



## Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation

1965-2015

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

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## Renewing our Founders' Commitment to the Science of Occupational Therapy

The About Us tab on many organizational web sites typically provides bold, clear statements to describe current work (the mission) along with dreams for the future (the vision). Periodic review and renewal of mission and vision statements are essential in any foundation or business. The original charter for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation included a compelling commitment to advancing the science of occupational therapy. In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Foundation next year, the Board reaffirmed the importance of this original mission and established a related vision statement and strategic goals to set the stage for the next 50 years. These important statements will serve as guide posts for AOTF priorities and initiatives.

### The Vision of AOTF

We envision a vibrant science that builds knowledge to support effective, evidence-based occupational therapy.

### The Mission of AOTF

The mission of AOTF is to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities.

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## AOTF Turns 50 in 2015

AOTF is collecting photos of its events from the last 50 years. Please share your photos by

## Strategic Goals

### Research

To support initiatives that build research capacity and advance knowledge related to occupation, health, and well-being.

### Sustainability

To develop the financial and human resources necessary to pursue the vision and mission of the Foundation.

### Awareness

To increase public and professional recognition of AOTF and its purposes and activities.

## First AOTF Intervention Research Grantees Participated in Meet and Greet

AOTF's Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health awarded its first [Intervention Research Grants \(IRG\)](#) this spring. Two priority areas were selected for the awards: autism spectrum disorders and health issues related to aging; five grantees were selected.

Investigators from all five IRGs were in attendance at the 2014 AOTA Annual Conference and participated in a Meet and Greet at the AOTF Booth. They wore a button that invited conference participants to *Ask me about my research!* They were able to share information on the grant process and their individual areas of study to conference attendees.

We invite you to review the [abbreviated IRG project summaries](#) and a sample of publications and funding by this year's IRG awardees: Erin Foster, Sandy Magaña, Beth Pfeiffer, Arlene Schmid, and Mary Ellen Stoykov.

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## Behind the Scenes: Developing a New AOTF Initiative

Many people ask what was involved in developing the new [Intervention Research Grant \(IRG\)](#) program. The easy answer is: *A lot!!!*

AOTF wanted this new initiative to mirror the policies and processes used by major funding agencies. We felt rigorous, objective procedures were important if we were going to achieve one of our objectives to lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies and future funding. The following is a brief description of the major tasks that were part of the stages of the IRG program.

### Advance Preparations

- Work with the AOTF Research Commission to establish priorities and criteria for the IRG.
- Discuss the proposed initiative with AOTA and other

sending them to [AOTFis50@aotf.org](mailto:AOTFis50@aotf.org). Or share on Facebook or Twitter with #AOTFis50.

## Are You Represented in the Wilma L. West Library?

Calling all PhDs, EdDs etc. The Wilma L. West Library collects and catalogues dissertations. Do we have a copy of yours? If not, please email [Mindy Hecker](mailto:Mindy.Hecker)

or send a copy to:

Wilma L. West Library  
C/O AOTF  
4720 Montgomery Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814.



## Be a Sponsor!

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

DONATE

## AOTF Staff

Executive Director  
[Charles H. Christiansen](#)

Associate Executive Director for Administration and Director of

- organizations that provide major funding for the IRG.
- 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.

### Communications and Public Relations during the Application Stage

- Publicize the IRG initiative.
- Respond to inquiries from applicants throughout the application process.
- Review Letters of Intent for minimum eligibility criteria and select projects for full application stage.
- Troubleshoot problems as they occur.

### Grant Reviews

- Convene an experienced 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 SRG to identify the top proposals.
- Make final decisions regarding awards.

### Grant Management and Public Relations for Awarded Grants

- Announce the recipients of the IRG.
- Manage the financial awards and required documentation.
- Disseminate the outcomes of completed projects.
- Build enthusiasm and support for additional funding of the IRG.

## The Leaders & Legacies Society: A Present to Occupational Therapy that Bridges Past and Future

As AOTF celebrates its 50th Anniversary, it looks back on many milestones of service to the occupational therapy profession with pride. But none may be more important to the future of the profession than an effort in development: The Leaders & Legacies Society (L&L Society).

### So what is the L&L Society and why is it important?

First and foremost, the Leaders & Legacies Society will be professionals dedicated to the work of AOTF in advancing occupational therapy as the science of everyday living through its research, recognition, scholarship and legacy programs. The occupational therapy profession has always benefited from volunteer leaders at the national, state and local level. Some are former leaders of professional societies or credentialing boards, and others have played a key role in provider organizations or have established successful businesses. The L&L Society will enlist leading individuals from these backgrounds who love the profession of occupational therapy and seek to contribute their time, talent, and resources to advance the profession through the work of the Foundation. What they share in common is leadership experience, a passion for occupational therapy, and a desire that occupational therapy's rich history will continue to be written for years to come.

Information Resources and the  
Wilma L. West Library  
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The Society will support Foundation projects by providing volunteer assistance to ongoing AOTF initiatives, offering informal student mentoring for honor society and student association groups, raising public awareness, and encouraging contributions by individuals and corporate donors. The new society will induct its founding members at the AOTF 50th Anniversary Gala in Nashville on April 17, 2015.

Ellen Kolodner, MSS, OTR/L, FAOTA of Philadelphia, is the chair of the Leaders & Legacies Society Steering Committee, which has been meeting for the past year to recruit members and organize the new society. The society seeks expressions of interest from professionals with a passion for occupational therapy, a history of volunteer service, and a desire to leave a legacy to ensure the future of the profession. To become a member or to seek further information, visit the [AOTF web site](#) or email, [LLSociety@aotf.org](mailto:LLSociety@aotf.org).

## Leaders & Legacies Society



*Something important to  
stand up for.*

AOTF warmly invites  
seasoned leaders to pursue  
engaging projects to secure  
the legacy of occupational  
therapy's founders.

## AOTF Will Celebrate its 50th in Nashville

Foundation staff members are busy with preparations for AOTF events at the AOTA conference in Nashville, Tennessee where AOTF will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Watch for details of a tour of Nashville on Wednesday April 15, Breakfast with a Scholar and State of the Science on Friday April 17 and our celebratory Gala in the Conservatory of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum Friday evening April 17. Details and information on tickets will be available in the pre-conference guide and on the AOTA web site. Please plan to join us.

## Advancing the Science of Occupational Therapy: Making Progress on the AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda

In 2011, the [AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda](#) was published in the journals of both AOTF ([OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health](#)) and [AOTA \(American Journal of Occupational Therapy\)](#) to emphasize the critical needs related to research in the profession.

Research goals and priorities were identified for six key categories: assessment/measurement, intervention, basic research, translational research, health services research, and research training. Intervention Research was identified as one of three categories that was viewed as being paramount for the future of occupational therapy.

The Intervention Research Grant (IRG) Program adopted the goals of the Intervention Research Categories from the AOTF/AOTA Research Agenda to frame the priorities for the coming year. AOTF is committed to supporting research that is aligned with this agenda and builds evidence that supports occupational therapy practice. Proposals that meet minimum eligibility criteria and address these goals for one of six priority populations (developmental disorders, physical impairments, cognitive impairments, mental disorders, chronic health conditions, preventable secondary conditions) will be reviewed by the IRG's Scientific Review Group this fall.

Your generous financial support of the Intervention Research Grant Program will enable us to achieve our goal of funding all deserving proposals submitted to [AOTF](#).

## Universities Compete in First St. Catherine Challenge



[The St. Catherine Challenge](#) is a student competition initiated in the fall of 2013 by the PTE chapter of St. Catherine University to raise money for the [Intervention Research Grants](#) program of AOTF. The students want to boost awareness of the importance of research to guide best practice in OT and challenged other OT students in schools across the country to join them in this important endeavor.

In just three short months, eighteen schools, now named the extraordinary eighteen, raised over \$12,000 for the program. The extraordinary eighteen include: St. Catherine University, A.T. Still University, Boston University, Colorado State University, Creighton University, Florida International University, The Ohio State University, Sacred Heart University, San Jose State University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Findlay, University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota, University of St. Augustine, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Washington University in St. Louis.



Congratulations to St. Catherine University for winning the inaugural challenge and raising the most money! This challenge is now an annual event and all schools are welcome and encouraged to participate!

[Join the Challenge now!](#)

Left to right, representatives of the winning team, St. Catherine Professor Kristine Haertl, Interim Program Director Karen Sames, and student representative Kelli Packard are congratulated by AOTF President Diana Ramsay and Executive Director Charles Christiansen.

## Exciting Changes for AOTF's Flagship Research Journal -- *OTJR: Occupational, Participation and Health*

The word "watershed" is often used for periods that mark key transitions, and 2014 is proving to be a watershed year for the Foundation's peer-reviewed research publication, *OTJR: Occupational, Participation and Health*, now in its 34th year of publication.

Three key changes will take place in 2015: The Journal will have a new editor, it will have a new publisher, and it will experience its first full year of indexing as part of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE/PubMed database.

Sherrilene Classen, PhD, OTR, OT(C), FAOTA, professor and director of the School of Occupational Therapy at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, will become *OTJR*'s newest editor. Dr. Classen is a highly esteemed occupational therapy scientist and 2012 inductee into the Foundation's prestigious Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy.



*OTJR*'s newest editor,  
Dr. Sherrilene Classen

Concurrent with that change, Sage Publications, a global publisher with headquarters in Thousand Oaks, California, will become the journal's new publisher. Established in 1965, SAGE Publications is a highly respected independent international publisher of journals, books, and electronic media that is ideally suited to publishing society-based scientific journals in a wide range of academic disciplines. The Foundation looks forward to this exciting new publishing partnership with Sage Publications.

Importantly, *OTJR* has received notification that it has been selected for indexing in MEDLINE/PubMed. This significant addition to the indexing coverage of the journal is long awaited and positions the journal and its contents for greater visibility and influence in the health sciences. Over the next few years, the journal expects to embark on additional changes that will enhance its visibility, make its reports more accessible to practitioners, and establish it as a globally-recognized leading publication in occupational therapy.

## PTE to Welcome New Officers This Fall

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE), the national honor society of occupational therapy, held elections this spring and previously appointed Treasurer Myrtyce Courtright was elected to be the next full-term treasurer. Kimberly McClung, a recent OT graduate of Creighton University, was elected Vice President. Myrtyce and Kimberly will assume their new offices at the PTE Annual Business Meeting, November 14, 2014 at the AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave in St. Louis, Missouri.



PTE Vice  
President-elect  
Kimberly McClung

In June, PTE Vice President Rachel Proffitt was a speaker at the Kappa Delta Phi National Convention. Kappa Delta Phi has maintained a scholarship with AOTF for the past 40 years and has given over \$160,000 in scholarships.

"I was honored to speak at the Kappa Delta Phi (KDP) National Convention in Buena Park, California on June 19, 2014. I shared how I became an occupational therapist and the road that brought me to my current position as the Executive Vice President of Pi Theta Epsilon. Paying homage to the mission of KDP, I wove a story about the purpose of the occupational therapy profession and the goal of helping others live life to its fullest. Much in the same way, the KDP scholarship support to AOTF has helped occupational therapy students pursue their professional dreams to the fullest." commented Rachel.



PTE Treasurer  
Myrtyce Courtright



PTE past Presidents Sheila Krajnik, Michelle Cullen, and Susan Lin with current President Emily Kringle and her predecessor Kim Schoessow.

In April, PTE hosted an alumni reception, giving members an opportunity to connect and build a network during the AOTA Annual Conference. Past and current PTE presidents attended. If you are a member of PTE and would like to become more involved please contact PTE at [pte@aotf.org](mailto:pte@aotf.org).

Welcome to the newest PTE chapters; Delta Kappa (University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, California campus), and Delta Lambda (Towson University).

information.

Follow the [PTE Facebook page](#) for news and

## AOTF Awards over \$55,000 in Scholarships

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation awarded \$58,720 in scholarships to 43 outstanding students during the 2013-14 academic year. Sponsors North Coast Medical and NBCOT awarded generous scholarships and Kappa Delta Phi National Affiliated Sorority awarded scholarships for the fortieth year. Twenty states now give scholarships through AOTF. See the [AOTF web site](#) for a complete list of awardees and scholarships.

AOTF will begin accepting online applications August 1 from students currently enrolled full time in either a professional occupational therapy education program OR an occupational therapy assistant program. Complete information and a full list of available scholarships can be found on the [AOTF web site](#). Online applications must be submitted by October 30, 2014. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic merit and leadership potential.

Questions? Contact [Jeanne Cooper](#), scholarship program coordinator.

## Research Reigned Supreme at the AOTF Events in Baltimore

AOTF began the AOTA Annual Conference in April with a bus tour of Baltimore on Wednesday April 2 as well as two pre-conference institutes focused on research. The 20th Annual Breakfast with a Scholar featured a thought-provoking conversation with Kenneth Feinberg, special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund.

The centerpiece of AOTF events was the Meet and Greet at the AOTF booth. Academy of Research members and Intervention Research Grant awardees were available to discuss research topics with conference attendees in a informal, comfortable atmosphere.

### 2014 AOTF Research Colloquium: Health Services Research

The 2014 AOTF Research Colloquium highlighted Health Services Research (HSR) and the important contributions that occupational therapy researchers are making to develop effective strategies for organizing, managing, funding, and providing high quality health care. HSR addresses "three major aspects of health care: access to care, the quality of the care, and its cost" to evaluate the [effects and outcomes of the health care "system" on people's health](#) and is one of five priority categories in the 2011 [AOTF/AOTA Occupational Therapy Research Agenda](#). Barbara Gage, PhD, a national expert on HSR, provided an overview of the approach and emerging priorities for HSR that are relevant for occupational therapy. Trudy Mallinson, PhD, OTR/L, NZROT, Natalie Leland, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, BCG, and Nancy Flinn, PhD, OTR/L, shared their current work in HSR, proposed opportunities for occupational therapy HSR in the healthcare reform context, and introduced examples of how HSR evidence can enhance and support occupational therapy services.



AOTF Gala attendees "Expressed Themselves" at the American Visionary Arts Museum.

### 2014 AOTF Doctoral Network: Mentoring in Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Programs

The 2014 AOTF Doctoral Network emphasized mentoring as a critical component of professional and scholarly development in doctoral and post-doctoral programs. Our panel of AOTF Academy of Research Members - Susan Murphy, ScD, OTR, (moderator), Patricia Davies, PhD, OTR, FAOTA, and Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L, - described their relationships with mentors, the mentoring experiences that were most helpful, and advice they received that shaped their career paths as scientists, researchers, and scholars. Mentors provide opportunities, nurturing, challenges, coaching, honest feedback, and more. Mentees also have roles in developing strong mentoring relationships. Mentoring is an important part of many AOTF initiatives.

## 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](http://www.aotf.org) or write us at [aotf@aotf.org](mailto:aotf@aotf.org).

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