



April 2014

## AOTF Research Resources



Greetings to *AOTF Research Resources* colleagues:

Have you been hearing the buzz?!? At the 2014 AOTA Annual Conference and Exposition in Baltimore, there was a lot of excitement in the air around the AOTF events, programs, awards, and recent initiatives.

In anticipation of our 50th anniversary in 2015, we renewed our AOTF mission to:

**[advance the science of occupational therapy](#)  
to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities.**

Investigators from all five funded Intervention Research Grant (IRG) were in attendance at our key AOTF events and participated in a Meet and Greet at the AOTF Booth. They also wore a button that invited conference participants to *Ask me about my research!* Summaries of these funded projects were available at the AOTF Booth and are now on the [AOTF website](#).

Intervention Research Grants support research that improves the everyday lives of people served by occupational therapy. It is clear that occupational therapy practitioners, researchers, and educators view these grants as a worthwhile investment. We are grateful for the generous support from the American Occupational Therapy Association during this inaugural year. We look forward to growing our capacity for grants through donations from individuals, the [St. Catherine Challenge](#), and major sponsors. The [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) for the next IRG grant competition will be available June 1, 2014.

## In this Issue

- [Resource Notes: IRG Awardees](#)
- [Online resources](#)
- [Educational Opportunities](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Doc, Post-doc & Research Training Opportunities](#)
- [Call for Research Proposals](#)
- [Call for Conference Proposals](#)
- [Conference announcements](#)
- [OTJR](#)
- [About us](#)

**AOTF will celebrate its  
50th Anniversary at the  
AOTA 2015 Annual  
Conference,  
Nashville, Tennessee.**

In this issue of *AOTF Research Resources* 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](#).

As always, we thank you for the news alerts you share with us, your ideas on ways we can improve this monthly newsletter, and your financial support of AOTF.

Warm regards,



Julie D. Bass, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health  
Director of Research  
[Back to top.](#)

## Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

### National Space Biomedical Research Institute's (NSBRI) First Award Program

NSBRI, funded by NASA, is a consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight and developing the medical technologies needed for long missions. The [two-year fellowships](#) are available in any U.S. laboratory carrying out space-related biomedical or biotechnological research. Applicants are required to submit proposals with the support of a mentor and an institution. This year's applicants can also request to spend part of the fellowship in Russia, via a program involving NSBRI and the Institute of Biomedical Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. [Detailed program and application submission information](#) is available. The application deadline is **June 6, 2014**. Questions may be directed to [Dr. Amanda Smith Hackler](#).

### Doctoral Fellowship: PhD in Occupation and Rehabilitation Science

The [New Start for Student Veterans program](#) at the Colorado State University provides educational and community-based supports for post-9/11 veterans with significant disabilities seeking college degrees. A comprehensive research and development program has been initiated which integrates evidence-based intervention programs fostering resilience and enhanced academic and participation outcomes for student veterans. In offering a [PhD in Occupation and Rehabilitation Science](#), the [Department of Occupational Therapy](#) faculty intend to integrate occupational science and rehabilitation science: two highly synergistic academic areas. For more information see the [program flyer](#) and direct inquiries to [Dr. Aaron M. Fakman](#). Application deadline: **February 2, 2015** but applicants are encouraged to apply early.

### Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapy Doctoral Fellowship

This [interdisciplinary PhD program](#) in Occupation and Rehabilitation Science at Colorado State University focuses on the study of human performance and participation in everyday occupations and contexts across the lifespan. This mentored doctoral fellowship will support in-depth immersion of a doctoral student in the study of the efficacy of

Watch this space for news of our events.

*OTJR* is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed

## *OTJR* Seeks Articles

*OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health* encourages submission of original research reports of assessment/measurement development, efficacy of interventions (preventive, restorative, and compensatory), intervention outcomes, translational research, and basic research (including occupational science). For more information on publishing in this peer-reviewed journal, see its [website](#).

## *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health: Spring 2014*

*OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, published quarterly by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, Inc.,

offers original research articles of professional interest to the practicing OT with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research. Visit: [OTJR Online](#).

## Guest Editorial

[Elevating the Quality of Disability and Rehabilitation Research: Mandatory Use of the Reporting Guidelines](#)

Leighton Chan, MD, MPH; Allen W. Heinemann, PhD; Jason Roberts, PhD

## Feature Articles

[Exploring the Complexities of Promoting Health in Families in an Obesogenic Environment](#)

Laura Schmelzer, PhD, MOT, OTR/L; Sheama Krishnagiri, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

[Participation Changes in Sexual Functioning After Mild Stroke](#)

Lisa M. Seymour, MS, OTD; Timothy

equine-assisted activities and therapy in relationship to participation in everyday occupations. Applicants are asked to contact [Dr. Wendy Wood](#) in advance of the **February 1, 2015** deadline.

### Fellowships for University-Based Doctoral Candidates and Faculty for Research in Child Maltreatment

This [funding opportunity announcement \(FOA\)](#) will provide funds for 24-month fellowships in blocks to eligible institutions to support doctoral candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to the study of child maltreatment, and faculty who will conduct research on critical issues in child abuse prevention and treatment and provide mentorship to the emerging scholars. Each block must consist of one faculty member and up to two students. HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-CA-0803 Application due date: **June 9, 2014**.

### Boston University School of Public Health, Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Center

#### [Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Outcomes Measurement Research](#) is

funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR),

### National Multiple Sclerosis Society: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research

[This program](#) provides support for a mentor-institution combination which is responsible for the recruitment, selection, and training of postdoctoral fellows to pursue a career in rehabilitation research applied to MS and similar disorders. Deadline: **August 6, 2014**.

### Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago: Rehabilitation Fellowships

[This program](#) seeks to fund engineers and biologists in advanced techniques for rehabilitation research. The program includes opportunities for training in advanced prosthetics/orthotics engineering.

### Kessler Foundation Research Center, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The purpose of this [Rehabilitation Research Training Program](#) is to train individuals in clinical research whose ultimate goal is to improve the rehabilitation outcomes for traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke, spinal cord injury, and other neurological and physical impairments.

### Developing Behavioral Interventions: A Summer Research Institute (June 11-13, 2014, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland)

[Participants](#) will develop testable interventions that have the potential for implementation in practice environments and advance appropriate trial designs.

[Back to top.](#)

## Resource Notes:

### The 2013/2014 Intervention Research Grant Awardees

This major grant program will support research in priority areas and lay the necessary groundwork for larger intervention studies and future funding. For 2013, autism spectrum disorders and health issues related to aging

J. Wolf, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L

#### [The Impact of Autism Services on Mothers' Occupational Balance and Participation](#)

Sandra Hodgetts, PhD, OT; David McConnell, PhD, OT; Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, MD; David Nicholas, PhD, RSW

#### [A Prospective Longitudinal Study Testing Relationships Between Meaningful Activities, Basic Psychological Needs Fulfillment, and Meaning in Life](#)

Aaron M. Eakman, PhD, OTR

#### [An Examination of Occupation-Based, Client-Centered, Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy Practices in New Hampshire](#)

Shelley Mulligan, PhD, OTR/L; Barbara Prudhomme White, PhD, OTR/L; Sajay Arthanat, PhD, OTR/L, ATP

## Support AOTF

The [American Occupational Therapy Foundation](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting our profession today and for the future. Gifts to AOTF help us make a real difference for so many people in our profession through:

- \* Scholarships.
- \* Research support including the Intervention Research Grants and publications including *Research Resources* and *OTJR*.
- \* Development and recognition of leadership.
- \* Education and maintenance of the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country.

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were selected as the funding priorities. The objectives of the grants also include: addressing pressing societal needs, funding innovative interventions that build bridges between research-evidence-practice, focusing on issues of importance to our stakeholders, cultivating interdisciplinary research teams and community investigators and researchers.

To read more about this year's recipients and the IRG program, see the [AOTF website](#).

**Erin R. Foster, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L**

Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, Neurology and Psychiatry  
Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM)

**Feasibility and Optimization of a Cognitive Intervention for Parkinson Disease**

Abbreviated Summary

Parkinson disease (PD) is the second most prevalent neurodegenerative disease. The investigators have designed an intervention to support people with PD in using metacognitive and compensatory strategies to improve their everyday cognitive and occupational performance. The primary objective of this project is to test and optimize the intervention for future clinical trials and translation into clinical practice. The specific aims are to: optimize the feasibility of the intervention through an iterative process of pilot testing and modification and develop procedures and methods to ensure that the intervention can be delivered with reliability and validity by occupational therapists (i.e., intervention fidelity). The expected outcome of this project is a clearly defined, replicable and promising intervention that is ready to be tested in a pilot randomized controlled trial.

Publications

Foster, E.R., Rose, N.S, McDaniel, M.A., & Rendell, P.G. (2013). Prospective memory in Parkinson disease during a Virtual Week: Effects of both prospective and retrospective demands. *Neuropsychology*, 27(2), 170-181.

Foster, E.R., Golden, L., Duncan, R. P., & Earhart, G. M. (2013). Community-based Argentine tango dance program is associated with increased activity participation among individuals with Parkinson's disease. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 94(2), 240-249.

Funding

*Cognitive Rehabilitation for Everyday Executive Dysfunction in Parkinson Disease*. NIH/NICHHD. PI. K23HD071059

**Sandy Magaña, PhD**

Professor, Departments of Occupational Therapy and Disability and Human Development  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Promoting Participation among Latino Children with ASD**

Abbreviated Summary

Latinos are the largest ethnic minority in the U.S. and Latino children represent one of the fastest growing populations diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in the country. The focus of this pilot family-directed intervention is to increase participation in everyday activities among preschool age Latino children with ASD. The specific aims of the study are to 1) assess the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention; 2) determine and generate data which will serve as the basis for a future larger randomized trial; and 3) evaluate the cost differences in service delivery between the two intervention groups. This pilot study will advance the IRG research objectives by laying the groundwork for a larger intervention study; providing mentorship to junior investigators; drawing upon the interdisciplinary knowledge base of occupational therapy, social work and an established community partnership; and extending occupational therapy services to an underserved yet growing minority community in the U.S.

Publications

Magaña, S., Parish, S., Rose, R., Timberlake, M., & Swaine J. (2012). Racial and ethnic disparities in quality of health care among children with autism and other developmental disabilities. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 50, 287-299.

Magaña, S., Lopez, K., Aguinaga, A., & Morton, H. (2013) Access to diagnosis and treatment services among Latino children with autism spectrum disorders. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 51, 141-153.

#### Funding

*Cultural Equivalence of Autism Assessment for Latino Children*. NICHD. PI. NICHD R03 HD064828-01A1.

**Beth Pfeiffer, PhD, OTR/L, BCP**

Associate Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Temple University

### Manualization of an Intervention to Improve Work Environments for Adults with ASD

#### Abbreviated Summary

The prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) has increased significantly over the past 10-15 years (CDC, 2012), yet there are limited effective interventions to support the many individuals with ASD transitioning into adult work roles. We are working with our community partner, the Autism Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN), to expand integrated employment opportunities for adults with ASD. Part of this goal includes providing interventions that not only promote self-advocacy but also incorporates adults with ASD in the intervention process. The specific purposes of this pilot project are to: 1) generate preliminary information in order to adapt and manualize an occupational therapy intervention targeting the environmental factors that impact employment outcomes and work satisfaction; and 2) expand community, employer, and research collaborations that support the implementation of a large scale intervention study. Based on these collaborations and data collected we will develop a manual of procedures including the manualized intervention process for use in a large scale effectiveness study.

#### Publications

Pfeiffer, B. A., Koenig, K., Kinnealey, M., Sheppard, M., & Henderson, L. (2011). Effectiveness of sensory integration interventions in children with autism spectrum disorders: a pilot study. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 65(1), 76-85.

Kinnealey, M., Pfeiffer, B., Miller, J., Roan, C., Shoener, R., & Ellner, M. L. (2012). Effect of classroom modification on attention and engagement of students with autism or dyspraxia. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 66(5), 511-519.

#### Funding

*Effectiveness of Sensory Based Interventions for Children with Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder*. Autism Speaks. PI. AS2371

**Arlene Schmid, PhD, OTR**

Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy  
Colorado State University

### Merging Yoga and group OT (MY-OT)

#### Abbreviated Summary

Annually, 800,000 people sustain a stroke in the United States, nearly 75% are 65 years old or older. Of great concern, 75% of people who sustain a stroke will sustain a fall. This team previously developed and pilot-tested a therapeutic yoga intervention to improve balance, balance self-efficacy, and fear of falling and a group OT intervention to improve the management of fall risk factors and fear of falling. The success of both prior studies supports Merging Yoga and group OT (MY-OT) to improve balance, balance self-efficacy, fear of falling, and fall risk factor management. The objectives of this feasibility study are to 1) further develop, standardize, refine, and manualize the MY-OT intervention and 2) assess change in key variables of interest. The manualization of the intervention and the preliminary efficacy data will lay the groundwork for the submission of a future large intervention trial to test MY-OT as an OT based intervention to improve post-stroke fall prevention and reduce post-stroke fall rates.

#### Publications

Schmid, A. A., Van Puymbroeck, M., Altenburger, P. A., Combs, S. A., Page, S. J. (2013). Post-stroke balance is associated with quality of life. *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation*, 20, 340-346.

Schmid, A. A., Van Puymbroeck, M., Altenburger, P. A., Schalk, N. L., Dierks, T. A., Williams, L. S. Poststroke Balance Improves With Yoga A Pilot Study. *Stroke*, 43(9), 2402-2407.

#### Funding

*Yoga as a complex intervention for veterans with stroke*. Department of Veterans Affairs. PI. RRP 09-195

Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, OTR/L  
Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy  
Rush University

### Bilateral Priming for Upper Extremity Hemiparesis in Older Adults

#### Abbreviated Summary

There are approximately 595,000 seniors in the U.S. who survive a stroke in any given year. One of the most prevalent disabilities post-stroke is weakness or paralysis of one arm which decreases the ability to perform activities of daily living independently. We are now examining bilateral motor priming (BMP), an offshoot of bilateral training, which uses bilateral symmetrical movements to prime the brain prior to task specific occupational therapy (OT). The proposed study targets a method for improvement of arm function that, if successful, can increase independence and quality of life as well as reduce caregiver burden. The specific aims are to determine the feasibility of enrolling eligible subjects for a 4 week intervention study and determine the magnitude of change in upper limb function and impairment in chronic stroke for participants in the intervention. If we show it to be effective, it could become a regular therapeutic procedure in stroke rehabilitation programs, especially for stroke survivors with greater damage to the arm.

#### Publications

Stoykov, M.E., & Corcos, D.M. (2013) Bilateral priming followed by task-specific training can improve moderate to severe post-stroke upper extremity hemiparesis. [Abstract]. *Stroke*, 44, AWMP89

Stoykov, M.E., & Stinear, J.S. (2010) Active-passive bilateral therapy as a priming mechanism for individuals in the subacute phase of post-stroke recovery: a feasibility study. *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 89, (11) 873-878. doi: 10.1097/PHM.0b013e3181f1c31c

#### Funding

*Comparing Two Methods of Motor Priming Combined with Training for Upper Extremity Hemiparesis*. NIH. Scholar. K12 HD055931.

## Online Resources

### CDC's Grand Rounds: Autism Spectrum Disorder: From Numbers to Know-How

[This session](#) will be available via live webcast from CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday, April 22, at 1 p.m. (EST).

### Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network

[The ADDM Network](#) is a group of programs funded by CDC to estimate the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities living in different areas of the United States. The ADDM Network sites all collect data using the same methods, which are modeled after CDC's [Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program \(MADDSP\)](#).

### Create Your Individual Development Plan (IDP)

[This free site](#) by AAAS will help you focus on how to leverage your expertise to explore career possibilities and set goals.

### Disability and Rural Communities: Making a Difference in Small Towns

[This training guide](#) by The National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN) is for people with disabilities who live in rural areas: learn about the importance of advocacy, inclusion, interdependence, resources (ex: technical, vocational, etc.), networking and community involvement, supportive relationships, leadership, and other relevant topics.

## Meet the Scientist Webinar Series

[Every month](#) a different scientist is featured. See [website](#) for recordings of past webinars.

## Free Webinars on TBI and Psychological Health

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) hosts free monthly webinars on topics related to psychological health and TBI. *Family Caregiver Support after Traumatic Brain Injury* from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (EDT) April 10. See their [website](#) for more information and a list of all 2014 webinars.

[Back to top.](#)

## Educational Opportunities

### Measuring Rehabilitation Outcomes in Older Adults (July 25, 2014, Chicago)

[This one day course](#) will provide an in-depth look at integrating measurement into clinical practice. Led by researchers and educators from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Washington University, and the University of Illinois-Chicago, this course is for rehabilitation clinicians, educators, and fieldwork coordinators in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation who desire to foster the development of skills in measuring rehabilitation outcomes.

## Call for Research Proposals

### Reducing Health Care Disparities through Payment and Delivery System Reform

The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) has issued a [call for proposals](#) and will fund up to three implementations of paired health care payment and delivery system changes that incorporate a focus on reducing disparities in care and/or outcomes. Deadline for brief proposals: **April 18, 2014.**

### Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2014

The FY14 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$30 million (M) to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program (PRORP) to support research focused on optimizing recovery and restoration of function for military personnel with orthopaedic injuries sustained in combat or combat-related duties. Watch [Grants.gov](#) for the Program Announcement and submission instructions.

## Publications

### New NCBDDD Report on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

New data from NCBDDD's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network show that the estimated number of children identified with autism spectrum disorder continues to rise (1 in 68 children were identified with ASD) and the picture of ASD in communities has changed.

[Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children Aged 8 Years - Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 11 Sites, United States, 2010.](#) Surveillance Summaries March 28, 2014 63(SS02);1-21.

## Call for Conference Proposals

WCSNE (World Congress on Special Needs Education) (August 11-14, 2014, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

[Call for Workshops](#): due **April 30, 2014.** [Call for Posters/Demo](#): due **April 2014.**

6th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference HARC VI (November 3-4, 2014, Bethesda, Maryland)

The [aim of this conference](#) is to attract a full range of investigators engaged in health literacy research including faculty involved in a broad array of public health, health services, epidemiology, social sciences, translational,

and interventional research activities.  
[Deadline for submissions: July, 11, 2014.](#)

[Back to top.](#)

## Conference Announcements

International Conference on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (April 28-May 1, 2014, New York)

[This conference](#) provides the community of advocates, researchers, providers and specialist with many different skills and perspectives working towards a single goal: helping people with developmental disabilities attain the fullest and most independent life possible.

1st Global Conference: Sexuality and Disability (May 6-8, 2014, Lisbon, Portugal)

[This conference](#) seeks to challenge popular conceptions and perceptions of sexuality and disability. In addition to academic papers.

16th International Congress of World Federation of Occupational Therapists (June 18-21, 2014, Yokohoma, Japan)

Presented in collaboration with the 48th Japanese OT Congress & Expo, the [WFOT Congress](#) themes are: disaster preparedness, response and recovery, inter-professional collaboration and the role of OT, wisdom: learning from the past, tradition for the future, innovations and challenges in OT, education and research: meeting the demands from the field, evidence-based practice and quality of OT, the nature of human occupation, community & OT.

30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, (May 19-20, 2014, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Pacific Rim International Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (May 17, 2014, Honolulu, Hawaii)

Learn from Yesterday. Live for Today. Envision Tomorrow. [The Pac Rim conference](#) encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspectives including: people with disabilities; family members and supporters, educators, policy makers and more.

American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) Annual Meeting (September 18-20, 2014, Boston, Massachusetts)

With a theme of [Tradition Meets Tomorrow](#), this program will consider how our past will inform our future: from traditional concepts to new ideas, evidence-based practice to clinical application.

American Public Health Association: 2014 Annual Meeting and Exposition (November 15-19, 2014, New Orleans, Louisiana)

[Healthography](#): How where you live affects your health and well-being.

[Back to top.](#)

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## About Us

AOTF is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to the advancement of research, education, and public awareness of occupational therapy so that all people may participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.

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[Back to top](#)

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