



Inside AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation

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



Research Matters!

Our Research Matters! campaign continues. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of our anniversary campaign. Read about our [Intervention Grant Recipients here](#).

Letter from the CEO

This issue of *Inside AOTF* emphasizes the grant and educational opportunities of the AOTF. As I partner with the AOTF Board of Trustees to expand the research-funding opportunities of the Foundation and seek to diversify the revenue streams to support this expansion, I have asked the AOTF Scientific Advisory Council to work with me to identify the research funding priorities for the Foundation over the next few years. Ideally, the Foundation wants to identify research areas that will have the greatest impact on the profession in the shortest period of time. Equally important, I want these priorities to relate to the evidence-base needed to support the practice of occupational therapy, and to improve the quality and efficacy of the care received by patients/clients. At the same time, we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to expand the OT research work force in order to have the bright and dedicated minds that will be required to achieve our mission "to advance the science of occupational therapy". I hope you will join me in working to make these aspirations reality.

*Scott Campbell, PhD
Chief Executive Officer*



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AOTF Seeks Director of Development

responsible for developing and implementing the fundraising strategy for the AOTF.

See the [AOTF website](#) for details.

The Importance of Research Mentors: Positioning the Intervention Research Grants for Success

AOTF recently launched the third cycle of the Intervention Research Program (IRG). This year, the IRG is targeting the grants to principal investigators who do not currently have substantial extramural research awards. Typically, this history of funding is associated with early stage to early mid-career researchers who are laying the foundation for larger intervention studies. This has led to two important changes in the eligibility requirements as recommended by the AOTF [Scientific Advisory Council](#).

Thank You to our Generous Sponsors

Intervention Research Grants



- The Principal Investigator (PI) may not currently have any substantial extramural research awards (R01, PCORI, etc). The IRG program is intended to support the preliminary studies and planning that are necessary prior to submitting larger grant applications.
- The PI must have a commitment from an experienced research mentor with an established record of substantial extramural grant funding, and peer-reviewed publications. Research mentors are recommended for many NIH intramural and extramural programs. Several [NIH websites](#) describe the role of research mentors in training investigators.

The importance of having research mentors who support career development has been emphasized by many of our AOTF [Academy of Research](#) (AoR) members. Here are some responses when asked what mentors have meant to them.

Mentors outside the field of occupational therapy ... supported my growth and development as a researcher and challenged me to adapt traditional occupational therapy interventions to solve the clinical problems ... not usually part of the occupational therapy purview.

Susan Garber, MA, OTR, FAOTA, Baylor College of Medicine

[Mentors] have inspired, empowered and critically challenged me at the same time-all of which are critically needed to become a scientist and scholar.

Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, University of Illinois at Chicago

Mentors make you believe you can do it, when you are less sure. Mentors open doors to understanding and insight and they inspire. You will not go far, or anywhere worthwhile, without mentors.

Catherine Lysack, PhD, OT(C), Wayne State University

My mentors taught me how to be systematic, reflective, collaborative and humble. They modeled high ethical standards. They affirmed me, pushed me beyond my comfort zone, celebrated my accomplishments and showed me how to succeed in failure.

Mary Jane Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L, Thomas Jefferson University

Mentors provide support and it is ideal to have different mentors for different needs. Early on, it was important to have strong research mentors who could advise me on research design or teach me skills.

Susan Murphy, ScD, OTR/L, University of Michigan

The most important role [of mentors] has been one of "guided discovery" - providing an environment and guidance for me to learn and grow while still allowing me to develop an independent trajectory unique to me.

Elizabeth Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L, University of Pittsburgh

For detailed information on the IRG, see the [AOTF website](#).

Scholarships

AOTF awarded \$59,000 worth of scholarships to 33 outstanding students during the 2014-15 academic year. We are happy to update our list of scholarship sponsors with our newest sponsor -- [OccupationalTherapy.com](#). They join [North Coast Medical](#) as sponsors of two \$5,000 scholarships a year.



Scholarships



[OccupationalTherapy.com](#)



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AOTF will begin accepting online applications August 17 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 website](#). Online applications must be submitted by October 29, 2015. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic merit and leadership potential.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Cooper, scholarship program coordinator at JCooper@aotf.org.

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PTE President-elect
Joe Brey

PTE To Welcome New Officers This Fall

[Pi Theta Epsilon \(PTE\)](#), the national honor society of occupational therapy, held elections this spring and Joe Brey, previously Board secretary, was elected president. Rebecca Hastings, a recent OT graduate of Creighton University, was elected secretary. Rebecca Hastings is a student at Sage Graduate School in Troy, New York, and is currently working on her level 2 fieldwork. She completed her BS in Human Biology from SUNY Oneonta in 2013. During her time at Sage, Rebecca served as president of the Gamma Pi chapter of PTE from 2014-2015. She was also an active member of the Student Occupational Therapy Association executive board.

Joel and Rebecca will assume their new offices at the PTE Annual Business Meeting, November 13-14, 2015 at the [AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave](#) in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The PTE Po



PTE Secretary-elect
Rebecca Hastings

ster Presentation returns this year at the AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave. In line with PTE's mission, this is a great opportunity for PTE members to step forward as leaders in the areas of scholarship and research, gain experience submitting and presenting scholarly work, and be recognized for their commitment to research. If you are attending Conclave, make sure to stop by the poster sessions to support PTE. Watch for the Call for Papers for the Poster Session in August; submissions will be due September 21, 2015.

St. Catherine Challenge Begins Another Exciting Year of Competition

[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. If your program wants to join The St. Catherine Challenge during the 2015-2016 year, please visit aotf.org.

Wilma L. West Library Continues to Grow

Did you know that the [Wilma L. West Library](#) has over 43,400 items listed in its online bibliographic database, [OT SEARCH](#)? The library and archives continues to increase its collection with the addition of new monographs, journal articles, and dissertations. Please consider donating a copy of a book you have authored or your dissertation so we can continue to grow the collection and keep it current and relevant. Please contact the librarian at wllib@aotf.org for details on donations.

OTJR Seeks Articles to Advance Occupation

Are you looking for a journal to submit the findings of your recent research? [OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health](#) publishes research that advances the understanding of occupation as it relates to participation and health. The following topics should guide authors seeking to publish in the journal:

- The relationship of occupation to health, well-being and/or quality of life.
- The influence of body systems or body function on occupational performance and/or social participation.
- The psychometric properties of measures or methodologies that advance understanding of performance, occupation, and participation.
- The outcomes or effects of interventions that influence performance, occupation, health, and/or quality of life.
- The effectiveness and efficacy of occupation-based interventions.
- The influence of the social, built, or natural environments on occupational performance.
- Qualitative or mixed methods research from occupational science and other disciplines that provide insight into how humans engage, participate and interact within their cultures and society.
- Other topics relating to occupational therapy practice that will lead to improving the lives of people as they seek to fully participate in family, work, community and society.

Submissions are all done on line at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/otjr>.

The AOTF Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)

The SAC (formerly the AOTF Research Commission) advises the AOTF Board and the CEO on priorities and programs for advancing the science of occupational therapy that supports people's full participation in meaningful life activities. The Council's current members include Drs. Carolyn Baum (chair), Leeanne Carey, Wendy Coster, Susan Fitzpatrick, Helene Polatajko, and Joan Rogers. The AOTA Academic and Scientific Affairs Officer Dr. Neil Harvison and the *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health* Editor Dr. Sherrilene Classen are invited to participate in all meetings that address research priorities and joint initiatives for advancing the science of occupational therapy. AOTF Director of Research Dr. Julie Bass is the staff liaison to the Council.

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.

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