



1965-2015

Celebrating fifty years of advancing the science of occupational therapy

September 2015

AOTF Research Resources



Dear Research Resources colleagues,

By many estimates, about 1 in 4 Americans have a mental illness that contributes to activity limitations and barriers in participation. Compare this to the estimates for any other populations served by occupational therapy and it becomes clear that mental and behavioral health needs to be a priority area for advancing the science of occupational therapy to support people's full participation in meaningful life activities. In this issue of Research Resources, we explore resources for [mental and behavioral health research](#) and continue our 50th anniversary tributes to the history of AOTF and the Academy of Research.

Mental and Behavioral Health: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

News Alert: Occupational therapy needs to be better represented in interdisciplinary research related mental and behavioral health!

The National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) states there is an urgency in its mission to "transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through basic and clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery, and cure" because of the growing public health burden that mental health disorders pose. An introduction to the new [NIMH Strategic Plan for Research](#) outlines the changing ecosystem for research, cross-cutting research themes, and four primary strategic objectives:

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Research Matters!

- Define the mechanisms of complex behaviors.
- Chart mental illness trajectories to determine when, where, and how to intervene.
- Strive for prevention and cures.
- Strengthen the public health impact of NIMH-supported research.

Academy of Research Member Profiles: A to Z

The Academy of Research honors individuals who have made exemplary and distinguished contributions toward the science of occupational therapy. This installment of our AOTF Academy of Research member profiles includes:

- [David Nelson](#)
- [Kenneth Ottenbacher](#)
- [Stephen Page](#)
- [Shula Parush](#)
- [Helene Polatajko](#)
- [Janet Poole](#)

As we near the end of our Academy of Research profiles in *Research Resources*, we hope you will direct students to the [AOTF website](#) to learn about the contributions and areas of research of the Academy's members.

2000-2004

This month, we look back at the latter half of AOTF's fourth decade. This era was marked by important Institute of Medicine reports having implications for science, education, and practice and the expansion of health centers for underserved populations. During this same time, AOTF established the Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, developed research competencies, and sponsored the second Habits conference. A few highlights are included in this issue of Research Resources.

- [The latter half of the fourth decade of AOTF](#)
- [A few significant events in health science and policy 2000-2004](#)

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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The Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy(continued)

[View the new AOTF home page.](#)

Call For Papers: *OTJR* Supplement on Occupation and Justice

Elizabeth Anne Kinsella &
Evelyne Durocher, Guest Editors

This [call for papers](#) invites studies that consider occupation and occupationally-oriented health and social care practices in the interests of fostering justice at individual, organizational, community and/or global levels. Attention to occupation in the interests of justice calls for critical reflection and reflexivity into social, cultural, historic, discursive, economic, ethical, epistemic, and political factors that enable or create barriers to occupation, participation, and wellness.

Papers are welcome that undertake rigorous empirical or conceptual investigations that inquire into the links between occupational perspectives and occupational therapy practices as they relate to justice from a variety of perspectives and angles.

Submission open: September 1, 2015

Submission deadline: February 1, 2016

Expected publication: October 2016.

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health

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

David L. Nelson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Nelson is Professor Emeritus (retired), Occupational Therapy Program, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. (Retrieved on August 7, 2015 from https://www.utoledo.edu/healthsciences/depts/rehab_sciences/ot/davidpage.html.)

Dr. Nelson devoted much of his career to theoretical work involving definitions of key concepts in occupational therapy. He is a leader in experimental research demonstrating how different occupational forms affect various populations. His current research addresses the problems that older persons often experience when living at home while at risk for disabilities. Retrieved on August 7, 2015 from http://www.utoledo.edu/healthsciences/saved_files/rehabsci/ot/faculty.html

In 1995, Dr. Nelson was the recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship.

[For more on Dr. Nelson.](#)



Kenneth Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Dr. Ottenbacher is the Russell Shearn Moody Distinguished Chair in Neurological Rehabilitation; Professor & Director, Division of Rehabilitation Science; Director, Center for Recovery, Physical Activity and Nutrition; Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research, School of Health Professions, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. His research interests include rehabilitation outcomes with a focus on functional assessment, outcomes measures, frailty in older adults, and disability. Retrieved on August 7, 2015 from <http://rehabsciences.utmb.edu/ottenbacher.asp>.)



From 1987 through 1990, Dr. Ottenbacher served as editor of the *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*. In 2003, he received The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) [Award of Merit](#) and in 2013 was awarded the [AOTA/AOTF Presidents' Commendation](#) which honors a respected leader of the profession who has made sustained contributions to occupational therapy over a lifetime of service.

[For more on Dr. Ottenbacher.](#)

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occupation and fostering interdisciplinary research. *OTJR* is now indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed. To download current, past and future *OTJR* articles -- see the [OTJR website](#).

OnlineFirst

Forthcoming articles are published online before they are scheduled to appear in print.

Sherrilene Classen and Liliانا Alvarez

[Caregivers' Impressions Predicting Fitness to Drive in Persons With Parkinson's](#)

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 1539449215601117, first published on August 18, 2015 as doi:10.1177/1539449215601117

Sherrilene Classen, Jeffrey D. Holmes, Lilianna Alvarez, Katherine Loew, Ashley Mulvagh, Kayla Rienas, Victoria Walton, and Wenqing He
[Clinical Assessments as Predictors of Primary On-Road Outcomes in Parkinson's Disease](#)

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 1539449215601118, first published on August 13, 2015 as doi:10.1177/1539449215601118

Tahmineh Mousavi, Shafik Dharamsi, Susan Forwell, and Elizabeth Dean
[Occupational Therapists' Views of Nussbaum's Life Capability: An Exploratory Study](#)

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 1539449215601010, first published on August 11, 2015 as doi:10.1177/1539449215601010

Erika Johansson, Raymond Dahlberg, Hans Jonsson, and Ann-Helen Patomella
[Does a Falls Prevention Program Impact Perceived Participation in Everyday Occupations? A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health 1539449215589728,

first published on July 7, 2015 as
doi:10.1177/1539449215589728

Christine Berg, Mary McCollum,
Esther Cho, and Dawn Jason
[Development of the Adolescent
and Young Adult Activity Card
Sort](#)
*OTJR: Occupation, Participation
and Health* 1539449215578651,
first published on May 1, 2015 as
doi:10.1177/1539449215578651

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Stephen J. Page, PhD, MS, MOT, OTR/L, FAHA, FACRM

Dr. Page is Associate Professor, The Ohio State University, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Occupational Therapy, Columbus, Ohio and Director, Better Rehabilitation and Assessment for Improved Neuro-recovery (B.R.A.I.N.) Laboratory.

Dr. Page develops and tests therapies to increase function and independence after stroke and other neurologic diseases. He also applies various neuroimaging and molecular techniques to understand how, why, and in whom these approaches are most effective. He has held uninterrupted extramural funding to support this work for over a decade, and has produced many "firsts" in neurorehabilitation, developing and showing efficacy of mental practice, portable robotics, modified constraint-induced therapy, functional electrical stimulation, and several other innovative strategies in stroke." (Retrieved on August 6, 2015 from <http://medicine.osu.edu/hrs/ot/faculty/stephen-page/pages/index.aspx>.)



[For more on Dr. Page.](#)

Shula Parush, PhD, OTR

Dr. Parush is Senior Lecturer and Chairperson, Graduate Program, School of Occupational Therapy, Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel. Her research interests are in developmental delays in pediatrics; early detection of children with developmental delays and preventive intervention. Sensory processing/modulation disorder, school function of children with special needs; developmental coordination disorder (DCD); and dyspraxia. (Retrieved on August 7, 2015 from <http://www.huji.ac.il/dataj/controller/ihoker/MOP->

[DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION LINK?d
eapartment_no=000486.](#))



[For more on Dr. Parush.](#)



Helene J. Polatajko, PhD, OT Reg(Ont), OT(C), FCAOT, FCAHS

Dr. Polatajko is Professor, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto, 500 University Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as well as cross appointments in the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the University of Toronto Neuroscience Program (UTNP). Her research interests are focused on occupation and its enablement. Her specific emphasis on the enablement of children with Developmental Coordination Disorder has led to the development of a new approach to enhancing performance, the Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP), a cognitive-based treatment approach that enables clients with performance problems to reach their occupational goals. (Retrieved on

August 10, 2015 from http://www.ot.utoronto.ca/faculty/faculty_directory/polatajko_h.asp.)

Dr. Polatajko was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, 1992 Muriel Driver Memorial lectureship Award. From 2004 - 2007, she was the editor of AOTF's research journal, *OTJR, Occupation, Participation and Health* and is now serving on the AOTF Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). In addition, Dr. Polatajko is currently the editor-in chief of the *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

[For more on Dr. Polatajko.](#)

Janet L. Poole, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Poole is Professor, [Occupational Therapy Graduate Program](#), School of Medicine, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Poole's research interest is in scleroderma and the functional impact of the disease on tasks of daily living, oral hygiene, parenting and employment. She has conducted a number of studies examining rehabilitation interventions with people with scleroderma and, with a colleague, is developed a self-management program for persons with scleroderma. She has also authored several textbook chapters on rehabilitation for persons with scleroderma. (Retrieved on August 11, 2015 from <http://www.occupationaltherapy.com/articles/occupational-therapy-and-scleroderma-systemic-2321>.)

[For more on Dr. Poole.](#)



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Mental Health: Interdisciplinary Science Opportunities for Occupational Therapy

Mental and behavioral health research is an important area of interdisciplinary science for occupational therapy. An overview of professional associations and conferences, journals, research resources, and funding mechanisms is provided as a starting point for occupational therapy researchers who want to become more familiar with this interdisciplinary science.

In his forward to the new NIMH Strategic Plan for Research, Dr. Thomas R. Insel, Director of NIMH, summarized the three questions that guided development of a plan that could serve both scientific and public health needs:

- How do we balance urgent mental health needs with longer-term investments such as basic research?
- How do we link advances in biology with the range of environmental factors that influence mental disorders?
- What are the metrics of success? How will NIMH know whether and when it has met its goals?

Questions like these could very well guide occupational therapy's research initiatives in mental and behavioral health.

Professional Associations and Conferences

[American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#) was founded in 1892, has about 122,500 members with 54 divisions of interest groups. The mission of APA is "to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives." APA hosts an annual conference and publishes numerous journals. APA also offers a variety of resources for professional development.

[World Federation for Mental Health \(WFMH\)](#) is an international membership organization founded in 1948 to advance, among all peoples and nations, the prevention of mental and emotional disorders, the proper treatment and care of those with such disorders, and the promotion of mental health. It has members and contacts in more than 100 countries on six continents. WFMH hosts an international congress on a biennial schedule.

[National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) was founded in 1979 as a "grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness."

Mental and Behavioral Health Journals

A sample of interdisciplinary mental and behavioral health journals that regularly have articles of relevance to occupational therapy are summarized here. There are many additional journals that regularly feature articles on mental and behavioral health research.

[Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry](#) IF 6.459

[Aging and Mental Health](#) IF 1.75

[Journal of Mental Health](#) IF 1.74

[Rehabilitation Psychology](#) IF 1.84

[Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal](#) IF 1.17

[International Journal of Stress Management](#) IF 0.85

[Health Psychology](#) IF 3.59

[Families, Systems, and Health](#) IF 1.13

A Sample of Research and Evidence-Based Resources for Mental and Behavioral Health

[Mental Health.gov](#)

[HRSA Behavioral Health](#)

[World Health Organization: Mental Health Programme](#). Includes: Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020, Mental Health Atlas, WHO-AIMS, Mental Health in Emergencies.

[SAMHSA Data](#) (includes: Quality Metrics, Behavioral Health Outcomes, Data Resources)

[SAMHSA National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices](#)

[SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions](#)

[National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)

[NIMH Investing in the Future: 2008 National Advisory Mental Health Council Workgroup on Research Training-Report](#).

NIMH Research Domain Criteria (a research framework for studying mental disorders)

[Initiative](#)

[Database](#)

[American Psychological Association](#): Science

[Institute of Medicine Report](#): Psychosocial Interventions for Mental and Substance Use Disorders: A Framework for Establishing Evidence-Based Standards

[The Guide to Community Services: Mental Health](#).

A Sample of Funding Mechanisms for Mental and Behavioral Research

Several resources for learning about grant opportunities in mental and behavioral health are provided here.

National Institute of Mental Health: [The Anatomy of NIMH Funding](#)

[American Psychological Foundation](#)

[Brain and Behavior Research Foundation](#)

The History of AOTF continued, 2000-2004

Pi Theta Epsilon

Before continuing this history of AOTF, we must return to the late 1980s to drop in a piece of the story the author is embarrassed to write she overlooked. [Pi Theta Epsilon \(PTE\)](#), the national honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni, was established in 1958 at the University of New Hampshire. "In 1988, ASCOTA [American Student Occupational Therapy Association] asked the Board of Directors of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) to sponsor Pi Theta Epsilon toward achieving recognition as a national honor society. . . . Sponsorship of Pi Theta Epsilon was seen by AOTF as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for future scholars . . ." (AOTF, 1998, p. 304). An advisory committee was established, and Nedra Gillette, MEd, OTR, FAOTA was the staff liaison to PTE. Pi Theta Epsilon's journey to become a national honor society and a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) was completed by 1996 (AOTF, 1998, p. 304). PTE sponsors the [Mary J Bridle First Research Award](#). Check out the PTE newsletter, [Scroll & Pen](#), to learn more about PTE's current programs.

Building Research Capacity

A constant theme for AOTF and its partner, AOTA, is building the research capacity of occupational therapy researchers, practitioners, educators, and students. Identifying research competencies is one step in reaching this goal. In 1993, the Document Review Committee of the Commission on Practice (COP) revoked the 1983 paper on

Research Competencies for Clinicians and Educators (AOTF, 1983). A revised document was submitted as a resolution to the Representative Assembly (RA) in 1997. The RA in turn submitted this document to the Document Review Committees of both the COP and the Commission on Education (COE) with the request for ". . . clarity regarding the roles of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) in research," (AOTF, 2000, p. 344). The revised document, Levels of Research Competence Across the Profession of Occupational Therapy, was developed in coordination with COE, the OTA educational programs, and the Accreditation Council on Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). It was approved by the RA in 1999 and published in 2000.

ICIDH-2 and the Consensus Conference

In the mid 1990s, the professions providing services to or concerned in other ways with, persons who live with disabilities recognized the need for a common language that would enhance their communication (AOTF, 2000). ICIDH-2 (International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps) was identified. At this same time, The AOTF Research Advisory Council (RAC) wanted to develop a set of basic questions to guide research in occupational therapy and realized the value of using a universal language when ". . . seeking external funding and conveying information about clinical issues to colleagues in related fields that would be advantageous to occupational therapy' . . ." (AOTF, 2000, p. 223).

The following year, 1999, the RAC met with volunteer groups and staff members of the American Occupational Therapy Association, and this group concluded that ". . . the ICIDH-2 most nearly accommodated the profession's need for a language that would enhance, rather than compete with, the concept of occupation, which had been determined to be the core of the profession. [It was also agreed] that AOTF would sponsor a consensus conference and that representatives from all areas of practice, all levels of practice and education, and all types of research methodologies would be included in the collective body of 30 conference participants," (AOTF, 2000, p. 223). The primary objectives of the consensus conference were: (1) define the specific practice concerns of the occupational therapy profession in the ICIDH-2 language; (2) establish the research priorities for occupational therapy in direct relationship to these practice concerns, and (3) promote the consistent use of the ICIDH-2 across the profession of occupational therapy. Nedra Gillette further expands on the use of a more common language to improve communication with colleagues in other professions and on the results of the consensus conference in two 2000 articles published in *OT Practice*.

A New Vision for a New Century

With the beginning of the 21st century and the second millennium, the AOTF Board reviewed the Foundation's programs and accomplishments since 1965. Advancing scientific inquiry and promoting the value of occupational therapy to the public remained AOTF's chief missions. Wilma West had been a guiding light for AOTF (AOTF, 2001). In a 1967 article and in her Slagle Lecture (1968), she had expanded on the role of occupational therapy in changing times and on the need for the profession to be concerned with social and political issues that affected the individual's participation in occupation. In October 2000, the AOTF Board of Directors adopted a new vision statement that broadened its commitment to understanding the relationship between occupation and health and included a greater societal focus.

Vision. AOTF promotes a society in which individuals, regardless of age or ability, may participate in occupations of their choice that give meaning to their lives and foster health and well-being. Through its dedication to scientific inquiry, education, and leadership development, the Foundation pays tribute to the significance of everyday activities in enabling those who face personal challenges to realize their full potential.
(AOTF, 2001, p. 603)

The Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health

In March 2001, the Board formalized the creation of the [Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health](#) as the programmatic umbrella of the Foundation. The AOTF Research Development Committee and the Research Advisory Council also looked into future to imagine the expanding role of occupational therapy in society in the 21st century (Gillette, 2002).

With the decision to focus AOTF resources on the study of occupation, health, and the importance of full participation for all citizens, the Board of Directors voted to change the title of its research journal, *The Occupational Therapy Journal of Research (OTJR)* to *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health* (AOTF, 2001 and Baum, 2002).

Habits II Conference, Habits in Context was held at the Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, February 3-7, 2001. Proceedings were published as a supplement in *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health* in 2002. CITATION

Soon after the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center towers in New York City, AOTF convened a group of individuals interested in formulating a response from the profession (McColl, 2002). McColl's paper is one of the outcomes of this "attempt to understand how occupation might be a source of healing and relief in stressful times." (McColl, 2002. p. 350).

Mary Binderman, MSLS
The Wilma L. West Library

[Click here for references.](#)

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2000-2004: A Few Significant Events in Health Science and Policy

National Children's Study

In 2000, the [National Children's Study](#) was authorized by the Children's Act of 2000 to conduct a "large-scale, long-term study of U.S. children and their mothers and fathers designed to study environmental influences on child health and development." Data collection of over 5000 participants took place between 2009 and 2014 with a public database scheduled for release in late 2015.

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Reports

From 2000-2004, the [IOM released a number of reports](#) that provide new directions for science, health profession education and health care, including

- Bridging Disciplines in the Brain, Behavioral, and Clinical Sciences (2000)
- Promoting Health: Intervention Strategies from Social and Behavioral Research (2000)
- Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century. (2001)
- Health and Behavior: The Interplay of Biological, Behavioral, and Societal Influences (2001)
- Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care (2002)
- Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century
- Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality
- In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce

Healthy People 2010

In November 2000, the DHHS [Healthy People 2010 initiative](#) was launched to build upon the work of Healthy People 2000. This version of Healthy People had two overarching goals - increase quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities - along with objectives in 28 focus areas. Healthy People 2010 emphasized the close links between individual health and community health.

Health Center Growth Initiative

In 2001, the [Health Center Growth Initiative](#) supported the expansion or development of 1,200 community health centers to meet the needs of underserved populations. Research on health centers indicate they have increased access, improved outcomes, reduced disparities, and controlled costs.

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Grants and Funding Opportunities

Center for Sharing Public Health Services: Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing Implementation and Impact Measurement Program

[Cross-jurisdictional sharing \(CJS\)](#) has been the focus of interest for some years from policymakers and public health officials wishing to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of public health services. In order to better understand the impact of CJS among public health agencies, RWJF seeks to fund up to seven projects to participate in a implementation and impact measurement program.

Optional applicant webinar: September 8, 2015 (1:30 p.m. ET)
Proposal Deadline: October 20, 2015 (3:00 p.m. ET)

Advancing Implementation Science in Community/Academic Partnered Research

The AAMC and The Patrick Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation have partnered to offer [Advancing Implementation Science in Community/Academic Partnered Research](#), an opportunity for academic medical centers to collaboratively engage in research that has the potential for near-term impact to improve population health outcomes. The research should facilitate collaborations among researchers, community organizations, and health system leaders.. Proposals are due October 16, 2015.

RWJF: Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research

[This new initiative](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) seeks to support rigorous, high-impact, creative research projects to build and disseminate information for evidence-based approaches to building a Culture of Health. The program will also support efforts to assess outcomes and set priorities for action by encouraging and supporting creative, rigorous research on the impact of innovative programs, policies and partnerships on health and well-being, and on novel approaches to measuring health determinants and outcomes. Approximately \$2.2 million will be awarded annually. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

American Hand Therapy Foundation Grants

[These grants](#) will support novice or experienced researchers who are able to expand the scientific evidence, visibility, and quality of upper extremity and hand rehabilitation. As a goal of the funding process, opportunities are provided for new researchers to complete standard grant application forms, to demonstrate expertise as a principal investigator, to be responsible for handling budgeted funds, and to collect pilot data for larger funding opportunities.

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Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Research Training Opportunities

2016 NCHS/AcademyHealth Health Policy Fellowship

[This fellowship program](#) brings visiting scholars in health services research-related disciplines to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in Hyattsville, Maryland. During the 13-month tenure, the selected fellow will work closely with an NCHS staff member who can provide technical expertise related to the fellow's research, assist in accessing NCHS data systems and other resources, and help identify other collaborative opportunities within the Center.

Postdoctoral Fellow Position: Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University in St. Louis

The [Participation, Environment and Performance Laboratory](#) at Washington University in St. Louis is recruiting a full-time postdoctoral fellow to be a part of a team of scientists and trainees from diverse backgrounds. The fellow will conduct research in the area of function and the environment for cognitively normal older adults aging in place. The focus will be on identifying functional changes over time for older adults with and without preclinical Alzheimer disease and preventing falls among community dwelling older adults. If interested, email a letter describing your research interests and a CV to: [Dr. Susan Stark](#).

Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation - William Drenttel Innovation Fellowship

The [Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation's William Drenttel Innovation Fellowship](#) post-doc candidate will ideally possess an area or areas of expertise that expand the core skills of the Center for Innovation, helping Mayo Clinic better understand and address the challenges and opportunities in transforming the experience and delivery of health care. This is a hybrid model, which includes working remotely following on-site project(s) initiation with up to 90 days on site as a research collaborator.

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News and Other Resources

Registration Open: Open Session for Study on Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health (September 15, 2015, Washington, DC or webcast)

The Board on Global Health of the Institute of Medicine will conduct a study to explore how the education of health professionals is currently addressing [the social determinants of health](#) in and with communities. Based on these findings, the committee will develop a framework for how the education of health professionals for better understanding the social determinants of health could be strengthened across the learning continuum. The meeting is free and open to the public and will also be webcast.

The National Institute for Mental Health Strategic Plan for Mental Health

NIMH has issued a new [Strategic Plan for Mental Health](#) with four primary objectives and related [Strategic Research Priorities](#).

World Mental Health Day (October 10, 2015)

[Theme: Dignity in Mental Health.](#)

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

[The Institute of Medicine Forum on Promoting Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health](#) held a workshop in Washington, DC, on November 5-6, 2014 featuring 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. Workshop presenters and participants discussed examples of innovative design and utilization of measurement systems, new approaches to build on existing data systems, and new data systems that could support the cognitive, affective, and behavioral health and well-being of children.

Change in Policy at AJOT

The American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT), in collaboration with more than 25 rehabilitation publications, is adopting a new policy beginning January 1, 2016. Clinical trials that are the subject of manuscripts submitted to AJOT must be registered with <https://clinicaltrials.gov/> (or, for non-U.S. researchers, a similar public clinical trials registry). All trials commencing participant recruitment on or after January 1, 2016, should be registered prospectively (i.e., before recruiting participants). Trials that started or finished recruitment before January 1, 2016, but are the subject of manuscripts submitted on or after that date must be retrospectively registered.

AJOT uses the definition of clinical trial from Clinicaltrials.gov. Researchers with questions about this policy should feel free to contact AJOT Editor-in-Chief [Lorie Richards](#).

ASSISTance Options for Submitting Your Application to NIH

[ASSIST \(the Application Submission System and Interface for Submission Tracking\)](#) is now available as an option for submitting your R01 applications, as well as most individual career development (K) award applications. ASSIST is a web-based system that was developed by NIH, in close partnership with Grants.gov, to address common application submission challenges identified by the community. When applying, a button to use ASSIST is linked from the required application instructions section of funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) if ASSIST as an option for that opportunity.

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 an archive of past webinars.

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Conferences and Calls for Papers

Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Summit: Continuum of Care and Care Transitions in the Military Health System (September 9-11, 2015, Falls Church, Virginia)

[This virtual and in-person training event](#) is geared towards professionals involved in all aspects of psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI) care, education and research for the military population. The summit's psychological health and TBI tracks will address factors that challenge and facilitate the provision of quality, sustained health services across care transitions and the continuum of care.

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

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal

[A special issue](#) will be devoted to the topic of cognitive remediation (or cognitive enhancement) for persons with a serious mental illness.

Guest Editor Susan R. McGurk, PhD, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University. The deadline for submission of papers is September 15, 2015.

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

[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.

SSO:USA 14th Annual Research Conference (October 1-3, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Florida)

[The Society for the Study of Occupation: USA conference](#) highlights include: a Research Institute on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015 by Marjorie DeVault on "Institutional Ethnography" and the Ruth Zemke Lecture in Occupational Science by Ruth Humphry on "Appropriation and transformation of occupations: So what is know-how anyway?"

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

[The Southwest Conference on Disability](#) adopted the slogan of the ADA Tour - Disability Rights are Civil Rights -- as their main theme.

Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation 18th Annual Symposium (October 9-10, 2015, Orlando, Florida)

[The conference theme](#) is Strategies, Science & Success. and will present the latest finding and evolving trends in sensory processing.

World Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH 2015). (October 16-19, 2015. Cairo, Egypt)

[Theme: Mental Health](#) in Times of Crisis: Building a Comprehensive Health Care System.

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. [Conference information](#) on ENOTHE's web site will be available soon.

The 4th International Institute for the Study of the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) (October 23-24, 2015, Indianapolis Indiana)

[The 4th International Institute](#) aims to advance theory and evidence-based practice using MOHO through showcasing the latest developments in MOHO research, education and clinical application. This conference is focused on the following four themes:

- Collaborative Partnerships
- MOHO in Broader Perspective
- International Collaborations
- Teaching MOHO to Support Translation into Practice

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.

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](#) consisting of a main CORE Conference and a pre-conference, will focus on six days of evidence-based content on brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, cancer and pain. On October 27, Ken Ottenbacher, PhD, OTR will present Making Science: Characteristics of Successful Scholars, an early career development course. ACRM is seeking proposals for scientific poster presentations of late-breaking research. Proposal deadline: August 14, 2015.

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.

6th Annual Online Virtual Knowledge Exchange (24VX) Created by [OT4OT](#)

[Expressions of interest](#) on the theme: Being an Agent of Change. The 24VX is Monday, November 2 at 2000GMT/UTC to Tuesday, November 3 at 2000GMT/UTC.

Do you have something interesting to share with occupational therapy professionals? You might work in an expanding occupational therapy area of practice, or have a new twist on a traditional occupational therapy skill. You might have cutting edge research you would like to tell the world about, or have developed personal insights and understandings that are too good to keep to yourself.

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.

Aging and Society: Fifth Interdisciplinary Conference (November 5-6, 2015, Washington, DC)
[The 2015 Aging and Society Conference](#) special focus on inter-generational relationships will explore the barriers, benefits, and ways to facilitate inter-generational relationships.

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.

The 3rd Conference on Rehabilitation Medicine and Health Care (December 18-20, 2015, Guilin, China)

[This conference](#) will cover issues on rehabilitation medicine and health care. It dedicates to creating a stage for exchanging the latest research results and sharing the advanced research methods.
Paper or abstract submission due: September 3, 2015.

ATIA (Assistive Technology Industry Association) Conference (February 4-6, 2016, Orlando, Florida)

[The ATIA conference](#) is the largest international conference showcasing assistive technology tools and services. Attendees hear from the biggest names in AT about the latest trends and methods, as well as view state-of-the-art AT tools and services in the exhibit hall.

AOTA's 96th Annual Conference & Expo (April 7-10, 2016, Chicago, Illinois)

[The AOTA Annual Conference](#) provides attendees with opportunities for dialogue through general sessions, workshops, networking and peer to peer connections. Leaders exchange information and ideas, provide input on AOTA initiatives and advocacy and policy agenda items.

WCNR 2016: 9th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation (May 10-13, 2016, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

[From Science to Society](#), the theme that has been chosen for this Congress, will cover both inspiring innovations in neurorehabilitation and their societal impacts. <http://www.wcnr2016.org/>
[Abstract Submission Deadline](#): November 9, 2015

International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP). (September 18-22, 2016. Calgary, Alberta)

[Conference theme](#): Fighting Stigma, Promoting Resiliency and Positive Mental Health.
Abstract Submission deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

World Bank Group and the World Health Organization. (April, 2016. Washington, D.C.)

Theme: Out of the Shadows - Making Mental Health a Global Development Priority. Enquiries and pre-registration: [Patricio Marquez](#), Lead Health Specialist.

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Nelson (continued)

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Ottenbacher (continued)

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Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Eclectic, hardworking, funny.

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

Stroke remains the country's leading cause of disability and its prevalence is rapidly expanding. For over a decade, my team has developed and tested therapies to restore function and independence in this growing population. My hope is that, through this research, we are able to increase the evidence base for the OT profession, improve lives, improve systems of care delivery, and advocate for both the profession and the recipients of our services.

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

Dedicate time to write daily.

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?

Establishing a more substantive evidence base supporting the efficacy and cost effectiveness of mental health services that OTs provide. When I was on my fieldwork we actually tried to find such research and were unsuccessful...we know it works but need to better substantiate its high value.

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

The most important mentoring "role" was that of facilitator; my mentors showed great restraint and trust to step back and let me lead.

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Parush (continued)

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Dedicated, out of the box thinker, leader.

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

- *Executing quality research.*
- *Educating professionals to consume and integrate research in their work to further evidence based practice.*
- *Publish, publish, publish!!!*

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

If you decide on a career in research, never compromise on the research methodology and conduct only the highest quality research to enable the research to be published in high impact scientific journals.

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?

Technology.

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

The use of valid and reliable measures in addition to the traditional tools of occupational therapy.

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

Reading for leisure.

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

When analyzing the research data discovering that you are not always "proving the obvious" which makes it a real learning experience!!!

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Polatajko (continued)

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.

Scholar, generous, visionary.

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

Dare to ask the important questions, be rigorous in the scholarship and be opened to the data -whether the findings are popular or not! - Pursue questions that will push forward our understanding - open new doors to improving occupational performance and engagement for all.

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

Have a passion for your questions - and be open to ANY answer - as long as it is found through solid scholarship - know that the best outcome of any study is the elucidation of the next important question.

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?

The neuroscience of meaningful occupational engagement - explicit evidence that occupational engagement is a

protective factor!

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
Helping me stay focused and understand the progression of a truly scholarly career.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
I don't really have one - my work (teaching and research) is my favorite occupation.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?
The most surprising is the impact my work has had - the most rewarding is seeing my work improve the lives of children.

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Poole (continued)

Q and A

Identify three words that others have used to describe you.
Astute, generous, adaptable.

How do you hope to make a difference in the world through research?
I hope my research will stand the test of time, and become absorbed in the literature to provide evidence that occupational therapy is a necessary and effective intervention.

What is one piece of advice you have for individuals considering a career in science and research?
Find an experienced and accomplished mentor.

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?
Studies on the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions and dissemination beyond occupational therapy literature.

Describe the most important role that mentors played in your professional journey.
I think the most important thing I learned from my mentor is that the mentoring relationship is two-sided. While I expected her to share her wealth of knowledge and experience with me, provide advice, timely feedback and support, I had to hold myself accountable and do my part to meet timelines, be open to feedback and suggestions, and follow through with goals we established. She also provided me with useful contacts and recommended me for different volunteer positions and committees.

Identify a favorite occupation that renews you outside of your work.
I love to swim laps in an outdoor pool. Luckily in New Mexico, I can swim outside about five months out of the year.

What has been the most surprising or rewarding aspects of a career in science and research?
I very surprised to find so many wonderful people who were willing to participate and help me in my research and that they thanked me for caring about how the condition affects their lives. Since I work with people with a rare

disease, my research is often done online, or through phone interview and surveys. It is very rewarding to actually meet them at a local or national conferences.

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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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