



Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation

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*Celebrating fifty years of advancing
the science of occupational therapy*



Research Matters!

There's still time to join our Research Matters! campaign. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of our anniversary campaign and remember -- donations to AOTF are fully tax deductible.

Letter from the CEO

The Foundation has just begun its new fiscal year and I have completed my first six months on the job. Time does indeed fly by! We have had a successful 2015 and celebrated our 50th anniversary. Any self-respecting fundraiser would take this opportunity to remind all that you can still donate to the [Research Matters!](#) campaign celebrating our 50th year through the end of this calendar year, so consider yourself duly informed. Your support does matter!! Our goals for 2016 and for the Foundation in general are ambitious. I am particularly excited about the research priorities for the Foundation

recently publicized on our [website homepage](#) and via [press release](#)

([see below](#)). These priorities will serve to guide the Foundation's efforts in fundraising and move the OT profession forward with the greatest impact. I am thrilled that Azalea Candelaria, our new Chief Development Officer, has joined the Foundation to spearhead our fundraising efforts. As the Chair of the Board at a previous voluntary health organization I worked with was wont to say, *No money, no mission*. Ambitious goals require the necessary funding for them to be realized. We are committed to making this happen.

The 2016 AOTA Annual Conference & Expo will be my first. The AOTF does several events at the Conference and we always ensure these are of the highest quality and greatest interest. Make sure you check out our preconference institute on "[Big Data](#)", our [State of the Science Symposium](#) celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and OTs role in this arena, and our [Breakfast with a Scholar](#) featuring Dr. Lisa Genova, author of *Still Alice*, and her conversation about Alzheimer's Disease. And be sure to visit our booth to hear about the latest, greatest things the Foundation is doing. Hope



In this issue

- [Letter from CEO](#)
- [Research Priorities](#)
- [Fund the Mission](#)
- [Breakfast with a Scholar](#)
- [State of the Science](#)
- [Big Data Institute](#)
- [Tour and Gala](#)
- [Board of Trustees](#)
- [IRG and Scholarships](#)
- [PTE](#)
- [St. Catherine Challenge](#)
- [Wilma L. West Library](#)
- [OTJR](#)

Sponsorship opportunities are available for AOTF events at the AOTA Conference. For more information contact [Azalea Candelaria](#).

to see you there.

*Scott E. Campbell, PhD
Chief Executive Officer*

AOTF Research Priorities: Building a Vibrant Science of Occupational Therapy

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation recently announced eight research priorities that will guide future initiatives of its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health. Knowledge from occupational therapy science in these priority areas will help to identify the preventative and protective role of occupations in health and the mechanisms that support occupational performance and participation.

During the last year, AOTF Director of Research Dr. Julie Bass led a comprehensive process to identify the major health and societal issues that would benefit by an occupational therapy lens in both research and practice. Activities included a review of the strategic plans of federal agencies and major foundations, deliberations by the AOTF Scientific Advisory Council, and input from AOTF's key stakeholder groups. At the September 2015 AOTF Board meeting, trustees enthusiastically endorsed the AOTF research priorities:

- Health behaviors to prevent and manage chronic conditions
- Functional cognition
- Safety and injury prevention in home, clinical, and community settings
- Technology and environmental supports in home and community
- Development and transitions for individuals and families
- Emotional and physiological influences
- Family and caregiver needs
- Health care experience: access, care coordination, utilization

Advances in occupational therapy science will require strategic investments in building research capacity as well as these research priority areas. Examples include research training support, scientific networks, and strong mentoring programs. Thus, future initiatives of the Institute will address one or more of the research priorities and incorporate specific strategies to build research capacity as well. To build our scientific workforce and the evidence that supports occupational therapy practice in these priority areas, the American Occupational Therapy Foundation needs your support. In the coming months, watch for opportunities to contribute to programs that you believe will make a difference.

We Can Continue to Advance the OT Profession with your Support

As an eight-year member of the AOTF Board of Directors, I can't think of a time when I've been more excited about the future of AOTF. While I personally am not an occupational therapist, I've been fortunate to know many committed, passionate OTs who inspire me to continue to support the great work of AOTF.



Thank You to our Generous Sponsors

Intervention Research Grants



Scholarships



OccupationalTherapy.com

AOTF Staff

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[Scott Campbell](#)

Associate Executive Director for Administration and Director of Information Resources and the Wilma L. West Library
[Mindy A. Hecker](#)

Associate Director, Institute for the

We are nearing the end of our 50th Anniversary campaign and we need your help to reach our goal of one million dollars. We are very close! Recently, AOTF announced a bold commitment to offer grants in eight key areas of research. These [research priorities](#) will translate into effective practice and will support the next generation of career scientists. Additionally, AOTF continues to award scholarships for professional education and to provide opportunities for leadership training that give OTs the ability and confidence to pursue external research grants, be promoted at their academic institutions, or take on leadership roles in their work place.

This progress has been possible because of the financial contributions of the many generous OTs and their supporters who have made donations in the past. I ask you to join them and me in making a year-end gift today to continue these important programs.

Did you know that AOTF offers a monthly giving program? Your monthly gift will generate ongoing support to advance the OT profession. You may visit www.aotf.org to make a donation and to learn more about the exciting research priorities for the coming year.

On behalf of the leadership of AOTF, thank you for your generosity. Together, we can make a difference!

Pat Booth
Secretary, AOTF Board of Trustees
Chair, Development Council

[Back to top](#)

AOTF Looks Ahead to Spring and the AOTA Annual Conference in Chicago, April 7-10, 2016.

Breakfast with a Scholar: Lisa Genova, PhD

This year's **Breakfast with a Scholar** is Lisa Genova, PhD, the neuroscientist and bestselling author of *Still Alice: Understanding Alzheimer's* is known for her scholarship as well as her ability to tell compelling stories. In her own words:

The novels I write are about people living with neurological diseases and conditions that are feared, ignored, or misunderstood, portrayed within a story that is accessible to the general public....Novels reveal the humanity behind these numbers. Stories are a way into people's hearts, and when this happens, we have more than knowledge. We have real understanding, empathy, sensitivity, the ability to be better caregivers, and maybe the motivation to get involved.

This year's Breakfast will look at the personal impact of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Dr. Genova will speak about why she chose to write *Still Alice* and what she learned about AD -- that the language around Alzheimer's needs to focus on LIVING with AD rather than dying; that people with AD shouldn't have to cope with being lonely; how to BE WITH people with Alzheimer's, to set the ego and discomfort and fear of awkwardness and unknown aside and just be with; how to use the principle of improvisational acting -- saying YES, AND -- to connect to people with AD.

Lisa Genova graduated valedictorian, summa cum laude from Bates College with a degree in biopsychology and has a PhD in neuroscience from Harvard University. She is the author of the New York Times bestselling

Study of Occupation and Health
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novels *Still Alice*, *Left Neglected*, *Love Anthony*, and *Inside the O'Briens*.

Copies of Dr. Genova's books will be available for purchase and Dr. Genova will be signing her books immediately following the event.

\$60 per person. Includes breakfast. Earn up to .75 contact hours.

Friday, April 8, **7:00 a.m. (new start time)** - 9:00 a.m. To register see the [AOTA website](#).

Sponsorships are available -- contact [Azalea Candelaria](#).

AOTF State of the Science Symposium

25th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: State of the Science in Occupational Therapy

The AOTF State of the Science (SoS) Symposium is designed to summarize current knowledge and evidence on a selected topic. Its goal is to identify recommendations for best practice and future research based on recent advances in science.

In 2016, we will examine the Americans with Disabilities Act which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015. The White House issued a summary of progress made in employment, education, civic and community participation, healthcare and healthy living, fair housing, accessible transportation, and information and communications technology for people with disabilities. The science of occupational therapy has contributed to knowledge, measures, interventions, and programs in many of these areas but there are still gaps in the evidence related to participation of individuals with disabilities. Symposium presenters Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L FAOTA and Diane Smith, PhD, OTR/L, will address the following questions:

- What is our current knowledge on the factors that influence participation for individuals with disabilities?
- What are the recent advances in research and some of the burning issues for this topic?
- What are the areas of certainty and uncertainty in research? Where are the gaps in our knowledge?
- What are the take home messages for best practice in occupational therapy, educational curricula, and future research?

\$29 per person, Includes light refreshments. Earn up to 2 contact hours.

Friday, April 8, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. To register see the [AOTA website](#).

AOTF/AOTA Pre-Conference Institute

Large Data and Data Sharing Research: Issues, Methods, and Opportunities

This Institute will provide an overview of research studies that may be conducted using Medicare claims and other large datasets in the context of post-acute care settings. Topics include the availability of large datasets for disability, rehabilitation, and OT research and new federal initiatives related to data sharing. The Center for Large Data Research and Data Sharing in Rehabilitation will be discussed.

Speakers: Kenneth Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR; George Alter, PhD; Amol Karmakar, PhD, Timothy Reistetter, PhD, OTR; Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA; Tracy Mroz, PhD, OTR/L.

Wednesday, April 8, 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For registration information, see the [AOTA website](#).



Chicago from all sides: Bus and Walking Tour

Chicago is a city of architecture, OT history, and fun. We'll see the University of Chicago campus originally designed by Henry Cobb Ives and includes buildings by such noted architects as Mies van der Rohe, Eero Saarinen, Raphael Viñoly, and Frank Lloyd Wright and discover the South Shore treasures: Rockefeller Chapel and the Museum of Science and Industry (the only building standing from the Columbian Exposition).

The tour includes the Chicago Women's Park and Gardens which honors the contributions that women have made to the city throughout its history. We'll see the strength of Chicago which lies in its vibrant and diverse immigrant communities such as Little Italy, Chinatown, and Greektown.

Important sites in the history of OT will include the site where Bowen Hall stood near Hull House, the home of Jane Addams, it became the Henry B. Favill School of Occupational Therapy and the former location of The Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy where Eleanor Clarke Slagle studied in 1911. The school is the forbearer of the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

\$79.00 per person. This is a narrated bus and walking tour. A gourmet box lunch will be provided.
Wednesday, April 6 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm To register see the [AOTA website](#).



AOTF's Something for Everyone Gala

Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center

Held this year at the Chicago Cultural Center, the gala will have both quiet space for reuniting with old friends and music for those that want to kick up their heels and dance. The Chicago Cultural Center is one of the most comprehensive free arts showcases in the United States; this landmark building houses unique spaces that are both striking and versatile. The site of the gala, Preston Bradley Hall, is an ornately patterned room of curving white Carrara marble with the largest Tiffany dome in the world; a

38-foot dome designed by J.A. Holtzer. Enjoy great food, gather with friends, and boogie the night away in this grand setting.

Professionals: \$150. Students: \$85.

Friday April 8, 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. To register see the [AOTA website](#)

Sponsorships are available, contact [Azalea Candelaria](#).

[Back to top.](#)



Left to right: National Coordinator Michele Fernandez, PTE Treasurer Myrtyce Courtright, President Joe Brey, outgoing President Emily Kringle, Vice President Kimberly McClung, and Secretary Rebecca Hastings.

PTE Gathered at the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave

[Pi Theta Epsilon](#) (PTE), the national honor society of occupational therapy, held its Annual Business Meeting at the AOTA/NBCOT Student Conclave in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania on November 13, 2015. Twenty-four chapters were represented by over 50 students. During the business meeting, the President's Award was presented to Alpha Pi Chapter at Touro Nevada for an outstanding chapter program. Outgoing President Emily Kringle was recognized for her distinguished service. A highlight of the meeting was the sharing of chapter programs and activities. The newly elected officers, President Joe Brey and Secretary Rebecca Hastings, assumed their responsibilities and everyone met their new AOTF National Coordinator, Michele Fernandez.

Following the formal business meeting, Temple University Associate Professor and Intervention Research Grant recipient Beth Pfeiffer and AOTA Project Coordinator Melissa Stutzbach gave a presentation entitled *Scholarship and Research Beyond School*. The presentation discussed various ways to be both effective generators and users of research in daily practice. A lively question and answer period followed the formal presentations.

Welcome to the New Members of our Board of Trustees

Bette Bonder, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the College of Sciences and Health Professions at Cleveland State University in Ohio.

Joseph K. Brey, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational therapist and neurorehabilitation multidisciplinary team member at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. President of Pi Theta Epsilon.

David Emerson, MS, CPA

Professor Emeritus of accounting and finance at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Elizabeth 'Betsy' Francis-Connolly, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dean of Westbrook College of Health Professions at the University of New England in Portland & Biddford, Maine.

Cheryl Miller, DrOT, OTR/L

National Director of Therapy Operations for HealthSouth Corporation in Florida.

More information on the AOTF Board of Trustees can be found on the [AOTF website](#).

Excitement is building for the 2016 St. Catherine Challenge



Twenty-five schools have signed up and the fundraising competition is underway:

College of Saint Mary, College of St. Scholastica, Colorado State University, Columbia University, Creighton University, Erie Community College, Florida International University, Misericordia University, Northern Arizona University, Rockhurst University, Rush University, Saint Louis University, Salus University, San Jose State University, Spalding University, St. Catherine University, Tufts University, University of Findlay, University of Illinois Chicago, University of North Dakota, University of Southern California, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, University of Toledo, University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse, Virginia Commonwealth University

[The St. Catherine Challenge](#) is a student competition initiated in the fall of 2013 by the PTE chapter (Alpha Delta) of St. Catherine University to raise money for the Intervention Research Grants program of AOTF. The students wanted to boost awareness of the importance of research to guide best practice in OT by challenging students in OT and OTA programs to raise the most money. Alpha Delta challenges all OT and OTA programs in the U.S., including SOTA and PTE chapters, to join this fundraising initiative.

There is still time to join! Visit www.aotf.org.

News from the Wilma L. West Library and OTJR

The [Wilma L. West Library](#) collection continues to grow and has nearly 44,000 items listed in its online bibliographic database, OT SEARCH. Are you on twitter? Beginning in October, the library joined the world of social media and sends a tweet out every Thursday, follow them @WilmaLWestLibrary.



OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health will be publishing the papers presented at the State of the Science Symposium at the 2015 AOTA Annual Conference. Leeanne Carey's paper *The state of the Science on Sensory Function and its Impact on Daily Life in Adults, Older Adults* and following *Stroke: A Scoping Review* and Winifred Dunn's paper *The state of the science on sensory factors and their impact on daily life for children: a scoping review* will both be available online only at otj.sagepub.com.

OTJR also has a call for papers out for a supplemental issue to be available Fall 2016. This call for papers invites studies that consider occupation and occupationally-oriented health and social care practices in the interests of fostering justice at individual, organizational, community and/or global levels. Attention to occupation in the interests of justice calls for critical reflection and reflexivity into social, cultural, historic, discursive, economic, ethical, epistemic, and political factors that enable or create barriers to occupation, participation, and wellness. [Click here](#) for the online submission website.

Intervention Research Grant and Scholarship Update

The Scientific Review Group is reviewing IRG applications and the 2015-2016 recipients will be announced this spring. To see past recipients of the Intervention Research Grant, visit the [AOTF website](#).

Over 300 students have submitted their online application for scholarships. Recommendations are currently being collected and the Scholarship Selection Committee will review applications in early 2016. Scholarship recipients will be announced in April.

About Us

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific and educational organization founded in 1965. Its mission is to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. For more information see www.aotf.org or write us at aotf@aotf.org.

[Back to top](#)

