

Research Resources

A monthly newsletter of the

AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

December 2009

Dear Colleagues:

December is typically filled with excitement and festive activities. It also harkens preparations for the New Year.

With these thoughts in mind, this month we are starting two new features, a Resource Note from the Wilma L. West Library (WWL) which will bring timely issues into research focus, and the article list for the current issue of the foundation's research journal: *OTJR, Occupation, Participation and Health*.

The WWL Research Note for this month appropriately addresses research from occupational therapy and occupational science about the occupation of cooking. There is no question that December is a month that features more than typical emphasis on food preparation and enjoyment.

You are encouraged to take a look at the list of current articles for *OTJR*. It's hard to believe that next year the journal will be celebrating its 30th year of publication!

As always, we welcome your suggestions about how *Research Resources* can support your work. Meantime, on behalf of the Institute, the Board of Directors and your dedicated staff at the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, we wish you the happiest of holidays and the healthiest of new years!

Sincerely,



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

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Wilma L. West Library Resource Notes

Holidays and the occupation of cooking.

Without much prompting, not only occupational therapy practitioners and occupational scientists, but also "the person on the street" could quickly identify an occupation in which individuals often engage when celebrating holidays - cooking. The specific dish will vary with the holiday and across cultures; however through The Older Women's Food Preparation Study, researchers found that "In spite of disparate cultural knowledge and beliefs, and diversity of individual practices, the food-centred occupations of older. . . women share common meanings. When women talk about preparing, sharing and giving foods at [holidays], their stories uncover dimensions of meaning that

span time and geography. The meanings encompass the symbolism of celebratory food, transmission of tradition and recipes from grandmothers to their daughters and granddaughters, and claiming recognition and identity through food-centred occupations." (Hocking, et al, 2002, p. 117).

In 1999, the Occupational Therapy (OT) Programs of Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand and Chiang Mai University in Thailand began the Older Women's Food Preparation Study. In 2001, the OT Program of Eastern Kentucky University joined this study. As Case-Smith notes in her 2008 editoria, while "the broad aim of these studies was to understand human occupations from multicultural perspectives, they also showed that cooking for the holidays is an occupation steeped in traditions and rituals that appear to sustain a family and link the family to a community" (p. 147). Read more in the following sources.

Case-Smith, J. (2008). [Editorial: Multicultural research of occupation](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 28, 147-148.

Hocking, C, Pierce, D, Shordike, A, Wright-St. Clair, V & Bunrayong, W. (2008). [The Promise of Internationally Collaborative Research for Studying Occupation: The Example of the Older Women's Food Preparation Study](#). *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 28, 180-190.

Hocking, C, Wright-St. Clair, V & Bunrayong, W. (2002). [The meaning of cooking and recipe work for older Thai and New Zealand women](#). *Journal of Occupational Science*, 9, 117-127.

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**OTJR:
Occupation,
Participation
and Health Fall
2009**

Contact [OTJR](#) for information on how to subscribe or download single articles.

Feature Articles
Meal Preparation:
Comparing Treatment

Conference Announcements

[26th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities \(April 12-13, 2010, Honolulu, Hawaii\)](#)

This conference encourages and respects voices from "diverse" perspectives across numerous areas, including: voices from persons representing all disability areas; experiences of family members and supporters across all disability areas; responsiveness to diverse cultural and language differences; evidence of researchers and academics studying disability; stories of persons providing powerful lessons; examples of program providers, natural supports and allies of persons with disabilities; and action plans to meet human and social needs in a globalized world. The Call for papers deadline is **Friday, December 18, 2009**.

[Assistive Technology Industry Association \(ATIA\) 2010 Conference and Exhibition \(January 28-30, 2010, Orlando, Florida\)](#)

This conference will feature the latest products and services in assistive technology, showcasing more than 125 exhibitors in one of the most comprehensive exhibitions in the industry. Meetings with leading suppliers will be held and technology solutions will be presented in the following applications: AAC and Language Development, Aging, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Early Childhood, Independent Living, Workplace, etc.

[5th International Forum on Disability Management \(September 13-16, 2010, Los Angeles, California\)](#)

This event intends to advance disability management knowledge and initiatives to realize the aspirations of people with disabilities to find

Approaches to Increase Acquisition of Skills for Adults With Schizophrenic Disorders, Grimm, EZ, et al.

Everyday Lives of People With Advanced Cancer: Activity, Time, Location, and Experience, la Cour, K, et al.

Application of Psychobiological Measures in Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Research, White, BP, et al.

Time Use of Teen Mothers, DeLany, J, et al.

Time Use of Women With Children Living in an Emergency Homeless Shelter for Survivors of Domestic Violence, McNulty, MC, et al.

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and maintain meaningful employment, support employers in achieving productive and stable workforces, advocate for public policy initiatives that provide better social protection and economic empowerment for everyone, and educate human resource, workers' compensation, and disability specialists on successful techniques to accomplish desired outcomes. The Call for Papers deadline has been extended to **December 31, 2009**.

[2010 National CASTL Institute: Developing Scholars of Teaching and Learning \(June 2-5, 2010, Omaha, Nebraska\)](#)

This summer institute is designed to offer faculty, university administrators/staff, and graduate students a variety of opportunities to develop Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) abilities and to further promote SoTL at your various home institutions. This year's institute theme, *Creativity*, invites an exploration of innovative teaching practices and creative ways to study and assess students' learning while challenging us to creatively turn new and imaginative ideas into reality. Call for Proposals deadline is **February 3, 2010**.

Web-Based & Related Resources

Recovery Act Supports Autism Research with \$65 Million

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded more than 50 autism research grants, totaling more than \$65 million, which will be supported with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds. These grants are the result of the largest funding opportunity for research on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to date ([announced in March 2009](#)). Awards were based on the quality of the proposed study and how well it addressed short-term research objectives detailed in the [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's \(IACC's\) Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research](#).

Much of the data will also be available to other researchers through the [National Database for Autism Research \(NDAR\)](#). As a tool for the autism research community to exchange research related information, this use of NDAR is likely to advance the understanding of ASD heterogeneity to a far greater degree and at a more rapid pace than would be possible through any single project. The [NIH Autism Listserv](#) was designed to facilitate distribution of NIH communications to the autism community.

[The Challenge of Evidence in Disability and Rehabilitation Research and Practice: A Position Paper](#)

The NCDDR Task Force on Standards of Evidence and Methods (TFSE) position paper regarding the need for (a) the thoughtful determination of research evidence on the basis of both the rigor of the research and the relevance of the research to the lives of people with disabilities; and (b) systems that facilitate our ability, on a timely basis, to describe what the best available evidence is in response to specific topical questions in disability and rehabilitation is now available. The primary focus of this paper is on evidence for interventions in the field of disability and rehabilitation (D&R).

AAIDD's Environmental Health Initiative (FHI) Teleconference on

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[Autism \(December 15, 2009, 2:00-300 pm ET\)](#)

Autism and Environment: What do we know? What don't we know?" will be presented by Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD, MPH. Controversies over autism abound. Are the rates truly increasing or is the apparent rise due to greater awareness and better diagnosis? What are the causes of autism? How much is due to genetics and how much to environment? Do vaccines play a role? Is it purely a neuropathology or are other systems involved? Can we intervene to prevent autism or reduce the severity? Currently, what are the promising lines of research? Dr. Hertz-Picciotto will address these controversies and the latest research from the UC Davis Center for Children's Environmental Health, in which she directs multiple epidemiologic studies.

Publication Announcements

[Toward the Healthy City: People, Places, and the Politics of Urban Planning](#)

In *Toward the Healthy City*, Jason Corburn argues that city planning must return to its roots in public health and social justice. *Toward the Healthy City* offers a new decision-making framework called "healthy city planning" that reframes traditional planning and development issues and offers a new scientific evidence base for participatory action, coalition building, and ongoing monitoring. Corburn argues for a broader conception of healthy urban governance that addresses the root causes of health inequities.

Coburn, J. (2009) *Toward the Healthy City: People, Places, and the Politics of Urban Planning* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

AOTF Institute Image of the Month

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



OTs working on functional activity with a patient at the Rehab Institute of Chicago.

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.

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