



## Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy  
Foundation

Fall 2013 Volume 18 Issue 3



### From the Desk of Charles Christiansen, Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

The 21st century was predicted to be an era of incredible change, and as expected, many of the changes seen so far have occurred in the areas of digital technology and energy use. But, others are occurring in the area of health care, and commanding the most attention these days seems to be the systemic policy changes designed to improve access to care and to contain costs.



Cost containment can take many forms, but often it revolves around limiting reimbursements for service provision. Decisions in this arena are increasingly based on the availability of evidence that services delivered are effective. In the past, expert opinions, clinical traditions and consensus were sufficient sources of such "evidence"; but today, well-designed research is necessary. Policymakers want objective research evidence that services are effective.

For this reason, the intervention research grant initiative launched by the Foundation in association with our colleagues at AOTA has vital importance. It needs to be expanded, since the number of high quality proposals received greatly exceeds the budget available for funding them. This is why we need your support more than ever.

The field has witnessed amazing progress in its capacity to do research, but our capacity to fund it needs commensurate growth. We appreciate your continued support of our events, our journal, our scholarship program, and our efforts to advance research.

As always, thanks.

Charles Christiansen  
Executive Director

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### The Work of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Did you know the American Occupational Therapy Foundation is the only

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### Mark Your Calendar for AOTF Events at the AOTA Conference in Baltimore

Watch [AOTF events](#) at the [AOTA Conference April 4-6, 2014.](#)

Watch for registration information on the [AOTA web site.](#)

### Be a Sponsor!

Proceeds from AOTF events support the Foundation's initiatives to champion the field of occupational therapy through research, scholarship and leadership programs. Contact [Cara Archer](#) for more information.

### Donate\_

### AOTF Staff

American foundation with a singular mission to build the research capacity and evidence for the profession of occupational therapy? The AOTF relies on annual donations and bequests to fund grant initiatives, educational programs, and information resources that are needed by producers and consumers of research. We invite you to join the growing number of occupational therapy clients, students, practitioners, scholars, and scientists who appreciate the important work of the AOTF and provide their financial and in-kind support.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation:

- \* funds the [AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grants](#).
- \* staffs the [Wilma L. West Library](#) and conducts database searches for AOTA members and staff.
- \* coordinates the operations of [OT SEARCH](#), the primary occupational therapy database.
- \* offers [major events](#) at the AOTA conference -- Breakfast with a Scholar, Research Colloquium, DocNet.
- \* co-sponsors speakers at the AOTA conference to build research capacity - e.g. speakers have come from NIH and AHRQ
- \* responds to national and international inquiries related to research and builds networks to strengthen our research capacity.
- \* sends out a free monthly e-newsletter, [Research Resources](#), to researchers, the only communication vehicle specifically for occupational therapy research.
- \* provides free guides to information sources ([Pathfinders](#)) and insights into human occupation as it relates to current societal issues ([Resources Notes](#)) available on our web site.
- \* supports the peer-reviewed journal, [OTJR: Occupation Participation and Health](#).
- \* coordinates the nominations and activities of the [Academy of Research](#), the profession's premier recognition for research.
- \* staffs [Pi Theta Epsilon](#), the honor society for occupational therapy and PTE events at the AOTA conference.
- \* coordinates merit-based [scholarships](#) to recognize students who will be the future leaders in occupational therapy.
- \* provided doctoral dissertation fellowships that supported completion of research.
- \* sponsored fellowships at the John Hopkins Center for Innovative Care in Aging.

## Universities Spurred to Action by the St. Catherine Challenge

The [St. Catherine Challenge](#), a student-driven challenge to fund and promote research in occupational therapy, was modeled after the Marquette Challenge. Students from the PTE chapter at St. Catherine University challenged all students of occupational therapy across the nation to compete by creating their own fundraisers, engaging their communities, and finally, come together at the annual AOTA conference to cheer the cause. In addition to St. Catherine University, ten schools have taken on the challenge as of mid-December: the University of Wisconsin -- La Crosse, University of North Dakota, The Ohio State University, Boston University, University of Southern California, Washington University in St. Louis, University of St. Augustine

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for Health Sciences, Colorado State University, AT Still University (Mesa), and Virginia Commonwealth University.

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## AOTF/AOTA Intervention Research Grant Update

This spring and summer, AOTF's Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health has had a laser focus on the launch of the new [AOTF/AOTF Intervention Research Grant \(IRG\)](#). Two priority areas were selected for the inaugural awards: autism spectrum disorders and health issues related to aging.

What are the primary tasks in developing an intervention research grant competition?

- \* Consult with our partners at AOTA to develop the parameters for the initiative.
- \* Publicize the IRG initiative.
- \* Collaborate with an online vendor to offer a user-friendly application.
- \* Prepare the eligibility criteria and letter of intent guidelines.
- \* Develop an online application process that is similar to federal agencies and major foundations.
- \* Respond to inquiries from applicants throughout the application process.
- \* Convene a Scientific Review Group (SRG).
- \* Develop a review process that mirrors the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- \* Prepare award guidelines for recipients of a grant.
- \* Convene the meeting of the Scientific Review Group (SRG) to identify the top proposals.
- \* Announce and promote the outcomes of the IRG.

The online Letter of Intent and Application stages have worked well with no major problems. There were 39 submissions for the Letter of Intent and 31 Applications. A Scientific Review Group of 12 members and 1 statistician has been convened and are reviewing the applications. A December meeting of the SRG will be used to identify the top proposals for consideration of funding. Awards will be announced by January 2014.

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## PTE Meets Up at Student Conclave



Representatives from over 20 chapters met at the annual PTE business meeting during the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave in Jacksonville, Florida on November 15. The new executive board (President Emily Kringle, Vice President Rachel Proffitt, and Secretary Joseph Brey) introduced themselves and thanked outgoing President Kim Schoessow for her service over the past five years including the revitalization of the Mary J. Bridle Award and increasing alumni involvement. Chapter representatives

discussed ways members can stay connected including expanded opportunities for alumni involvement. There was lively discussion and plans were made for the alumni reception on Thursday April 3, at the AOTA Conference in Baltimore.

The chapters all voted on a proposed amendment to expand the membership requirements for Pi Theta Epsilon to international programs. All chapters were given an opportunity to share what they have been working on to meet the ideals and mission of PTE.

Alpha Eta chapter, University of Southern California, was this year's recipient of the

President's Award for their *OT Extravaganza* project. Colin Lenington was on hand to receive the award on behalf of his chapter. The President's Award is given annually to chapters that organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities. The deadline for the [President's Award](#) is October 1.

The PTE board also announced the winner of the [Mary J. Bridle First Research Award](#). The team of Klaudia Kulpa, Justine Bunville, Sabrina Chang, Samantha Kirschner, and Harami Rodriguez of Beta Delta of Nova Southeastern University won for their submission:

*Health Care Profession Students' Knowledge about Occupational Therapy*. The award, which recognizes research, will be presented at the awards ceremony Saturday, April 5, at the AOTA conference in Baltimore.



PTE Vice President Rachel Proffitt presents the President's Award to Colin Lenington who accepted on behalf of Alpha Eta, USC.

Following the meeting, AOTA President Dr. Ginny Stoffel gave a presentation on leadership; how some scholars are leaders, and some leaders are scholars, and the importance of reflecting on our leadership. Dr. Stoffel challenged students to see themselves as leaders and to see that leadership is not a solo activity. Her "Zen presentation" was filled with thought provoking photos. She spent time after her presentation answering questions and taking photos with members.

After the meeting, the PTE executive board members served as mock interviewers and résumé critics at the AOTA/NBCOT practice interview session.

The next PTE annual meeting is scheduled for the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave, November 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Follow the [PTE Facebook page](#) to stay current on PTE news and visit the [PTE pages](#) on the AOTF web site for information.

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## Scholarship Update

Fall 2013 saw the largest number of submitted applications for the [fifty scholarships administered](#) by AOTF. Over 850 students began the process and close to 300 occupational therapy students submitted their completed applications. Recommendations are currently being collected and the Scholarship Selection Committee will review applications in early 2014. Scholarship notifications will be sent out in April.

The Foundation has a growing number of ongoing endowed scholarships, the funds of which are invested and managed by professional investment managers retained by AOTF. These scholarships are offered on a rotating basis. Each year some are "rested," in order to give the funds a chance to grow.

Today 22 states and the District of Columbia participate in the AOTF-State Endowed Scholarship partnership. Many of these awards have grown over the years from humble beginnings to endowed funds that now support scholarships of \$1,000 or more.

In addition, the Foundation is the beneficiary of corporate funding for scholarships. These funds are donated for limited time periods. The Foundation seeks to increase the number of corporate scholarships as well as to attract renewals of corporate scholarship donations.

If you have questions about the scholarship process, contact [Jeanne Cooper](#), scholarship coordinator.

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## AOTF Looks Towards Baltimore

AOTF is looking forward to welcoming the OT community to our home state of Maryland at the AOTA Annual Conference, April 3-6, 2014, in Baltimore; shipping gateway to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean since 1706 and home to the Baltimore Orioles and Ravens. Watch for registration information on the [AOTA web site](#).

**Pre-conference Institutes Wednesday, April 2, 12:00 p.m. -- 6 p.m.**

**Blending Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods: Planning and Implementing Mixed Methods Designs.** Elizabeth Creamer, ScD, OTR/L

**Designing the Future of Health Care: A Case Study of Occupational Therapy in Innovation.** Stacy Smallfield, DrOT, OTR/L, William Anderson, PhD, Julie Bass, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Charles Christiansen, EdD, OTR, OT(C), FAOTA.



Fort McHenry National Monument

**Baltimore: A Historic City Bus Tour and Lunch Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

This narrated bus tour will visit Sheppard Pratt Hospital, varied neighborhoods of Baltimore and the Fort McHenry National Monument (site of the successful defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812 and inspiration for the Star Spangled Banner). \$66.



Kenneth Feinberg, 2014 Breakfast with a Scholar speaker

**20th Annual AOTF Breakfast with a Scholar Friday, April 4, 7:30 a.m. -- 9:00 a.m.**

**How much is a Life Worth? A Conversation about Valuing Life Quality with Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.**

Kenneth Feinberg was the Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and other funds responsible for distributing payments to surviving families and those with injuries after terrorist attacks. Join us for breakfast and this stimulating conversation on the functional, moral, and legal implications of compensation decisions. \$55.

**AOTF Research Colloquium Friday, April 4, 2:00 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m.**

**Health Services Research: A Priority for Occupational Therapy in Healthcare Reform**

**Keynote and Moderators:** Barbara Gage, PhD, Brookings Institution  
**Presenters:** Trudy Mallinson, PhD, OTR/L, NZROT, Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, BCG, and Nancy Flinn, PhD, OTR/L.

This event will highlight the important contributions that occupational therapy researchers are making to develop effective strategies for organizing, managing, funding, and providing high quality health care. \$35.

**AOTF Gala Friday, April 4, 8:00 p.m. -- 11:00 p.m.**

**Express Yourself!**

Celebrate creativity at the American Visionary Art Museum, a center for self-taught artists, "outsider art" with the AOTF and your friends and colleagues. \$120 professional, \$65 student.



Visionary Art Museum, home of the AOTF Gala.



## Wilma L. West Library Adds the *South African Journal of OT*

The Wilma L. West Library continues to catalog new occupational therapy resources in OT SEARCH and we are pleased to announce that material in the *South African Journal of Occupational Therapy (SAJOT)* since 2006 are now included. With the addition of SAJOT, OT SEARCH catalogs over 40 journals contains over 42,000 items.

Remember that articles published in *Archives of Occupational Therapy* from 1922-24 are available in full-text downloadable format on the [AOTF web site](#). This includes Adolph Meyer's *The Philosophy of Occupational Therapy* published in 1922. The Library will continue to digitize and make published materials available as they move into the public domain.

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