



**POTA 2022
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**BACK
TOGETHER
AGAIN**



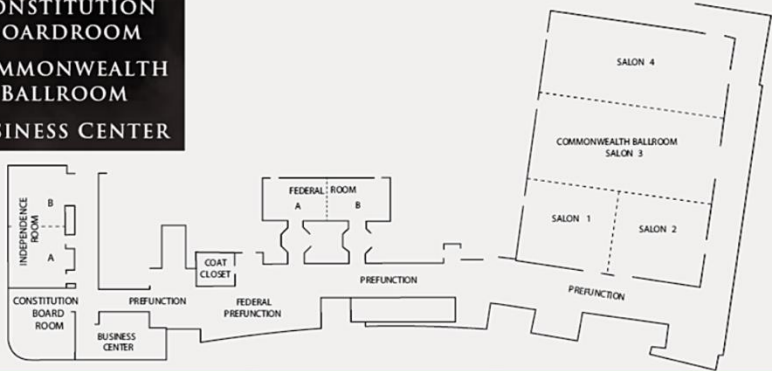
**SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2022
CONFERENCE GUIDE**

LANCASTER, PA

Hotel Floor Plan

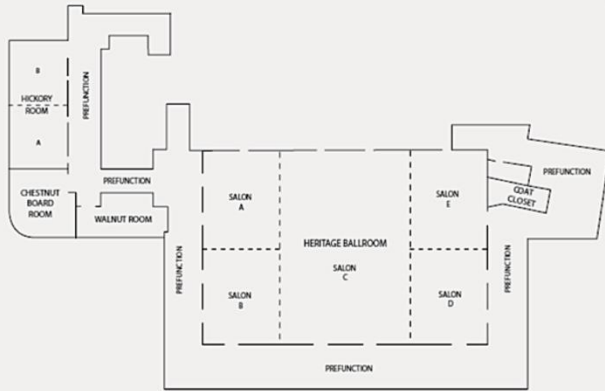
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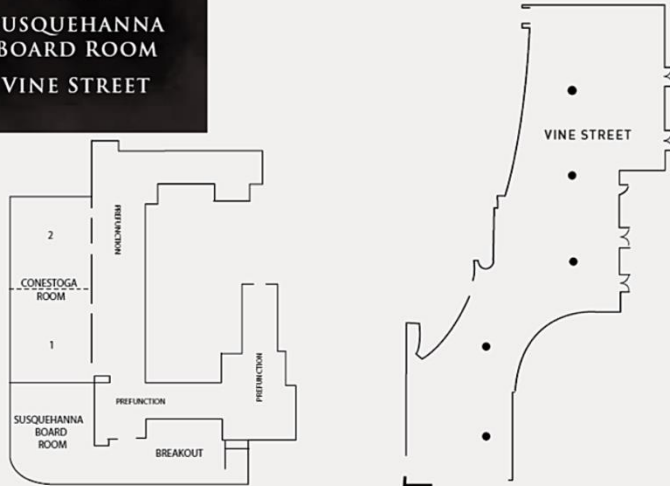
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Letter from the President

Dear POTA Conference Attendees,

It is hard to believe that we have not been together since 2019 in King of Prussia.

Although I have enjoyed connecting with everyone through our virtual conferences for the last two years there is nothing like an in-person conference. I hope you enjoy the conference sessions, engaging with one another, and make personal connections in the profession.

As we do this, I also challenge each and every one of us to join together as a united profession and take occupational therapy to the next level. In the next year we need to increase membership and promote our profession in the community. We need to strengthen our commitment to each other and give back in a way we never had. Here is to “Being Together Again” at Conference 2022 Lancaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a rectangular box. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Chrissy Daeschner".

Chrissy Daeschner, OTD, MS, OTR/L

POTA President (2021-2025)



Welcome

Welcome to the POTA 2022 Conference in Lancaster. Please enjoy all that the conference has to offer: Keynote and Plenary sessions, One hour and Two-hour sessions, Posters, Exhibitor Hall, Raffle, POTPAC Silent Auction (during the Presidential Reception), Award Ceremony, and plenty more. Wi-Fi is available in conference areas. The code is **POTA2022**.

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Keynote Speaker



Ready, Set, Act...with True Urgency

Wendy Hildenbrand, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA

Program Director – Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

University of Saint Mary – Leavenworth, KS

In her 2022 Farewell Presidential Address, Wendy Hildenbrand discussed the threat of complacency and challenged occupational therapy professionals to act with true urgency to advance our practice and profession in service to all people, populations, and communities. As we continue to navigate the next “normal” in our personal and professional lives, come ready to care for your heart, embrace your courage, and prepare to act with urgency!

Annual Award Recipients

Academic Educator Award- Jennifer White CSCD, MOT, OTR/L

Stephen L. Heater Award of Outstanding Achievement- Joanne Baird PhD, OTR/L, CHSE, FAOTA

Fieldwork Educator Award- Rachel Popovich, MOT, OTR/L, CPAM

OT Award of Recognition- Sharon D. Novalis, PhD, OTR/L

OTA Award of Recognition- Amy Fatula, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP, CDP

Research Award- Jeryl D. Benson, Ed.D, OTR/L

President's Award- Ann B. Cook, Ed.D, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM

OT Student Award of Recognition- Julia Lam, OTS

OTA Student Award of Recognition- Toni Merkel, OTAS

Annual Scholarship Winners

\$2,000 Award- Quadeera Burchette

\$1,500 Award- Makayla Himes

\$500 Award- Kayla Michel

\$500 Award- Morgan Zurlo

\$500 Award- Courtney Stewart

\$500 Award- Brittany Benfer

\$500 Award- Meredith Gray

Book Award- Claire Plunkett

Book Award- Ashley Martins

Book Award- Katherine Gage

Book Award- Ansley Utter

Book Award- Kate Deppen

Thursday at a Glance

9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Board Meeting <i>Conestoga Board Room</i>
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Information and Check-In <i>Heritage Ballroom Pre-function Space</i>
5:00 – 9:00 pm	Preconference Leadership Institute Christine Daeschner, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Michael Fantuzzo, OTD, OTR/L, BCG; Danielle Makadon-Malone, OTD, OTR/L <i>This session will offer 25 practitioners an additional 4 hours of continuing education with a certificate in Leadership Training. The program will focus on types of leadership, occupational therapy organizations, meeting etiquette and forming a group, and conflict resolution. The program will also offer a post mentorship program for the next 6 months. Registration is for conference attendees only and has a separate registration link.</i> <i>Conestoga Room</i>
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Welcome Social Check in to conference and join us for a snack while connecting with other conference attendees. <i>Commonwealth Pre-function Space</i> Exhibit Hall Open <i>Heritage Ballroom</i>

Friday at a Glance

6:30 am – 5:00 pm	Information and Check-In <i>Heritage Ballroom Pre-function Space</i>
6:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>Heritage Ballroom Pre-function Space</i>
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Posters²
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Sessions³
8:00 am – 8:50 am	Task Force Update: School-Based and Mental Health Katie Landsiedel, OTD, OTR/L; Nicole Lavery, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP; Danielle Makadon-Malone, OTD, OTR/L; Paula McNamara, OTD, MS, OTR/L <i>Come join the co-chairs of the POTA School Based and Mental Health Task Force to learn the latest updates of each group and the plan for the next 6 months.</i> <i>Conestoga Room</i>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
12:00 – 1:50 pm	Lunch, Annual Business Meeting, Legislative Update, Licensure Update, POTPAC & AOTF Presentations <i>Come join us for lunch and learn about the updates that impact you as a POTA member.</i> <i>Heritage Ballroom</i>
2:00 – 4:50 pm	Posters² Sessions³ Exhibit Hall Open¹
4:00 – 4:50 pm	OTA Meet and Greet Amy Fatula, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP, CDP <i>Come meet Amy the POTA OTA-at-Large for engagement and collaboration on the needs and goals of OTA's in the state.</i> <i>Conestoga Room</i>
5:00 – 5:50 pm	Keynote Address – Ready, Set, Act...with True Urgency Wendy Hildenbrand, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA <i>Heritage Ballroom</i>
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Presidential Reception <i>Come engage with the POTA Board over appetizers. Have an idea or group you want to learn more about? This time will be dedicated to the promotion of networking with other students and practitioners in the state. POTPAC will be holding a Silent Auction</i> <i>Heritage Ballroom and Commonwealth</i> Exhibit Hall Open¹

¹Exhibit Hall: *Heritage Ballroom*

²Posters: *Walnut Room*

³Sessions: *Hickory Room, Conestoga Room, Independence Room, & Federal Room*

Saturday at a Glance

6:30 am – 12:00 pm	Information and Check-In <i>Heritage Ballroom Pre-function Space</i>
6:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>Heritage Ballroom Pre-function Space</i>
7:00 am– 12:00 pm	Posters² Sessions³
7:00 am– 8:00 am.	Joann Baird, Ph.D., OTR/L; Kerri Hample, OTD, OTR/L, FMCHC; Lisa Livingston, MS, OTR/L, SCDCHM; Edward Mihelcic, Ph.D., OTR/L <i>Join the Licensure Board as they give updates on state licensure and answer any questions you may have about licensure.</i> <i>Conestoga Room</i>
8:00 – 8:50 am	Plenary Session with POTA Board Members - Collaboration and Connection: Making POTA Part of Your Professional Journey Dawn Clayton Bieber, OTR/L; Puja Gellerman, OTR/L; Nicole Lavery, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP; LaRonda Lockhart-Keene, OTD, OTR/L, CLA; Danielle Makadon-Malone, OTD, OTR/L; Anne Brady Romaniw, OTD, OTR/L <i>The dynamic group of practitioners will share inspirational stories of connections and collaboration and inspire all of us to be involved and engaged as POTA members.</i> <i>Heritage Ballroom</i>
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open¹
10:00 – 11:50 pm	Posters² Sessions³
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Pennsylvania AOTA RA Update Jennifer Dessoie, OTD, OTR/L, CLA; Miranda Virone, OTD, MS, OTR/L-CTP <i>Meet the PA representatives and learn more about their role and how to engage with the AOTA RA.</i> <i>Federal Room</i>
12:00 – 1:50 pm	Lunch & Awards <i>Heritage Ballroom</i>
2:00 – 4:50 pm	Posters² Sessions³

¹Exhibit Hall: *Heritage Ballroom*

²Posters: *Walnut Room*

³Sessions: *Hickory Room, Conestoga Room, Independence Room, & Federal Room*

Session Abstracts

Friday Sessions Beginning at 7:00 am

Students-as-Partners in Increasing Inclusion in the Classroom

Jennifer Whittaker, MSOT, OTR/L, CHES

Pedagogical partnerships position students to support educators as they increase diversity and inclusion in the classroom. This presentation will introduce participants to foundational concepts and strategies for starting a partnership program and empowering OT students to become culturally humble clinicians.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Driving, It's About Ability, Not Perception or Diagnosis!

Mary Culshaw, PhD, OTR/L & Alexandria Fries, OTS

Driving provides freedom to explore our world so why are some clients told of their driving ability based solely on their diagnosis? This presentation will explore potential for driving readiness based on ability and how we support occupational justice.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Conestoga Room - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Transition Planning: Occupational Therapy's Leadership Role

Hadley Dean, MOT, OTR/L

This presentation teaches OT practitioners to lead the transition planning process by

using their expertise as group facilitators to ensure the plan is student-centered and highly individualized, taking into account the student's strengths, preferences, interests, needs, and level of support.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Children & Youth

Friday Sessions Beginning at 8:00 am

Supporting Autistic Individuals Across the Lifespan

Mindy MacRone-Wojton, DSc, OTR/L & Rachel Shoener, OTR/L

Session describes how occupational therapy practitioners support Autistic individuals across the lifespan. We discuss interventions and resources appropriate for "Charlie" and his family when he was first diagnosed and follow him from elementary school, through high school, and into adulthood.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Children & Youth

Task Force Update: School-Based and Mental Health

Katie Landsiedel, OTD, OTR/L; Nicole Lavery, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP; Danielle Makadon-Malone, OTD, OTR/L; Paula McNamara, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Come join the co-chairs of the POTA School Based and Mental Health Task Force to learn the latest updates of each group and the plan for the next 6 months.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Conestoga Room - Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

Meaningful Activity Engagement in Dementia: Concepts and Strategies

Anne Stankiewicz, CScD, OTR/L, CDP, CMDCP

Explore a conceptual model of the term "meaningful activity" as it relates to dementia care, learn evidence-based recommendations regarding ways to enhance activity engagement in dementia, and compare OT-relevant training programs that use activity engagement as a therapeutic tool.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Productive Aging & Geriatrics

Belonging: The Key to a Sustainable, Inclusive Profession

Sarah Corcoran, OTD, OTR/L & Amanda Carter, OTR/L

This presentation explores the influence of belonging among members of the OT community, provides evidence-informed strategies for fostering belongingness in academic programs, and details experiences developing a measure of professional belonging.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

[Friday Sessions Beginning at 9:00 am](#)

Inclusive Excellence in the OT Classroom

Joanna Behm, Ed.D, MS, OTR/L

This session will address the benefits, challenges, and application of integrating inclusive excellence (IE) in the classroom through culturally responsive teaching (CRT) and universal design for learning (UDL). The

presenter will share examples of utilizing IE in an MOT program.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Occupational Therapy Students, Advocacy Skills, and Confidence Levels

Katherine Pollack, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will review the methodology, weekly modules, and results of pre- and post-surveys related to an evidence-based project examining occupational therapy students' confidence levels related to use of advocacy skills before and after engagement in weekly educational modules.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Conestoga Room - Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

Practitioner, Modulate Thyself

Michelle Rampulla, MS, OTR/L, CPRP

COVID-19 got you down? Review sensory modulation principles and build your own sensory diet. We need to have a solid foundation before we can lift others. Breathe and join us.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Addressing Adolescent Mental Health and Wellness: A Community Partnership and School-wide Program

Danielle Costanzo, MS, OTR/L

This session will highlight the potential for OT practitioners to address adolescent mental health. A nontraditional mental health and wellness program that addresses general education high school students

through a partnership with a local OT program will be discussed.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

[Friday Sessions Beginning at 10:00 am](#)

Revisiting Gumbo Soup: Combating Racism as an OT

Lydia Rawlins, M.Ed., OTR/L, BCP

The AOTA vision statement for 2025 supports efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within all aspects of occupational therapy. Historically, OT struggle with the implementation of this vision. This course is an introduction to how OT may combat racism in their practice.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Hickory Room - Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

Pediatric Assessment of Occupational Performance: The WeePASS

Anna Marie Clark, OTD, OTR/L; Sydney Gabriel, OTD, OTR/L; Katherine Maloney, OTD, OTR/L; & Denise Chisholm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Attend this hands-on training session to learn the WeePASS, the newly developed pediatric version of the Performance Assessment of Self-care Skills. Training includes administration, scoring, and interpretation of the Donning/Doffing Shoes task, and an overview of the Handwashing and Upper Body Dressing tasks.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Conestoga Room - Children & Youth

Feed Me the Knowledge: Feeding Intervention

Stephanie Cassidy, MS, OTR/L; Melissa Crawford, DOT, OTR/L; & Colleen Burrell, OTR/L

Feeding and eating is imperative for growth and development, and is the center of many routines, rituals, and social opportunities. It is crucial to understand approaches to support positive mealtime experiences, and food exploration without the child needing to eat the food.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Independence Room - Children & Youth

Vision Assessment and Treatment

Natalie Collins, MS, OTR/L

Presentation will include assessment of visual and perceptual impairments following neurological injury. Discussion will include neurologic visual and perceptual pathways, identification of impairments when pathways are interrupted, assessment of visual function and functional vision, and compensation and remediation strategies.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Federal Room – Rehabilitation

[Friday Morning Poster Sessions](#)

[8:00 am – 8:50 am](#)

Sowing the Seeds: Creating an Urban Sensory Garden

Felicia Duch, MOT, OTR/L & Kristen Howland, MS, OTR/L

Project leaders will discuss the one-year process of creating a sensory garden within an urban inpatient behavioral health unit, highlighting barriers and supports for the project. Resources provided include group

protocols, planning materials, and population-specific safety considerations.

Poster - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Education to Promote Occupational Participation among Older Adults

Hannah Moyle, OTS

Educating on effective ways to provide older adults the just-right challenge and the cognitive benefits of participating in meaningful activities within the community is important. The role of occupational therapy and program development in a community senior center was investigated.

Poster – Productive Aging and Geriatrics

Perceptions on the Virtual Dementia Tour® in Education

E. Adel Herge, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

This poster presents the results of our study investigating the use of the Virtual Dementia Tour® in healthcare curriculums. Attendees will identify the potential benefits of integrating this simulation into their educational program.

Poster – Productive Aging and Geriatrics

Measurable Benefits of a Robotic Cat to Address Dementia-Related Behaviors

Sara Benham, OTD, OTR/L, ATP; Kayla Krasinsky, OTS; & Taylor Heffner, OTS

This study explored the behavioral outcomes of a robotic cat after participation in simulated pet care activities in participants with dementia. Positive behavioral observations during robotic cat exposures, as compared with cat videos, were significant with no changes in agitation symptoms.

Poster – Productive Aging and Geriatrics

Impact on Falls of Caregiver Training in ALF

Terri Krassen, OTD, MHA, OTR/L

The study included a survey, educational program, and review of fall incidence. Results showed that education led to increased knowledge but no decrease in falls after caregiver education. Results support OT as an appropriate provider in fall prevention education.

Poster – Productive Aging and Geriatrics

Piloting a Loneliness Intervention in Geriatric Primary Care

Tracey Vause Earland, PhD, OTR/L, FNAP; Bethany Lin, OTS; & Sarah Yemane, Ed.M.

This poster will describe the process and results of piloting a remotely delivered occupational therapy service for addressing loneliness among older adults in primary care.

Poster – Productive Aging and Geriatrics

9:00 am – 9:50 am

Implementation of DEI Practices in OT Admissions

Erica Pugh, OTD, OTR/L, RYT-200; Kimberly Gargin, OTD, OTR/L; Colleen Campbell, OTS; Meekie Inman, OTS; & Olivia Garrison, OTS

Considering the incoming shift towards an entry level doctorate degree in many programs, effective outreach efforts to diverse populations from admissions teams is indispensable. The strategies outlined in this study represent an understanding of the value of holistic admission practices.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Impact of Educational Mentorship Modules on College Aged Students

Bridget Trivinia, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Educational modules were provided to future student mentors focused on four main topics to increase knowledge learned, self-perceived preparedness, and confidence. Participation within the educational modules before matching with a mentee improved overall success in the mentorship relationship.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Intraprofessional Collaboration Project between OT and OTA Students

Karen Probst, OTR/L, LuAnn Delbrugge, MS, OTR/L, Geralyn Wallace, MS, OTR/L, & Olivia Hammond, MBA, OTR/L

The effectiveness of an intraprofessional collaboration project among occupational therapy students and occupational therapy assistant students was assessed. Outcomes specific to OT ethics, role delineation, communication, and self-efficacy were surveyed and are further discussed in this poster.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Effectiveness of Orthotics on Treating Rheumatoid Arthritis

Vidhi Dalal, OTS; Gianna Torres, OTS; Colleen Maher, OTD, CHT, OTR/L; & Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L

This literature synthesis analyzes research articles to discuss the most effective orthosis for conservatively treating rheumatoid arthritis. After comparing the articles, it can be concluded that a variety of orthotics are successful in reducing the symptoms of RA.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Capstone Collaboration: A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Partnership

Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association

Kristy Meyer, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCP & LaRonda Lockhart-Keene, OTD, OTR/L

Academic programs play a role in expanding diversity within the profession of occupational therapy. We will describe a creative capstone collaboration developed to educate undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds on the profession of occupational therapy and sustainability through COTAD.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

The Value of Service Dogs for Student Veterans

Bernadette Schmeltz, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, BCTS, DRS & Sarah May, B.S. Exercise Science, OTS

Student veterans often suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury resulting from combat. Service dogs can help student veterans to live their lives despite these challenges. This poster will explain the benefits of service dog utilization for veterans.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

10:00 am – 10:50 am

Innovative Doctoral Capstone within a Student-Run Clinic

Kristy Meyer, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCP

Doctoral capstone coordinators often utilize nontraditional or internal capstone placements to alleviate the burden on clinical fieldwork sites. We will describe three internal capstone projects developed and implemented within the interprofessional Chester Community Student Run Pro-Bono Clinic at Widener University.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Occupational Barriers Student Veterans' Report in Higher Education

Bernadette Schmeltz, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, BCTS, DRS

This poster session will describe a mixed methods study performed on student veterans to describe their perceptions of occupational barriers they encounter when transitioning to post-secondary education and the resources they utilize at a local university.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

How a DEI Centered Program Prepares Students for Level II Fieldwork

Bridget Trivinia, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Jordan Goddard, OTS; JoAnn Clark, OTS; Ellie Johnston, OTS; & Sarah Rabiger, OTS

Entry-level OTD students share how their didactic coursework and experiential learning in a DEI minded curriculum served as a foundation for advocacy and engagement with clients from underrepresented groups during level II fieldwork experiences in traditional and non-traditional settings.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Effectiveness of Using Simulated vs. Face-to-Face Fieldwork Experiences

Tammy Divens, M.Ed., OTD, OTR/L

As we move forward from Covid-19, we can reevaluate best practices for Level I fieldwork. A research study was completed to compare clinical education across three modalities recognized by the AOTA standards: a virtual environment; faculty-led visits; and traditional.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Implementation & Benefits of a Service-Learning Program for OT Students

Erin Naggy, OTD, OTR/L

The focus of this presentation is to explain the process of implementing a service-learning program within the SRU OTD curriculum to promote student self-confidence and clinical skills prior to Level II fieldwork rotations.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Short-term Outcomes of Manual Dexterity for Adolescents Admitted to an Intensive Interdisciplinary Pain Rehabilitation Program

Hal Martin, OTS & Miranda Powers, OTR/L

The purpose of this poster presentation is to share the short-term functional outcomes of adolescents with Amplified Musculoskeletal Pain Syndrome (AMPS) treated with intensive interdisciplinary rehabilitation.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

11:00 am – 11:50 am

Advocating for Autistic Persons: Justice Professional Trainings

Danielle Lynn, OTD, OTR/L; Rachel Dumont, OTR/L; Taylor Sivori, OTD, OTR/L; Rachel Boyer, OTD, OTR/L; & Roseann Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Neurodiverse individuals may experience challenges with justice and correctional systems. This poster details a justice professional training about autism, sensory features, and evidence-based strategies to support autistic persons. Findings indicate improvements in participants' knowledge and confidence in supporting autistic persons.

Poster – Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

OT to Improve Functional Outcomes with LVAD Patients

Loren Slater, MS, OTR/L

The goal of this poster is to describe the process and results of a quality improvement (QI) project including occupational therapy (OT) in an acute care cardiac setting working with advanced heart failure (AHF) patients requiring destination left ventricular assistive device (LVAD).

Poster – Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

Lifestyle Redesign® and Women Survivors of Human Trafficking?

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D, OTR/L; Rebecca Marciano, OTS; & Anna Haber, OTS

Human trafficking poses a threat to the safety, quality of life, and participation in occupation for women internationally. Occupational therapy's role is not well known but increasing. Lifestyle Redesign® offers a multidimensional approach to occupation and quality of life.

Poster – Advocacy, Emerging Area of Practice

Recognizing, Redefining & Restoring Roles: Addressing Occupational Imbalance

E. Adel Herge, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Elizabeth Webb, OTS; Julianne Metz, OTS & Gianna Cianfrani, OTS

Transitions arise throughout life causing changes in meaningful roles. A systematic literature search was conducted to explore "What interventions within the scope of occupational therapy improve quality of life in adults after loss or change in a meaningful family role?"

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Poster – Health & Wellness

Upper Extremity Rehabilitation in Home Care

Anya Stankiewicz, OTS; Chhievling Seng, OTS; Colleen Maher, OTD, CHT, OTR/L; & Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L

This poster presentation is a literature synthesis to answer the question, "For home health clients with post upper extremity surgery or fracture, what interventions are most effective in improving occupational performance?"

Poster – Rehabilitation

Back to School: The Impact of Backpack Biomechanics

Sara Loesche, MS, OTR/L, CHT, CEAS

Carrying a backpack is a common activity of school-aged children, but also one resulting in biomechanical strain. This session will discuss ways to properly pack and wear a backpack and how occupational therapy can promote student wellness by addressing this issue.

Poster - Children & Youth

[Friday Lunch and Annual Business](#)

[Meeting at 12:00](#)

[pm](#)

Come join us for lunch and learn about the updates that impact you as a POTA member including Legislative Update, Licensure Update, POTPAC & AOTF Presentations
Heritage Ballroom

[Friday Sessions Beginning at 2:00 pm](#)

Choosing Wisely to Enhance Your Practice & Outcomes

Cathy Dolhi, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA & Jodi Schreiber, OTD, OTR/L

This workshop will introduce the American Board of Internal Medicine's Choosing Wisely Campaign and AOTA's related recommendations for occupational therapy. Tools and strategies designed to help participants promote efficient, cost-effective, client centered services in their practice settings will be included. Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Hickory Room - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

3D Printing from Design to Device

Sara Benham, OTD, OTR/L, ATP; Jeffrey Bush, PhD; & Katelyn Moyer, PT, DPT

3D printing is a rapidly growing health technology that provides on-demand access to print assistive devices and clinical tools. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops to follow along with the speakers as they demonstrate web-based design and printing software applications. Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Conestoga Room - Rehabilitation

Implications for Effective Treatment for Children with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)

Traci Ziemkiewicz, OTR/L & Christine Roman Lantzy, PhD

Cortical visual impairment (CVI) is the leading cause of visual impairment in the pediatric population. Unfortunately, knowledge for evaluation, assessment and intervention with this specialized population is not well understood. This session will provide an integrated approach to essential

Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association

knowledge when working with children who have neurologic conditions including CVI.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Independence Room - Children & Youth

Serving the Refugee Community through a Justice Lens

Stephen Kern, PhD., OTR/L, FNAP, FAOTA

As the number of refugees continues to grow, practitioners are faced with serving their human & occupational needs through the resettlement period and beyond. This session presents an OT program utilizing the participatory occupational justice framework to enabling participation in community life.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Occupational Justice, Refugee, Community

[Friday Sessions Beginning at 3:00 pm](#)

Effectiveness of Postpartum Exercise with Kinesio-Taping or Abdominal-Binding

Brandi DeVeaux, MS, OTR/L, CLT

Participants will learn how diastasis-recti body dysfunction impairs occupational performance for women in a new mother role and subsequently evaluate and treat diastasis-recti. This course combines didactic and experiential learning techniques and treatment approaches to promote and restore women's health.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Federal Room - Women's Health & Wellness

[Friday Sessions Beginning at 4:00 pm](#)

Burnout in the Field of OT: How to Practice Self-Care to Avoid Burnout

Aimee Ketchum, OTD, OTR/L

Burnout is prevalent within the profession of OT. With growing demands in a constantly changing field, it is more important than ever that OTs utilize skills to practice self-care and wellness to avoid burnout. This presentation will help OTs identify signs of burnout and practice strategies to practice resiliency, self-care, and overall balance and wellness.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Fieldwork Component and Capstone Experience: Discussing Differences with Site Educators

Bernadette Schmeltz, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, BCTS, DRS & Michael Fantuzzo, OTD, OTR/L, BCG

Fieldwork and capstone are two important pieces of a student's educational experience. Often, sites and mentors confuse these experiences including expectations and objectives needed. Understanding how to explain to the sites and mentors what these experiences are can lead to a smoother, better experience for everyone.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

OTA Meet and Greet: Putting the OTA in POTA

Amy Fatula, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP, CDP

Come meet Amy, the POTA OTA at Large, for engagement and collaboration on the needs and goals of OTAs in the state.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Conestoga Room – General Practice

Friday Afternoon Poster Sessions

2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

Anxiety in Schools: Benefits of Occupational Therapy Services

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D, OTR/L ; Kelly Neville, OTS; & Emily Garcia, OTS

Anxiety is a common pediatric mental health diagnosis. It can interfere with academic success. By addressing anxiety, school-based OTs can help children fulfill their role as students, achieve academic success, engage in social participation, and demonstrate overall mental well-being.

Poster – Children & Youth

Evidence Based Interventions improving NICU Parent-Infant Relationships

Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L; Erica Worek, OTS; & Colleen Maher, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Worldwide, parents experience decreased relationships in NICUs causing detrimental impacts for both parent and infant. The purpose of this poster is presenting the findings of the literature synthesis to determine whether SENSE or FNI is more effective for improving relationships.

Poster – Children & Youth

An Educational Series on Interoception for Pediatric Therapists

Danielle Willig, OTD, OTR/L; & Amy Loughner, MOT, OTR/L

This presentation will describe the development and relevant outcomes of a doctoral capstone project designed to provide education on the emerging topic of interoception. Each module has been designed to support knowledge translation

of interoception literature into clinical practice.

Poster – Children & Youth

Travel Training for Neurodiverse High School Students

Jeanne Coviello, OTD, OTR/L; Abigail Alger, OTS; Lorian Attanasio, OTS; Brittany Benfer, OTS; Colleen Campbell, OTS; Antonius Mikuriya, OTS; Juliana Montuoro, OTS; Agatha Olbrys, OTS; & Amanda Patrylak, CTRS, OTS

This poster will provide an overview of a student project addressing the development of a 20-module travel training program to promote safe and independent community mobility for neurodiverse high school students.

Poster – Children & Youth

Improving Participation in ADLs: Video vs. Picture Prompts and Autism

Jeryl Benson, Ed.D, OTR/L; & Alivia Cartwright, BS, OTS

This poster will introduce the use of video modeling vs. static picture schedules as an intervention for supporting participation in daily living skills for children with ASD.

Poster – Children & Youth

Sound-field Amplification for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Katherine Gage, OTS; Marianna Frederick, OTS; & Olivia Garrison, OTS

Auditory processing differences often impact school-based occupational engagement for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This poster summarizes highlights from 15 studies exploring various sound field amplification intervention trials and recommendations for best practice use.

Poster – Children & Youth

3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Promoting Self-Regulation for Elementary-Aged Students

Jeanne Coviello, OTD, OTR/L; Nicole Lipset, OTS; Alexandra Loop, OTS; & Christine Lord, OTS

This poster will provide an overview of a student project addressing common challenges and effective techniques to address elementary-aged children's ability to self-regulate emotions and behaviors to promote academic performance within the school setting.

Poster – Children & Youth

Parent's NICU Experiences with Family Centered Care

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D., OTR/L; Kathleen Diverio, OTS; & Meghan McGonigle, OTS

This evidence-based research poster examines parents' perspectives on their experiences in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), the implementation of family centered care (FCC), and occupational therapy's role in the NICU.

Poster – Children & Youth

Development of an Occupation-based Pediatric Assessment

Anna Marie Clark, OTD, OTR/L; Sydney Gabriel, OTD, OTR/L; Katherine Maloney, OTD, OTR/L; & Denise Chisholm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

An assessment tool to measure occupational performance is needed in pediatric occupational therapy to enhance current evaluation processes. This poster describes the development, trialing, and training of the Performance Assessment of

*Self-care Skills - Pediatric Version
(WeePASS) as a solution.
Poster – Children & Youth*

Occupational Therapy in the Foster Care System

Elyse Kay, OTD, MS, OTR/L

This Level III study sought to assess the effectiveness of a researcher-developed seminar for caseworkers who manage the situations of children placed in a foster home.

Poster – Children & Youth

Improving Self-Regulation in Preschoolers Using Mindfulness Approaches

Melissa Luchynsky, OTD, OTR/L, CLT & Alyson Stitzer, OTS

This poster presentation provides evidence-based strategies obtained through a systematized literature review to determine the most effective mindfulness strategies to enhance self-regulation skills in preschool children. These activities aim to promote prosocial behavior and enhance focus/attention in the classroom.

Poster – Children & Youth

Transition Services for Adolescents with Disabilities

Erin Naggy, OTD, OTR/L

OT lacks definition in transition services with little evidence to support. This review sought to answer the question, do OT interventions aimed at improving vocational skills and other post-secondary soft skills positively support transition students?

Poster – Children & Youth

4:00 pm – 4:50 pm

Services Offered to Veterans in Pennsylvania Transitional Housing

Amy Brzuz, OTD, OTR/L

A descriptive survey study was completed to explore the demographics and opportunities offered by Pennsylvania transitional housing facilities with the goal of determining the best approach to advocate for Occupational Therapy within these settings.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Microaggressions: A Violation of Occupational Justice

LaRonda Lockhart-Keene, OTD, OTR/L, CLA

Negative feelings experienced by the recipients of microaggressions have an impact on one's ability to participate in valued occupations thus constituting an occupational injustice. This poster will discuss the various forms of microaggression and discuss techniques to respond to them.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Accessible Sexual Experience in Outpatient Occupational Therapy

Emma Smith, OTS & Amy Hudkins, DHSc, COTA/L

Sexual engagement is an important ADL, but why do OT practitioners feel uncomfortable addressing this in treatment? This presentation aims to instill confidence in the OT practitioner to become prepared, and competent to address it in an outpatient setting.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

OT-based Pilot Programming for Human Trafficking Survivors

Erica Pugh, OTD, OTR/L, RYT-200; Nicole Lipset, OTS; & Juliana Montuoro, OTS

This presentation will identify areas in which occupational therapy (OT) can promote occupational justice for women who are survivors of human trafficking. A client-centered approach will be used to discover meaningful occupational engagement after trauma while in transitional housing.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Mindfulness at Work

Susan Persia, OTD, OTR/L; & Amy Carroll, OTD, OTR/L

Job burnout affects many OT practitioners. Mindfulness is a recognized approach to managing stress. This study evaluates aspects of the feasibility of a web-based mindfulness program designed for OT practitioners. It also examines the feasibility of the informal mindfulness strategies taught in the program.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Development of a Substance Abuse Recovery Friendly Campus

Judith Parker Kent, OTD, Ed.S., MS, OTR/L, FAOTA

This project examines the impact of educational program implementation on a university campus to reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders and increase the accessibility of recovery resources.

Poster - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Keynote Address – Ready, Set, Act...with True Urgency at 5:00pm

Wendy Hildenbrand, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA

In her 2022 Farewell Presidential Address, Wendy Hildenbrand discussed the threat of complacency and challenged occupational therapy professionals to act with true urgency to advance our profession in service to all people, populations, and communities. As we continue to navigate the next “normal” in our personal and professional lives, come ready to care for your heart, embrace your courage, and prepare to act with urgency.
Heritage Ballroom

Presidential Reception from 6:00-8:00pm

Come engage with the POTA Board over appetizers. Have an idea or group you want to learn more about? This time will be dedicated to the promotion of networking with other students and practitioners in the state. POTPAC will be holding a Silent Auction
Heritage Ballroom and Commonwealth

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 7:00 am

Professional Behaviors: A Panel Facilitated by the Commission on Education

Lauren Sponseller, PhD, OTD, MSOTR/L, MEd & Miranda Virone, OTD, MS, OTR/L-CTP

In this session, the Commission on Education will facilitate a discussion on best practice for professional behaviors. Defining

acceptable professional behaviors, the Commission will break down misconceptions and understanding of poor professional behaviors. Professional behaviors research will be analyzed.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Advocacy, Leadership, & Management

Licensure Board Update and Q&A

Joann Baird, PhD., OTR/L; Kerri Hample, OTD, OTR/L, FMCHC; Lisa Livingston, MS, OTR/L, SCDCM; Edward Mihelcic, PhD., OTR/L

Join the Licensure Board as they give updates on state licensure and answer any questions you may have about licensure. Conestoga Room

Occupational Impacts of Stress on Higher Education Faculty

Terri Dennehy, D.Ed, OTR/L; Lauren Griffiths, OTS; Natalie Magee, OTS; & Samantha Petela, Graduate Researcher

Stress is a universal human experience. Findings from a qualitative phenomenological study on the perceived stressors of higher education faculty and the impacts on occupational performance will be discussed. Implications for stress amelioration and considerations regarding work-life fit will be provided.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

A Multisource Feedback Approach to Facilitate Student Fieldwork Performance

Erica Pugh, OTD, OTR/L, RYT-200; Bridget Trivinia, OTD, MS, OTR/L; & Sheila Moyle, OTD, MOT, OTR/L;

Multisource feedback (MSF) advances occupational therapy (OT) practitioners' knowledge, skills, and supervision which are critical to student success and the future of OT. Specific feedback methods will be identified and applied to facilitate fieldwork educators' use of MSF methodologies.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 8:00 am

Plenary Session with POTA Board

**Members -
Collaboration and
Connection: Making
POTA Part of Your
Professional Journey**

Dawn Clayton Bieber, OTR/L; Puja Gellerman, OTR/L; Nicole Lavery, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP; LaRonda Lockhart-Keene, OTD, OTR/L, CLA; Danielle Makadon-Malone, OTD, OTR/L; Anne Brady Romaniw, OTD, OTR/L

The dynamic group of practitioners will share inspirational stories of connections and collaboration and inspire all of us to be involved and engaged as POTA members. Heritage Ballroom

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 9:00 am

Supervising Computer-Based Simulation in Occupational Therapy Education

Wendy Brzozowski, BS, COTA/L

Successful integration of virtual simulation into OT training that yields optimal learner

outcomes requires best practice guidelines for supervising the experience. Presenters will discuss a practical framework that includes tools to efficiently and effectively supervise virtual clinical simulation.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room -Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Sexuality: The Forgotten ADL

Megan Mueller, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation focuses on why and how OTPs can integrate sexuality into their practice with information on the unique role of OT within sexuality, the PLISSIT model, assessments, interventions, and advocacy.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Conestoga Room - Rehabilitation

Health Literacy in OT: Do You Know What I Mean?

Melissa Gett, OTD, OTR/L & Jodi Schreiber, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT

OT's have the skillset to help individuals adequately interpret/use health information to participate in their daily environments and health decisions. This session provides information needed for therapists to take a larger role in advocacy and engagement of health literacy management.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room, - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Interprofessional Practice: Collaboration Among Graduate Health Care Programs

Wendy Wachter-Schutz, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Kathleen Youse, PhD, CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDs; & Lori Felker, DHSc, PA-C

Four health programs collaborate interprofessionally in the classroom and clinic. This presentation will describe the

development of a foundational interprofessional course. Students learn collaborative practice skills for education and health care settings based on the Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competencies (IPEC 2011, 2016).

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room -Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 10:00 am

Occupational Therapy and Home Modifications

Christine Daeschner, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Rachel Koster, OTS; & Tiffany Gaydosh, OTS

The purpose of this session is to increase knowledge on home modifications that provide individuals the ability to reside at home safely and more independently. A variety of modifications will be explored, as well as an interactive experience with durable medical equipment.

Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes), Hickory Room - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Achieving Evidence-based Practice: Choosing Wisely, AND De-implementing Wisely

Mary Muhlenhaupt, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; E. Adel Herge, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Nike Adedoyin, OTS; & Nicole Tener, OTS

Updates and workshop activities help practitioners use AOTA's Choosing Wisely recommendations to promote evidence-based practices for their clients and reduce or eliminate ineffective interventions. Session includes opportunities to apply de-implementation methods and create an action plan to put into effect.

*Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes),
Conestoga Room - General Practice,
Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice*

Facilitating Sensory Regulation using Evidence-Based Practices

Janis Leinfuss, OTD, OTR/L; Erin O'Hara, OTR/L; & Amanda Newchok, MS, OTR/L

Original research evaluating the Ready to Learn and Play (RtLP) sensory regulation framework and its impact on occupational performance will be presented. Additionally, an overview of the RtLP framework for practical application will be included.

*Short Presentation (50 minutes),
Independence Room - Children & Youth*

Promoting Physical and Mental Health After Bariatric Surgery

Michelle McCann, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CBIS, PPSC

Bariatric surgery can provide life-saving advantages to clients with obesity. However, occupational therapy is still not standard-of-care in many bariatric clinics. Occupational therapy can be vital to help clients avoid physical and mental health complications.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 11:00 am

Transitioning Into the Role of Fieldwork Educator

Carrie Griffiths, OTD, OTR/L & Courtney Lancia, OTD, OTR/L

A critical shortage of fieldwork placements exists in Pennsylvania. This session highlights the qualifications, requirements, challenges, and benefits to supervising OT and OTA students in the hopes of increasing practitioners' willingness to take on the important role of fieldwork educator.

*Short Presentation (50 minutes),
Independence Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research*

Pennsylvania AOTA RA Update

Jennifer Dessoie, OTD, OTR/L, CLA;
Miranda Virone, OTD, MS, OTR/L-CTP

Meet the PA representatives and learn more about their role and how to engage with the AOTA RA.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room – General Practice

Saturday Morning Poster Sessions

7:00 am – 7:50 am

Social Skills Interventions for Females with ASD

Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L;
Savannah Barefoot, OTS; & Megan Thomson, OTS

This poster is a literature synthesis of the effectiveness of social skills training interventions for females with ASD. The literature finds equal effectiveness between genders, but does not account for social differences or the lived experiences of females with ASD.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Effective Transition Programs for Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities

Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L;
Izabella Dubiel, OTS; & Brielle Odd, OTS

A literature synthesis was conducted to determine effective transition planning programs for young adults with Intellectual Disabilities. There is limited current literature on this population, however technology, internships, and academic instruction are recurring themes.

Poster – Young Adult Transitioning

Rehabilitation of a Post-ECMO Covid-19 Patient with Multi-Limb Amputations

Kathryn Hop, MOTR/L

This case report will describe the acute rehabilitation of a young individual with severe Covid-19 complicated by ECMO and multi-limb amputations. It will highlight OT strategies, interdisciplinary collaboration, and patient-specific interventions.

Poster – Rehabilitation

9:00 am – 9:50 am

Reframing Emerging Practice Through a Social Entrepreneurial Lens

Retta Martin, Ed.D., MS, OTR/L & Mina Stollberg, OTS

This poster will reframe emerging practice into a social entrepreneurial framework. Using this framework, curriculum can be designed to include essential skills needed to recognize opportunities and be innovative in meeting the needs of individuals, communities, and populations.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Perception Versus Objective Functioning in Youth with AMPS

Miranda Powers, OTR/L

The purpose of this poster presentation is to share the findings of a retrospective cohort study which sought to quantify the relationship between perceived functional disability and objective physical performance measures among patients with AMPS to improve patient care.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Exploring Healthcare Now for High Quality Practitioners Later

Carrie Griffiths, OTD, OTR/L

The poster presentation will describe the pilot phase of a new program, the Healthcare Career Exploration Pathway, wherein middle and high school students begin exploring careers in occupational therapy and other health sciences.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Tools for Passing NBCOT Examination the First Time

Edward Mihelcic, PhD., MA, OTR/L

The purpose of this presentation is to provide OT graduates with the basic tools needed to pass the NBCOT examination on the first attempt. Graduates will obtain an understanding of how academic performance correlates with board certification results.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Healthcare Team Project: An Interprofessional Education (IPE) Opportunity

Amy Hudkins, DHSc, COTA/L; Kerri Golden, Ed.D., OTR/L; & Donald Walkovich, DHSc, OTR/L, FAOTA

An interprofessional education (IPE) project will be presented, along with benefits and student feedback/data.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

The Benefits of Nontraditional Level I Fieldwork Placements

Michael Fantuzzo, OTD, OTR/L, BCG; Ann B. Cook, Ed.D., OTD, OTR/L, CPAM; & Amanda Strouse, OTD, OTR/L

Nontraditional fieldwork placements offer a unique opportunity for students to obtain a variety of skills. This 50-minute session highlights faculty and student perspectives afforded by nontraditional fieldwork placements and emphasizes the benefits of these experiences for higher level clinical experiences.

Poster – Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

10:00 am – 10:50 am

Mirror Therapy and Upper Extremity Functioning Post-Stroke

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D., OTR/L; Marnie Monahan, OTS; Clare DiGiovanni, OTS; & Mary Bunone, OTS

This evidence-based research paper analyzes the effectiveness of mirror therapy (MT) for post-stroke upper extremity functioning. The research articles examined isolated MT interventions, MT compared to conventional rehabilitative interventions, and MT used in conjunction with and compared to other intervention methods.

Poster – Rehabilitation

The Relationship Between Grip Strength & Maximum Handling Abilities for Safe Floor-to-Waist or Low-Level Lifting: A Correlational Study

Andrew Miller, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, ATC/L, CFE

Grip strength is often used as a proxy for overall muscle strength and is widely accepted as a precursor to disability (Yorke, 2013). Currently, there is limited evidence correlating grip strength to lifting ability. As such, this study attempts to expand upon the current literature relating grip strength to an individual's ability to perform safe floor-to-waist, low-level lifts. This added knowledge can provide occupational therapy practitioners with evidence-based interventions, as well as utilizing grip strength as an outcome measure for functional capacity assessments.

Poster – Rehabilitation

Occupational Therapy Mindfulness Interventions for Adolescent mTBI Patients

Alexandra Caro, OTS; Taylor Lorio, OTS; Colleen Maher, OTD, CHT, OTR/L; & Geraldine Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L

This poster aims to present the results from a literature synthesis conducted to gather information on mindfulness-based interventions, specifically through the lens of occupational therapy, and their effectiveness with adolescents who suffered from an mTBI.

Poster – Rehabilitation

Taekwondo and Brain Injury Neurorehabilitation

Emily Bubel OTD, OTR/L & Melissa Yang, OTD

Occupational therapy (OT) plays a crucial role in brain injury neurorehabilitation, addressing functional deficits to increase occupational independence and assist with community reintegration. This literature review explores the potential impacts of taekwondo as an intervention for individuals with brain injury.

Poster – Rehabilitation

Cultural Humility: An Autoethnography of an OT Student

Adele Breen-Franklin, OTD, JD, OTR/L

This poster seeks to answer the question, “What is the experience of a doctoral OT student when being immersed in a cultural setting different from their own?” in order to identify emerging themes through reflexive journaling.

Poster – General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Sensory Based versus Behavioral Interventions on Maladaptive Behavior

Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L;
Olivia Ciraulo, OTS; Delaney McDonnell, OTS; & Colleen Maher, OTD, CHT, OTR/L

The purpose of this poster is to present the results of a literature synthesis that addresses the following question: In preschool-aged children with autism, what is the effect of sensory based interventions compared to behavioral interventions on maladaptive behaviors?

Poster – Children & Youth

11:00 am – 11:50 am

Lifestyle Redesign® and Female Survivors of Domestic Violence

Marlene Morgan, Ed.D., OTR/L; Emily D’Urso, OTS; & Joelle Cote, OTS

This evidence-based research project explored Lifestyle Redesign® as an effective occupational therapy intervention for women survivors of domestic violence.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Life-Skills Independence Functional Therapeutic Screen for Individuals with Developmental Disorders

The purpose of this presentation is to address gaps in functional independence using an occupational therapy informed screening tool, University of Pittsburgh Life-Skills Independence Functional Therapeutic Screen (UPLIFTS). Participants will be equipped to implement evidence-based strategies and maximize functional independence in individuals with developmental disorders within acute mental health settings.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Occupational Therapy Integrated into Homeless Programming at the VA

Bernadette Schmeltz, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, BCTS, DRS & Meghan Williams, OTS

This capstone project aimed to discover the efficacy of integrating occupational therapy into homeless programming at the Veteran Affairs (VA) to advocate for the homeless veteran population, assist with goal planning, and provide interventions to reach goals.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Factors Influencing Community Garden Sustainability in Philadelphia, PA

Emily Bubel, OTD, OTR/L & Laura Ciapetta, OTS

A number of challenges prevent individuals from establishing and maintaining community gardens for leisure participation. Through qualitative case study, this poster presentation explores factors influencing the sustainability of Philadelphia community

gardens for the purpose of developing a university-based community garden.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Telehealth Approach to Sleep Management Using Mindfulness Meditation

Nabila Enam, OTD, OTR/L

This poster presentation aims to disseminate findings from a doctoral capstone study that investigated the effectiveness of a telehealth mindfulness meditation program on sleep quality, sleep efficiency, and perceived stress in higher education students.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Effectiveness of a Mindfulness Program for Female Adolescents

Julie Nagle, OTD, OTR/L

This study explored the effectiveness of a four-week mindfulness program on self-esteem and quality of life in female adolescents. Outcomes were measured with the Youth Quality of Life Instrument and the Adolescent Self-Esteem Questionnaire.

Poster – Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Saturday 12:00 pm-2:00pm-Lunch

Annual Awards

Come join us for lunch and celebrate the award winners.

Heritage Ballroom

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 2:00 pm

Harvesting our Roots: OT in Serious Mental Illness

Tina DeAngelis, Ed.D., MS, OTR/L; Anabelle Scalora, OTD; & Sam Sutton, OTD

This session will focus on occupational therapy's role in serious mental illness (SMI) treatment/recovery. Participants will reflect on their knowledge of SMI and discuss strategies to empower individuals/groups to meaningfully participate in daily life in alignment with evidence and theory-based perspectives.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Mental Health, Addiction, & Wellness

Cultural Humility in Working with Diverse Learners

Rachel Popovich, MOT, OTR/L

Clinical education in occupational therapy faces cultural demands from both the workplace and the student. This presentation is designed for practitioners interfacing with students to examine their methods in a culturally relevant lens.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Independence Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Excessive Screen Use Among Children & Adolescents: The Slippery Slope Between Occupational Imbalance & Deprivation

Miranda Virone, OTD, MS, OTR/L-CTP

Participants will explore current trends in screen time use among youth. Traditional play and leisure activities become less desirable resulting in imbalance. Underdeveloped executive function skills in

youth can further tip the scale indefinitely toward deprivation of essential childhood occupations.

*Presentation (1 hour, 50 minutes),
Conestoga Room - Children & Youth*

Developing and Sustaining Community-Based Fieldwork Programs

Erica Pugh, OTD, OTR/L, RYT-200; & Jeanne M. Coviello, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will review the process of establishing Level I and Level II community-based fieldwork programs for Occupational Therapy students. Perceptions of the benefits and challenges will be provided by the academic program, community partners, fieldwork educators and students. Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

Saturday Sessions Beginning at 3:00 pm

disAbilities Ministries Fieldwork: Removing Barriers to Participation

Mindy MacRone-Wojton, DSc, OTR/L; Kaitlyn Lafferty, OTS; Sarah Rittenhouse, OTS; & Jordan Truntich, OTS

This session describes Level I fieldwork students' contributions to developing a community-based adaptive sports program for children and youth with disabilities. OT Students will describe their distinct value in removing barriers and creating opportunities for participation in physical activity.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Hickory Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research

How does a University Sensory Room impact its Students?

Erin Long, OTD, OTR/L; Lorie Rowles, OTD, MD, OTR/L; Kiley Papcun, OTS; & Emma Smith, OTS

As the impact of understanding one's neurodiversity and the ever-growing stressors of university life grows, the need for a sensory-inclusive university environment is apparent. This session will walk you through the development, implementation, and research regarding the effectiveness of a university sensory room. It will shed light on how the university sensory room impacts the student's perceived stress level.

*Short Presentation (50 minutes),
Independence Room - Academic, Fieldwork, & Research*

Impact of Practice Act on OT Practice in PA Lalit Shah, Ed.D. OTR/L

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pennsylvania occupational therapy Practice Act temporarily expanded to include reimbursement of services delivered via telehealth. A survey was conducted to explore the expansion and if telehealth remains a viable option for OT post-pandemic.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Federal Room - General Practice, Professional Issues, & Emerging Practice

Providing Teacher Education on Developmental Skills and Universal Design: A Tier One Approach to Intervention Paula McNamara, OTD, MS, OTR/L

An evidence-based Occupational Therapy program developed to educate Kinder/First Grade teachers on developmental skills to support universal design, via a tier one intervention within a Multi-Tiered System of

support, will be discussed. Research outcomes and future roles for OT will be highlighted.

Short Presentation (50 minutes), Walnut Room – Children & Youth

Saturday Afternoon Poster Sessions

2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

SENSE-able Teams: Interdisciplinary Perceptions of Sensory-Based Strategies
Lydia Navarro-Walker, OTD, OTR/L, CLA

This exploratory study investigated the supports and barriers to carrying over occupational therapy-led sensory-based strategies in early intervention classrooms. Focus groups captured the perspectives of teachers, teacher's assistants, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, and board-certified behavior analysts.

Poster – Children & Youth

Baby Led Weaning or Puree Weaning: What's Best?

Adrian Whitmoyer, MS, OTR/L

This presentation reviews the available research to answer the question, "Does the baby led weaning method enhance positive mealtime routines of families transitioning infants to solid foods more so than a traditional spoon-feeding method of weaning?"

Poster – Children & Youth

Nutrition Learning using Multi-sensory Approaches in Preschool Classrooms
Bernadette Schmeltz, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, BCTS, DRS

Implementing multi-sensory activities in the preschool learning environment can increase students' knowledge about nutrition and willingness to try new, healthy foods. Attendees will be provided with many examples of multi-sensory nutrition education activities to implement to the pediatric population.

Poster – Children & Youth

Benefits of Massage on Feeding for Preterm Infants

Nina Calzaretto, OTS; Abigail Perez, OTS; Courtney Gorsuch, OTS; Geraldine Healy Marini, OTD, MS, OT/L; & Colleen Maher, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

This literature synthesis focuses on the benefits of infant massage on feeding for preterm infants. Preterm infants commonly face a detrimental stunt on their feeding development. The results demonstrate that infant massage leads to positive outcomes for preterm infants.

Poster – Rehabilitation

Health Management Strategies of Individual with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome

Joanna Behm, Ed.D., MS, OTR/L

Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) is a common form of dysautonomia in which symptoms negatively impact the quality of life and make health management challenging. This study examines what health management strategies support increased quality of life.

Poster – Rehabilitation

Exhibitors



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