methodologies and evaluation strategies remains critical to this agenda. Much has been done but so much more is still needed, so that we can provide solid evidence for the most crucial theoretical underpinnings of our profession.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

In my professional career I have been fortunate to have had access to and support from different mentors. At different stages of my career, I have needed different mentors - the right person for the right time. But some have hung in with me for a long time! Don't be afraid to ask someone really senior within the profession nationally or internationally for help or advice. My experience is that these people are extremely generous and they are keen to share their tips and mistakes with you and to assist with the development of the next generation of researchers. No one has ever turned a call for help down in my experience, so be brave and ask!

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

Recently my husband and I have become dog owners thanks to our son who bought a Border Collie puppy two years ago. She has introduced us to dog parks, off-leash areas and the joys of talking to other dog owners as we walk. People stop and talk to you when you have a dog! It has been life changing! Dogs always love to see you no matter how bad your day has been, they just love to see you when you get home!

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

Probably what I have learned from research participants. Any time you think you have it together as a researcher, your participants have another view, that needs to be heard, considered, and often leads to new research directions that we would never have followed had we not listened to what is important to them and what their experiences are. This has often been the most humbling and inspiring of experiences. As researchers it is a privilege that participants trust us enough to engage in our research. We owe them a debt of gratitude and we owe them the respect to listen and learn. Their expertise in their lived experience when we really listen, makes our own pale into insignificance.

Conference Announcements

2013 Neurorehabilitation Workshop: "I - TREAT" (Instruction in Techniques to Rehabilitate, Evaluate, and Assess in Stroke) (June 22, 2013, Columbus, Ohio)

A hands-on stroke workshop for physical and occupations therapists, "I-TREAT" will bring together leaders in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and neuroscience to provide clinicians with hands-on training in stroke...
treatment, evaluation, and assessment.

3rd Global Conference  Making Sense Of: Chronicity (Sept 23-25, 2013, Oxford, United Kingdom)
The apparent increase in and diversity of chronic conditions calls for better understandings of the spaces between health and illness that chronic patients occupy, often for most of their lives and raises questions not just about those that suffer, but also about those that care for them, available treatments and care, and social inclusiveness. Call for papers due March 22, 2013.

4th Brain Development and Learning: Making Sense of the Science Conference (July 24-28, 2013, Vancouver, British Columbia) An interdisciplinary conference devoted to improving children's lives by highlighting innovative programs and by making the newest research and applicable to those who work with children.

Critical Juncture: Exploring the intersections of race, gender and disability. (March 22-23, 2013, Atlanta, Georgia)
The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference (JWJII) and The Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) at Emory University seek to foster discourse on identity, difference and inequality from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. This conference will explore the interstices of identity and inequality that bring people into contact with institutional and cultural power in a variety of social spaces (e.g. workplaces, ‘public’ spaces, state institutions, educational systems, local and global economies, and health systems).

Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: A National Conference (April 25 -26, 2013, Washington, DC)
The conference will bring together researchers, advocates, and policy makers in racial and ethnic disparities and disability-related disparities to: learn about barriers to health care and health promotion for people with disabilities in underserved racial and ethnic groups, share work on health disparities at this intersection, and discuss priorities for future research and action.

12th European AAATE Conference (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe) Conference (September 19-22, 2013, Vilamoura, Portugal)
Presentations are sought which will contribute to the advancement of assistive technology, not only in technological areas, but in all the fields closely related with this domain of knowledge: education and training, service provision, research, industry, legislation. Abstract/proposal deadline March 12, 2013.

The Cochrane Collaboration's 2013 Colloquium (September 19-23, 2013, Québec City, Québec)
The focus of this year's colloquium: Better Knowledge for Better Health will focus on evidence that informs health care decisions at every level -- from patient to practitioner, to institutional or government policy maker. Founded in 1993, The Cochrane Collaboration is the largest global network of scientists, researchers, health policy-makers and consumer advocates involved in the production of systematic reviews of healthcare evidence. Abstract submission deadline: April 1, 2013.

16th International Congress of World Federation of Occupational Therapists (June 18-21, 2014, Yokohama, Japan)
Presented in collaboration with the 48th Japanese OT Congress & Expo, the Congress themes are: disaster preparedness, response and recovery, inter-professional collaboration and the role of OT, wisdom: learning from the past, tradition for the future, innovations and challenges in OT, education and research: meeting the demands from the field, evidence-based practice and quality of OT, the nature of human occupation, community & OT. Abstract submission deadline: April 30, 2013.
Nordic Network on Disability Research - 12th Research Conference (May 30-31, 2013, Turku, Finland)

NNDR2013 conference welcomes a wide range of contributions applying social, cultural, historical and philosophical perspectives to the study of disability.

28th Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference (February 25 to March 2, 2013, San Diego, California)

Conference Keynote Speaker Dr. Deana McDonagh, an Empathic Design Research Strategist, will focus on enhancing the quality of life for all through more intuitive and meaningful products which can lead to emotional sustainability.

Canadian Disability Studies Association 2013 Annual Conference (June 5-7, 2013, Victoria, British Columbia)

CDSA's 2013 theme "Disability @ the Edge" reflects the ways in which disability both pushes and is pushed to the edges of varied cultural, social and political realms. It is part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, June 1-8.

29th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity (April 29-30, 2013, Honolulu, Hawaii)

The conference theme embraces the ideals of all people living together harmoniously and happily in a barrier-free world without fear of exclusion from social, economic or political life.

AOTA Education Summit (October 4-5, 2013, Atlanta, Georgia)

The summit will cover: pedagogy and instructional design; foundations for OT/OTA education and practice; and capacity building with the profession and academia.

5th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference (October 28-29, 2013, Washington, DC)

This interdisciplinary meeting for investigators dedicated to health literacy research is an opportunity to advance the field of health literacy, a method to raise the quality of our research, and an venue for professional development.

About Us

AOTF is a 501(c)3 dedicated to the advancement of research, education, and public awareness of occupational therapy so that all people may participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.

AOTF is concerned about privacy and will only send Research Resources to those individuals who wish to receive it. If you no longer wish to receive Research Resources, or if you feel that you received this newsletter in error, please use the SafeUnsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. AOTF does not sell email addresses to other parties.

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.

More on Dr. Helfrich including a sampling of her research and publications

Dr. Helfrich received a BS in occupational therapy and a BA in Spanish from Cleveland State University, a MSOT in occupational therapy from University of Illinois at Chicago, and her PhD in public health sciences from University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Dr. Helfrich is assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, at Boston University College of Health and
A Sample of Funded Research

2009-2012. Helfrich, C. (Principal Investigator), Life skills: Transitioning From Homelessness and Isolation to Housing Stability and Community Integration, U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. (Grant # H133G090046)


A Sample of Recent Publications


More on Dr. Page including a sampling of his grants and recent publications

Dr. Page received his BA in occupational therapy from the College of Wooster, an MS degree from Ball State University, an MOT degree from the University of Findlay, a PhD from the University of Tennessee, and a post-doctoral fellowship in rehabilitation research from the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation/University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, West Orange, New Jersey. Dr. Page is an associate professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy, College of Medicine, at Ohio State University and the director of the RehabLab: Neuromotor Recovery and Rehabilitation Laboratory.

A Sample of Grants


2010-2012. Page, S. (Principal Investigator), Robotic Brace Incorporating EMG for Moderate Affected Arm Impairment After Stroke, National Institutes of Health. (Grant # IR03HD062545-01).

2009-2014. Page, S. (Principal Investigator), Mental Practice for Chronic Stroke Induced Hemiparesis, National Institutes of Health. (Grant # IR01AT004454-01).

A Sample of Recent Publications


More on Dr. Rodger including a sampling of her grants and publications

In 2011, Dr. Rodger received the Occupational Therapy Australia National Sylvia Docker Award for her contribution to research and education within occupational therapy in Australia. Dr. Rodger was recently named the CEO of a new Cooperative Research Centre, Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders, which will receive over 100 million dollars in funding over eight years to improve the lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Dr. Rodger received her BOccThy, MEd St., and PhD from the University of Queensland. Dr. Rodger is professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Queensland.

A Sample of Funding and Grants

2011-2012. Rodger, S. (Co-Principal Investigator). UQ UWA Collaboration Grant - Developing ASD networks and research across UQ and UWA. UQ UWA.


Recent Publications


History Continued

Readers may be interested to know that the creation of the Academy was approved by the AOTF board of directors at a meeting in October, 1983. The motion approved by the board read simply:

Resolved, that the American Occupational Therapy Foundation establish an Academy of Research and that the criteria and procedures be established and implemented by the Research Advisory Council (RAC).

The RAC was an advisory committee whose chair, appointed jointly by the presidents of AOTA and AOTF, reported to the AOTF president. The council recognized that in order to help raise the visibility and importance of research within the profession, prestigious recognition should be granted to those individuals who were making substantial contributions to the advancement of theory and research. The RAC recommended that election to the Academy be a peer-governed process. To this day, membership in the Academy is determined by a vote of its members. Three inaugural members of the Academy were inducted in 1983, chosen by the foundation. They were Mary Reilly, Elizabeth Yerxa, and A Jean Ayres. Each received a specially designed lapel pin, which is still given to inductees as a sign of their membership in this distinguished body.

AOTF is pleased to present OT: History in Focus, recollections of, through photos and reports, events and people that have shaped and defined the profession during its distinguished history.