



1965-2015

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

April 2015

## AOTF Research Resources



### April Greetings to *Research Resources* colleagues!

What a busy time of the year! At AOTF, we are gearing up for our 50th anniversary celebrations at the AOTA Annual Conference and Expo. There is a buzz in the air about the Breakfast with A Scholar event, the inaugural State of the Science Symposium, and our *Champagne and Chocolate* Gala. We hope you can join us! In this issue of *Research Resources*, we explore resources for research related to children and pediatrics and continue our 50th anniversary tributes to the history of AOTF and the Academy of Research.

#### Children and Pediatrics: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

[Research opportunities](#) related to children and pediatrics may occur within medicine and rehabilitation, education, public health, and psychology.. An awareness of [professional associations and conferences, journals, research resources, and funding mechanisms](#) is important for occupational therapists who want to become more involved in these interdisciplinary sciences.

#### Academy of Research Member Profiles: A to Z

I know you will enjoy learning about the next installment of our AOTF Academy of Research members, each of whom has made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy:

- [Patricia Davies](#)

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Celebrate AOTF's 50th Anniversary at the 2015 AOTA Annual Conference.

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## 1980-1984 Growing the Research Program and the Wilma L. West Library

This month, we look back at the latter half of [AOTF's second decade](#).

This era was marked by a growing emphasis on outcomes assessment, the independent living movement, standards for IRBs, and documentation on a new epidemic, AIDS. During this same period, evidence of AOTF's commitment to research was growing with the advent of *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, the Academy of Research, and other initiatives. A few highlights are included in this issue of *Research Resources*.

## The latter half of the second decade of AOTF

[A few significant events](#) in health science and policy in the early 1980's.

We invite our readers to submit research opportunities to our communications associate, [Helene Ross](#) for publication in the next edition of *Research Resources*. 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

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## Children and Pediatrics: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

There are several avenues of interdisciplinary science for occupational therapy research related to children and pediatrics. Interdisciplinary research related to children and pediatrics may be related to: early childhood, special education and school-based programs, pediatric medicine and rehabilitation, intellectual and developmental disabilities, neonatal and infant health, maternal and child health, and child development to name a few.

The research priorities related to children and pediatrics are typically organized around a specific condition or the strategic goals of an agency or organization. For example, the 2009 [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research](#) established research recommendations for the U.S. Department of Health

Help us celebrate our anniversary at our gala, *Champagne and Chocolate*, in the Conservatory of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Friday evening, April 17.

The Breakfast with a Scholar (Friday morning, April 17) will be a moderated discussion on the future of occupational therapy with Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA (moderator), Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.

The inaugural AOTF State of the Science Symposium will feature internationally renowned scientists Leeanne Carey, PhD, BAppSc(OT), MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA and Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA to summarize the current evidence regarding the influence of sensory function on daily life, Friday 2:00-4:30 p.m. April 17.

AOTF Intervention Research Grants: An Overview of Priorities and Process will be held Thursday, April 16, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and is included in the conference registration.

Ticket and registration information are available on the [AOTA website](#).

Contribute photos of past AOTF events for inclusion in a special anniversary commemoration.

Send to:

[aotfis50@aotf.org](mailto:aotfis50@aotf.org)

## *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*

[OTJR](#) is published quarterly by the AOTF and offers original peer-reviewed research articles of professional interest to the practicing OT with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research.

## January 2015

EDITORIAL

The Art and Science of Resilience

and Human Services.

An awareness of the professional associations, research journals, and funding mechanisms for research provide a starting point for occupational therapy professionals who are interested in interdisciplinary research related to children and pediatrics.

### Professional Associations and Conferences

[The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(AAIDD\)](#) was founded in 1876, has over 5,000 members and is the largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and citizens concerned about intellectual and developmental disabilities. AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The AAIDD Annual Meeting, provides researchers, clinicians, practitioners, educators, policymakers, local, state and federal agencies, and advocates with cutting edge research, effective practices, and valuable information on important policy initiatives.

[The National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#) promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. The NAEYC was founded in 1926 and has nearly 80,000 members from more than 300 Affiliates and more than 120 countries. The NAEYC annual conference brings together early childhood educators -- teachers, program administrators, students, researchers and teacher educators -- to explore the latest research and learn from one another. NAEYC publishes the *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.

[The Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](#) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. The CEC was founded in 1922 and has 27,000 members. CEC offers an annual conference and expo and publishes the journal, *Exceptional Children*.

[The Maternal and Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association \(APHA\)](#) was organized in 1921 to develop approaches for improving the health of children, adolescents, mothers, and families. Membership, conference, and publications are available through the APHA.

### Children and Pediatrics Journals

A sample of interdisciplinary children and pediatrics journals that regularly have articles of relevance to occupational therapy are summarized here. There are many additional journals that focus on specific childhood conditions.

[American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) IF 2.08  
[Child: Health, Care, and Development](#) IF 1.83  
[Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology](#) IF 3.29  
[Early Childhood Research Quarterly](#) IF 2.08  
[Exceptional Children](#) IF 2.77  
[Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities](#) IF 3.38  
[Journal of Pediatric Psychology](#) IF 2.54  
[Journal of Special Education](#) IF 1.36  
[Pediatrics](#) IF 5.30  
[Research in Developmental Disabilities](#) IF 2.74

### A Sample of Evidence-Based and Research Resources for Children and Pediatrics

[Centre for Childhood Disability Research](#)  
[Council for Exceptional Children Evidence-Based Practice Resources](#)

### ARTICLES

Haptic Exploration in Elementary School Age Children  
Carol A. Coté

Mothers with Chronic Disease: A Comparison of Parenting in Mothers with Systemic Sclerosis and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus  
Anet L. Poole, K. Sena Hare, Sabrina Turner-Montez, Cindy Mendelson, and Betty Skipper

Hollywood Takes on Intellectual/Developmental Disability: Cinematic Representations of Occupational Participation  
Rebecca Renwick, Ann Fudge Schormans, and Deborah Shore

Occupational Competence Strategies in Old Age: A Mixed-Methods Comparison between Hispanic Women with Different Levels of Daily Participation  
Elsa M. Orellano, Gail Mountain, Nelson Varas, and Nirzka Labault

Participation of Young Adults with High-Functioning Autism in Taiwan: A Pilot Study  
Hsin-Yen Wang and Christine Berg

*OTJR seeks original research* reports of assessment/measurement development, efficacy of interventions (preventive, restorative, and compensatory), intervention outcomes, translational research, and basic research (including occupational science). *OTJR* is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

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[IRIS Center funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\)](#)  
[ECTA Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#)  
[Institute of Education Sciences](#)  
[IES What Works Clearinghouse](#)  
[National Institute for Early Education Research](#)  
[Children's Defense Fund](#)  
[Find Youth Info](#)  
[Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network \(CPCCRN\)](#)  
[National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#)  
[Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health](#)  
[National Survey of Children's Health](#)  
[Kids Count Data Center](#)  
[HRSA Maternal and Child Health Research Program](#)  
[CDC Child Development Research](#)

### A Sample of Funding Mechanisms for Children and Pediatrics

Several resources for learning about grant opportunities in children and pediatrics are provided here.

The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) and the National Center for Education Research (NCER) within the [Institute of Education Sciences \(IES\)](#) host a series of webinars related to research funding opportunities.

[Autism Speaks](#)  
[National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#)  
[William T Grant Foundation](#)  
[HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#)

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## The Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy

### Patricia Davies, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Davies is currently a professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy with a joint appointment with the Department of Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies at Colorado State University (CSU). She is also a faculty member in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrated Neuroscience Program at CSU.

Dr. Davies is Director of the Brainwaves Research Laboratory at CSU. The focus of her research is to understand the development of neurophysiological mechanisms that underlie cognitive and motor behaviors in children with and without disorders. By using electroencephalography (EEG), event-related potentials (ERPs), and behavioral testing, she is able to relate brain activity to sensory and cognitive functional performance. (Retrieved on March 17, 2015 from [http://www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff/patricia\\_davies.aspx](http://www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff/patricia_davies.aspx).)

[For more information on Dr. Davies.](#)



### Deirdre Rose Dawson, PhD, OT Reg(Ont)

Dr. Dawson is a senior scientist with the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest in Toronto, an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Science, & Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto and a member of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario Centre for Stroke Recovery. Dr. Dawson's research combines her training in rehabilitation science, epidemiology and neuropsychology in order to best understand how cognitive processes in healthy aging, stroke and other acquired brain disorders impact on people's abilities to be autonomous in community living and to develop effective interventions that promote optimal participation in every-day life. Her work spans from ecologically valid assessment of cognitive impairments to occupationally based cognitive rehabilitation approaches to music-supported rehabilitation approaches to investigating the benefits of community support programs.

(Retrieved on March 18, 2015 from [http://www.ot.utoronto.ca/faculty/faculty\\_directory/dawson\\_d.asp](http://www.ot.utoronto.ca/faculty/faculty_directory/dawson_d.asp).)



[For more information on Dr. Dawson.](#)

### Jean Deitz, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Deitz is professor emeritus, Rehabilitation Science Program, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Dr. Deitz's primary clinical focus is pediatric occupational therapy, with a special interest in developing innovative programs designed to help children with special needs increase their social skills. She has expertise in the areas of single subject research methods and measurement. (Retrieved on March 18, 2015 from <http://www.rehab.washington.edu/education/faculty/nonproviderbios/deitz.asp>.)



Dr. Deitz served on the AOTF Board of Directors for seven years in the role of chair of the Research Advisory Council. When the Council was retired several years ago, she continued her service as the Board's principal voice for scholarship and research. Dr. Deitz was an effective and articulate advocate for the relationship among occupation, participation, and health. Her wealth of knowledge and her interdisciplinary perspective, as both scholar and teacher, were invaluable as the AOTF established its vision grounded in social justice and created the AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health. In 2008, Dr. Deitz received the Foundation's Meritorious Service Award. (Retrieved on April 1, 2015 from <http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/EducationCareers/Awards/By-Year/2008%20Awards.pdf>)

[For more information on Dr. Deitz.](#)

### Johanne Desrosiers, PhD, OT(C), FCAOT

Dr. Desrosiers is full professor, School of Rehabilitation, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada and a researcher in the Research Center on Aging (Centre de recherche sur le vieillissement). Her research interests focus on evaluation of and intervention for Social participation of older adults with disabilities.



As they age, elders may lose functional independence and require rehabilitation to optimize their social participation in their daily activities and social roles. The main aim of Professor Desrosiers's research work is to gain a better understanding of the concept of social participation, accurately assess it and study the impact of biopsychosocial and community interventions designed to optimize how elders perform significant activities and social roles. (Retrieved on March 18, 2015 from <https://www.usherbrooke.ca/medecine/recherche/profils-de-chercheurs/desrosiers-johanne/english-version/>.)

[For more information on Dr. Desrosiers.](#)

### Winifred Wiese Dunn, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Dunn is department chair and professor, Department of Occupational Therapy Education, Kansas University Medical Center, University of Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas. Her research interests are directed toward the study of how persons understand and use the sensory input they received, and how their sensory processing abilities affect that individual's performance in daily life. For more details, you may want to visit her website, [Sensory Processing in Everyday Life](#).



Dunn's clinical practice expertise is with children and families in community settings, such as public schools, early intervention programs, day care centers, and families' homes. (Retrieved on March 18, 2015 from <http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/occupational-therapy-education/our-faculty/dunn.html>.)

In addition to her induction into the AOTF Academy of Research in 1993, Dr. Dunn was awarded the AOTF A. Jean Ayres Award in 2003. In 1991, Dr. Dunn was awarded the American Occupational Therapy Association's Award of Merit, and in 2001 was named the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecturer. (Retrieved on March 18, 2015 from <http://www.kumc.edu/Documents/shp/occupational-therapy/Dunn-CV-oct2013.pdf>.)

[For more information on Dr. Dunn.](#)

### Dorothy Farrar Edwards, PhD

Dr. Edwards is professor and chair, Department of Kinesiology- Occupational Therapy, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, with appointments in the Departments of Medicine and Neurology at the School of Medicine and Public Health. (Retrieved on March 19, 2015 from

<http://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/people/graduate-faculty/dorothy-farrar-edwards.>)

Dr. Edwards describes her research focus in this way.

"My multidisciplinary research addresses the effects of aging on functional independence and quality of life. The central goal of my research is to contribute to the understanding of quality of life and well-being in older adults by examining the impact of cognitive and physical impairment on performance of complex activities of everyday life. My research explores questions of functional performance, caregiver burden, and treatment outcomes in a variety of populations ranging from normal aging to neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and stroke. I am particularly interested in the aging process in African Americans. The ultimate aim of these studies is to support the development and implementation of more effective interventions for persons with cognitive loss and their families." (Retrieved on March 19, 2015 from <http://aging.wisc.edu/research/affil.php?Ident=136.>)

[For more information on Dr. Edwards.](#)



### Joyce Engel, PhD, OT, FAOTA

Dr. Engel is professor and program director, Occupational Science and Technology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Dr. Engel's research focuses on pain assessments and pain interventions for persons with chronic pain, especially youths with physical disabilities (e.g., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy). She has developed three valid and reliable pain assessments for youths with physical disability-related pain: the Pediatric Community Participation Questionnaire, Survey of Pain Attitudes - Pediatric Version, and the Modified Brief Pain Inventory.

Dr. Engel has investigated the efficacy of relaxation techniques, biofeedback, hypnosis, and cognitive restructuring as analgesia in persons with chronic pain. She has been an investigator on several pain grants funded by the National Institutes of Health. (Retrieved on March 19, 2015 from

[For more information on Dr. Engel.](#)



## 1980-1984 Growing the Research Program and the Wilma L. West Library

[Last month](#), Dr. Bass wrote about the 1976 AOTA/AOTF seminar on research and listed the attendees' recommendations (Yerxa and Gilfoyle, 1976):

1. creation of the A. Jean Ayres Award;
2. publication of a research quarterly by AOTF;
3. encouragement to publish occupational therapy research in non-occupational therapy journals; and
4. development of a research coordinator position.

We have to wait until 1987 for implementation of the first recommendation; however, number two is brought to fruition in 1981 with the publication of the first issue of *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* (Llorens, 1981; West, 1981; West, 1981). From the beginning, the acronym *OTJR* was adopted. Charles H. Christiansen, EdD, OTR was the first editor, (Christiansen, 1981).

Number three was an ongoing effort for many years. There was a department in the early issues of *OTJR*,

"Published Elsewhere," described as ". . . a listing of recently published articles from non-occupational therapy journals, which would be of potential interest to occupational therapy researchers," (Anon, 1981, p. 105). This could be interpreted as an early effort to encourage occupational therapy researchers to look beyond their own literature.

As we learned in [March](#), the research coordinator position was created in 1979 and filled by Nedra Gillette, MEd, OTR, FAOTA. Ms. Gillette worked closely with AOTA's Research Advisory Committee (RAC). One outcome was the creation of a Long-Range Research Plan for occupational therapy which listed the following goals (RAC, 1982, p. 117).

- Goal I: Establish priorities in occupational therapy research
- Goal II: Fund research in occupational therapy
- Goal III: Improve research competencies of occupational therapists
- Goal IV: Promote communications and exchange of information about research activities in occupational therapy
- Goal V: Promote peer recognition of occupational therapy researchers
- Goal VI: Promote centers for research in occupational therapy

Research priorities (goal I) were published in 1983. In 1981, an ad hoc committee as charged by the Representative Assembly "identified research competencies required by the profession of occupational therapy," (goal III) that were published in 1983. Of course, goal II has always been and remains one of AOTF's primary *raison d'être*. See a 1982 article below by AOTF for an analysis of research grants requests during this time and a 1983 article for an analysis of the grants awarded.

In 1983, AOTF established the [Academy of Research](#) ". . . in recognition of the need for an award of stature specifically devoted to those members of the profession who have made exceptional scientific contributions to occupational therapy theory and practice" (AOTF, 1982, p. 123). The first three inductees were A Jean Ayres, PhD, Mary Reilly, EdD and Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD. Goal V is implemented. Goal VI will be achieved in the future.

Creation of the [occupational therapy library](#) occurred during this period. For the writer of this part of the AOTF history, it is the most significant happening. Donations of books and journals had been coming into AOTA for several years and were somewhat organized. "When the Association purchased its new headquarters, the Occupational Therapy Library finally became a reality. As part of its education and research functions, the Foundation undertook responsibility for administering and financing the Association's library," (Reed, 1983, p.412). A part-time librarian, Amy Bridgeman, was hired (Bridgeman, 1981 and AOTF, 1981).

Mitchell Cahan followed Ms. Bridgeman, and I came on the scene in 1986. You understand now why I consider creation of the library as the major event in the period under discussion. My twenty years as director of the Wilma L West Library was a wonderful and exciting professional experience. Working with such capable women as Wilma West, Nedra Gillette, and Martha Kirkland to carry out AOTF's mission was exhilarating and exciting. Creating OT SEARCH and other resources for occupational therapy practitioners, students and researchers was challenging and interesting. At the beginning, I thought I might be bored with the literature of a small piece of the health care world, but occupational therapy practitioners practice in so many settings with a myriad of diagnoses across the life span, I had to keep running to meet your informational needs. Thanks for the exciting ride.

*Mary Binderman, MSLS  
The Wilma L West Library*

\_\_\_\_\_. (1981). [Published Elsewhere](#). *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 1, 105-107.

American Occupational Therapy Foundation. (1981). [The Foundation: The Occupational Therapy Library](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 35, 667.

American Occupational Therapy Foundation. (1982). [The Foundation: Analysis of grant requests 1978-1982](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 36, 264.

American Occupational Therapy Foundation. (1983). [AOTF: From the Foundation: announcing the Academy of Research](#). *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 3, 123.

American Occupational Therapy Foundation. (1983). [The Foundation Research grants awarded by AOTA/AOTF: 1979-1982](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 37, 491-492.

Bridgeman, A. (1981 Aug). Library Organization and Cataloging Completed. *Occupational Therapy News*, 35, 7.

Christiansen, CH. (1981). [Editorial: Toward resolution of crisis: research requisites in occupational therapy.](#) *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 1, 115-124.

Llorens, LA. (1981). [Guest Editorial: A journal of research in occupational therapy: the need, the response.](#) *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 1, 3-6.

Reed, K. L. (1983). [The Foundation: The occupational therapy library: A professional resource.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 37, 412-413.

Research Advisory Committee. (1982). [The Foundation: A long-range research plan for occupational therapy.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 36, 116-118.

West, WL. (1981). [Commentary: a journal of research in occupational therapy: the response, the responsibility.](#) *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*, 1, 7-12.

West, WL. (1981). [The Foundation: The Need, The Response: The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research: Message from the President.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 35, 44.

Yerxa, EJ. (1983). [The Foundation: Research priorities.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 37, 699.

Yerxa, EJ & Gilfoyle, E. (1976). The Foundation: Research seminar. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 30, 509-514.

## 1980-1984: A few significant events in health science and policy

### Outcomes Assessment

[Dr. Avedis Donabedian](#), the "Father of Outcomes Research", begins publication of a three volume work on defining the quality of medical care and health care assessment and outcomes (1980, 1982, 1985).  
[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/iHCM/bibliography.html#Donabedian\\_1985](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/iHCM/bibliography.html#Donabedian_1985)

### AIDS Epidemic

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describe cases of a rare lung disease in a weekly report. This is the [first official reporting](#) of U.S. cases that will later become known as the AIDS epidemic.

### National Council on Independent Living

[The National Council on Independent Living](#) is founded in 1982 as a national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals including: individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

### Ethics in Research

[The Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) identifies standards governing the composition, operation, and responsibility of institutional review boards (IRBs) that review clinical investigations involving human subjects.

## Scientist Development Awards

### William T Grant Foundation

[The William T Grant Foundation](#) invests in research with the potential to advance theory, policy, and practice related to children and youth in the United States. Research focus areas are inequality in youth outcomes and use of evidence by policymakers and practitioners. Current opportunities:

Research grants (supports theory-building and empirical research projects on reducing inequality or understanding the use of research evidence): Letters of inquiry due May 5, 2015.

William T. Grant Scholars (this career development program supports promising early-career researchers with interests in reducing inequality or understanding the use of research evidence): Deadline July 8, 2015.

William T. Grant Distinguished Fellows: This mid-career fellowship enables researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to work in settings that are outside of their traditional roles. Researchers immerse themselves in policy



or practice settings and policymakers and practitioners work in research settings): May 5, 2015.

### Advanced Rehabilitation Research Policy Fellowship.

[CFDA Number: 84.133P-5](#)

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 15, 2015.

The purpose of [NIDILRR's ARRT](#) program is to provide advanced research training and experience to individuals with doctorates, or similar advanced degrees, who have clinical or other relevant experience. ARRT projects train rehabilitation researchers, including researchers with «disabilities», with particular attention to research areas that support the implementation and objectives of the Rehabilitation Act, and that improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act.

Application deadline: May 15, 2015.

### NIDILRR's Research Fellowships Program

[CFDA number 84.133F-2.](#)

The purpose of the Research Fellowships Program is to build research capacity by providing support to highly qualified individuals, including those who are individuals with disabilities, to conduct research on the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. [The Plan](#) is organized around the following outcome domains: (1) Community living and participation; (2) health and function; and (3) employment.

Application deadline: May 18, 2015.

### Two [MCH Research Funding Opportunities](#):

[HRSA-15-091: MCH Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health \(AIR-B Network\)](#) will support an interdisciplinary, multicenter research forum for scientific collaboration and infrastructure building, which will provide national leadership in research designed to improve the behavioral, mental, social, and/or cognitive health and well-being of children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental disabilities. Application due date: April 21, 2015.

[HRSA-15-092: MCH Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health \(AIR-P Network\)](#) will support an interdisciplinary, multicenter research forum for scientific collaboration and infrastructure building, which will provide national leadership in research designed to improve the physical health and well-being of children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental disabilities. Physical health may include, but is not limited to, medical, dental, visual, nutrition and speech/hearing components. Application due date: April 21, 2015.

### Society for the Study of Occupation Student Research Grant Competition

SSO has released a Request for Proposals for the [2015 student research grant competition](#). Proposals must demonstrate direct relevance to at least one of the following priorities:

- Expands the knowledge of occupation;
- Fosters an understanding of the fundamental nature of occupation relative to health and well-being;
- Explores innovative methods to study occupation;
- Explores the interrelationship of the discipline of occupational science and the profession of occupational therapy and other related professions.

Proposals are due April 30, 2015.

### Rheumatology Research Foundation Announcement

The purpose of the [Scientist Development Award](#) is to encourage physicians and health professionals without significant research experience to consider careers in biomedical or clinical research by supporting a structured research training program in arthritis and rheumatic disease. Application deadline: August 1, 2015.

### National MS Society Announcement

The [Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in Rehabilitation Research](#) 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. The mentor should be an established and active researcher in MS or a related field. The mentor and fellow may come from a variety of different fields including medicine, physical, occupational, or speech therapy, psychology, rehabilitation engineering, nursing, or other

fields. Application deadline: August 5, 2015.

## Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

### The University of Michigan Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Program in Community Living and Participation (U-M AR RTP-CP)

[The U-M AR RTP-CP](#) will provide advanced rehabilitation research training to persons with doctoral or similar advanced degrees who have clinical or other relevant experience, with the goal of enhancing their capacity to conduct high quality multidisciplinary rehabilitation and disability research to improve outcomes for those with disabilities in the areas of community living and participation. The position is open and will close when filled; start time is fall 2015.

### Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Disability Policy Research

[The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy](#) invites applications from qualified candidates for one- or two-year fellowships in the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. A range of research opportunities is available to fellows, including investigations of the health and well-being of children and adults with disabilities and their caregiving families. Training of post-doctoral fellows will include immediate engagement in an existing research program coupled with opportunities to develop skills in preparing grant proposals, managing research projects, developing scholarly articles and scientific presentations and disseminating findings to advocates and policy makers. Fellows will also have the opportunity to develop their own independent research programs.

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## Resources

### Integrating Bodies of Evidence: Existing Systematic Reviews and Primary Studies

[This report](#) is based on research conducted by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Evidence-based Practice Centers' 2014 Methods Workgroup 3 and is intended to help health care decisionmakers-patients and clinicians, health system leaders, and policymakers, among others-make well-informed decisions and thereby improve the quality of health care services.

### National Quality Forum Annual Conference Recording

[The National Quality Forum \(NQF\)](#) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that works to catalyze improvements in healthcare. A recording of the NQF Annual Conference (Tackling Costs: The Quality Solution on March 23-24, 2015) is now available; it features over ten hours of programming and more than 35 featured guests and for a small fee of \$50 per viewer for members of the NQF.

### Innovations in Design and Utilization of Measurement Systems to Promote Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health: Workshop Summary

[The Forum on Promoting Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health](#) held a workshop on November 5-6, 2014, to discuss the progress and lags in implementation of interventions that improve the cognitive, affective, and behavioral health of children. The workshop featured presentations on the use of data linkage and integration to inform research and practice related to children's cognitive, affective, and behavioral health; the use of quality measures to facilitate system change in health care, classroom, and juvenile justice settings; and tools developed to measure implementation of evidence-based prevention programs at scale to support sustainable program delivery, among other topics.

### The Future of Home Health Care: Workshop Summary

On September 30 and October 1, 2014, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Research Council (NRC) convened a [public workshop](#) bringing together a spectrum of public and private stakeholders and thought leaders to improve understanding of the role of home health care (especially Medicare home health care) in supporting aging in place and in helping high-risk, chronically ill, and disabled Americans receive health care and other needed supports and services in their homes; the evolving role of home health care, including how to integrate home health care into new models for the delivery of care and the future health care marketplace; the key policy reforms and investments in workforces, technologies, and research needed to leverage the role of home health care; and research priorities that can help clarify the value of home health care.

### **Integrating Research and Practice: Health System Leaders Working Toward High-Value Care: Workshop Summary (2015)**

In April and June 2014 the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Value and Science-Driven Health Care convened [two workshops](#) aimed at accelerating progress toward real-time knowledge generation through the seamless integration of clinical practice and research, one of the fundamental concepts of a continuously learning health system, centered on the development of the PCORnet. The first workshop brought together health care system leaders, both administrative and clinical, and researchers to consider issues and strategic priorities for building a successful and durable clinical research network and facilitate progress toward a continuously learning health care system more broadly, including issues related to science, technology, ethics, business, regulatory oversight, sustainability, and governance. The second workshop focused on implementation approaches. Health system CEOs convened to consider strategic priorities and explore approaches to implementation. These workshops will inform the decisions of field leaders moving forward, including PCORI, the PCORnet steering committee, and PCORnet grantees. Integrating Research and Practice is the summary of the presentations and discussions of the workshops.

### **Innovations in Design and Utilization of Measurement Systems to Promote Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health: Workshop Summary**

The Forum on Promoting Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health held a [workshop](#) on November 5-6, 2014 to address the lag of implementation of innovative measurement systems to improve the cognitive, affective, and behavioral health of children. One potential reason for this lag in implementation is a need to further develop and better utilize measures that gauge the success of evidence-based programs as part of a broad effort to prevent negative outcomes and foster children's health and well-being

### **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. See their [website](#) for more information and a list of all 2015 webinars.

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## **Conferences and Calls for Papers**

### **AOTA Annual Conference (April 16-19, 2015, Nashville, Tennessee)**

Join thousands of OT colleagues for [educational sessions and institutes](#).

### **International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health (May 6-9, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia)**

[This conference](#) is presented by The American Psychological Association, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology with the theme: "Work, Stress and Health 2015: Sustainable Work, Sustainable Health, Sustainable Organizations."

### **The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 20th Annual International Meeting (May 16-20, 2015, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)**

[ISPOR](#) promotes the science of pharmacoeconomics (health economics) and outcomes research (the scientific discipline that evaluates the effect of health care interventions on patient well-being including clinical, economic, and patient-centered outcomes) and facilitates the translation of this research into useful information for health care decision makers to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of health care to improve health.

### **Pacific Rim International Conference (May 18-19, 2015, Waikiki, Hawaii)**

[The Pacific Rim International Conference](#), encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspective across numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability and diversity areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying diversity and disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, and; action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world. In 2015, new topic areas will promote thoughtful discussion and suggest new ways to integrate education, technology, advocacy, activism and interdisciplinary research.

### **ICOST 2015 - 13th International Conference on Smart Homes, Assistive Technology and**

### Health Telematics: Advances in Cognitive Technologies (June 10-12, 2015, Geneva, Switzerland)

[ICOST](#) brings together stakeholders from clinical, academic and industrial perspectives along with end users and family caregivers to explore how to utilize technologies to foster independent living and offer an enhanced quality of life.

### RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Annual Conference (June 10-14, 2015, Denver, Colorado)

RESNA is the premier professional organization dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of people with disabilities through increasing access to technology solutions. [Their annual conference](#) theme is New Frontiers in Assistive Technology.

### 9th World Congress of the International Society for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) (June 19-23, 2015, Berlin, Germany)

This [Congress](#) will feature experts in the following fields:

- Clinical Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Sciences
- Biosciences in Rehabilitation
- Biomedical Rehabilitation Sciences and Engineering
- Integrative Rehabilitation Sciences
- Human Functioning Sciences

### 6th Asia Pacific Occupational Therapy Congress (APOTC) (September 14-17, 2015, Rotorua, New Zealand)

[APOTC's vision is "Doing Well Together"](#) and aims to disseminate and celebrate research and examples of clinical practice across the themes of:

- Sharing practice insights and stories
- Sharing the best of practice and theory
- Sharing technology in practice
- Creative partnerships with community and colleagues
- Strengthening communities
- Practicing across cultures

Submissions may take the form of research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods), systematic reviews, practice exemplars, case studies, program evaluation, policy development or position statements.

### The First International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury (September 16-18, 2015, Liverpool, United Kingdom)

Short oral presentation and poster abstract deadline: March 9, 2015.

[This conference](#) (Supporting Young People and Their Families to Maximise Good Outcomes and Quality of Life) seeks to bring together with all those an interest in the development of innovative treatments for acquired brain injuries in children, adolescents and young adults, supported by evidenced-based research.

### Southwest Conference on Disability (Oct 6-9,2015 Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Disability Rights Are Civil Rights: Advancing the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

[The Southwest Conference on Disability](#) is soliciting [proposals](#) that focus on areas such as employment, education, access, health, voting, housing and others concerning:

- \* Disability advocacy to bring about systems change;
- \* Research on disparities faced by people with disabilities;
- \* Policies and programs that have promoted equal rights for people with disabilities; and
- \* Barriers to attaining or preserving those rights and ways to overcome those barriers.

[Proposals](#) are also welcome on three-related special emphasis themes:

- \* Using Assistive Technology To Promote Equal Rights of People With Disabilities
- \* Employment As A Right For People With Disabilities: Knowledge, Action, Tools
- \* Moving Towards Equal Rights To Health For People With Disabilities

Proposals are welcomed which are cross-disability in nature, as well as those that focus on a particular type of disability including physical and intellectual disabilities, age group (e.g., seniors, youth in transition), gender or

region.

The deadline for proposals is May 16, 2015.

### **AOTA 2015 Education Summit (October 17-18, 2015, Denver, Colorado)**

[The AOTA 2015 Education Summit](#) invites all who share the common vision of enhanced understanding of teaching and learning in occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant degree programs to submit a proposal. Summit themes are: Pedagogy & Instructional Design, Building Capacity/Faculty Development and Resources, Learner Characteristics & Competencies) within the practice of occupational therapy education (entry, post professional and specialty workshops). Priority will be given to proposals that use data/evidence to formulate problem statements and analyze outcomes, and that include recommendations for future work.

### **Society for Neuroscience 2015 Annual Conference (October 17-21, 2015, Chicago, Illinois)**

The [Society for Neuroscience](#) is the world's largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to understanding the brain and nervous system. The nonprofit organization, founded in 1969, now has nearly 40,000 members in more than 90 countries and 130 chapters worldwide.

### **European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (October 22-24, 2015, University of Ruse, Bulgaria)**

[Abstract submission](#) is open (closing date: May 1, 2015 for students). [Conference information](#) on ENOTHE's web site will be available soon.

### **Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) 44th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting (October 23-25, 2015, Calgary, Alberta)**

The CAG announces their 2015 conference -- [From Possibility to Practice in Aging: Shaping a Future for All](#). This multidisciplinary conference is for those interested in individual and population aging. Abstracts are welcome from all disciplines and interests in gerontology and geriatrics including research, practice, policy and related work. Abstracts are due by April 15, 2015.

### **International BIOPHILIA Rehabilitation Conference (IBRC) (October 23-27, 2015, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan)**

The 12th annual conference, [IBRC 2015](#) is a leading international forum for Rehabilitation Medicine. BIOPHILIA represents the process of functional recovery.

### **ACRM 92nd Annual Progress in Rehabilitation Research & Expo (October 25-30, 2015, Dallas, Texas)**

In 2015, the [ACRM annual conference](#) will focus on brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, cancer and pain.

### **American Public Health Association (APHA) (October 31-November 4, 2015, Chicago, Illinois)**

[APHA's Annual Meeting & Exposition](#) is where public health professionals convene, learn, network and engage with peers. The theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting is Health in All Policies, they hope to strengthen the profession of public health, share the latest research and information, promote best practices, and advocate for public health issues and policies grounded in research.

### **7th Annual Health Literacy Research Conference (November 2-3, 2015, Bethesda, Maryland)**

[This interdisciplinary meeting](#) is an opportunity to advance the field of health literacy, a method to raise the quality of research, and a venue for professional development. Their aim is to attract a full range of investigators engaged in health literacy research including those involved in a broad array of public health, health services, epidemiology, translational, and interventional research activities.

Abstract Submission Deadline: July 2, 2015.

### **Aging and Society: Fifth Interdisciplinary Conference (November 5-6, 2015, Washington, DC)**

Proposals are invited that address aging and society through one of the following themes:

- Economic and Demographic Perspectives on Aging
- Public Policy and Public Perspectives of Aging
- Medical Perspectives on Aging, Health, and Wellness

- Social and Cultural Perspectives on Aging
- Special Focus: Inter-generational Relationships
- 2015 Special Focus: Inter-generational Relationships

[Call for Papers](#) (a title and short abstract) deadline: April 14, 2015.

## Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting (November 18-22, 2015, Orlando, Florida)

GSA is the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. The principal mission GSA is to advance the study of aging and disseminate information among scientists, decision makers, and the general public. Watch the [web site](#) for conference details and call for papers information. Call for late breaking poster session abstracts: July, 2015.

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## Davies (continued)

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## Dawson (continued)

### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*I asked my graduate students to assist with this first question! Supportive, thoughtful, collaborative.*

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

*My research is ultimately about enabling people to engage in the occupations they care about - those that they need to do and/or want to do. In 2012, Dr. Liz Townsend wrote about occupation as a "central force in human existence and the organisation of societies." Research that inspires and guides practice to enable occupational performance at individual, community and systems levels will make a profound and positive difference in the world.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

*I encourage people at the 'considering' stage to talk to as many scientists and researchers as possible so that they find a good home for their ideas and who they are in their supervisor's lab. One's supervisor is foundational in so many ways - as a role model, mentor, support, constructive critic and as someone who can provide opportunities. The lab environment is also very important - having a good fit between one's self, one's supervisor and their lab will provide great start in a research career.*

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

*I believe we have essential work to do in the area of occupational justice - broadening and deepening our understanding of the role our profession of occupational therapy play and can play in relation to issues of social justice and human rights as it intersects with issues of human rights seems to me a critical research priority. I'd love to do post-doctoral fellowship in this area!*

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

*One of my key mentors taught me by example not to lose sight of the people - that is the why of the research - this person is always extraordinarily respectful and deeply cares about the difficulties faced by individuals whom we encounter as research participants. This attitude is woven throughout their grants, papers and day to day work - a tremendous example for me.*

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

*My favorite occupation outside my work is being a mother! I have 14 year old twins (a boy and a girl) - the ideal is when we can as a family being cross-country skiing or wilderness camping -- being in nature, off-line is something I find amazingly renewing.*

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

*The most surprising and rewarding aspect of my career is that I have developed wonderful, dynamic, stimulating and engaging collaborations with other scientists with whom I've also developed great friendships - I am enormously grateful for these relationships.*

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## Deitz (continued)

Q and A

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## Desrosiers (continued)

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Hard Worker, enthusiast, and devoted.*

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

*By improving dignity and quality of (life for) older adults with restriction in participation.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

*Choosing the right research field: expertise and passion.*

*Persevering...failure is a simple detour to success!*

*In tough times, remember that you have enjoyed it...and you'll still love it.*

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

*Knowledge transfer in order to find the best ways for clinicians to use research data in their daily work.*

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

*Re-assurance about my ideas and my decisions.*

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

*Running!*

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

*The pleasure I have to train and mentor the next generation of researchers.*

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### Dunn (continued)

#### Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

*Enthusiastic*

*Inspiring*

*Funny*

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?

*I want all people to know that they are fabulous just the way they are. I want people to know that it is useful to have insights about one's natural state because this informs how to plan a successful and satisfying life.*

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?

*Embrace unexpected findings [which there will be a lot of]. We only think deeply about things that puzzle us; these are the moments for breakthroughs from the status quo.*

Beside your own areas of inquiry, what is one research priority that you believe is important for the future of occupational science and occupational therapy?

*Intervention studies that have participation as their outcomes will make it clear that we care about people's actual lives more than anything else.*

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.

*They invited me to think bigger than I could possibly imagine.*



Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.

*Cooking, and all the verbs associated with it, planning, chopping, stirring, smelling, tasting, dining.....*

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?

*That colleagues in practice find my ideas useful to their work with those they serve.*

*That the general public find meaningfulness in the ideas I have proposed.*

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## About Us

AOTF is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. Gifts to AOTF help us make a real difference through:

- Scholarships
- Research support including the Intervention Research Grants program
- Maintenance of the largest collection of occupational therapy resources in the country, the Wilma L. West Library.



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