

## Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the  
AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health  
December/January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Last month, *Research Resources* highlighted the importance of groups and social networks as they influence participation. This month, as might be appropriate for the holiday season, we are devoting this issue to families. Next to communities, healthy families are the core social elements of any flourishing society.

Research from many disciplines has shown that healthy families create conditions that influence the healthy development of children and can ward off depression and other forms of mental illness among siblings. For example, a recent study in the [Journal of Family Psychology](#) reported that supportive and affectionate siblings have beneficial effects regardless of age, distance or length of separation. Mothers may simply call it brotherly or sisterly love, but to researchers it's more than just a cliché.

Of course, occupational therapy researchers have been among those studying the family, and our experts in the Wilma L. West Library have assembled an excellent selection of articles on this topic to share with you. We hope you enjoy it.

Meantime, from our Foundation "family" to yours, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions on how the AOTF can earn the privilege of being *Your Foundation for Life*<sup>TM</sup>.

Cordially,



Charles Christiansen  
Executive Director  
Interim Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

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## Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

### Family - the focus of winter celebrations

As we move from Thanksgiving to the winter holidays (Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa) we join with

family and friends to celebrate. Americans travel long distances, often experiencing bad weather, horrible traffic conditions, and airport congestion, to be with family for the holidays. Our mobile society has made the gathering of a far-flung family another reason for celebration. Although many jokes and comedic movies or plays are centered on the catastrophes of such gatherings; family connections, shared meals, stories, and rituals are more likely to add to our sense of well-being and connectedness (Evans & Rodger, 2008 and Fiese, 2007).

Early on, occupational therapy practitioners acknowledged the importance of the family in therapy (Roland, 1945 and Cooper 1956). Almost thirty years later, the increased mobility of the modern family, along with the growing number of women employed outside the home, were identified as "changes making the modern family ill-equipped to care for the chronically disabled . . ." (Zisserman, 1981, p. 13). In spite of these problems of the modern family, later in this same decade, family-centered care was becoming the preferred approach for the growing practice in early intervention (Schaaf, RC & Mulrooney, 1989) and remains so today (James & Chard, 2010).

Family-centered care is not limited to parents and young children. Families are impacted by a family member's illness, whether physical, developmental, or psychiatric and whether the patients are young or elderly (Larson, 2010; Nätterlund, 2010; and Tryssenaar, Tremblay, Kochanoff, 2002). Of course, family-centered care means there must be family caregivers, and occupational therapy practitioners must be concerned with both the client and the provider of care in the home (Bourke-Taylor, Howie & Law, 2010 and Hasselkus & Murray, 2007). As family and family relations hold such a prominent place in patient care, perhaps, this short piece might be titled "Occupational therapy + Holidays = Family"?

Bourke-Taylor, H, Howie, L & Law, M. (2010). [Impact of caring for a school-aged child with a disability: Understanding mothers' perspectives.](#) *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 127-136.  
Cooper, R. (1956). How the family influences the patient. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 10, 186-187.

Evans, J & Rodger, S. (2008). [Mealtimes and bedtimes: windows to family routines and rituals.](#) *Journal of Occupational Science*, 15, 98-104.

Fiese, BH. (2007). [Routines and rituals: opportunities for participation in family health.](#) *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 27(Supp 1), 41S-49S.

Hasselkus, BR & Murray, BJ. (2007). [Everyday occupation, well-being, and identity: the experience of caregivers in families with dementia.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 61, 9-20.

James, C & Chard, G. (2010). [A qualitative study of parental experiences of participation and partnership in an early intervention service.](#) *Infants and Young Children*, 23, 275-285.

Larson, E. (2010). [Identifying indicators of well-being for caregivers of children with disabilities.](#) *Occupational Therapy International*, 17, 29-39.

Nätterlund, BS. (2010). [Being a close relative of a person with aphasia.](#) *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 17, 18-28

Roland, P. (1945). The importance of the family in rehabilitation. *Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation*, 24, 253-255.

Schaaf, RC & Mulrooney, LL. (1989). [Occupational therapy in early intervention: a family-centered approach.](#) *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 43, 745-754.

Tryssenaar, J, Tremblay, M & Kochanoff, A. (2002). [Aging with a serious mental illness: family members' experiences.](#) *Occupational therapy in Mental Health*, 18(1), 19-42.

Zisserman, L. (1981). [The modern family and rehabilitation of the handicapped: a macrosociological view](#). *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 35, 13-20.

### In This Issue

[Wilma L. West Library  
Resource Notes](#)

[Employment  
Opportunities](#)

[OTJR - Online Advanced  
Release](#)

[Conference  
Announcements](#)

[Web Resources](#)

[Education  
Opportunities](#)

[Image of the Month](#)

### Employment Opportunities

#### [AOTF](#)

AOTF has two positions available: [Director of Development](#) and the [Director of the Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health](#) (responsible for programming of the AOTF).

[University of Illinois at Chicago, Dept of Occupational Therapy -- faculty member](#)

UIC is seeking a dynamic researcher and educator to join their interdisciplinary faculty. This is a tenure-track position with a nine-month appointment starting in the fall of 2011.

[University of Illinois at Chicago Association](#)

### Conference Announcements

#### [2011 SSO:USA Annual Conference \(October 20-22, 2011, Park City, Utah\)](#)

The theme of the 10th anniversary meeting of the Society for the Study of Occupation:USA is Mountain Top Reflections: Learning from Ten Years as a Scholarly Community. Laurel Richardson, PhD, of the Ohio State University, will present the pre-conference institute and Doris Pierce, PhD, FAOTA, endowed chair at Eastern Kentucky, will deliver the Ruth Zemke Lecture in Occupational Science, "Writing Strategies for the Qualitative Researcher: An Interactive Workshop".

#### [The Third Federal Interagency Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) \(June 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC\)](#)

This conference will bring together for the first time civilian and military research efforts on TBI. Deadline for symposium submissions is December 31, 2010. The [submission deadline](#) for Symposia and Scientific Papers is **December 31, 2010**. The [submission deadline](#) for Early Career Posters is **February 15, 2011**.

#### [2011 International Institute for SoTL Scholars and Mentors \(formerly National CASTL Institute\) \(June 1-4, 2011, Omaha, Nebraska\)](#)

This year's theme, Transformational Learning: Engaging Education in a global world, invites a self-reflexive examination of what, how, and where we teach, the opportunities and challenges facing educators in today's global world, and the transformations collaboratively constructed by learner and teacher. Proposal applications are due **February 3, 2011**.

### Web Resources

#### [Healthy People 2020 Launched December 2, 2010](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the launch of Healthy People 2020 and the official release of the decade's national health promotion and disease prevention objectives.

#### [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)

The Justice Department has made available online the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. These standards were adopted as part of the revised regulations for Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). When the standards go into effect on March 15, 2012, they will set minimum requirements - both scoping and technical - for new construction and alterations of the facilities of more than 80,000 state and local governments and over seven million businesses. Until the 2012 compliance date, entities have the option to use the revised standards to plan current and future projects so that

[of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\) -- Program Manager](#)

This manager will actively work to create cohesiveness within programs through communication and technical assistance; coordinate presentations, training and training materials as requested regarding project activities; and respond to questions from participating sites as needed.

**OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health Online Advanced Release**

**OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health**, published quarterly by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, Inc., offers original research articles of professional interest to the practicing occupational therapist with a focus on occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research.

Visit: [OTJR Online](#). Articles appearing in this "Online Advanced Release" section have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication.

their buildings and facilities are accessible to more than 54 million Americans with disabilities.

**Grants, Fellowships, and Education Opportunities**

**[Change in Application Receipt Dates for Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality AHRQ Large or Recurring Conference Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\) PAR-09-257](#)**

[New application due dates](#) are available for 2011 and 2012.

**AOTF Institute Image of the Month**

**From the [Archives of the AOTA](#), housed in the AOTF Wilma L. West Library.**

Florence Walker, 1919, on the site of Walter Reed Hospital. Ms. Walker was a graduate of Wellesley College.



*The AOTF Institute makes this image, as well as the [Guide to the Archives of the AOTA](#), available publicly as part of its mission to honor the past and be the best possible steward of the unique body of knowledge that is occupational therapy. To this end, the AOTF Institute warmly welcomes individuals from within and beyond occupational therapy to explore the guide and use the archives for purposes of research, education, and leadership.*

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For more information about the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health see our web site: [www.aotf.org](http://www.aotf.org).

**Rest Is a Meaningful Occupation for Women With Hip and Knee Osteoarthritis** --

Laura B. Gibbs, MSc;  
Lisa Klinger, MSc, OT  
Reg (Ont)

**Occupational Adaptation in People With Multiple Sclerosis** -- Eva

Månsson Lexell, PhD,  
Reg OT; Susanne  
Iwarsson, PhD, Reg OT;  
Maria Larsson Lund,  
PhD, Reg OT

**Participation Profile of Adults With Class III Obesity** -- Mary Forhan,

OT Reg(Ont), PhD;  
Mary Law, OT  
Reg(Ont), PhD; Brenda  
H. Vrkljan, OT  
Reg(Ont), PhD; Valerie  
H. Taylor, MD,  
FRCP(C), PhD

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