



WROTSS 2021 PRESENTER DIRECTORY

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Thank You to Our Session Presenters

The WROTSS Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the 2021 VIRTUAL Western Regional OT Spring Symposium session presenters for sharing their knowledge with our attendees, and for taking time away from their professional careers and personal lives to prepare and present. Please thank our session presenters.

Terminology

Not all terms may be referenced in the Presenter Directory

ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
AHEPP	Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association
AOTF	American Occupational Therapy Foundation
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
BCET	Board-Certified Educational Therapist
CA-LEND	California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
CBOT	California Board of Occupational Therapy
CIPN	Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy
CSU	California State University
DIR-FCD	Developmental Individual Difference-Foundational Capacities for Development
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
LANA	Lymphology Association of North America
LSVT	Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (Parkinson's disease)
NDT	Neruo-Developmental Treatment
NIDRR	National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NMES	Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation
ORFR	Occupational Resilience Frame of Reference
OTAC	Occupational Therapy Association of California
OTD	Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
OTFP	Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice
OTSNA	Occupational Therapy Spiritual Narrative Assessment
RSD	Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
SCERTS	Social Communication/Emotional Regulation/Transactional Support

SIPT	Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests
UCEDD	University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
WISC-IV	Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition
WRAP	Wellness Recovery Action Plan

Session Presenters (alphabetical by last name)



OT Practice: Demonstrating Resilience in the Face of Disruption

Featuring the following state OT association presidents: **Evelyn Andersson** | Arizona; **Bryant Edwards** | California | **Kari Thompson** | Idaho; **Robert Hobbs** | New Mexico; **Paula Cook** | Nevada; **Brenda Lyman** | Utah | Moderator **Chuck Willmarth** | AOTA
#10, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Naomi Achondo, OTD, OTR/L, private pediatric practice owner and adjunct, MSOT instructor, received her post professional clinical doctorate from RMUOHP, and her bachelor's in occupational therapy in the Philippines. Her extensive experience as an occupational therapy practitioner includes autism, sensory processing disorder, feeding and swallowing, and assistive technology. Achondo is also an adjunct MSOT instructor and thesis advisor. Her research interests include SCUBA diving, OT, mental health, and autism pediatrics.

#41, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Ezra Alex, BS, OTS, is a current first-year occupational therapy doctoral student at Touro University Nevada. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Throughout his undergraduate career and after graduation, Alex spent time working in various healthcare practice settings, including Sunrise Hospital as an anesthesia technician, Tim Soder Physical Therapy as a rehab technician, and Post Acute Medical Specialty Hospital, a long-term acute care hospital, as a rehab technician. Alex has also volunteered at Select Physical Therapy under the direct supervision of a Certified Hand Therapist.

#11, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Kathleen Apolstol, OTS, is an occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. She pursued an undergraduate degree in psychology from California State University, Fullerton to prepare her for a master's degree in occupational therapy. Apolstol enjoys working with people of different backgrounds. She desires to become an occupational therapy practitioner to help individuals of various ages gain and sustain a meaningful life and engage in occupations that they find personally important.

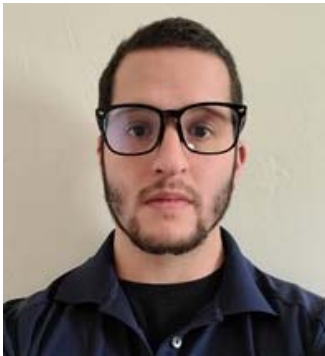
#31, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Luis Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA, is currently an assistant professor at San Jose State University Department of Occupational Therapy. He earned a doctoral in occupational therapy from the University of Saint Augustine, Saint Augustine, FL; Master of Science in rehabilitation sciences from Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX; and Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy from the University of the Philippines, Manila. He is an accomplished and experienced occupational therapy practitioner with a demonstrated history working in the hospital and healthcare industry with specific focus on neurorehabilitation, orthopedic clinical practice, and administration/management.

#17, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am

#41, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Chad Arnette, OTS, is a doctorate of occupational therapy student studying at Northern Arizona University.

#45, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Asha Asher, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, has provided school-based occupational therapy services for over 40 years in four countries (United States, Canada, Belgium, and India), worked as a part-time lecturer, and is currently in private practice in Redlands, CA. She has several publications and has presented internationally, nationally, and locally on topics pertaining to school-based therapy. Asher serves as a reviewer for two national journals, and is on the roster of evaluators for the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and Occupational Therapy Fellowship program. She has received two Fulbright grants to promote school-based occupational therapy services in South Asia.

#30, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Kim Barthel, BMR, OT (Canada), is an award-winning occupational therapy practitioner, multi-disciplinary teacher, and best-selling author who is active in supporting people in many contexts internationally. An advanced NDT instructor and a pioneer in reinforcing the importance of relationship, Barthel is passionate about understanding complex behavior, movement challenges, neurobiology, trauma-informed practice, sensory processing, attachment, and mental health. Her mission is to support the conscious evolution of the human spirit.

#72, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM, is a professor and founding program director of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at Keck Graduate Institute (KGI). Prior to working at KGI she served as a professor and curriculum coordinator of occupational therapy at West Coast University and was an associate professor at Loma Linda University. She has a PhD in occupational science from the University of Southern California, where her dissertation focused on women's experience of spirituality in everyday life. She created the Occupational Therapy Spiritual Narrative Assessment (OTSNA) tool. Billock has taught occupational therapy for 22 years in a broad range of subject areas including neuroscience, lifestyle medicine, geriatrics, rehabilitation, mental health, wellness, and occupational therapy history and theory. Her clinical background is in inpatient rehabilitation. She recently became a Diplomate of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.

#44, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Amanda Blattman, OTD, OTR/L (AZ), is an occupational therapy practitioner at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute. She primarily works with the neurological populations during the acute phase of recovery beginning in the intensive care unit. Blattman specializes in functional cognition, performance-based testing, and clinical research. Additionally, she is adjunct faculty at NAU where she is currently mentoring four OT students on the process of clinical research in a hospital setting.

#14, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Karmella Bognot, MS, OTR/L (NV), is a full-time occupational therapy practitioner for a local nonprofit hospice in Las Vegas. In 2017, she graduated from with a Master of Science in occupational therapy and will complete her post-professional doctorate studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2021. Bognot accepted her current position in hospice as a new graduate and quickly discovered a passion for this unique niche. She has written an article for OT Practice, presented at the 2019 Nevada Occupational Therapy Association Conference, and built a continuing education course for Relias Academy as a subject matter expert.

#74, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Laura Bostock, OTR/L, is a school-based occupational therapy practitioner at a Riverside County charter school, serving students grades TK-8. She is a faculty member at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, where she teaches in the anatomy and neuroscience courses. She received her masters of occupational therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences and is a lifetime member of the Delta Kappa chapter of Phi Theta Epsilon.

#65, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Jennifer Brouwers, OTS, has been working as a massage therapist for the last 16 years because of her interest in helping people rehabilitate their bodies and minds. She has also worked for a 5 Diamond resort for the last 12 years and has had a private mobile massage business. Since 2014, Brouwers has volunteered with seniors in the way of Meals on Wheels, hospice massage, and most recently driving Holocaust survivors to their personal appointments.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Terry Catipon-Peralta, PhD, OTR/L, is the chair of the Occupational Therapy Department at California State University Dominguez Hills. She has a PhD in occupational science and a Master of Arts in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in zoology from the University of the Philippines. As an occupational therapy practitioner for 22 years, she has worked in adult rehabilitation and community-based programs for older adults and mental health. Her research interests are in ethnographic studies, especially in the areas of migrant adaptation, community wellness, and promotion of cultural occupations.

#17, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Shaun Conway is a certified occupational therapy practitioner who currently serves as senior director, external and regulatory affairs for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) where he has worked for over 27 years. In this capacity, Conway is currently responsible for the oversight of organizational functions related to state regulation, international regulatory services, and community outreach.

#60, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

***Note: This session will only be available live. No recordings will be posted after the initial date of presentation, per the presenter's request.**



Paula Cook, OTD, OTR/L (NV), CIMI, is a native of Chicago where she attended occupational therapy school at the University of Illinois at Chicago after working in a residential facility for children and adults with developmental disabilities and complex medical needs. She has worked in school systems, acute rehab, and hospital-based practice, including antepartum, acute pediatric, and pediatric oncology. Cook currently works in pediatrics in Las Vegas, NV, where she also volunteers with the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association. She has taught clinical reasoning and wellness courses as an adjunct professor at Touro University Nevada. Her research interests include systems-level advocacy for mental health practice, nonprofit board governance, and occupational licensure regulations.

#21, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Talent Dang, OTD, OTR/L, completed her masters and clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California in 2019 and 2020, respectively. As a doctoral candidate, she completed her residency in a Neurologic Outpatient Rehabilitation Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center beginning her passion in working with the stroke population.

#51, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Mary David, PsyD, is the director of behavior operations at SLEA. She earned a doctorate in clinical psychology in 2010 and has been a member of the SLEA behavioral team since 2008. During this time, she completed doctoral internships at AIDS Project Los Angeles, Lynwood Women's Correctional Facility, and Occidental College. Additionally, David completed a post-doctoral internship with Our Kids Developmental Services where she completed one on one sessions, social skills groups, and assessments with children with autism, Developmental disabilities, adjustment disorders, bipolar disorders and attention deficit disorders.

#53, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Jessica De Brun, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos Campus. She has a wide variety of experience as a practitioner working in domestic violence shelters, early intervention community mental health and childhood trauma intervention centers, local school districts, autism programs, and local regional centers. Her doctoral research focused on early childhood trauma and the maternal-child co-occupational experience while residing in a domestic violence shelter. De Brun has developed and implemented occupation-based programs for children living with trauma, the substance use and recovery population, and mothers residing in domestic violence shelters with emphasis on enriching co-occupational experiences. She actively participates in advocacy and research related to adverse childhood events and occupation based intervention program development in community mental health settings.

#25, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Jeni Dulek, OTD, OTR/L, graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy, and obtained a Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) with an from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. She also holds a Master of Science in instructional design and technology from Trevecca Nazarene University. Prior to accepting her current faculty position as assistant professor in the School of OT at Pacific University in Hillsboro, Oregon, Dulek taught at the University of St. Augustine and held multiple positions at American Career College's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. She has been in practice for 20 years, with 14 years of full-time practice devoted to working with people with mental illness. She has published research on support education for people with serious mental illness in AJOT, and presented original projects.

#65, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, is in a leadership role at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), serving as the manager of occupational therapy. In this role, Edwards supports the efforts of the inter-professional team at CHLA to maintain Magnet Recognition. He also serves on the Occupational Therapy Association of California's (OTAC) Board of Directors as the current president and has been in a leadership position with OTAC since 2009. He was the 2018 awardee of the OTAC Janice Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award.

Activity B, Saturday, March 6, 9:00am – 9:45am



Kanika Eng, OTS, is currently a master student at Stanbridge University in Irvine, CA. She has a Bachelor of Science in human resources from Utah State University and Master of Science in public administration from California State University, San Bernardino. She previously worked within the education and nonprofit setting and was inspired to become an occupational therapy practitioner to help others recover using a holistic and creative approach.

#31, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Allen Espelita, OTD, OTRP, OTR/L, C/NDT, CPAM, CEAS I, received a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy in 1999 from Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila, Philippines and earned a post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate in April 2019. He has a diverse clinical experience from his 20 years in pediatrics (hospital and school-based), office ergonomics, teaching, and adult outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation. Espelita is Certified in Neurodevelopmental Treatment-Adult (NDT), Certified VitalStim Provider (both adult and pediatric), Certified Ergonomics Assessment Specialist level I, Certified Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Big (LSVT-BIG) and post-professional dysphagia. A member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), World Federation of Occupational Therapist (WFOT), and Nevada Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA).

#17, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Lauren Espinoza, OTD, OTR/L, was the first occupational therapy doctoral resident with the USC Keck School of Medicine Street Medicine Team in 2019-2020. She completed both her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California, and currently works doing home health and acute inpatient care in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. During her doctoral work, Espinoza focused on the unique role OT has in assessing and supporting functional cognition, with independent research regarding practicality of known assessment tools within a street setting. Through participation in several communities of practice, she continues to engage in conversation and advocacy around homeless healthcare and the systemic barriers that result in racial disparities within the homeless population.

#54, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Mary Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA, ScD(Hon) is an occupational therapy consultant for families with dementia and is on several foundation boards of directors in San Diego and Canada. She is past president of AOTA and OTAC, past chair of the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT), was deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the Reagan Administration, past president of the Palomar Health District Board, and has been a strategic planning consultant for more than 40 years.
#20, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Stephen Ferrang, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner in schools since 2001. His current position allows him to work not only with students in the schools, but therapists in the field. Stephen's passion lies in educating schools and therapists alike.
#43, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Savanna Forry, OTR/L, is a doctoral resident at the University of Southern California's Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity. She is currently pursuing her clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) at the University of Southern California's Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, where she also completed a Master of Arts in occupational therapy in August 2020. Forry received an educational foundation in holistic human development and psychology from the University of California, San Diego. She comes from a multidisciplinary background with experience as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapist, and having worked in athletic training and physical therapy.
#57, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Cecilia Garcia, OTR/L, an occupational therapy practitioner, graduated from the University of Southern California Chan Division of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science. She is a current occupational therapy doctoral resident and a California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (CA-LEND) trainee. She is currently completing her residency at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, a community-based mental health clinic, in which she provides mental health occupational therapy services to children and adolescents.
#22, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Catherine Gardner, OTD, MPA, OT (NJ), FAOTA, has worked in multiple areas of occupational therapy practice for 40 years. During the majority of the time, she has held various administrative positions and has provided clinical services to children and adults in settings, which include inpatient acute, rehabilitation, skilled nursing, and homecare. For the last 24 years, Gardner has worked in schools and the community focusing on services with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Her involvement with the community also includes volunteer work with local and county emergency response agencies. Gardner received a bachelor's in occupational therapy from Kean College (now University) with a certification in gerontology, a master's in public administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a concentration in health care, and a post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Eastern Kentucky University. Her capstone work was on identifying meaningful occupation for students and families when creating structured learning experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they transition into adult life.

#30, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Joahnes Gatdula, OTD, OTR/L, ITOT, earned a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy at Emilio Aguinaldo College, Philippines in 1999 and received a post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate at the University of Medical Sciences Arizona in 2019. He is currently working as an MSOT instructor at Stanbridge University and at California Rehabilitation Institute. He has 20 years of varied OT acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, SNF, home health, and SPED clinical experience. He has advanced practice in PAM, and certifications ITOT and ASIA InSTeP.

#36, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Laura Golden, OTD, OTR/L (TX), is a licensed and registered occupational therapy practitioner in the state of Texas. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She completed her doctoral apprenticeship with Pathways to Independence in St. Louis, MO, and Center for Autism & Related Disabilities in Coral Gables, FL. Golden is a Positive Approach® to Care Certified Independent Consultant and a Trust-Based Relational Intervention Practitioner. Areas of expertise include intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing disorder, feeding impairment, trauma, dementia, and movement disorders. She has provided clinical therapeutic intervention to individuals from birth to geriatrics with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Past experience also includes training adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to foster community integration.

#33, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Rodney Harris, COTA/L, grew up in Northern California where his initial professional endeavor was law enforcement. He spent 10 years working the gang unit, becoming an academy instructor, proudly working on the special weapons team, and being a G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) officer. When the sun set on this career, Harris became an occupational therapy assistant and has worked with both pediatric and geriatric. He has also had the pleasure of working with the autistic and mental health populations. Harris is drawn to working with those who are severely impacted by autism and mental health challenges while advocating for their inclusion and independence.

#35, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



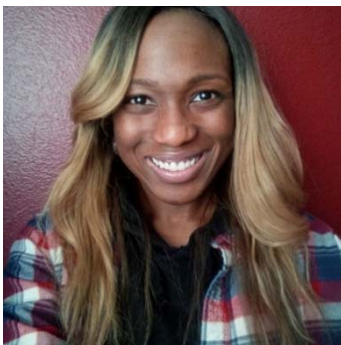
Alice Heebner, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for the past 26 years in the areas of pediatrics and geriatrics. She is currently the co-owner and OT supervisor for HM Systems Inc. and is responsible for mentoring and supporting practitioners in Southern California. Heebner is also responsible for recruitment in school districts, training, and program development.

#43, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Susan Skees Hermes, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, has over 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 the American Occupational Therapy Association, she has been in leadership roles in Texas and Florida state occupational therapy associations. Hermes joined the Eastern Kentucky University as full-time faculty this year. 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, Kentucky school-based telehealth practices, and professional association leadership development.

#30, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Erica Herrera, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, is an occupational therapy practitioner who specializes in hand therapy as a certified hand therapist. She completed her undergraduate work at California State Polytechnic University of Pomona in the field of biological sciences. She went on to pursue a master's degree from Loma Linda University and occupational therapy doctorate at Rocky Mountain University of Health Promotions. Coming from humble beginnings, she has always had a passion for serving humanity through statewide community service ventures as well as missionary work abroad through the skills learned as an occupational therapy practitioner.

#62, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Wendy Hildenbrand, PhD, MPH, OTR/L (KS), FAOTA, is president of the American Occupational Therapy Association and a clinical assistant professor in the Occupational Therapy Education Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She has earned a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy, a master's in public health, and Doctor of Philosophy in public administration – all from the University of Kansas. Hildenbrand's practice experience includes work in mental health, school-based practice, and population and community health. Professional expertise includes leadership, policy development and implementation, advocacy, and building bridges between policy, academia, and practice. Her recent research examined the experience of role conflict in frontline occupational therapy professionals when implementing policies and working to maintain professional values.

Activity A, Friday, March 5, 5:30pm - 6:00pm



Zurit Horowitz, OTS, is completing a Master of Occupational Therapy degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). During her master's degree she researched "The Experience of Participating in Extreme Sports" and "PTLID, QOL and Social Participation in People with SCIs." Prior to attending CSUDH, Horowitz was a writer, director, and actress based in Los Angeles, CA. She has a passion for community-based mental health care.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Becky Hua, OTS, is currently a graduate student in the Master of Science in occupational therapy program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Northridge. One of the many aspects that led Hua to occupational therapy is the holistic approach and plethora of specialties within the discipline. In the future, she is interested in working in adult outpatient rehabilitation and school-based practice.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Praveen Injeti, BS, MFT, OT/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 1999. He received his education as an occupational therapy practitioner at Loma Linda University and obtained a Master of Arts in psychology with a focus in marriage and family therapy. Injeti has been an adjunct faculty since 2007 in Loma Linda University's Department of Occupational Therapy. As a practitioner his experiences range from long-term care, to the jail system treating psychiatric patients, to inpatient behavioral health settings, as well as home health. Praveen's passion is behavioral health and over the course of 15 years he has specifically focused his attention on behavioral health and pediatrics. He currently works in an inpatient behavioral hospital as the lead occupational therapy practitioner where his duties include a balance between supervising staff and providing clinical care for the pediatric population. As a faculty member, he teaches two classes every fall quarter with an educational focus on mental health, theories and group dynamics. Injeti is also a faculty consultant helping students with research projects as well as program development.

#62, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Sheela Ivlev, MS, OTR/L, CMHIMP, is an occupational therapy practitioner specializing in wellness and mental health. She has worked for highly rated San Francisco Bay Area hospitals and at San Jose State University as a clinical educator. She is currently running a wellness-based virtual practice. Ivlev is committed to removing the barriers to care that keep people from accessing health and wellness services. She currently serves on San Francisco's Alternatives to Policing Steering Committee and multiple DEI committees that represent California occupational therapy practitioners. Ivlev founded the BIPOC OT Practitioners Group and the BIPOC OT Directory of Providers.

#26 – Saturday, March 6, from 12:15pm - 1:45pm*

***Note: This session will only be available live. No recordings will be posted after the initial date of presentation, per the presenter's request.**



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.

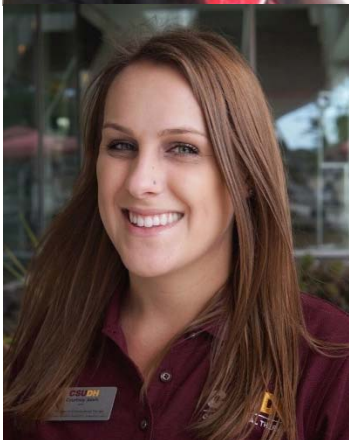
Activity B, Saturday, March 6, 9:00am - 9:45am

#23, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Suchitra (Suchi) Iyer, MA, OTR/L, is the regional rehab director in California for Life Care Centers of America. She has worked in skilled nursing and long-term care for 13 years. Iyer has a deep passion to serve the geriatric population, which was one of the compelling reasons to pursue a master's in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. She has developed rehab programs for skilled nursing facilities and continues to be driven to provide high-quality care to the most vulnerable.

#63, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Courtney Jarvis, OTS, is a graduate student currently working towards earning her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from CSU, Dominguez Hills. She has a Bachelor of Science in Health Science-Community Health Education from CSU, Long Beach. While in graduate school, she performed research on “Quality of Life and Psychosocial Well-Being in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Comparison of Secondary Transitions” and “Impact of Anxiety on Occupational Participation of Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder”.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Heather Javaherian, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is an associate professor and program director at Loma Linda University with a doctorate from Creighton University. 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 non-profit for survivors of domestic violence. Javaherian has presented at regional, state, and national levels on domestic violence and has authored several publications in this area. She has served the profession at AOTA in the Education SIS and at the state levels as a regional director in Ohio and is now is 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.

#44, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am

#62, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California and appointed faculty at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Jones has over 13 years of pediatric experience working in homes, schools, clinic, 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 level to occupational therapy practitioners and interdisciplinary audiences.

#52, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Veerali Juthani, OTR/L, is an OTD resident at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), providing occupational therapy consultation and intervention to infants, children, and adolescents with developmental disabilities and mental health disorders. She received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California, where she is currently pursuing her Occupational Therapy Doctorate. She has advanced training in sensory integration and is interested in the interplay of trauma and sensory processing. Veerali is committed to providing child and family-centered care that is culturally fluid.

#52, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Lisa Kangas, OTR/L, graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy. She worked in SNF as a staff therapist for eight years. Kangas became a director of rehab (DOR) in 2011 for a SNF and worked as a DOR until 2018. She became area director for the northern Idaho and eastern Washington regions. Following the area director position, she changed companies and became a staff OT. Shortly after, she became the DOR 2018 to 2020 at that company. Kangas is currently the regional rehab director overseeing nine buildings in northern and southern Idaho and eastern Washington. She has supported Eastern Washington University's OT program as her way to "give back" to the community. Kangas has been a CI for many students and has been on EWU's student advisory board

for over 10 years. She is involved in student interview day and selection for admissions and is a guest lecturer for the leadership class.

#63, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Rachel Kent, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy doctoral resident on the USC Keck School of Medicine Street Medicine Team. She graduated with a master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California in 2020 and will complete her doctorate of occupational therapy in August of 2021. Kent has worked within different supportive housing environments during her fieldwork rotations, where she served as the only occupational therapy intern in these settings. She developed a passion for working within homeless healthcare services while serving in a leadership role in USC's Student Run Clinic, where she supported teams of interdisciplinary healthcare students in providing primary care services for those experiencing homelessness.

#54, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Heather Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, is the MSOT coordinator at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and has been faculty there since 2016; she has experience both in clinical teaching and classroom instruction. She has more than 29 years of experience in acute rehabilitation and, more recently, acute medical-surgical care. Kitching completed her clinical doctorate degree at the University of Southern California. Her program development interests at Keck Hospital included wellness programming to facilitate tolerance of prolonged hospitalization related to pre- and post-organ transplant as well as stem cell transplantation. Her doctoral studies focused on political and cultural applications of occupational therapy and occupational science concepts. Kitching served as assistant director of a 12-week program in the summer of 2004 on an indigenous American reservation in central California. She collaborated with anthropologist and occupational scientist, Gelya Frank, in facilitating a cultural intervention with the Tule River Tribe to meet their own goals of recording their history. Kitching's interests include leadership and advocacy. She has held many elected and appointed positions within the Occupational Therapy Association of California and served as its president for two terms (2016-2020).

#40, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Stephanie Kokesh, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS, is an academic fieldwork coordinator and instructor for the occupational therapy assistant program at CBD College in Los Angeles. She continues to work in acute care as an occupational therapy practitioner at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Her areas of interest include physical and neurological rehabilitation, sexual health, and fieldwork. Kokesh received her clinical doctorate from Creighton University.

#47, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Frank Kronenberg, PhD, BScOT, BA Ed, is an international guest lecturer and chair of the Board of Directors for Grandmothers Against Poverty and Aids, Cape Town, South Africa.

Activity B, Saturday, March 6, 9:00am - 9:45am

#16, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Dragana Krpalek, PhD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner, who graduated with a Doctor in Philosophy in 2012 from the University of Queensland, Australia. She is currently in the position of an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Loma Linda University, California. She has provided occupational therapy services in Australia and Haiti and presently in the USA. 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 has been centered in primary care. She has been facilitating support groups within a lifestyle medicine setting since January 2019.

#44, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Julie Kugel, OTD, OTR/L, DipACLM, graduated with a Bachelor in Health Science and Master of Occupational Therapy in 2006 from Loma Linda University, California. After graduation she began working in the areas of inpatient rehabilitation, acute care, and outpatient pediatrics. She also spent seven years working in school-based practice. During this time, she pursued her post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (2009). Kugel's doctoral research focused on health, wellness, and childhood obesity in rural Washington. Over the past eight years, she has been teaching full-time at Loma Linda University, serving as the program director for the Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. In 2019 she obtained her board certification as a Certified Lifestyle Medicine Professional.

#44, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



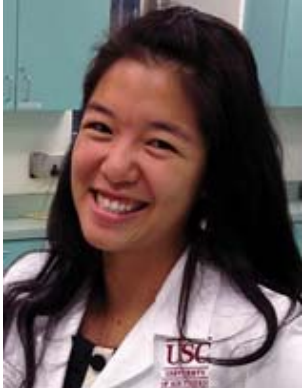
Michelle Laforteza, OTD, OTR/L, attended the University of Southern California where she received a Master of Arts in occupational therapy in 2012 and clinical doctorate in 2013. She is an occupational therapy practitioner at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center working in outpatient rehabilitation specializing in stroke recovery and adults with neurological conditions. Focusing on occupation and client centered treatment interventions for her clients with neurological disorders drives her passion.

#51, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Martin Lee, OTR/L, received a Master of Science in occupational therapy at D'Youville College in 2000, and a PhD in gerontology at the University of South Florida in 2006. His specialty area is in therapeutic interventions for reduction of fall occurrences in individuals experiencing physical and cognitive frailty. Lee had 11 years' experience as a director of rehabilitation in skilled nursing facilities in Florida and Colorado before becoming the regional rehabilitation director for the Pikes Peak Region (Colorado) with Lifecare Centers of America in September 2020.

#63, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L, is currently the director of occupational therapy at Exodus Recovery, which provides psychiatric treatment services in hospital-based inpatient and outpatient programs in Los Angeles County. She supervises level I and level II students from different universities in order to increase exposure and pique interest in mental health. Leu co-founded the Greater Los Angeles Mental Health Practice Network, whose goal is to provide education and support mental health occupational therapy practitioners while advocating for occupational therapy's distinct role in mental health practice. Leu is also currently teaching at Stanbridge University.

#35, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Patricia Librea, OTS, is a graduate student in occupational therapy at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. She obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in disability studies at University of California, Los Angeles, with a dream of becoming an individual who will create meaningful differences in another person's life by helping them get back to doing the things they love. She is a passionate student who is driven to redefine the norm in today's society, and is highly motivated to advocate for an inclusive community that embraces diversity and welcomes all abilities through occupational therapy.

#31, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Teresa Liccardo, MA, OTR/L (NV), is currently an acute care occupational therapy practitioner based in Las Vegas, Nevada, with a specialty in working with patients in trauma ICU and neuro ICU settings. Liccardo feels fortunate to have completed a level II fieldwork in Lifestyle Redesign® at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. Outside of working as an occupational therapy practitioner, Liccardo has worked as a professional synchronized swimmer for "O" by Cirque Du Soleil and Le Reve The Dream at Wynn Las Vegas. She received her Bachelor of Science in health promotion and disease prevention studies from University of Southern California, Master of Arts in occupational therapy from University of Southern California, and is currently working towards a Post-Professional Doctorate in occupational therapy at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

#27, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



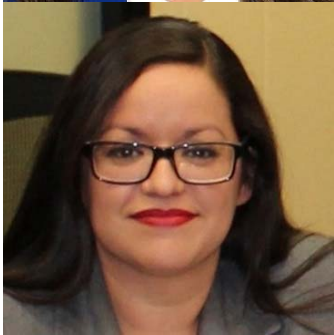
Linh Lam, OTS, is an occupational therapy doctoral student at Northern Arizona University.

#45, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Natalie Lodeen, OTS, is a doctoral student in the Department of Occupational Therapy at West Coast University in Los Angeles, California. Her professional background includes working in an outpatient OT clinic and as a rehabilitation aide, clinical aide, and patient service representative. Her clinical experience during fieldwork internships included a skilled nursing facility, outpatient pediatric clinic, and inpatient hospital. Research experience includes implementing group-based OT intervention for formerly homeless women residing in permanent supportive housing.

#73, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Maribel Martinez, EdD, has worked in the education field for 24 years. She has served as a middle school teacher, instructional coach, dean, assistant principal, high school principal and currently as a district office coordinator of student services for Lynwood Unified School District. Martinez earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Southern California in 2016. She currently oversees the Lynwood Unified School District's Health Collaborative, which received a Golden Bell Award in 2018 from the California School Boards Association for its partnership with local agencies to provide physical and mental health support services to Lynwood families. Additionally, Martinez oversees the Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) framework for Lynwood Unified School District.

#32, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Erin McIntyre, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy for the University of St. Augustine Occupational Therapy Program in San Marcos, California. She completed BS, MA, and post-professional OTD degrees in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC). McIntyre's career has focused on working with people labeled with serious mental illness in a range of service settings both nationally and in the United Kingdom. Her primary interest is in working with individuals experiencing psychosis in community-based mental health settings and she has conducted research exploring the role of occupational therapy for individuals experiencing hoarding and psychosis. McIntyre currently co-facilitates the AOTA psychosis community of practice, is a founding member of a community of practice for occupational therapy practitioners working in homeless services, and an active member of the California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH).

#25, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm

#65, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Rochelle McLaughlin, MS, OTR/L, MBSR, RYT, is the founder, coordinator, and lead instructor for the Advanced Certificate in San Jose State University's (SJSU) Advanced Certificate in Applied Mindfulness, a program open to all healthcare and human service practitioners worldwide. She earned an MS in occupational therapy from SJSU in 2000, and received a certification to teach Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) from the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Mindfulness. McLaughlin has completed advanced studies in humanistic psychology and is a certified yoga instructor. She has taught MBSR, MBOT, and neuro-social-psychophysiological perspectives and practices to several hundred participants for the Department of Occupational Therapy and internationally. She regularly leads retreats on integrating mindfulness into healthcare and human services for all age ranges experiencing a broad range of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges.

#1, Friday, March 5, 1:00pm - 5:00pm



Jessica Meyer, MEd, MS, OTR/L (AZ), is director of Success Matters at Beatitudes Campus Life Plan Community in Phoenix, AZ. She draws upon her experience as an occupational therapy practitioner and educator in order to develop programming and interventions for Campus residents and the broader community in areas of preventative health and wellness. Through her work in Success Matters, Meyer's approach to well-being draws upon evidence-based practice and therapeutic relationships to holistically empower older adults, enhancing quality of life and purposeful living.

#45, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



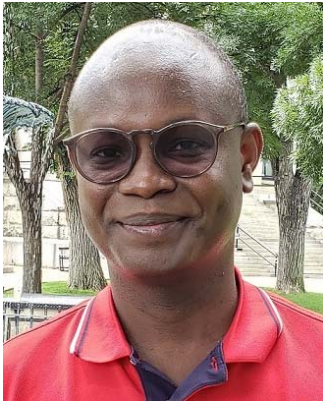
Beverly Moskowitz, DOT, MS, OTR/L (PA), FAOTA, is a nationally recognized speaker with more than 44 years of experience. As a school OT, she served more than 15 districts, visiting over 60 schools. Author of multiple publications, she teaches other practitioners how to implement AOTA best practices, time-saving strategies, and progressive IDEA ideals while 'keeping the fun going.' A creative entrepreneur, determined researcher, and tireless professional, she is the author of The Size Matters Handwriting Program. In 2010, Moskowitz launched Real OT Solutions, Inc. She earned the distinguished alumni award from Temple University and serves on the OT advisory boards at both Temple and Salus universities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2015, she was recognized for her professional contributions and inducted as a Fellow into the American Occupational Therapy Association.

#12, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Faith Moy, OTR/L, has been an OT for over 35 years and worked most of her career in pediatrics. She started teaching at California State University, Dominguez Hills' MSOT program in the fall of 2017 and has been lecturer and fieldwork faculty since. She has developed community-based faculty-led fieldwork programs for children with ASD and adults with disabilities. Moy also supervises fieldwork levels I and II students at Integrity House, which is a Clubhouse International site. She is working on her OTD with anticipated completion by the fall of 2022.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Bernard Muriithi, PhD, OTR/L (AZ), teaches, among other courses, mental health practice at A. T. Still University of Health Sciences. He is a native of Kenya and has a background in music education, musicology, and music therapy. Muriithi has practiced occupational therapy in acute care, acute rehabilitation, school-based practice, and mental health settings. His research interests include the relationship between music and health, pedagogical methods in occupational therapy education, and occupation-based approaches for building resilience, quality of life, and well-being. He is the primary developer of the Occupational Resilience Frame of Reference (ORFR) and the Occupational Resilience Measure (ORM).

#24, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Jennifer Muriithi, OTD, OTR/L (AZ), has 25 years in clinical practice, including nearly a decade pursuing occupational justice initiatives with marginalized populations. Muriithi brings a broad perspective toward advancing clinical practice. As an acute care specialist, she developed an understanding of the many chronic challenges that lead to acute hospitalizations and various chronic health conditions. Beyond acute care, Muriithi has extensive experience serving as an occupational therapy practitioner in cross-cultural contexts – places as diverse as Turkey, Peru, Cuba, and Afghanistan. She is founding director of Tapestry, promoting occupation-based interventions with refugee immigrants in the Phoenix Metro area. She is now an assistant professor of occupational therapy at Huntington University in Peoria, Arizona. Muriithi collaborated in originally developing and refining the construct of occupational resilience and has been championing its applicability among marginalized populations and with the general public.

#24, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Rachelle Nagata, OTD, OTR/L, works as a learning specialist at the University of Southern California Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity in Los Angeles. She completed her occupational therapy doctoral residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, which is a private outpatient mental health clinic. Nagata attained advanced clinical expertise in Lifestyle Redesign®, an occupational therapy intervention that facilitates the health-promoting behavioral change of clients with neurodevelopmental disorders and mental illnesses such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, depression, and anxiety. She currently specializes in the holistic treatment of college students with diverse learning needs to foster academic success and well-being. Nagata serves as a fieldwork educator, mentor, and pioneer for occupational therapy graduate students interested in entering this role-emerging practice area of higher education.

#57, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Bonnie Nakasuji, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, has been in practice for 47 years. She is currently co-owner of a pediatric private practice, Therapy West, Inc., adjunct associate professor of OT at the University of Southern California, and is one of AOTA's Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program trainers (since 2009). She was inspired to develop a transition program called Steppin' Up for high school students after working with high-risk adults, which subsequently informed the Steppin' Up Too program emphasizing a mental health perspective that was implemented with Tier 3 (alternative-to-suspension) students (first graders and teens) per request by Lynwood Unified School District. She is the recipient of the Fieldwork Educator of the Year (OTAC-2005), the Humanitarian Award (CFOT-2009), Award of Excellence and Entrepreneur of the Year (OTAC-2012), became a Fellow of the American OT Association (FAOTA) (2015), and awarded AOTA's International Service Award (2017).

#32, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Marilyn Noriega, MA, OTR/L, has a career that has spanned four decades dedicated primarily to working in mental health with high-risk adolescents in transition to emancipation. She is the mental health consultant for all Therapy West Steppin' Up programs. She worked with hospitalized youth at UCLA-NPI creating "packs" (Girl and Cub Scout groups) to learn competent participation and socialization through service-oriented occupations. She was the first division director of the OT Training Project, applying a practice model that resulted in positive performance ratings annually, and in youth employment contracts in Los Angeles County. As a result, many of the emancipated-from-the-justice-system youth graduated from high school and/or completed vocational training. She was the first program coordinator of the OT program at CSU, Dominguez Hills (1998), achieving the first ACOTE accreditation for this fledgling undergraduate OT program (first state-funded program in Southern California). She was adjunct professor until retiring in 2015. She received the OTAC Fieldwork Educator award (in 2008).

#32, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Oliver Obusan, OTR/L, works at VA Palo Alto Health Care system as an OT supervisor in outpatient services. He manages specialty programs including hand therapy, drivers' rehabilitation, home health, SCI, polytrauma rehabilitation, assistive technology, and ergonomics. He recently was hired in the regional/VISN level in the newly expanded Caregiver Support Program.

#41, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Jessica Padilla, COTA/L, has over 10 years of experience as an OT practitioner. She is a proud graduate from the Santa Ana College OTA Program and its bachelor's in occupational studies program. Most of her experience is in a pediatric hospital setting, working at highly respected pediatric hospitals in the western United States. Aside from her pediatric experience, she also has experience working with adults and geriatrics in SNF and home health settings. Through her experience, Padilla discovered a passion for mentoring OT and OTA students for level I and II fieldwork. In 2018 she started working part-time at Santa Ana College as an instructional associate, and in 2019 she was hired full-time as assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator.

#56, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Bethrese Padini, OTS, is an Occupational Therapy Doctoral Resident at the University of Southern California.

#57, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Priya Parekh, OTD, OTR/L (AZ), CEAS, is a clinical occupational therapy practitioner at the University of Medical Sciences Arizona's Lionel Holder Rehabilitation Clinic, Avondale, Arizona. She majorly treats the pediatric population at the clinic where she collaborates with patients and their family members to improve patients' health outcomes and optimize their occupational performance.

#42, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Jennifer Rafeedie, PysD, is a licensed psychologist and clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Keck of USC based at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). She has been at Children's Hospital Los Angeles for 24 years, where she is involved in the training of mental health professionals and pediatric residents. Her clinical work and scholarship are focused on the psychosocial and psychological needs of children involved with child welfare, with specific interest in the impact of toxic stress causes by multiple traumatic stressors occurring in childhood. Rafeedie is one of the founding members of the Foster Care Hub at CHLA, where children are evaluated for their medical, developmental, and mental health needs.

#52, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Yvonne Randall, EdD, MHA, OTR/L (NV), FAOTA, is an assistant professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Previously, Randall was the founding academic fieldwork coordinator (2005 – 2009) and school director (2009 – 2017) in the School of Occupational Therapy, and associate dean in the College of Health and Human Services at Touro University Nevada. She has taught in occupational therapy, occupational therapy assistant, occupational science, educational leadership, and special education/early childhood education academic programs for over 25 years. Passionate about her profession, Randall currently serves as chairperson of the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC). Her previous volunteer service roles include treasurer – Society for the Study of Occupation (SSO: USA) (2014 – 2017), speaker – AOTA Representative Assembly (2010 – 2013), member – AOTA Board of Directors (2010 – 2013), president – Nevada Occupational Therapy Association (1999 – 2003) and mentor – AOTA Emerging Leaders Development Program (2011 – 2019). Randall is an instructor for TherapyEd teaching OT and OTA courses for participants preparing for the national certification examination. She received her Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy from Texas Woman's University, Masters of Healthcare Administration from Chapman University, and Doctorate of Education in special education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

#27, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm

#55, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Sheela Rao, MD, is a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. She teaches pediatric residents and sees patients in the FQHC of the AltaMed corporation. Since the beginning of her career, Rao has worked in the interdisciplinary CHLA Foster Hub clinic where pediatricians join with psychologists to complete initial health assessments of children entering the child protective service system. She also teaches public health courses in the Preventive Medicine Department of Keck School of Medicine of USC.

#52, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Tammy Richmond, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, is an occupational therapist and exercise physiologist and CEO of Go 2 Care, Inc., an online telehealth company that provides telehealth technology, and telehealth training and consultation. Richmond serves on the Executive Committee for the Telerehabilitation SIG at the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) and as telehealth content expert for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). She has authored multiple publications, webinars, and presentations on various aspects of private practice, management, and telehealth.

#20, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



John (Johnny) Rider, MS, OTR/L (NV), MSCS, CEAS, is an assistant professor at Touro University Nevada and works as a community-based occupational therapy practitioner for Good Life Therapy, LLC. In addition, he is an American Sign Language Interpreter and is a certified human movement specialist from the Brookbush Institute. Rider is completing his PhD in interdisciplinary health sciences with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His occupational therapy experience includes school systems, early intervention, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, primary care, home health, and hospice. His research and advocacy efforts revolve around chronic disease management, emphasizing neurodegenerative diseases, fall prevention, and persistent pain.

#11, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am

#21, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Gabrielle Romero, OTS, is a third-year occupational therapy doctorate student at West Coast University. Her professional background includes working in a pediatric clinic as a behavior technician and clinical aide, and at a home health agency as an administrator designee. Her clinical experience during fieldwork rotations included working in community-based, outpatient, and home health settings. Romero worked with individuals living with varying diagnoses including psychological, orthopedic, neurological, pulmonary, and cardiovascular conditions. Her doctorate-level capstone project focuses on developing and establishing pediatric and adolescent OT programs at Prototypes, a women's substance abuse and domestic violence recovery facility.

#73, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Amanda Routt, OTD, OTR/L, received an undergraduate degree in health sciences and graduate degrees in occupational therapy from the Nova Southeastern University-Tampa. Routt has pediatric experience in both clinic and school-based practice settings. She has always had a passion for working with children and her professional interests include sensory integration and mental health. She completed her doctoral residency at Therapy West, Inc., where she helped develop and implement an OT group program with a mental health perspective for students in middle/high school and young children in first grade for Lynwood Unified School District.

#32, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Clarissa Saunders-Newton, PhD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Therapy at University of Southern California. In this position she works as an academic fieldwork coordinator. Saunders-Newton has experience in a wide variety of settings and roles including in hospitals, outpatient centers, adult day care centers, and teaching.

#46, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Emma Schiewe, MA, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy doctoral resident. She graduated from USC with dual bachelor's degrees in human biology and art history and minor in occupational science, and from USC with a master's degree in occupational therapy. She is currently completing her clinical doctoral residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she works with clients in weight management, mental health, ergonomics, college student, diabetes, oncology, and health coaching Lifestyle Redesign® programs. Schiewe works with clients to promote engagement in their meaningful activities, roles and routines while improving management of their chronic symptoms. She is passionate about the expansion of occupational therapy's role in supporting the holistic health and wellness of individuals with cancer diagnoses.

#13, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Mary Schmitz, OTD, OT/L (AZ), has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 1985. Working in nearly all practice areas at some point throughout her career, the one-on-one relationship 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. In addition to her employment, Schmitz has extensive volunteer roles in three state occupational associations and community roles for such associations as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, COPD Foundation, and the Arthritis Foundation. Through her current role as secretary to her local Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) in Bullhead City, Arizona, Schmitz is contributing in her local region to expanding the role of the occupational therapy practitioner in the area of emergency prevention and response. Her most recent projects also include formulating a presentation for the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition and co-founding an Arizona chapter for the Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals (AHEPP).

#30, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Noelle Schorn, MA, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner pursuing a doctorate through USC Primary Care. Her clinical work at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice focuses on providing lifestyle-based interventions to prevent and manage various chronic conditions. Additionally, Schorn provides consultative health and wellness services for USC Family Medicine and serves on an inter-professional geriatric assessment team. Through her multiple roles, she seeks to empower clients to understand the factors that influence their health and be active decision makers in their care.

#15, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Emily Schulz, PhD, OTR/L (AZ), CFLE, ACUE, is assistant clinical professor at Northern Arizona University. She is the mentor for the two OTD students who are co-presenters in this practice-scholar apprenticeship experience. Her clinical background includes working with seniors in skilled nursing facilities. Her line of research involves examining how spirituality supports and promotes health and wellness.

#45, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



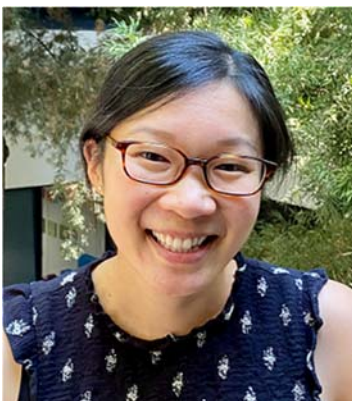
Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, OTD, OTR/L, MSCS, is an associate professor of clinical occupational therapy at the Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. She currently teaches undergraduate courses, one about self-care habits and routines, and the other about thriving and how to promote wellbeing. Prior to teaching, Simon used the Lifestyle Redesign® technique to help people with chronic or lifestyle-based conditions to change their daily habits and routines, specializing in helping people with chronic pain, headaches, multiple sclerosis, or who struggle with behavioral health.

#64, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Sara Stephenson, OTD, OTR/L (AZ), BCPR, CBIS, is clinical faculty with Northern Arizona University's OTD program and clinician at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute. She teaches neuroscience and adult neurologic intervention courses and has extensive experience in the neurologic intensive care, acute hospital, and rehabilitation settings.

#14, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Lillian Sun, OTD, OTR/L, completed a clinical doctorate and master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from UC San Diego. She began working at The Adult Skills Center as a doctoral resident establishing OT services on their Specialized Therapeutic Services Team, a vendorized day program within North Los Angeles County Regional Center. Her previous experience as a direct service provider for adults with intellectual disabilities in Seattle spearheaded her search for more resources and services for this population, especially as they age. Sun is passionate about providing holistic care and adaptable environments to empower individuals with disabilities to live meaningful and independent lives.

#34, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Abigail Swidergal, MS, COTA/L (NV), CKTP, has been a COTA since 2013. She has practiced in pediatrics, with her clinical expertise in hippotherapy, working with a variety of diagnoses and age ranges. She has also worked in early intervention, school-based practice, and traditional outpatient settings. In Illinois, Swidergal served as the OTA SIS chairperson from 2017-2020 and conference chair 2019-2020, and earning the 2020 OTA of the Year Award. She participated in the AOTA Emerging Leaders Program 2016-2017, and she is running for the AOTA Representative Assembly OTA-Elect position in 2021. She started as adjunct faculty in 2017, teaching in two OTA programs in Illinois. In 2020, she served as a subject matter expert, creating curriculum for a new OTA program. Most recently, Swidergal moved to Las Vegas to teach full-time at Pima Medical Institute, and is actively participating in the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association's Diversity Task Force.

#50, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm

#71, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



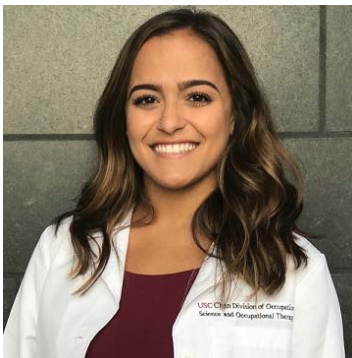
Kyrstin Szewczyk, OTR/L (WA), MOT, CBIS, CEAS I, has worked primarily with the neurological population (TBI, SCI, and CVA) on an inpatient and outpatient level and is currently lead OT at an outpatient return to work brain injury rehab program in Washington state. She has a brain injury specialist certification and is a Certified Ergonomics Assessment Specialist. She is very active with the Washington Occupational Therapy Association (WOTA), currently as president.

#61, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Melissa Tilton, BS, COTA/L (MA), ROH, works as clinical operations area director, and has been an OTA for 25 years, with a focus on leadership. She also is an adjunct instructor within an OTA program. Tilton has made significant impacts on the profession of occupational therapy. She is an avid advocate for all aspects of occupational therapy and dedicated to all causes impacting OTAs. Her volunteering is endless, including many organizations, multiple roles on the AOTA Board of Directors, ACOTE, state organizations, and providing formal and informal mentorship to many practitioners and students. Tilton has earned many awards and recognitions, including the AOTA OTA Award of Excellence, AOTA Roster of Honor, MAOT Herbert Hall Award, Spirit of Genesis Award, MAOT Outstanding OTA of the Year, and Distinguished Alumni Award.

#50, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Alya Turcotte, OTD, OTR/L, received an occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) degree from the University of Southern California. She completed her OTD residency at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), providing occupational therapy services to children and youth with mental health disorders. Her doctoral residency included developing developmentally appropriate protocols for screening youth in the Foster Care Hub clinic. Turcotte also holds a Master of Arts in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. She has advanced training in sensory integration and has a passion for providing family-centered, culturally-relevant care. She is pursuing a career working with the pediatric population in an outpatient clinic.

setting and plans to pursue advanced practice certification in feeding and swallowing.

#52, Sunday, March 7, 10:45am - 12:15pm



Samantha Valasek, OTD, OTR/L, TTS, is a clinical faculty member at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, the USC Chan Division's private clinic. 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 also works in primary care settings to expand the role of and access to occupational therapy services. Valasek balances her clinical responsibilities with teaching, fieldwork education, and scholarly pursuits.

#15, Saturday, March 6, 10:00am - 11:30am



Aimee Villalpando, OTS, CNS, is a third-year occupational therapy doctorate student at West Coast University in Los Angeles, California. Her clinical experience includes working in inpatient rehabilitation and acute care settings. She has treated people with varying diagnoses including orthopedic, neurological, and cardiopulmonary conditions and has recently received certification as a Certified Neuro Specialist (CNS) from The Neuro Specialist Institute. Villalpando's research experience includes co-creating and implementing a mental health intervention for formerly homeless women residing in permanent supportive housing and co-creating an orthotic device used for a client with a neurological disorder. The focus area for her doctorate-level project includes developing an advanced certification course in neuro-degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's Disease (PD), Huntington's Disease, Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), and dementia.

#73, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Thong Vo, OTS, graduated with a bachelor's of health science at California State University, Long Beach. He is currently attending a master's program in occupational therapy at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. After working as a case manager for a nonprofit organization, SeniorServ, which provides home-delivered meals and supportive services for the elderly population, he was inspired to become an occupational therapy practitioner as he grew emotionally invested in his clients' living situations and felt compelled to find ways to assist further.

#31, Saturday, March 6, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Emma Wallace, OTD, OTR/L, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner working in early intervention in Southern California. She completed her doctoral degree at the University of Southern California. Her residency focused on pediatric mental health at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, specifically the USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. While there, Wallace provided direct and consultative occupational therapy services to children from birth to young adulthood with specific interests in mental health in early childhood settings and chronic illness like Type 1 diabetes.

#22, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Barbara Williams, DrOT, MS, OTR, is a certified occupational therapy practitioner who currently serves as the associate director, in the External and Regulatory Affairs Department for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) where she has worked for over seven years. In this capacity, she is responsible for activities related to state regulation, international regulatory services, and community outreach. Previous to employment with NBCOT, Williams served as chair and program director for an occupational therapy program in Indiana.

#70, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm

***Note: This session will only be available live. No recordings will be posted after the initial date of presentation, per the presenter's request.**



Myka Winder, OTD, OTR/L, developed expertise in Lifestyle Redesign® at the USC OT Faculty Practice and in education while completing her clinical Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree. Her doctoral work focused on contributing to curriculum development and teaching in foundational occupational therapy courses. Winder worked as a practitioner at the OT Faculty Practice for several years and focused on working with the college student population. She teaches in the professional program and teaches some undergraduate courses.

#64, Sunday, March 7, 1:00pm - 2:30pm



Prisca Wu, OTD, OTR/L, earned master's and doctorate degrees in occupational therapy at the Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Therapy at University of Southern California. She completed her doctoral residency at the USC fieldwork office on an administrative track with a concentration on pedagogy.

#46, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am



Kim Yan, OTS, earned a Bachelor of Science in health science at California State University, Long Beach, California. She is a second-year occupational doctorate student at West Coast University in Los Angeles, California. She believes in restoring function through compassion, understanding, and empathy. Her clinical experience during fieldwork included developing therapeutic interaction with clients and working with individuals with various needs and abilities. Yan's doctoral-level capstone interest is developing an OT program to promote and enhance overall well-being among the geriatric population. She is eager to enhance her research to further her rehabilitative and occupational knowledge.

#73, Sunday, March 7, 2:45pm - 4:15pm



Joyce Yoo, OTD, OTR/L, is currently a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner in Los Angeles, California. She completed her master's and doctoral degrees at University of Southern California. Yoo focused her residency year on pediatric mental health at Children's Hospital Los Angeles-USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It was within this context that she refined her skills as an occupational therapy practitioner working with children from birth to 22 years old. Additionally, she worked collaboratively with multiple disciplines in a variety of contexts to provide holistic, comprehensive client care.

#22, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Janis Yue, OTR/L, is currently a CA-LEND Fellow and occupational therapy doctoral resident at the Violence Intervention Program, a community-based mental health center that serves children and youth ages 0-22 who have experienced trauma, neglect, and/or abuse. As the daughter of immigrants from Hong Kong and family member to someone diagnosed with serious mental illness, Yue is passionate about working at the intersection of social justice, mental health, and advocacy/activism. Outside of her doctoral work, she wears a variety of "hats" as the student representative to AOTA's Commission on Education, a member of Chan's Diversity Access and Equity Curriculum Workgroup, and a community organizer with Chinatown Community for Equitable Development.

#22, Saturday, March 6, 12:15pm - 1:45pm



Baily Zubel, OTD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner and serves as the OT program director at Speech, Language and Educational Associates. She obtained both her masters and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Zubel's doctoral research focused on intentional communication and relationships within the pediatric setting, pediatric mental health, and scholarship of practice propelling theory, research, and practice. Her specializations include early intervention specialist, the Intentional Relationship Model, school-based services, and sensory integration. Zubel is certified in Interactive Metronome, Early Identification through AOTA's badge program and completed the Sensory Integration Continuing Education (CE) Certificate Program. She has significant experience working with children with a wide variety of diagnoses and is part of the early intervention initial assessment team.

#40, Sunday, March 7, 9:00am - 10:30am

Note: Some presenters have the initials of the state where they hold licensure after their OT credential. If there are no state initials, you can assume they hold a California license.