



AOTF Intervention Research Grant -- And the Awards go to.....

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) launched the Intervention Research Grant (IRG) Program in 2013 as part of its mission to advance the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities.

In 2014, the intervention category of the [AOTF/AOTA Occupational Therapy Research Agenda](#) was used to establish the funding priorities for the IRG (American Occupational Therapy Association and American Occupational Therapy Foundation, 2011). Priority populations included individuals with developmental disorders, physical impairments, cognitive impairments, mental disorders, chronic health conditions, and preventable secondary conditions.


The purpose of this grant program is to lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies and support the profession's Centennial Vision of occupational therapy as science-driven and evidence-based. The Intervention Research Grant program receives major funding from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the St. Catherine Challenge, and individual and corporate donors.

Additional objectives of the IRG include:

- enhancing occupational therapy contributions to pressing societal needs,
- funding innovative interventions to build bridges between research-evidence-practice,
- focusing on issues of importance to clients, families, practitioners, and policy makers,
- cultivating interdisciplinary research teams and partnering with communities, including underserved and diverse populations in research, and

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AOTF is 50!

AOTF is collecting photos of its events from the last 50 years. Please share your photos by sending them to AOTFis50@aotf.org. Or share on Facebook or Twitter with #AOTFis50.

- mentoring new investigators and researchers.

A Scientific Review Group (SRG) of experienced grant reviewers and a statistician reviews the grant applications and rates them on standard NIH grant criteria: overall impact, significance, innovation, approach, investigator, and environment. The top proposals are discussed further by the SRG in online meetings. The outcome of the SRG meetings is a rank order of the applications based on overall impact score which is used to make IRG award decisions. AOTF is funding eight awards in FY 2015 with a maximum award of \$50,000. These grants will grow our capacity for conducting larger studies that build evidence for the occupational therapy interventions that support participation in everyday life.

We believe *Research Matters*.

FY 2015 Awardees

Winifred Dunn, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Feasibility of Telehealth Coaching for Rural Families of Children with Autism
 University of Kansas Medical Center

Simone Gill, PhD, OTR
Use of Motor Learning Principles to Reduce Fall Risks After Surgical Weight Loss
 Boston University

Mary Khetani, ScD, OTR/L
Feasibility Test of the PEM-Plus: An Innovative Intervention Planning Guide
 Colorado State University

Jessica Kramer, PhD, OTR/L
An Environment Problem Solving Strategy for Parents of Youth with Disabilities
 Boston University

Elizabeth Larson, PhD, OTR
5Minutes4Myself: Motivational Occupational Coaching & Mindfulness for Caregivers
 University of Wisconsin - Madison

Susan Magasi, PhD
Negotiating the Healthcare System: A Peer-OT Lead Intervention
 University of Illinois at Chicago

Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L
Effects of Deep Pressure on Arousal and Performance in Persons with Autism
 Virginia Commonwealth University

Roseann Schaaf, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Testing Outcomes of a Manualized OT Intervention for Children with Autism
 Thomas Jefferson University



Be a Sponsor!

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

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The Leaders & Legacies Society to Honor Sustained Service to OT Occupational Therapy

The Leaders & Legacies Society was established to identify, honor, and fully engage a cadre of professionals who have demonstrated their leadership abilities and skills through sustained service to occupational therapy and wish to continue advancing the profession. Over 150 founding members will be inducted into the Society in 2015 in Nashville at the AOTA Annual Conference on April 17 at the Country Music Hall of Fame. A virtual induction ceremony will take place this spring for those who are unable to attend the one in Nashville. L&L members can network and rejuvenate at the Leaders & Legacies Salon, Music City Center 211.

AOTF applauds the work of the Steering Committee:

Teri Black
Christine Hischmann
Ellen Kolodner

Patricia LaVasser
Michael Pizzi

Ruth Schemm
Shirley Wells

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For more information on the Society, visit the [AOTF web site](#) or email, LLSociety@aotf.org.



The Country Music Hall of Fame, site of the AOTF Gala.

Celebrate the AOTF 50th Anniversary in Nashville, April 15-19

With a special gala celebration for the golden anniversary, a Nashville bus tour, a historic Breakfast with a Scholar, and an inaugural event - the State of the Science, AOTF staff members are busy preparing for the AOTA Conference in April. Attend one of these special events, stop by the AOTF booth to say hi and buy a ticket for the special raffle quilt by Sheri Montgomery, or look for a special anniversary treat from AOTF at the AOTA Welcome Ceremony.

Wednesday, April 15, 12:30-4:00 p.m.

Discover Nashville Bus Tour

This narrated tour will include Vanderbilt University, Honky-Tonk Row, and Nashville's Parthenon. Participants will stroll through Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park and see Music Row, the heart of Nashville's music industry as well as a visit to the Ryman Auditorium, home of the Grand Ole Opry. \$69 This is a walking and bus tour, a box lunch is included.

Friday, April 17, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

2015 Breakfast with a Scholar:

A Candid Conversation with Two Visionary Leaders about the Future of Occupational Therapy

Get ready for a memorable morning with two of occupational therapy's visionary leaders, Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, and Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. They will discuss the status of occupational therapy as it nears its Centennial anniversary, the key challenges the profession will face in the future and the actions we must take to position occupational therapy for success. Author, educator, and 2013 Eleanor Clark Slagle Lecturer, Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA will moderate the conversation and pose provocative questions of the day. Join us for this classic Foundation breakfast event. \$55 includes breakfast.



Carolyn Baum



Florence Clark

Friday, April 17, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

AOTF State of the Science (SOS) Symposium

The SOS Symposium is a new forum designed to summarize current knowledge and evidence on a selected topic for OT practitioners, educators, and researchers. The goal is to identify recommendations for best practice and

future research. This inaugural SOS Symposium will examine relationships among sensory factors, occupational performance and participation for individuals across the lifespan. Implications for practice, education, and research will be proposed as well as possible directions of future research. Leanne Carey, BAppSc(OT), PhD, and Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA are the keynote presenters. Grace Baranek, PhD, OTR/L, and Scott Frey, PhD, will respond to the presentations and moderate constructive dialogue that includes audience participation. \$25 includes light refreshments.

Friday, April 17, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

AOTF's "Champagne and Chocolate" Golden Anniversary Gala

Curb Conservatory, Country Music Hall of Fame

Raise your glass and boogie the night away as the AOTF celebrates its 50th anniversary in Music City USA! Join us for chocolates and champagne, mouth-watering appetizers, live music, and center-stage dancing at the renowned Country Music Hall of Fame, just steps from the Nashville Music City Center. And, you won't want to miss the unforgettable festivities to honor five decades of OT leaders and legacies. \$125 professionals and \$75 students.

Thursday April 16, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

AOTF IRGrants: An Overview of Priorities and Process

Included in Conference registration

For conference registration, tickets, and conference housing, see the [AOTA web site](#).

AOTF Academy Research Will Induct New Members in Nashville

Established in 1983, the AOTF Academy of Research recognizes individuals who have made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy.

This year the Academy is pleased to induct the late Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA, of Ohio State University, Naomi Josman, PhD, OT(I), of the University of Haifa, and Mary Jane Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L, of Thomas Jefferson University. The new members will be inducted at the AOTA Conference in Nashville; Dr. Case-Smith's husband will accept the honor for her. For more information on the new members, see the March issue of [Research Resources](#) to be published the beginning of March.

Congratulations to Academy of Research member Dr. Sylvia Rodger

Please join us in congratulating the University of Queensland's Director of Research and Education, Professor Sylvia Rodger, who has been named as a Member of the Order of Australia. Dr. Rodger was nominated for her significant service to medical education in the field of occupational therapy and to community health as a clinician working with autism in children.

St. Catherine Challenge Kicks Off Its Second Year



[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. Last year, eighteen schools competed and raised over \$12,000.

In addition to St. Catherine University, the following schools have returned to the Challenge: Boston University, Colorado State University, Creighton University, Florida International University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Southern California, University of North Dakota, University of St. Augustine- CA, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Washington University in St. Louis. A big welcome to the following schools: Brenau University, College of St. Scholastica, Ithaca University, Rush University, University of Puget Sound, and The University of Toledo. Good Luck everyone!

Pi Theta Epsilon Grows

PTE added 4 new chapters in 2014 and the Alpha chapter at University of New Hampshire was reestablished which brings the total number of chapters to 105.



Scholarship Applications Soar

In fall 2014, over 800 students began the process of submitting online applications for the fifty scholarships awarded by AOTF. Ultimately, over 260 occupational therapy students submitted their completed applications. The Scholarship Selection Committee is currently reviewing applications; scholarship notifications will be sent out in April.

Since 1965, AOTF has awarded over 1,400 scholarships with a cumulative value of nearly \$1.5 million. Scholarships supported by gifts from Kappa Delta Phi and North Coast Medical, Inc., have accounted for nearly 20% of those awards.

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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