



AOTF Announces Research Priorities to Support Effective, Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy

Bethesda, Maryland
October 21, 2015

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) announces research priorities to work toward its vision of having a vibrant science that builds knowledge to support effective, evidence-based occupational therapy. Future AOTF research initiatives will address:

- 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**

These research priorities emerged from a year-long process led by AOTF Director of Research, Dr. Julie Bass. Activities included a comprehensive 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.

Dr. Carolyn Baum, Chair of the AOTF Scientific Advisory Council remarked, "Occupational therapy's unique contribution to science is to understand the mechanisms that support occupational performance and participation. The protective and preventive role of occupations come to the forefront as society seeks to improve health and the everyday lives of individuals, families and communities. The Foundation will direct its resources to prepare scientists and fund work that will make occupational therapy's contribution to occupational performance and participation science explicit."

Diana Ramsay, Chair of the AOTF Board of Trustees, commented, "As the Foundation seeks to play a more essential role in advancing the science of occupational therapy, we want to invest in research initiatives that we know will have the greatest impact. I applaud the work of the Scientific Advisory Council and our stakeholders, and look forward to our Board working with staff and our funding partners to build occupational therapy knowledge and research capacity."

"We are working hard to increase Foundation revenue to support our mission and to diversify our research portfolio", said Dr. Scott Campbell, AOTF CEO. "These research priorities will serve as a road map for our fundraising efforts and will lead to an expansion of the evidence-base that will inform the practice of occupational therapy."

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. To learn more about AOTF and its 50th anniversary "Research Matters" fundraising campaign, visit www.aotf.org