



2020 WROTSS PRESENTER DIRECTORY

Thank You to Our Presenters

The 2020 WROTSS Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the 2020 WROTSS presenters for sharing their knowledge with attendees, and for taking time away from their professional careers and personal lives to prepare for, travel to, and present. Their dedication to serving the profession is highly commendable.

Please thank our presenters.

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Terminology/Acronyms

ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis	MHSIS	Mental Health Special Interest Section
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	NDT	Nondestructive Testing
ALS	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	NOTA	Nevada Occupational Therapy Assoc.
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Assoc.	OTAC	Occupational Therapy Assoc. of California
AOTF	American Occupational Therapy Found.	OTD	Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
ASHT	American Society of Hand Therapists	OTFP	Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice
CBOT	California Board of Occupational Therapy	OTTP	Occupational Therapy Training Program
CMC	Carpometacarpal	PNF	Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation
CSU	California State University	RSD	Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
DHS	Doctor of Health Science	RSNA	Radiological Society of North America
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center	SCERTS	Social Communication/Emotional Regulation/Transactional Support
IPC	Interprofessional Collaboration	SSG	Special Services for Groups
JWCH	John Wesley County Hospital	SIPT	Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests
LGBTQ+	Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transsexual/Queer+	WRAP	Wellness Recovery Action Plan
MND	Motor Neurone Disease		



Kimberly Addon, BSHS, MOTS, earned a bachelor's degree in health science studies with a minor in Spanish and a master's degree in occupational therapy. She served on the AOTA Assembly of Student Delegates, using this role to expand political awareness and advocacy efforts within the Quinnipiac occupational therapy program. She also used her experiences as part of the Assembly of Student Delegates to host a student occupational therapy conference. In 2019, Addon presented a TED Talk titled "Redefining Support for Families of Children with Autism," which describes her experiences of growing up with an older sister who has autism. These life experiences led her to the development of a new therapeutic model that includes a focus on family occupations and mental health. Addon plans on applying to PhD programs and completing research to demonstrate the efficacy of her proposed therapeutic model.

Session 73 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Melina Allahverdian, MA, OTS, graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and completed a master's degree in occupational science and occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She is currently completing her clinical residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. Allahverdian primarily works with clients in the chronic headache, post-concussion, pain management, and weight management Lifestyle Redesign® programs. She is motivated to help clients find balance in their lives and establish routines that help promote health and wellness and make space for the occupations that they most value.

Session 51 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Evelyn Andersson, PhD, OTR/L, is a full-time associate professor for Midwestern University's Occupational Therapy Program. She received a Certificate in Occupational Therapy at Munksjaskolan, Sweden in 1979, University Certificate in Higher Education at Uppsala University, Sweden in 1986, Master of Science in occupational therapy administration and pediatrics at Columbia University in 1994, and PhD in occupational therapy at Texas Woman's University in 2004. Andersson began teaching in 1987 and has held teaching positions at several universities before joining Midwestern University in 2008. She has more than 20 years' experience from a variety of pediatric occupational therapy settings. Her areas of research include autism spectrum disorders, family-centered services, sensory processing, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Andersson has presented on topics related to education and pediatric occupational therapy at state, national and international conferences.

Session 58 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 10:30am



Luis Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, earned a doctoral degree in occupational therapy from the University of Saint Augustine in Saint Augustine, FL, and an MS degree in rehabilitation sciences from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. He is an accomplished OT practitioner with many years of experience in clinical practice and administration/management. Arabit is Board Certified in Neurorehabilitation & Physical Rehabilitation and holds certifications in NDT, PNF, and the Affolter Concept. He is a published author, writer, and speaker at state, national, and international OT conferences on topics related to occupational therapy and rehabilitation. He is a former vice president of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC), and was the recipient of the OTAC 2016 Janice Matsusuyu Outstanding Service award and the OTAC 2013 Luella Grangaard Political Action award. He is currently serving as the Region V Director of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC).

Session 84 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Amy Armstrong-Heimsoth, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant clinical professor for the Department of Occupational Therapy at Northern Arizona University on the Phoenix Biomedical Campus. She obtained a master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California and a post-professional doctorate degree from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Armstrong-Heimsoth also obtained a graduate certificate in Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health. She has 22 years of clinical pediatric occupational therapy experience, and her research interests include neurodevelopmental disabilities, influences of trauma on development, empowerment through health literacy, and foster care youth. She is a past president of the Arizona Occupational Therapy Association and is a board member for Opportunity, Community & Justice for Kids, which serves foster care youth in Arizona.

Session 44 - Saturday, March 7, 4:15pm to 5:15pm



Jessica Azzam, OTS, earned a Bachelor of Science in health science at California State University, Fullerton, CA. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in occupational therapy at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California, with an expected graduation date of November 2020.

Session 70 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Amber Bennett, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California, where she holds administrative and teaching roles. She also provides services to patients at Keck Hospital of USC in acute, critical care, and inpatient rehabilitation settings.

Session 38 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 4:00pm



Casey Blaesing, OTS, is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Northern Arizona University, College of Health and Human Services. She has research experience in analyzing the effectiveness of transition programs for youth aging out of the foster care system. Her current research interests include pediatric oncology and neurodevelopmental disabilities and how these affect individuals' overall mental and behavioral health; foster care youth; and the impact of practicing therapy with and without a language barrier. Blaesing also has an interest in the importance of motivational interviewing. She has volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club and Opportunity, Community, & Justice for Kids, which serves foster care youth in Arizona. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in health and human physiology with minors in Spanish, psychology, and aging studies from the University of Iowa.

Session 44 - Saturday, March 7, 4:15pm to 5:15pm



Deborah Bolding, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is an assistant professor, San José State University (SJSU), and occupational therapy practitioner at the Farewell to Falls Program, Stanford Healthcare. She is a Stepping On instructor and master trainer and has studied public transportation needs and walker use in the community-dwelling older adult population. She is a member of the San José Age-Friendly Cities Advisory Council and SJSU's Center for Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations.

Session 4 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm



Elyse Borst, COTA/L, graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science, initially intending on pursuing physical therapy. She was convinced to continue her education in occupational therapy after graduating. She then finished the occupational therapy assistant program at CBD College, during which she completed a fieldwork II placement in a hand therapy clinic. It was here she discovered her passion and decided to pursue hand therapy. Currently, Borst works at UCLA in an outpatient clinic under two certified hand therapists and part-time at an inpatient rehab.

Session 36 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



My Bui, MS, OTR/L, received a Masters of Science in occupational therapy and has been a school-based practitioner in various districts. She has led many projects that involve designing therapy rooms and classrooms with a focus on prevention and remediation to increase overall wellness and independence in a multisensory approach. She just completed her most recent and significant project, in a collaborative effort with her co-workers, to develop the OT policies and procedures for the district. Bui is currently working on another project that consists of networking with local business to create new programs for the high school students in the transition program to provide additional opportunities for them to maximize their learning potential. Her professional goal is to take a holistic approach in promoting OT in schools district-wide through advocacy, education, and empowerment.

Session 39 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 4:00pm



Tessa Burt, OTS, is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Northern Arizona University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Arizona State University and a master's degree in teaching from Northern Arizona University. After teaching for five years, she began a doctoral program where she engaged in research to improve supports for youth in foster care. Burt's research interests include cognitive development, foster care youth, and resilience.

Session 44 - Saturday, March 7, 4:15pm to 5:15pm



Erin Bussell, OTR/L, MA, graduated from Pepperdine University with a bachelor's degree in sports medicine and received a master's degree in occupational therapy from USC. She is a doctoral resident at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. Bussell primarily works with clients to implement lifestyle changes to manage a variety of chronic conditions, including anxiety, stress, ADHD, overweight/obesity, and diabetes, and individuals with Autism. At USC Keck Medical Centers, she is involved in coordinating an interdisciplinary team to improve diabetes-related care with multiple outpatient services. Bussell also provides ergonomic services to USC employees at multiple locations throughout Los Angeles.

Session 17 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Brynn Butzman, OTD, OTR/L, is a recent graduate from Touro University in Henderson, NV. After receiving a Touro University Student-Mentored Research Grant, she focused her studies on child-based emerging practice areas to promote community-based programming. Butzman is continuing her work in aquatic occupational therapy through clinical practice and research with the establishment of her community-based private practice, Ocean of Change Therapy Services.

Session 72 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Paulina Calli, OTS, is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Northern Arizona University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Arizona State University. After graduation, she was employed for two years as a patient care technician at a rehabilitation hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado, before beginning a doctoral program where she was involved in research for improved support for youth in foster care. Calli's research interests include cognitive development, foster care youth, sensory processing and integration, and mental health. She has experience in developing a research protocol, analyzing data, and coding themes to understand the effectiveness of transition programs for youth in the foster care system.

Session 44 - Saturday, March 7, 4:15pm to 5:15pm

Presenter Directory



Patricia Castellan, OTR/L, is a graduate of The University of Hartford and has over 16 years' experience as an occupational therapy practitioner. Although she has worked in both home health and skilled nursing settings, her passion has been working in the schools. Castellan has been working in telehealth since 2015 and is currently a clinical quality manager with Presence Learning.

Session 13 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Jenny Clark, OTR/L, has helped children in the past 30 years as a licensed pediatric occupational therapy practitioner. Her work has encompassed being a speaker, consultant, private practitioner at her clinic (Jenny's Kids, Inc.), school-based occupational therapy practitioner, independent contractor for early intervention services, author, and inventor. Clark also holds certification from Aura Wellness Center as a Kid's Yoga Teacher. Her passion for developing new approaches to therapy can be seen in her diverse contributions to the field, including Learn to Move, Move to Learn (AAPC 2004) and Learn to Move, Moving Up! (AAPC 2009). She is the inventor of the Letter Treasure Hunt handwriting game (Therapro 2014). Clark is known for engaging people to 'think outside the box' inspiring countless creative ideas.

Session 22 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Shaun Conway, senior director, external and regulatory services, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT), is a certified occupational therapy practitioner. He has worked in his current position at NBCOT for over 26 years. In this capacity, he is responsible for the oversight of organizational functions related to state regulation, international regulatory services, and community outreach.

Session 53 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Donna Costa, DHS, OTR/L, FAOTA, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 46 years with expertise in the practice areas of mental health and academic education. She is a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and currently a director on the AOTA Board of Directors, as well as a member of the AOTA Representative Assembly's Opioid Drug Abuse Ad Hoc Committee. Costa has written three books on fieldwork education – The Essential Guide to Fieldwork Education (2004, 2015) and Clinical Supervision in Occupational Therapy (2007), and has served as an associate editor and chapter author for the Sixth Edition of The Occupational Therapy Manager. She has also written numerous articles for OT Practice. At present Costa is the founding program director and associate professor of the Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Session 14 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am

Session 57 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Lisa Costa, MS, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 10 years. She graduated from Touro College School of Health Sciences in Bayshore, New York, and has many years of experience in various settings, such as early intervention, outpatient pediatrics, skilled nursing facilities, and inpatient rehabilitation. The knowledge and skills she has learned over the years have prepared her for the opportunity to work in mental health practice. Over the last two years, Costa has successfully developed outpatient/community-based occupational therapy services in a public health setting. She currently works as a full-time contract occupational therapy practitioner for Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) where she works with young adults and older adults with serious mental illness in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Session 14 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Laura Cox, OTD, OTR/L, earned a master's and a doctorate in occupational therapy at USC and a bachelor's in kinesiology at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She completed a residency in the primary clinics of Keck Medicine of USC and the USC OT Faculty Practice. Cox is a clinical faculty member at the USC OT Faculty Practice providing Lifestyle Redesign® services to patients with chronic conditions, including diabetes, chronic headaches, chronic pain, mental health diagnoses, and more. Cox provides these services within a primary care clinic where she is colocated with internal medicine physicians, offering a multidisciplinary medical center for patients.

Session 27 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Patricia Crist, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is a retired educator with extensive speaking experience internationally and nationally in the areas of fieldwork education, mental health, and recently, resilience and sustainability. She has numerous book chapters, monographs, and texts related to enhancing OT practice across her 46+ years of practice. Crist is or has been a reviewer for three U.S. publications and one international. She has served as president of NBCOT, The AOTA Board of Directors, the AOTA Education Special Interest Section, and the AOTA Commission on Education as well as numerous state organization activities. She opened one of the first five-year, entry-level BS/MSOT programs in the U.S. and one of the first 10 OTD programs while serving as faculty at Colorado State, Texas Tech, Duquesne University, and recently, Northern Arizona where she retired in 2018. Currently, Crist is engaging in university and community consultation, development, mentoring, and coaching.

Session 34 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm



Karen Crum, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, has been practicing lymphedema management as an occupational therapy practitioner for more than four years as a professor of clinical occupational therapy at Keck Hospital of USC. She received her clinical doctorate in occupational therapy and has an ongoing interest in partnering with patients to help them self-manage the chronic condition of lymphedema.

Session 60 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am



Rebecca Cunningham, OTD, OTR/L, MSCS, received master's and clinical doctorate of occupational therapy degrees from the University of Southern California. Her clinical residency was completed at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she provided Lifestyle Redesign® services and focused on further development of the Lifestyle Redesign® program for individuals living with multiple sclerosis. As a clinical faculty member at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, Cunningham works with clients in the multiple sclerosis, chronic pain and headaches, and mental health programs, and is a member of the USC Multiple Sclerosis multidisciplinary team.

Session 1 - Friday, March 6, 12:00pm to 3:15pm

Session 59 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am

Session 82 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Mariana D'Amico, EdD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, has practiced and taught clinically in occupational therapy for over 30 years in a variety of settings with people across the life span (newborn to 107 years). Areas of specialty include early intervention, school-based practice, low vision, sensory integration, and community mental health. She has taught academically for almost 20 years in Kentucky, Georgia, and now in the OTD program at Nova Southeastern University-Tampa. She was part of the founding faculty for the OT department at Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky. She presented on many topics at local, state, regional, national, and international conferences and programs for occupational therapy practitioners, educators, parents, and care providers. She has mentored several student research projects across a variety of topics related to mental health, early intervention, sensory processing, rehabilitation, education, and leadership. D'Amico has several publications in refereed journals and newsletters and she serves as an associate editor on the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, and reviewer for the British Journal of Occupational Therapy.

Session 25 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Akemi McNeil Davies, MA, OTR/L, SIPT, enjoys working as an academic fieldwork educator, consulting with families, and supporting pediatric practice. As a clinician, she worked with children in various settings for over 10 years. Seeing a need for more parent support, she developed and presented workshops focused on supporting families on child development in the home environment.

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Kathlyn-Ann Decena, OTS, is a master of occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University. With three years of experience in volunteering and observing adults in rehabilitation, she is interested in working with adults in an inpatient and outpatient setting.

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Danielle Delorenzo, MSOT, OTR/L, has a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, postgraduate studies in infant mental health, and is currently enrolled at the University of St. Augustine pursuing dual doctorate degrees in education and occupational therapy. She is the lead occupational therapy practitioner at Rialto Unified School District and adjunct professor/thesis advisor for the MSOT program at Stanbridge University. She has over 18 years of experience within special education in a variety of roles such as paraprofessional, preschool teacher, early intervention ABA therapist and supervisor, early intervention and school-based occupational therapy practitioner, early intervention target evaluation team-occupational therapist, program development consultant, and educational trainer in the areas of sensory processing and fine motor development.

Session 39 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 4:00pm



Jesus Diaz, OTD, OTR/L, was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and was raised in Los Angeles, California. He completed his undergraduate, master's, and clinical doctorate degrees at the University of Southern California, where he is currently an associate professor of research. His research focuses on Lifestyle Redesign® for chronic conditions to improve quality of life and clinical outcomes. Diaz is particularly interested in motivational interviewing, diversity in OT, and working with underserved populations.

Session 74 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Bianca Doherty, OTD, OTR/L, completed a Master of Science in occupational therapy (Post-Reg) at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Before coming to the U.S., she worked in Ireland in primary care, and in community-based settings in Scotland with autistic adults. She completed a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) at the University of Southern California (USC), including a clinical residency at the USC University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Here she worked with families from underserved communities around Los Angeles with children with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health challenges. Doherty also completed the USC Sensory Integration Hands-On Clinical Training Program (OT610), and the California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (CA-LEND) program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Her doctoral project focused on the preliminary development of a self-advocacy discipline at CA-LEND in collaboration with the National Association of University Centers on Disabilities. She is currently a faculty member at the University of St. Augustine for health sciences, where she teaches foundational OT courses and mental health in the master's and doctorate programs.

Session 32 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm

Presenter Directory



Allen Espelita, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CEAS1, CPAM, was born and raised in the Philippines. He has a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy from the Philippines and earned his Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate in May 2019. Espelita has a diverse clinical experience spanning 20 years in pediatrics (hospital and school-based), office ergonomics, teaching, and adult outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation. He is Certified Neurodevelopmental Treatment-Adult (NDT), Certified VitalStim Plus Provider for both Adult and Pediatrics, Certified Ergonomics Assessment Specialist level I, Certified Physical Agent Modalities, Certified Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Big (LSVT-BIG) and post-professional Dysphagia.

Session 84 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



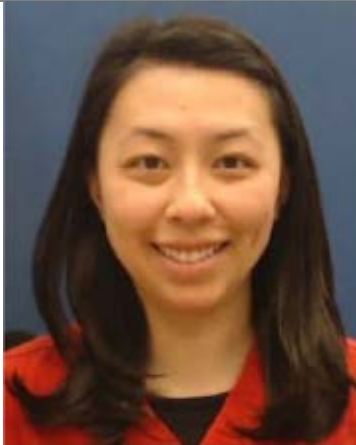
Lauren Espinoza, MA, OTR/L, is a current OTD student, completing a residency with the USC Keck School of Medicine Street Medicine team. She is excited to be the first occupational therapy practitioner to serve on a street medicine team, which provides primary care to the 'rough sleeper' population. Having grown up in Los Angeles, California, Espinoza understands the pervasive need for homeless health care and is excited to bring occupational therapy to the table as a provider in this emerging field.

Session 11 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Mary Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA, SCD (Hon), served as president of the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT) and chaired CBOT's Committee on Disaster Preparedness/Response. She also served as president of the Occupational Therapy Association of California and the American Occupational Therapy Association, as well as a USA Delegate to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. She also has the distinction of serving as the deputy assistant secretary of health at the Department of Health and Human Services during the Reagan Administration, the highest position ever held by an occupational therapy practitioner in any federal administration.

Session 78 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 3:30pm



Jessica Fong, OTR/L, graduated in 2014 with a master's degree in occupational therapy from Touro University Nevada. She has worked primarily with the adult/geriatric population in acute care, skilled nursing, outpatient rehabilitation, and home health.

Session 18 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Jonnie Galvan, OTR/L, gained insight into at-risk populations through volunteer work with malnourished and special needs orphans. She has participated in disaster relief across the United States. After realizing the depth of the need in vulnerable populations, she left her business career in human resources, management, and employee development to become an occupational therapy practitioner. Galvan's graduate research looked at the impact of domestic violence on the domains of development. She currently works for Loma Linda University Health as an occupational therapy practitioner. She works closely with children exposed to trauma in the foster care system. She used her knowledge in trauma as a foundational form of practice while working in the school system. She discovered the most significant predictor of success was addressing trauma and resilience. She regularly works in the capacity of a clinical fieldwork instructor.

Session 81 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Ginny Gibson, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, is an occupational therapy practitioner and certified hand therapist teaching at Samuel Merritt University in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She is an occupational and speech therapy management coordinator at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, where she continues to treat children with upper extremity impairment.

Session 56 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Don Gordon, OTR/L, PhD, has been studying behavior for nearly 40 years. His studies began in 1980 at UC Santa Cruz, where he researched animal behavior. He went on to attend the University of Southern California, graduating with an MA in occupational therapy and completing a PhD. Since 2000 he has worked in both physical disabilities and psychiatric settings, providing him with a unique experiential background to understand the intersection of the world of mental health with physical disabilities practice. Gordon has also taught a wide variety of classes for the University of Southern California Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Southern California Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, where he teaches and works in acute care.

Session 15 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Sabrina Gowette, OTS, is currently finishing her third year in the occupational therapy doctorate program at Touro University Nevada, where her doctoral capstone project is focused on education and curriculum development in higher education. She completed level II fieldwork experiences at NeuroRestorative and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, where she worked with numerous clients with serious mental illness and traumatic brain injuries. At this year's NOTA conference on mental health in occupational therapy, Gowette presented two poster presentations, one on the importance of occupational therapy in mental health, and one on the effects of social support on self-efficacy of LGBTQ+ adolescents. She hopes to pursue a career in mental health upon graduation to help fill a need in occupational therapy mental health services in southern Nevada. Previously, she completed a master's degree in family and human development from Arizona State University.

Session 50 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Rebecca Grantham, OTR/L, is a graduate of The University of Mississippi with over 10 years of experience. She started her career in Mississippi as an outpatient practitioner working in a variety of clinical settings for two years. She moved to California and started working at UCLA in 2013. During her career, she has worked extensively with multiple populations, including pediatrics, geriatrics, neurological, and orthopedics. Grantham introduced the dynamic thumb stability program to the hand therapy department that was presented at an ASHT conference in order to increase awareness and knowledge of thumb CMC osteoarthritis and appropriate assessment guidelines. She continues her work in hand therapy and applying her clinical knowledge to enhance patient education in keeping up with current functional activity trends.

Session 36 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Juliana Gutierrez, OTD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner with over 30 years of experience working with the pediatric population with varying diagnoses. She continues to work with the pediatric population but is also working with adults with different functioning levels of autism spectrum disorder. She completed a master's and clinical doctorate at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. Gutierrez also has advanced practice approval in feeding and swallowing. She is a certified clinician in sensory integration theory, evaluation, and treatment, as well as in the neurodevelopment treatment approach. She currently works as a supervisor of clinical practice at Therapy West, Inc. and has lectured nationally and internationally.

Session 77 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 4:30pm



Madison Harris, OTD, MA, OTR/L, is a board-certified occupational therapy practitioner and Los Angeles, California native. She earned a Master of Arts in occupational therapy in 2017, and a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2018, all from the University of Southern California (USC). She has always had a passion for working with athletes, specifically those who are recovering from an injury or transitioning into retirement. During her undergraduate studies, Harris worked closely with the USC football team, serving as an intern athletic trainer for the team. She completed a doctoral residency with the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT program developing an occupational therapy program focused on addressing symptom management with pediatric patients who have sustained a concussion. Harris continues to combine her love for pediatrics, sports, and occupational therapy, helping children return to the activities they want and need to do daily after injury.

Session 40 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Annette Hatala, OTD, OTR/L, a former homeschooler, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 2006. She has worked with various populations, from children to adults in mental health and physical disabilities settings. Her specialties include nature-based therapies, and she is a certified Watsu practitioner, a water-based modality. In 2016 she founded Life's Toolbox, a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit that utilizes therapeutic crafts, horticulture based interventions, and aquatic therapy for after school programs and community classes for all ages and abilities. Their motto is "Gaining Life Skills One Activity at a Time." Hatala shares her knowledge with others through teaching as an adjunct professor and thesis adviser at Stanbridge University, is a clinical instructor for level II interns at Life's Toolbox, provides in-person and internet presentations and classes and volunteers at the Long Beach VA vocational department patient garden by assisting veterans and other volunteers with special needs.

Session 26 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Presenter Directory



Kate Hayner, EdD, OTR/L, is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Samuel Merritt University. She teaches courses related to the pathophysiology of a disease, and disability and treatment in addition to her administrative responsibilities. She has published research about taping for shoulder subluxation and has presented on the topic nationally and internationally for over 25 years. Hayner continues to treat adult clients with physical disabilities.

Session 56 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Raheema Hemraj, MS, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner with the Farewell to Falls Program at Stanford Health Care. She is a trained instructor for the evidence-based fall-prevention programs, Stepping On and A Matter of Balance. Hemraj was formerly clinical care director at SafelyYou, a startup to reduce falls in dementia care using artificial intelligence and human care, working directly with memory care communities as they implemented SafelyYou's fall-prevention products. She has experience in home care and worked for 10 years as an accessibility consultant to assist with aging in place. She holds a BA in gerontology and psychology and a BA in sociology from McMaster University, a BSc in occupational therapy from Queen's University, and a post-professional MS in occupational therapy from San José State University.

Session 4 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm



Angie Higa, OTS, is a master's of occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University. She was born with Spina Bifida and hopes to help others achieve optimal independence and fulfilling lives. Higa is interested in specializing in pediatrics.

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Agnes Hirai, MA, OTR/L, PAM, HTC, is an assistant rehabilitation services manager at LAC+USC Medical Center. She is in charge of the occupational therapy program at a safety net hospital in a large urban setting where she has worked for 22 years. Hirai has worked in all areas of the hospital and specializes in the outpatient care of burn patients. She received a master's degree from USC in occupational therapy in 1990 and has worked in various settings.

Session 24 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Sherry Hite, MOT, OTR/L, is the Occupational Therapy Department manager at City of Hope National Medical Center, one of the leading National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S. Her practice is focused exclusively on the oncology setting, and she is a frequent speaker on the crucial and expanding role of OT in oncology. Hite is involved in various research studies and manages doctoral-level research and quality improvement projects. She serves on the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force for the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and has presented at the state and national level on topics including cognitive impairments in oncology, comprehensive breast cancer rehabilitation, managing delirium in the ICU and sexuality in oncology. Hite is chair of the OTAC Professional Development and Leadership Committee and was honored in 2019 with the OTAC Janice Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award.

Session 37 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Serena Hobson, OTS, graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in psychology and from USC with a master's degree in occupational therapy. She is currently completing a clinical doctorate of occupational therapy at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she works with clients in the college student, weight management, chronic headache, ergonomics, life coaching, and mental health Lifestyle Redesign[®] programs. At USC's Engemann Student Health Center, Hobson provides occupational therapy consultations to undergraduate and graduate students. She collaborates with clients to improve their quality of life through the development of health-promoting habits and routines.

Session 17 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Stephanie Hoffman, MS, OTR/L, completed a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy at USC in 1999, and a master's degree in occupational therapy at San Jose State University in 2015. She has been providing occupational therapy services to clients of all ages and backgrounds and their families in Los Angeles County for the past 19 years at SSG-OTTP in community-based mental health. Hoffman was instrumental in expanding the target population at OTTP to include children age five to 13 in 2002 as they had initially served only high school age teens. She also serves as the occupational therapy manager and training coordinator, and has been a fieldwork educator for numerous OT students. Hoffman has played a role in developing innovative therapy groups at OTTP, such as the Equine Facilitated Therapy Group, the Tennis Group, and the Food Fitness Group. She also serves as co-chair for the Greater Los Angeles Mental Health Practice Network.

Session 41 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Judy Hopkins, OTD, OTR/L, CLE, has 22 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner specializing in pediatric feeding and swallowing in medically complex children. She works at Children's Hospital Los Angeles on the acute team. Her areas of expertise include pediatric feeding and swallowing, modified barium swallow studies, lactation support, high-risk infant, and critical care. Hopkins has developed several innovative programs to meet the needs of children with chronic illness. She is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences. Passionate about working with children with feeding disorders, she enjoys sharing her medical knowledge and intervention strategies with occupational therapy practitioners and other professionals to equip them to bring children from diagnosis to dinnertime.

Session 80 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Lynette Ingram, OTR/L, CLE, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner with over 30 years of experience. She has worked for Los Angeles County California Children's Services (CCS) for most of her career. She has also worked in hospital and school-based settings. Ingram currently works part-time for Harbor Regional Center, providing occupational therapy services to children zero to 3 years of age with Down syndrome. She is the mother of 16-year-old boy-girl twins, and her daughter has Down syndrome. Ingram started adapting clothing for her daughter to improve her independence with dressing and toileting, as she had learned how to sew in OT school many years ago. She has shared her techniques with some of the families she serves at CCS and has been encouraged by these families to share this information with others on a larger scale.

Session 21, Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Presenter Directory



Michael Iwama, PhD, MSc, BScOT, BScHP, is dean of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and professor of occupational therapy at MGH Institute of Health Professionals. He is widely recognized for having developed the “Kawa Model” (‘Kawa’ is Japanese for river), the first substantial model of practice in the rehabilitation sciences developed outside the English-speaking world. He is a very important and progressive thinker in the fields of occupational therapy and rehabilitation sciences worldwide.

Session 10 - Saturday, March 7, 8:00am to 9:00am

Session 54 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Heather Javaherian, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is an associate professor and program director at Loma Linda University. She graduated with a doctorate from Creighton University in 2004. Her research and practice areas include domestic violence, end of life care, primary care, and education. Javaherian provides pro bono services and supervises level I and II students in domestic violence settings. She is co-founder of Roots Down, Inc., a nonprofit for survivors of domestic violence. Javaherian has presented at regional, state, and national levels on domestic violence and has written several publications in this area. She has served the profession at the national level in the AOTA Education SIS and the state levels as a regional director in Ohio and currently as an officer for the Occupational Therapy Association of California. In April 2019, Javaherian was named to the roster of Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Session 61 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am



Cristina Jones, OTS, is a master's of occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University. After 10 years of experience in special education, she is interested in continuing her work as a practitioner in pediatrics for a school district.

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC) and appointed faculty at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Jones has over 12 years of pediatric experience working in homes, schools, clinics, and community settings with advanced training in sensory integration and feeding disorders. She has a passion for including families in intervention and providing client-centered and culturally relevant care. Jones has presented at the national and local levels to occupational therapy practitioners and interdisciplinary audiences.

Session 79 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 3:30pm



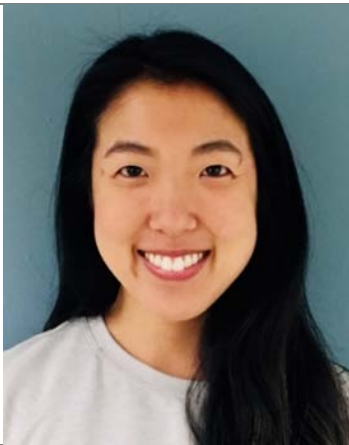
Rushin Khatibi, OTS, earned a Bachelor of Science in health sciences on the track for community health education at California State University of Long Beach. She is currently a Master of Science in occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. Khatibi is the current president of the Stanbridge University Student Occupational Therapy Association. She also works as a rehabilitation aide in an outpatient physical therapy setting, working with populations ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics.

Session 70 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Joyce Khowdee, OTD, OTR/L, currently works as an occupational therapy practitioner at the Center for Restorative Neurology at Loma Linda Medical Center as part of their multidisciplinary team clinic. They provide care for individuals with neurological diseases and disorders, including individuals with ALS/MND. Khowdee works to bring novel and innovative equipment, treatment, and approaches to the clinic to provide client-centered care and support to those that often face debilitating and progressive impairments. Starting her career as an elementary school teacher has proved to have many advantages and has allowed for the utilization of crucial teaching and education strategies into practice. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Riverside and a teaching credential from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She continued her education and received a master's degree (MOT) and Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) from Loma Linda University.

Session 86 - Sunday, March 8, 3:45pm to 4:45pm



Jenny Kim, MA, OTR/L, is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts in communication and a minor in cultural studies (2009), and a Master of Arts in occupational therapy (2014). She has been working as an occupational therapy practitioner specializing in hand therapy since 2016 and has been with UCLA since 2017. Education on conservative management of osteoarthritis has become a passionate endeavor. Her focus remains steady on growing her skill set as a clinician while staying curious and open-minded. Through UCLA's wellness programming, she has had the pleasure of leading wellness talks and is a certified yoga instructor teaching yoga for faculty staff.

Session 36 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Lynn Kim, OTD, OTR/L, is a three-time USC graduate, earning a Bachelor of Arts in cinematic arts (2010), a Master of Arts in occupational therapy (2016), and a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (2017). Kim works at the City of Hope National Medical Center, primarily with the hematology population undergoing stem cell transplants. Her doctoral work focused on the development of an OT-specific assessment and treatment protocol for sexuality, and she has presented at the state and national levels on this topic. She is passionate about incorporating psychosocial care into daily clinical practice and has been recently trained in applying cognitive behavioral therapy in cancer supportive care.

Session 37 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Stephanie Kokesh, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and instructor for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at CBD College and is the secretary for the Los Angeles OT Leadership Forum. She continues to work in acute care as an occupational therapy practitioner at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Kokesh enjoys physical rehabilitation practice, particularly as related to neurological injury, and addressing sexual health within OT. Kokesh received her clinical doctorate from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Session 5 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm



Frank Kronenberg, PhD, BScOT, BA Ed, is affiliated with the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He is also an adjunct faculty in occupational therapy programs in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe. Kronenberg is one of the editors and authors of *Occupational Therapies Without Borders* and a proponent of the political practice of occupational therapy. He is also the chair of the board of directors of a Cape Town-based nonprofit organization, Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS. Grounded in the 'global south,' his PhD informs and advances an understanding of being human as occupation and health.

Session 10 - Saturday, March 7, 8:00am to 9:00am

Session 35 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Dragana Krpalek, PhD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner with a Doctor in Philosophy (2012) from the University of Queensland, Australia. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Loma Linda University, California. She has provided occupational therapy services in Australia and Haiti and presently, the U.S. She has also supervised doctorate and PhD students, provided clinical supervision, and worked across various interdisciplinary teams. Her teaching responsibilities are focused on supporting student and faculty researchers in designing and implementing research investigations. For the past five years, Krpalek's clinical work was centered in primary care. She has been facilitating support groups within a lifestyle medicine setting since January 2019.

Session 71 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Dawn Kurakazu, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 22 years. She has a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from USC and is currently pursuing her doctorate in occupational therapy. Kurakazu has experience in inpatient and outpatient adult and pediatric services. She has been a senior practitioner at LAC-USC Medical Center for 12 years, where she has also been the primary OT for the LAC-USC Regional Burn Center for six years.

Session 24 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Jessica Kussman, OTRL, a 2019 graduate, completed a level IIB rotation at SSG/OTTP. Throughout her program, she has developed a passion for working with clients with mental health diagnoses in both inpatient and outpatient settings. With a background in education from her home state of North Carolina, Kussman hopes to utilize knowledge gained from previous experiences to work with both children and adults diagnosed with mental health disorders to help them reengage in meaningful activities.

Session 41 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Cynthia Lau, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, is an associate professor at Touro University in Henderson, Nevada, where she teaches child-based occupational therapy courses involving conditions, evaluation, and treatment in an entry-level doctorate program. Acting as faculty adviser and mentor to the author, Lau works to facilitate graduate student participation in research and supports local child-focused community organizations.

Session 72 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Elissa Lee, OTS, is pursuing a doctoral degree in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She completed her level II fieldwork at Neighborhood Health Center and helped design the prevention curriculum for Well Child Visits in primary care for children zero to five. Lee serves as a research assistant in the Lifestyle Redesign® for Chronic Conditions lab, researching chronic care management for medically underserved patients in primary care at the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. For her work, she was the first occupational therapy student to receive a research fellowship at the USC Gehr Family Center for Health Systems Science. Previously, Lee worked at Too Small to Fail, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, coordinating a national campaign to promote the importance of early brain and language development in young children. Lee also serves as a contributor to the Children's Health Matters section of the Center for Health Journalism, a youth reporter with Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation, and a project coordinator of the Skid Row Carnival of Love.

Session 12 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Ellery Lockwood, OTS, is a master's of occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University interested in working with pediatric populations.

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Nancy Longo, ACSW, is a clinical therapist at West End Family Counseling Services. Her undergraduate work was in early childhood development. Longo found a love for working with children with special needs, which brought her to a career working with children on the autism spectrum. Many low-income families she worked with did not have the means or services needed for their child. This early work inspired her to implement advocacy work and led her to the University of Southern California's School of Social Work. It is here that she was able to learn about how to promote change at micro and macro levels as well as clinical strategies. After graduate school, Longo began working with children who are in foster care. It was then that she found a greater passion for children who have experienced trauma. She has been able to advocate to bring about change with all of her families.

Session 81 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Cynthia Lucero-Obusan, MD, is a medical epidemiologist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Public Health Surveillance and Research Group, and a hospital epidemiologist for the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Before this, she served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service and epidemic intelligence service officer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Her research interests include disease surveillance, emerging infectious diseases, public health informatics, outbreak investigations, firearm injuries, and homelessness among Veterans. She is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and American Medical Informatics Association.

Session 75 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Susan MacDermott, OTD, OTR/L, has 14 years of experience as a practicing clinician and educator. She is a core faculty member and doctoral coordinator for the occupational therapy program. In addition to her faculty role, she currently serves as an occupational therapy practitioner at Lasting Recovery, substance abuse and recovery program in San Diego, California. Before joining the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, she was an adjunct professor of clinical occupational therapy for the University of Southern California. MacDermott also has a range of mental health clinical experience, including as the occupational therapy director for Mariposa Women and Family Center in Orange, California, and senior occupational therapy practitioner for Community Mental Health Centre and St. Loman's Hospital Mullingar in Ireland. She has participated as a member of an interdisciplinary pain team with the USC University Hospital and has presented on the use of Lifestyle Redesign as an approach at multiple conferences and organizations. MacDermott currently serves as the elected Region 1 Director on the OTAC Board of Directors.

Session 52 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Japtheth Maico, OTS, is currently a first-year occupational therapy doctorate student at Touro University Nevada. He recently graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) with a bachelor's degree in lifespan health through USC Davis School of Gerontology. He has co-written and worked on academic publications on emergency medicine and emergency preparedness for older adults. For occupational therapy experience, he was an intern at the USC Keck Medical Hospital Outpatient Hand Therapy Clinic. During his undergraduate program, Maico led two startups and participated at the USC Stevens Student Innovator Conference, where he was able to showcase his new ideas to the community and venture capitalists.

Session 83 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 4:30pm

Presenter Directory



Marissa Marchioni, OTD, OTR/L, works with clients to implement lifestyle changes and improve the management of a range of chronic conditions including overweight/obesity, diabetes, chronic pain, chronic headache, and behavioral health at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. She previously worked in health and wellness for 10 years, including personal training, teaching Pilates, and leading fitness classes. As a clinical faculty member, she enjoys promoting preventive health behaviors in emerging areas of practice, such as corporate wellness.

Session 1 - Friday, March 6, 12:00pm to 3:15pm



Karen McCarthy, OTD, OTR/L, began her career as an occupational therapy practitioner participating in the landmark occupational therapy research study: The USC Well Elderly Study II: Health Mediating Effects of the Well Elderly Program. She completed a clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at USC in 2008, focusing on the development of the program Lifestyle Redesign® for the College Student. She then moved from Los Angeles to Ireland to teach mental health occupational therapy at University College Cork, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy from 2012-2016. She started her position at Dominican University of California in the fall of 2016, teaching psychosocial aspects of occupation. McCarthy's clinical experience is in the areas of mental health, Lifestyle Redesign®, life coaching, dating coaching, older adults, multiple sclerosis, college student wellness, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Her research interests include mental health and occupational science.

Session 32 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm



Richard McHam, MA, OTS, is an occupational therapy doctoral resident at the Skid Row Housing Trust in Los Angeles, a nonprofit that provides permanent supportive housing for individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness. He is passionate about working in mental health in many different contexts.

Session 11 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Jenna, Mele, OTD, OTR/L, CCM, RYT, has worked in long-term care, assisted living, and retirement homes. She was featured on Seniors Flourish, an older adult podcast, currently works in home health, is building her private practice, and teaches at both West Coast University and CBD College. She volunteers with Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles and is the chair of Los Angeles OT Leadership Forum. Her career focus shifted from children with developmental delays to adults living with cognitive declines. She brought her passion for wellness and health to her work with people experiencing cognitive declines. Mele has worked directly with the aging population for the past nine years and specializes in facilitating quality of life for people living with dementia. She currently uses her backgrounds as an occupational therapy practitioner, care manager, certified consultant in Positive Approach to Care, and yoga teacher to engage clients and maximize their quality of life.

Session 5 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm



Shaina Meyer, OTR/L, MSCS, received a master's in occupational therapy at St. Louis University. Since becoming a licensed OT, Meyer has worked with individuals with a broad range of diagnoses and developed a particular interest in evaluating and treating individuals with progressive neurologic deficits. She has been the lead OT at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, Nevada, since 2015 and assumed the leadership role of clinical rehab manager in 2017. Since joining the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, she has earned a Multiple Sclerosis Certified Specialist (MSCS) certification, Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) certification, and is a certified Parkinson Wellness Recovery (PWR!) therapist.

Session 82 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Vanessa Miller, MA, OTR/L, received a master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California and is a current doctoral resident at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. Throughout her residency, Miller has worked with patients with a variety of neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and epilepsy. She participates in rounds at the USC epilepsy clinic and is a member of the USC Multiple Sclerosis multidisciplinary team.

Session 59 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am

Presenter Directory



Susanna Moon, OTS, earned a Bachelor of Science in human physiology at Boston University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in occupational therapy at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California, with an expected graduation date of November 2020.

Session 70 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Emily Morton, OTS, is a second-year occupational therapy student at the University of Southern California. She has completed her fieldwork at the Braille Institute, Martin Luther King Jr. Recuperative Care Center, Westminster TRC, and Newport-Mesa School District.

Session 33 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm



Bridgette Nicholson, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner and assistive technology consultant for 32 years. She provides consultation services for school districts in the field of assistive technology for students with special needs. Services and training have included presentations nationally and internationally on a variety of topics related to assistive technology and Universal Design for Learning concepts. She develops informational websites and online tools for educators and students in general and special education. As part of her presentations and consultation services, she provides access to all online resources and tools at no cost, as support for concepts presented. She is the author of the book "The Power of Speech for Writing." This book is provided to attendees as additional support for concepts presented during workshops and presentations for school districts and conferences.

Session 3 - Friday, March 6, 12:00pm to 6:15pm



Kristin Nxumalo, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She has been an acute care therapist practicing at Keck Medical Center of USC for the past four years. Her specialty practice areas include heart failure and lymphedema management. Nxumalo is a member of the admissions team for USC Chan.

Session 38 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Session 60 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am



Oliver Obusan, MS, OTR/L, is an occupational therapist outpatient supervisor at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Palo Alto (VAPAHCS). He manages more than 20 practitioners in different programs such as assistive technology, drivers rehabilitation, hand and upper extremity clinic, spinal cord injury, mobility clinic, polytrauma network sites, home based primary care and the new program at the VAPAHCS U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH). He is an active member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC). His research interests include homelessness in veterans, traumatic brain injuries, and the use of LEAN management in outpatient clinics.

Session 75 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Terry Peralta-Catipon, PhD, OTR/L, has practiced as an occupational therapy practitioner in areas of adult outpatient rehab, hand therapy, and home health, as well as community geriatrics and mental health. Her research studies on Filipino communities, both among older adults in Los Angeles and foreign workers in Hong Kong, as well as studies on health and wellness among Hispanic and other migrant populations, display her interest in ethnographic research especially in the areas of migrant adaptation, community wellness programs for older adults, and promotion of cultural occupations.

Session 84 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Loree Pham, OTS, graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a bachelor's degree in economics. She is currently a second-year Master of Occupational Therapy student at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). At CSUDH, Pham served as an OTAC student delegate, actively participating in campus and OTAC functions. She also served as a member of the executive board of Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society to promote research and scholarship. Before starting graduate school, Pham spent time volunteering with international service-learning organizations and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in rural villages in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. She has a background in working in health care administration at Kaiser Permanente and with early intervention pediatrics at Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, California. Pham's personal and professional experiences have served to fuel her passion for increasing research and advocacy for underserved individuals, groups, and populations while utilizing a culturally sensitive and holistic approach.

Session 16 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am

Presenter Directory



Whitney Pike, OTR/L, CLT, graduated from Indiana University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy. For the past 22 years, she has worked at Keck Hospital of USC as a clinical instructor of occupational therapy. She is currently the admission liaison for the acute rehabilitation unit at Keck Hospital. During her career, Pike has treated patients in acute and outpatient settings. Her work with heart failure and how to help patients live better lives with this chronic disease has been her passion.

Session 38 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 4:00pm



Aimee Piller, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner and owner of Piller Child Development, a multisite, multidisciplinary pediatric therapy company located in Phoenix, Arizona. She specializes in sensory integration and feeding therapy. Piller's research interests include practice-based research, the sensory environment, and inter-professional practice. She accepts fieldwork and capstone students from various universities across the country.

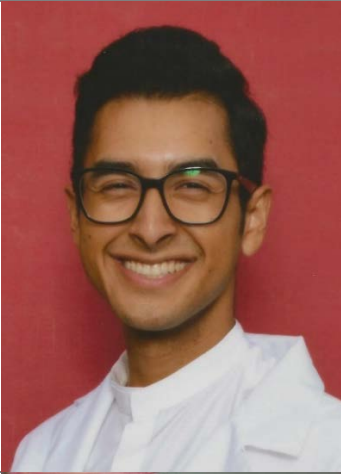
Session 76 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Erinna Poon, MS, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner with Stanford Health Care's Community Outreach and Injury Prevention programs, including Farewell to Falls and Matter of Balance. She is a Matter of Balance master trainer. Poon has worked in various settings with the older adult population including, acute care, skilled nursing facility, and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Session 4 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm

Presenter Directory



Julian Prado, MA, OTS, received a master's in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. He is the current occupational therapy doctoral resident at JWCH Center for Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center located in the heart of the Skid Row neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, that primarily serves people experiencing homelessness.

Session 11 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Elizabeth Pyatak, PhD, OTR/L, CDE, FAOTA, is an occupational scientist, occupational therapy practitioner, and certified diabetes educator. As a Chan faculty member since 2011, she directs the Lifestyle Redesign® for Chronic Conditions research lab, focused on two broad and interrelated themes of inquiry: first, understanding the lived experiences of individuals with chronic conditions, and second, developing and evaluating innovative lifestyle interventions that enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life of individuals with chronic conditions. She has research interests in type 1 and type 2 diabetes, supporting transition and chronic condition management for emerging adults, and addressing health inequities among socially disadvantaged and medically underserved populations.

Session 74 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Kary Rappaport, OTR/L, SCFES, IBCLC, is an occupational therapy practitioner with 14 years of experience working with infants, young children, and families in a wide variety of practice settings. Before joining Neighborhood Health Center, she was in private practice consulting with pediatric facilities, mentoring staff, and teaching courses for medical professionals in the greater Los Angeles area. In addition to professional consulting, Rappaport has extensive experience supporting families in a variety of settings, including Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), pediatric acute care, pediatric inpatient rehab, and within the home, providing occupational performance assessment, developmental evaluations, and comprehensive feeding assessments. She specializes in families with infants and young children and has expertise in family mental health, infant and child feeding (as a board-certified lactation consultant), and development.

Session 12 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Lindsey Reeves, OTD, OTR/L, works as an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. She completed a master's degree in occupational therapy and a doctorate of occupational therapy at USC. Her clinical residency was completed at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she practiced Lifestyle Redesign®. As a clinical faculty member, Reeves works with clients in the chronic pain, chronic headache, college student and ergonomic programs, and is a member of the USC Chronic Pain and Chronic Headache interdisciplinary teams. She has presented on her occupational therapy work with chronic pain populations at multiple conferences, including the American Headache Society, USC Pain Symposium, AOTA Mental Health Specialty Conference, OTAC Oncology Symposium, and the International Headache Society Conference. She also facilitates a chronic pain support group and is passionate about promoting occupational therapy's role in chronic pain management.

Session 51 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Cindy Reyes, OTR/L, BCMH, has been employed by the Extended Care Hospital of Westminster as program director of Westminster Therapeutic Residential Center (TRC) since 2011. Westminster TRC is a 46-bed special treatment program providing inpatient mental health services for adults. She previously worked at the Extended Care Hospital of Anaheim as program director of West Anaheim Therapeutic Residential Center, which is also a special treatment program. Reyes has been practicing for 40 years, primarily working with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. She has also completed a Fieldwork Educator's Certificate Workshop and enjoys providing clinical experiences to occupational therapy interns.

Session 33 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm



John Rider, MS, OTR/L, is an assistant professor at Touro University Nevada in Henderson, Nevada. He has worked in a variety of settings, including school-based, home health and hospice, acute and post-acute rehabilitation, and orthopedic and neurological outpatient clinics. He is completing a PhD in interdisciplinary health science with an emphasis on rehabilitation science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is also a nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter and specializes in medical and mental health interpreting.

Session 50 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am

Session 83 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 4:30pm



Sheryl Ryan, OTR/L, PhD, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at California State University Dominguez Hills. She has 20 years of clinical experience, mostly in pediatrics, including clinic, school, and community practice. Her research interests integrate intercultural and childhood studies to inform occupational science and practice.

Session 31 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm

Session 55 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 11:30am



Jamie Sakamoto, MA, OT/L, CLEC, is a dedicated occupational therapy practitioner with over 15 years of experience in the pediatric field across various settings (early intervention, outpatient clinic, school, and pediatric hospital). She specializes in feeding and swallowing, sensory processing, and neurodevelopment. Sakamoto has achieved advanced practice approval in Physical Agent Modalities (PAMS) and Feeding and Swallowing (SWA). She also holds certifications as a Sensory Integration and Praxis Test (SIPT) and Vital Stimulation (LNMES) provider and is a Certified Lactation Educator Counselor (CLEC). She describes herself as a perpetual student striving to be a catcher-in-the-rye. She is deeply inspired and motivated by the resilience and perseverance of the families and their children with whom she has had the honor of serving.

Session 42 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Malia Sako, OTD, OTR/L, completed a master's of occupational therapy and a clinical doctorate of occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. As a clinical faculty member at USC's Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, Sako works in chronic condition management and specializes in working with people living with chronic pain and migraine, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, and post-concussion. She has completed the Allied Team Training for Parkinson's and continues to improve occupational therapy presence and services at USC Keck's Movement Disorders Clinic.

Session 59 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 11:45am



Mary Schmitz, OTD, OT/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since her graduation in 1985, working in nearly all practice areas at some point throughout her career. The one-on-one relationship aspect of OT has brought her the most satisfaction. It is this experience with people of all ages that informs the development of individualized emergency planning with her clients and their caregivers. Serving as secretary to her local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Schmitz is contributing to her local region to expanding the role of the occupational therapy practitioners in the area of emergency prevention and response.

Session 25 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, has over 35 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner working primarily with infants and children with feeding disorders. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics by the American Occupational Therapy Association and Swallow advance approved by the California Board of Occupational Therapy. She has served AOTA in a variety of positions and is currently chair of the AOTA Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee. Schultz-Krohn is a professor and the chair of occupational therapy at San Jose State University teaching courses in pediatrics, neuro-rehabilitation, and research methods. Her scholarly interests include pediatric occupational therapy with expertise in early intervention, school-based practice, family-centered intervention, the needs of children and families in homeless shelters, feeding problems, and neurological rehabilitation. She is the co-editor of the sixth, seventh and eighth editions of Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction textbook in addition to authoring well over 20 articles and chapters.

Session 23 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Cristina Scionti, MS, OT/L, RYT-500, is faculty of both MSOT/COTA programs at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. Throughout her many years of practice in physical rehabilitation settings, she has focused on incorporating mind-body wellness techniques with traditional OT practice. In 2014, she developed and implemented the EMPOWER program, an integrative health and wellness program for the inpatient rehab unit at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Scionti also designed a meditation room on the inpatient unit for families and patients. Her current research focus includes the use of mindfulness techniques with chronic pain conditions and the use of complementary alternative medicine as preparatory methods along with traditional OT intervention to optimize functional recovery and well-being.

Activity B - Saturday, March 7, 7:30am to 8:00am

Activity D - Sunday, March 8, 7:30am to 8:00am



Leanne Seckinger, MS, OTR/L, coordinates the therapy service department at the Huntsman Cancer Hospital, associated with the University of Utah Health system. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member for the occupational therapy program at the University of Utah College of Health. Seckinger has co-authored and presented at AOTA and state conferences and developed occupational therapy pre-habilitation clinic programs for bone marrow transplant and hematology service departments. Her current interests include development of quality projects that incorporate outcome measures that addressing patient prioritization, discharge readiness, and utilization of valued based continuum of care.

Session 37 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Tara Sharma, DO, spent most of her early years as a competitive figure skater competing in regional and national levels. She continued in high school and college as a cross country and track runner and still holds many records at her high school. After receiving her undergraduate degree in biology at Claremont McKenna College, Sharma worked in a molecular neurology lab at the Huntington Medical Research Institute in Pasadena, California, on a project targeting enzymes involved in pathways implicated in the transmission of migraine pain. She subsequently pursued educational training in New York, where she completed a master's degree in biomedical sciences at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and medical school training at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. During her time there, she was active in community outreach and provided health care to local communities in Ghana, Africa. After that, she completed her residency training in neurology at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where she focused on research in headache, dementia, and small fiber neuropathy.

Session 40 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Mandy Shintani, OT (CAN), MA Gerontology, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 30+ years and is a gerontologist. She is an international conference speaker on Nordic walking and recently presented at the International 200 Years of Parkinson's Disease Conference in Australia, PD Foundation (Fresno, CA), Canadian Occupational Therapy Conference, and the National Fall Prevention Conference (Canada). More than 5,000 practitioners and instructors in Canada as well as Australia, U.K., Ireland, and U.S. have completed the courses she developed on the use of Nordic walking for fitness and rehabilitation. Fourteen years ago, with her skills as an occupational therapy practitioner, she developed the Activator Poles (patented) and technique specifically for rehabilitation based on the concept of Nordic walking. She has been featured numerous times in national media including the Globe and Mail

and CBC Early Edition. She was a finalist in the prestigious YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Session 30 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 2:45pm



Susan Skees Hermes, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, has 35 years of clinical experience working with all ages and populations. Her expansive areas of practice include mental health, inpatient rehabilitation, school-based, home health, outpatient, skilled nursing settings, management, education, and consulting. Besides multiple volunteer team roles in AOTA, she also has been in leadership roles in Texas and Florida state occupational therapy associations. Recently she joined the Eastern Kentucky University as full-time faculty. Her current research interests include school-based collaborative practice, occupational therapy professional development in the People's Republic of China, IPC and intergenerational care and learning programs, occupational therapy's role in disaster and emergency planning, and professional association leadership development.

Session 25 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Jerilyn "Gigi" Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, has over 25 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner working primarily with adults with dysphagia. She is advanced approved in swallowing by the California Board of Occupational Therapy. Smith has spoken on the topic of dysphagia at state, national, and international conferences and has written the chapter on adult dysphagia in the past two editions of the textbook: Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction. As an associate professor of occupational therapy at San Jose State University, she teaches courses in physical disabilities, including adult dysphagia, multicultural health care, and independent living skills. Smith continues to practice clinically and is currently working with infants and children with various developmental delays and feeding issues. She has a long history of serving in leadership roles with the Occupational Therapy Association of California, where she currently serves as an elected officer in the role of vice president.

Session 23 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Alexis Joelle Sobel, MS, OTR/L, MS. OTR/L, CEO of AJoelle Consulting, LLC, graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills, in 2011. She has held various roles within the profession, giving her a wide range of experience in the industry. In addition to being a clinician, her role for the past several years as a supervisor has allowed her to successfully mentor other practitioners in the industry. With leadership experience in clinical practice, Sobel currently utilizes her skills to serve as a consultant to OT providers – from student to entrepreneur. She guides practitioners through the process of designing their ideal careers as well as navigating the challenges of the industry. In addition to being an occupational therapy practitioner to clients and mentor to other practitioners, Sobel has a passion for making OT

accessible globally to consumers. Her ultimate vision: help decrease hospitalizations while maintaining access to occupations and support quality of life for everyday consumers.

Session 2 - Friday, March 6, 12:00pm to 3:15pm



Jennifer St. Jude, BSW, DSAE Teaching Credential, is an author, lecturer, and disability advocate. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, and has an Adult Education Teaching Credential from San Diego State University and UCLA in California. St. Jude is not only the mother of two teenage daughters on the autism spectrum; she was also diagnosed with autism after a lifetime of difficulties. She has written extensively on the topic of adults, teens, and children with autism, as well as speaks at professional conferences and universities. She is the co-author of a book called "What Every Autistic Girl Wishes Her Parents Knew." Her journey of hope and healing offers a unique perspective into this uncharted topic of women, girls, and the autism spectrum. She is an independent consultant specializing in solutions for children, teens, and adults with challenging symptoms and behaviors and is the creator of the media page, "Autism Grows Up."

Session 77 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 4:30pm



Sara Stephenson, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, is a capstone coordinator with over 25 years of clinical practice experience and has mentored doctoral students in her clinical practice work.

Session 76 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Daniel Swiatek, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in occupational therapy at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has over 20 years' experience as an occupational therapy practitioner and has worked in acute, skilled nursing, and home health. Swiatek specializes in geriatrics.

Session 43 - Saturday, March 7, 4:15pm to 5:15pm



Patrick Tabon, PharmD, APh, BCPS, BCGP, BCACP, is an assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at the University of Southern California. His clinical practice sites include USC Medical Plaza Pharmacy and Keck Medical Center of USC. He also works with the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project as a geriatric clinical pharmacist. Tabon has experience in a variety of settings, including community, acute care, and managed care practice settings, as well as experience in specialty medication reviews, population health analytics, and pharmacy leadership. His research interests include pharmacy services to improve outcomes and patient safety during transitions in care and expanding community-based clinical services and health screenings. He received a Doctor of Pharmacy from Washington State University in 2012. Upon graduation, he completed a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. He holds board certifications in pharmacotherapy, geriatric pharmacy, and ambulatory care pharmacy, and holds an Advanced Practice Pharmacist license in California.

Session 20 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Adrienne Tesarek, OTR/L, CHT, is a graduate of Louisiana State University. She started her career at UCSD Medical Center as an inpatient practitioner before transitioning to the outpatient department, where she mentored under a hand therapist, gaining valuable experience to sit for the hand exam. She became a CHT (certified hand therapist) in 2005. Since that time, she taught at Grossmont Community College in the OTA program from 2007-2010, teaching an elective hand therapy course as well as program requirements in human movement and geriatrics. In 2013 Tesarek moved to Los Angeles, California, to work at UCLA, where she continues to serve patients who have simple to complex upper extremity injuries. She is a member of the Rehab Services Education Committee and recently designed a one-day orthotics course for the inpatient therapist and presented it at UCLA, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego.

Session 36 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Heather Thomas, PhD, OTR/L, is a professor of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate and Masters in OT program at West Coast University in Los Angeles. She has a long history of working in occupational therapy education, as full-time faculty at Loma Linda University for 10 years. Then in 2013, she moved over to West Coast University, where she helped develop the MSOT program. She has presented at international, national, and state conferences, and has been involved in providing OT services in Haiti since the devastating earthquake in 2010. She has served in a variety of leadership positions with the California state OT association, Los Angeles OT Leadership Forum, Los Angeles City, and AOTA. She is the author of the top-selling activity analysis text book "Occupation-Based Activity Analysis," used across the

world. In 2016 she was honored with the Occupational Therapy Association of California Award of Excellence.

Session 5 - Friday, March 6, 3:15pm to 6:30pm



Julie To, OTR/L, CHT, graduated from the Utica College of Syracuse University and has 16 years of experience with a particular interest in movement science impairments. In 2014 she was the Mary Kasch Scholarship recipient and obtained her Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) certification in November the same year. Throughout her career at UCLA, she received valuable clinical knowledge in hand therapy, working alongside experienced hand therapists and surgeons. To was also very grateful to have the opportunity to work with hand transplant recipients as part of the treatment team. Since then, she was introduced to the concept of movement science impairment and has been actively promoting this concept among colleagues and clients. She is also a do-it-yourself enthusiast who helps her to design and fabricate any orthosis without a template. She also enjoys assisting her colleagues by sharing her clinical experience through continuing education.

Session 36 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Alya Turcotte, MA, OTS, is an OTD resident at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). She recently received a Master of Arts in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California, where she is currently pursuing an Occupational Therapy Doctorate. Her interest in the foster care population stems from her philanthropic work with her former undergraduate sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, in which she raised money through events to support the local Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA). Her doctoral residency includes plans to develop developmentally appropriate protocols for screening youth in the Foster Care Hub clinic.

Session 79 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 3:30pm



Tamara Turner, EdD, OTR/L, is a full-time assistant professor and assistant clinical coordinator for Midwestern University's Occupational Therapy Program in Arizona. She received a Master of Science in occupational therapy from Belmont University and an EdD in higher and post-secondary education at Argosy University. Turner's clinical experience in occupational therapy began in 2001 and an academic career in 2012. She has worked in acute and sub-acute rehabilitation, geriatrics, outpatient neurology, and home health. Her areas of interest are in interactive teaching and learning, refugee adaptation, dementia care, and experiential learning through fieldwork. She is the owner of Meaningful Living Therapy Services and currently serves with the Arizona Occupational Therapy Association and is a 2018 Hospice of the Valley Dementia Care Fellow.

Session 58 - Sunday, March 8, 9:30am to 10:30am



Samantha Valasek, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She primarily works as a clinician at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, the USC Chan Division's private clinic, where occupational therapy practitioners deliver lifestyle-based interventions. As an experienced provider of Lifestyle Redesign® services, she works with clients with various chronic conditions to support the acquisition of health-promoting habits and routines that can help people lead healthier, happier, and more meaningful lives. She balances her clinical responsibilities with teaching, fieldwork education, and scholarly pursuits, including program development at Eisner Health, an FQHC in downtown Los Angeles. Valasek received her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern California in 2016. Her clinical residency focused on the development and expansion of occupational therapy services in primary care settings.

Session 1 - Friday, March 6, 12:00pm to 3:15pm

Session 20 - Saturday, March 7, 10:30am to 12:30pm



Eileen Wang, MA, OTR/L, earned a Bachelor of Science in management science at the University of California, San Diego, and received a Master of Arts in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She is currently the assistant program director and academic fieldwork coordinator for the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at Stanbridge University. Wang also works as an occupational therapy practitioner providing rehabilitation services to adults with physical disabilities in acute rehab settings, community-based practice, and skilled nursing facilities.

Session 70 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm



Rani Waterman, OTD, OTR/L, has come to occupational therapy as a second career. After graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in theater, she worked for over a decade as an actor, circus performer, and rhetoric coach for performers and nonperformers. She completed a master's and a doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California and now works in acute care at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Session 80 - Sunday, March 8, 2:30pm to 4:30pm



Shannon Westerberg, MA, OTR/L, is a board-certified occupational therapy practitioner and current OT resident for the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT program. She earned a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy in 2018 and Master of Arts in occupational therapy in 2019, both from the University of Southern California (USC). Westerberg is currently in the process of earning an Occupational Therapy Doctorate through her clinical residency with BrainSPORT. She has experience working as a tutor for student-athletes at USC, where she saw how significantly sports concussion could impact the balance between performance in school, sport, and social participation. Her personal experiences with sports-related injury, through soccer and snowboarding, sparked her passion for work with recovering athletes. Westerberg's goal is to contribute both clinical insights and research findings to the professional development of occupational therapy in this setting through her residency at BrainSPORT.

Session 40 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Chuck Willmarth, CAE, is the vice president for health policy and state affairs at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). He has over 25 years of experience managing state legislative and regulatory issues including, more than 20 years with AOTA. AOTA's State Affairs Group advances the Association's public policy goals and objectives at the state level. He works closely with state occupational therapy associations on a variety of state issues, including state regulation of occupational therapy, scope of practice, and payment policy issues such as workers' compensation and Medicaid. Willmarth is leading AOTA's advocacy work on the implementation of health care reform at the state and federal levels with a focus on coverage for occupational therapy services by insurance plans on the small group and individual markets. Before health care reform, he led AOTA's advocacy efforts with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid as AOTA's director of reimbursement and regulatory Policy for five years.

Session 53 - Sunday, March 8, 8:15am to 9:15am



Myka Winder, OTD, OTR/L, is a clinical faculty member at the University of Southern California. She developed expertise in Lifestyle Redesign® and education while completing her clinical doctorate. Her doctoral work focused on contributing to curriculum development and teaching in foundational OT courses. She worked as a practitioner at the OT Faculty Practice for several years and has also worked in early intervention. She is passionate about preparing future OT practitioners to meet the demands of society by building healthy habits and routines.

Session 62 - Sunday, March 8, 10:45am to 11:45pm

Presenter Directory



Rhonda Windham, OTD, OTR/L, is a leading health care professional committed to promoting prevention of chronic conditions through good mental health, healthy lifestyle choices, and engagement in meaningful occupations. A licensed clinical occupational therapy practitioner, Windham is an assistant professor of OT at West Coast University and presides over the OT doctoral program at SSG-OTTP, a nonprofit mental health agency. Windham advises doctoral students during their residency while guiding their research concepts. In her clinical practice, she uses evidence-based interventions to assist young people in developing the skills they need to function effectively within the context of daily life, while assisting them in developing coping strategies to address their mental, emotional, and environmental barriers. Windham holds doctorate and master's degrees from the University of Southern California and an undergraduate degree in sports marketing and broadcasting. Before her occupational therapy career, Windham was an accomplished sports professional, working for the NBA, Los Angeles Lakers, and was the general manager of the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA.

Session 41 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm



Bill Wong, OTD, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 2012. He obtained his master's and OTD from the University of Southern California. He currently works in a skilled nursing facility setting and is an adjunct faculty at Stanbridge University, Los Angeles campus. Wong currently serves as a member of the AOTA Representative Assembly, as well as AOTA's Community of Leaders. He is the curator for TEDx Almansor Park.

Session 85 - Sunday, March 8, 3:45pm to 4:45pm



Dana Wysolmierski, OTS, earned a Bachelor of Science in biomedical science with a minor in psychology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in occupational therapy at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California, with an expected graduation date of November 2020.

Session 70 - Sunday, March 8, 1:15pm to 2:15pm

Presenter Directory



Vanessa Yanez, MSOT, OTR/L, earned a Bachelor of Science in cognitive sciences from the University of California, Irvine, and a Master of Science in occupational therapy from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is a passionate occupational therapy practitioner working in oncology at City of Hope National Medical Center, helping individuals diagnosed with various types of cancer. As a clinician and a prior bone marrow transplant recipient herself, Yanez is dedicated to helping individuals live their best life after a cancer diagnosis. She has presented at the state and national levels on relevant issues related to mental health and sexuality in cancer care. Her current work and research focuses on psychosocial care and expanding the role of occupational therapy to address body image and sexual health in oncology, as this continues to be a concern and unmet need for individuals across the cancer care continuum.

Session 37 - Saturday, March 7, 1:45pm to 4:45pm



Ozan Yay, MA, OTR/L, is a current doctoral resident completing his residency with Skid Row Housing Trust, a nonprofit organization that focuses on providing permanent supportive housing for people who have experienced long-term homelessness.

Session 11 - Saturday, March 7, 9:15am to 10:15am



Christine Yoon, MS, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for almost two years, providing comprehensive services in the pediatric hospital setting. Before practicing as a licensed clinician, Yoon received exposure to various practice settings, including community-based mental health, sensory integration, subacute, transitional care, and skilled nursing. She is currently working toward receiving her advanced approval in feeding and swallowing.

Session 42 - Saturday, March 7, 3:00pm to 5:00pm