

Spring Symposium

CONTINUING
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE



March 21 & 22, 2015 | *Disney's Paradise Pier*® Hotel, Anaheim, CA



Presenter Directory



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Thank You to Our Presenters

OTAC expresses its sincere appreciation to the 2015 Spring Symposium presenters for sharing their knowledge with our Symposium attendees and for taking time away from their professional careers and personal lives to prepare for, travel to, and present at the Spring Symposium. Their dedication to serving OTAC's mission to provide quality, timely, and cost effective professional development and by supporting OTAC through their personal membership is highly commendable. ***Please thank our presenters.***

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Naomi Achondo, OTD, OTR/L, SWC; is a pediatric occupational therapist in private practice and in school base setting. She received her post professional doctorate degree in occupational therapy from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. She holds certification in administering and scoring the Sensory Integration and Praxis Test, completed the STAR center intensive mentorship programs, and is an advance practitioner in swallowing through the California Board of Occupational Therapy.

Session 52 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am

Shelly Aguilera, PT, MPT, earned her Master of Physical Therapy at California State University Northridge in 1999. Having completed her internship at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, she worked as a PT on the acute team from 2000 until late 2011. Her areas of interest include NICU, acute amputee, complex pediatric trauma, patient and family centered care, multidisciplinary collaboration, leadership, and mentorship. She is currently the supervisor for acute inpatient therapies at CHLA.

Session 33 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Elisabeth Akamine OTS, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services from Pennsylvania State University. She has experience working with adults with disabilities in the San Diego region. Lisa is working to obtain her Masters of Occupational Therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos, CA.

Session 41 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 3:30pm - 4:30pm



Babak Amali, OTR/L, graduated from Sweden’s Gothenburg College of Health Sciences with a Bachelor’s degree in Occupational Therapy in 1994. Since his graduation, he has worked in variety of settings including acute care hospitals, post-acute care rehabilitation units, skilled nursing facilities and out-patient clinics. His management experience began with his first director of rehabilitation position in 2001 and at the end of his tenure with his previous employer, Babak was the Vice President of Operations for a region that included five major Western states and hundreds of employees. A published author who has written on leadership and regulatory issues for state and national journals, Babak is active in professional organizations and is currently a member of “LeadingAge California” Service Excellence and Education Taskforce committees, in addition to being the Region 5 Director for OTAC, and represents OTAC and the Occupational Therapy Practitioners at various legislative events in Sacramento.

Session 54 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am and

Session 75 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:00pm - 4:30pm

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Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, is an alumna of the University of Southern California (USC), receiving her BS, MA, and Doctorate in Occupational Therapy with a minor in Neuroscience and an emphasis in Ambulatory Healthcare. She is an experienced pediatric therapist currently working at California Children's Services (CCS) where she is responsible for evaluating and treating children living with neuromuscular and orthopedic disabilities. At CCS, she is a member of the Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy Advisory Committee, Glam Squad Academy innovator, clinical instructor, and program developer. She has a faculty appointment at Howard University teaching Occupational Science on the graduate level. USC's Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy selected Dr. Anvarizadeh to be an intervener for the Pressure Ulcer Prevention Study. She currently holds leadership positions with both the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) as the Communications Chair and the California Representative for the Representative Assembly, respectively. She is also an AOTA Emerging Leader and serves as a member on OTAC's Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee, as well as the Centennial Float Committee. As the recipient of OTAC's 2013 Janice Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award, Dr. Anvarizadeh was recognized for her significant contributions to the association. An accomplished speaker in both state and national conferences, Dr. Anvarizadeh has been invited to lecture internationally at this year's World Federation of Occupational Therapists' (WFOT) conference. Besides her current OT clinical work in pediatrics, her leadership development, teaching, speaking, and consulting, Dr. Anvarizadeh is also a board member for Black Women for Wellness, where she focuses her efforts on building healthy communities through health education, empowerment, and advocacy. This being her passion, she envisions creating sustainable communities through social entrepreneurship and policy using an occupational therapy perspective.

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Megan Atkinson, MA, OTR/L, received her Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy education at the University of Southern California after completing undergraduate work at New York University. At New York University she was also employed for seven years as a program administrator, overseeing curriculum, advising students, and mentoring faculty of graduate and continuing education programs. She has brought a team approach and management skills to her occupational therapy practice through development and facilitation of special programs and groups, such as diabetes management, wellness and recovery through movement, and oral health for individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

Session 60 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:30am - noon

Ellen Balsys-Murphy, MA, is a School Psychologist and Clinical Assessment Consultant for Pearson. In this multifaceted role, Ellen provides training and manages state and district contracts across the states of Arizona and Southern California regarding Pearson's cognitive assessments, achievement assessments, behavioral and speech and language assessments.

Session 30 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 3:30pm



Brandi Buchanan, OTD, OTR/L is Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at A.T. Still University in Mesa, AZ. Her clinical practice has included adult physical disabilities, pediatrics and the NICU, with specific interest in program development. She teaches a variety of courses that include theoretical content and practical application techniques. Dr. Buchanan's research and service interests include policy/advocacy efforts, building cultural awareness and serving minority populations as well as community mobility concerns for seniors, among others.

Session 53 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am

Ronald Cabading, OTS, holds a Bachelor's degree in kinesiology with an emphasis on fitness, nutrition, and health from San Diego State University. He has experience working at the SDSU Fitness Clinic for Individuals with Disabilities. He is a full-time student obtaining his Master's degree in Occupational Therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos.

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Caitlin Linas, OTS, is currently a graduate student at Loma Linda University in the Department of Occupational Therapy with an expected graduation date of April 2015. Throughout multiple clinical experiences, she has gained the skills to become comfortable and independent in treating patients, documenting patient interactions, and co-treating patients with fellow healthcare team members. During her time as both an academic and clinical student, she has involved herself in a variety of volunteer, learning, and clinical opportunities to add to my knowledge and ability to provide effective, compassionate, and holistic care. After graduating with a master degree, Caitlin's goal is to obtain a full-time position as an Occupational Therapist in a setting that will allow for further professional growth through the use of evidence based practice, interdisciplinary team collaboration, and maximization of leadership and communication skills within every patient interaction.

Session 61 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:30am - noon



Kimberly Carter, OTD, OTR/L, SWC, CBIS, attended the University of Southern California for her undergraduate degree and then continued on to complete her Master of Arts in occupational therapy in 2009. After completing her fieldwork at CHLA, she joined the acute team. She has also worked in the inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient setting including the orthopedic hand clinic. Her areas of interest include feeding and swallowing, hand therapy, splinting/casting, UE motor control recovery, brachial plexus birth palsy recovery, and complex pediatric trauma. She has spoken locally and nationally on topics related to pediatrics including feeding and swallowing, disaster preparedness, and pediatric trauma.

Session 33 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Katherine Catapang, OTS, is a graduate student studying occupational therapy at Loma Linda University. Prior to attending LLU, she received a BS in Child and Adolescent Development. Upon graduation, she worked as an applied behavior analysis instructor for children with severe autism. In 2012, Katherine has started a non-profit organization with her family, hosting several fundraising to support healthy lifestyles and environment.

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Adley Chan, OTD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapist and assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy in the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. His doctoral work involved building a collaboration between architecture and occupational therapy education, using universal design as the intellectual bridge. Since joining the faculty at USC, he has the opportunity to pursue another passion: helping to raise awareness and to build the educational foundation of occupational therapy throughout China.

Session 13 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - noon

Orlando Covarrubias, OTS, holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in kinesiology with a concentration on Adapted Physical Education. He worked for six years as an especial education paraprofessional for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Orlando is currently working towards earning an Occupational Therapy Master's Degree at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos, CA.

Session 41 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 3:30pm - 4:30pm



Jennie DiGrado, OTD, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapist for 14 years. She graduated from Colorado State University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy and from Creighton University in 2010 with a doctorate in occupational therapy. She has worked in multiple therapeutic settings. However, her primary area of experience has been working with neurological patients in inpatient rehabilitation, servicing rural communities in southern Colorado. She and her husband moved to California two years ago and have three daughters.

Session 35 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Student Track



Jennifer Dulek, OTR/L, has 13 years experience in adult mental health and currently is a founding Instructor at the new blended OTA program at the American Career College in Anaheim. She is also currently practicing in mental health in Long Beach as well.

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Elizabeth Dworak, OTS, is an occupational therapy graduate student at Loma Linda University. She previously attended Whittier College, receiving a BA in Child Development and Psychology. Following Whittier College, she worked for Los Angeles County Office of Education as a para-educator. This position allowed her to work closely with children of all ages with a variety of disabilities. She enjoys volunteering her time with Knights of Columbus, where she organizes activities for a variety of populations including domestic violence survivors and their families.

Session 51 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:30am - 10:30am



Michelle Farmer, OTD, OTR/L, is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy in the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California, and practices at the USC-Eisner Family Medicine Center at California Hospital, a Federally Qualified Health Center Family Medicine Residency Training Site. As the facility's lead occupational therapy practitioner, Farmer trains faculty and providers on the role of occupational therapy on interprofessional care teams for patients across the lifespan. Her efforts focus on designing population-based, systematic and evidence-based approaches to applying occupational therapy practices to promote family health and wellness and prevent illness, injury and disability. She serves as core faculty on the USC Interprofessional Collaborative along with faculty from the USC School of Pharmacy and the Keck School of Medicine of USC, including the physician assistant program. Farmer completed her master's degree in Occupational Therapy in 2010 at the University of Southern California and her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2011. Her doctoral work focused on the implications of the Affordable Care Act on occupational therapy practice. While completing her OTD degree, she began working with the USC Department of Family Medicine on identifying opportunities for the integration of occupational therapy services into primary care environments. In 2011, Farmer received the Student of the Year Award from the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) California chapter. That same year she also received the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) Political Action Award.

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Stacy Frauwirth, MS, OTR/L, is the Assessment Editor for Academic Therapy Publications. She has more than 20 years of clinical experience in a variety of pediatric settings, and was a full-time faculty member for eight years in the occupational therapy program at the Dominican University of California.

Session 72 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm



Elizabeth Gomes, MS, OTR/L, has been an occupational therapy practitioner working in the area of geriatrics for more than 20 years. She received her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from San Jose State University and is a frequent presenter in the areas of documentation to avoid denials, dementia and a functional approach to antipsychotic reduction, fall prevention, and other clinical topics. She also serves as the Chair of the Practice, Ethics, and Reimbursement Committee for OTAC and is an expert witness for the California Board of Occupational Therapy. Gomes is a Dementia Care Certified Therapist.

Session 34 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm and

Session 54 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon



Don Gordon, OTR/L, PhD, has been studying behavior for more than 30 years. His studies began in 1980 at the University of California at Santa Cruz where he researched animal behavior and psychobiology attaining a degree in Biology in 1984. After graduating with a second degree in English Literature in 1989 he attended the University of Southern California, graduating with a Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy in 1994. Gordon went on to work in psychiatry, physical rehabilitation, and acute care while engaging in his doctoral studies in occupational science, completing his doctorate in 2002. Since 2000 he has worked in both physical disabilities and psychiatric settings providing him with a unique experiential background to understand the intersection of the world of mental health with physical disabilities practice. He has also taught a wide variety of classes for the University of Southern California Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. He is currently on the faculty at the USC department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy where he teaches and works in inpatient psychiatry and acute care.

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Ashley Halle, OTD, OTR/L, completed her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree at the University of Southern California (USC) focused on primary care and interprofessional education and collaborative practice. She currently balances various administrative, teaching, and clinical responsibilities as an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at USC. For the past several years, she has worked to successfully initiate and develop occupational therapy's role in primary care, and continues to practice in primary care at Keck Medical Center of USC. Furthermore, she teaches a course on occupational therapy in primary health care environments, and serves on the OTAC subcommittee for primary care. Dr. Halle is passionate about student learning, interprofessional education and collaboration, and developing occupational therapy's role in primary care to help people live happier, healthier, and more meaningful lives.

Session 73 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Silke Hamilton, OTR/L, ATP, SWC, has been trained as an Occupational Therapist in Europe and has been practicing in the US since 1993. She has a broad base of experience through various practice settings such as inpatient and outpatient therapy for neurological rehabilitation, community re-entry, early intervention as well as pediatrics/acute, school-based and sensory integration. Additionally she holds a RESNA – certification as an AT Provider and is an advanced practitioner in feeding and swallowing. At this time Silke works as an Occupational Therapist and Assistive Technology Specialist at a local school district as well as having a thriving private practice in the South Bay Area of Los Angeles. Her responsibilities include assessments, treatments, and program development. She has presented nationally and internationally on topics in Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology. She also is a mother of a teenager with Asperger's.

Session 70 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 3:00pm

David Hedgecock, OTS, is graduate student at Loma Linda University, studying occupational therapy. He previously attended the University of Redlands, where he received a BM in French Horn Performance. He has had great successes in academics and has been a teacher's assistant for the Department of Occupational Therapy and Anatomy Department at Loma Linda University. He enjoys playing piano at assisted living facilities in his free time.

Session 51 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 10:30am

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Kate Holford, MA, OTR/L, is a recent master's graduate of the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, where she is currently working towards her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Kate currently has a residency at Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP) in Torrance, California, working in pediatric community-based health. Kate's passion in the field is bridging the gap between mental health and primary care, and she believes occupational therapists can be the architects to make that happen.

Session 73 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm



Francis Holgado, OTS, is a graduate student in the Masters of Occupational Therapy Program at Loma Linda University. What attracted Francis to occupational therapy is the profession's wide scope of practice, the creativity and out-of-the-box thinking that is asked of its practitioners, focus on client-centered approaches to rehabilitation, and the emphasis of compassion towards humanity. His main areas of interests include physical disabilities, mental health, and hand therapy. Francis is looking forward to beginning his career as a practitioner of occupational therapy, as he wishes to utilize his training, education, and knowledge attained from LLU to positively affect and benefit the lives of many individuals.

Session 62 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon



Denise Hoover, OTR/L, CHT, is an Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego with more than 23 years of experience in pediatrics. The last seven years she has concentrated in pediatric hand therapy, specializing in Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome. Denise has presented at the AOTA conference in Baltimore; the Physicians Hand Symposium Group in Sacramento; the Hand Special Interest Group in San Diego, as well as to local Physician's Assistants and Physical Therapists.

Session 50 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 10:30am



Eme Howard, OTR/L, CHT, specializes in the treatment of upper extremity orthopedic injuries. She has worked as an occupational therapist since 2000 and she has been a certified hand therapist since 2006. She has worked in a variety of settings including burns, adult orthopedics, and pediatric orthopedics.

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Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L, has been practicing in occupational therapy for more than 15 years. In 2004 she received her doctorate in occupational therapy from Creighton University. She is currently an associate professor and program director of the Masters of Occupational Therapy Program at Loma Linda University. Her teaching emphasis involves research, pedagogy, program development, domestic violence, and end of life care.

Session 61 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:30am - noon



Mo Johnson, MS, OT/L, is an Adjunct Professor in the Master's of Occupational Therapy and Doctorate of Physical Therapy Programs at St. Augustine University for Health Science. Mo is simultaneously practicing as a staff occupational therapist in the acute and rehabilitation units for Scripps Memorial Hospital, Encinitas, in San Diego. In addition, Mo is an online and webinar presenter on topics such as low vision and multiple sclerosis through Rehab Education. Previously, Mo practiced as an occupational therapy practitioner, occupational therapy clinical educational specialist and supervisor for approximately ten years at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, where her clinical experience included a wide variety of inpatient and outpatient conditions including traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, and other neurological and orthopedic diagnoses. Mo is a Return Peace Corps Volunteer spending more than two and one-half years in South America working as an Occupational Therapist/Community Rehabilitation Therapist. Mo is married and has three children.

Session 35 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Student Track



Jennifer M. Kovacs, OTD, OTR/L, is a National Institutes of Health T23 postdoctoral fellow at the University of Southern California Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Her research area of emphasis is in efficacy and effectiveness intervention trials for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder. She received her Master's degree and Clinical Doctorate in occupational therapy at USC in 2013 and 2014, respectively, completing a doctorate residency with emphasis in program development and social skill facilitation at Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, CA.

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Diana Gantman Kravetsky, MS, OTR/L, AP, began her pediatric therapy career as a speech therapist with a Master's of Science in Speech Pathology, Education and Child Development from Minsk State Pedagogical University in Belarus. Later, in the United States, she completed her Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Pittsburgh and a Post-Professional Doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Her more than 15 years of experience of working with infants, children, and adolescents spans diverse settings including the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, various private practice clinics, in-home early intervention settings, and school districts. Diana worked in the capacity of an occupational therapy coordinator and supervised both administrative and therapeutic staff. She developed new treatment programs, such as functional feeding groups, handwriting, and sensory motor programs, and served as a consultant for the center-based summer treatment groups and a camp program for children with special needs. Diana developed the school district's current occupational therapy program. She has experience in conducting clinical research and continuing education courses. Diana has lectured in occupational therapy at the local level as well as in the state of Pennsylvania. Her leisure pursuits include traveling to other countries to explore cultural influences on child development and occupation.

Session 14 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - noon



Katherine Lee, OTS, is a graduate student in the Masters of Occupational Therapy program at Loma Linda University. She is an avid rock climber and is looking forward to seeing how she can use her personal occupations to better serve her patients someday. Katherine has also traveled to Haiti as a rehabilitation technician instructor and is excited to see how occupational therapists can better serve those in third world countries. She is excited to graduate in June and has a large interest in working with children and older adults with physical disabilities. She has completed a three-month level II fieldwork in the acute setting in Sonora, CA and is looking forward to her next level II fieldwork experience working with individuals with brain injuries at the Center for Neuro Skills in Encino, CA.

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Sabrena McCarley, MBA-SL, OTR/L, earned her B.S. in Occupational Therapy as well as her Master in Business Administration-Strategic Leadership from Dominican University of California. Her career has been exclusively in skilled nursing working with the geriatric population. McCarley has held staff OT positions, director of rehabilitation positions, regional multisite manager positions and has been a director of clinical services. She has been a guest faculty speaker at OTA and OT programs and has presented at state, national and international conferences. She obtained her CarFit Instructor Certification in 2013 and has been a leader for CarFit Technician Trainings, CarFit Event Coordinator Trainings as well as CarFit events. McCarley is currently employed as the Director of Clinical Education and Outreach with Intergro Rehab Services and is responsible for therapist mentoring, training, program development, continuing education development, quality assurance, regulatory support and advocacy. She is actively involved with OTAC leadership and is Co-Chair for Advocacy and Government Affairs.

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Session 63 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon***



Guy L. McCormack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Human Science from Saybrook University, his Master of Science from Ohio State University, and his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA. McCormack has taught courses in occupational therapy at four different universities for more than 30 years, he has published extensively in peer review journals and texts, and has presented numerous papers at OTAC, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and the World Federation of Occupational Therapy. McCormack has presented more than 60 professional papers at state and national conferences. He has published 22 journal articles, written 24 chapters in occupational therapy books and eight instructional videos, authored two books, and has been the lead editor of the AOTA *OT Manager* text. He has received awards for service and scholarship. He is currently conducting research on Neurofeedback Training for Children with Autism and Computer-Assisted Cognitive Remediation for Older Adults. In the past three years he has been studying the neuroscience implications of neuroplasticity as an underlying mechanism of occupational performance. McCormack has also served as co-chair of OTAC Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee, and is currently vice president on OTAC Board of Directors.

***Session 11 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am and
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Pooja Mehta, MA, OTR/L, received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy in 2008 from Mumbai, India, and graduated from the University of Southern California with an MA in 2009. Since then she has been practicing in a skilled nursing facility and recently decided to pursue the OTD. Her areas of interest include productive aging, health promotion, prevention and wellness for the aging population. While continuing her work at the skilled nursing facility, she is completing her doctoral residency at the Live Well Senior Program at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center. As a doctoral resident, she will be involved in developing and evaluating a falls prevention program for community based older adults.

Session 12 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am



Denise Miller, MBA, OT/L, has more than 20 years' experience in occupational therapy practice, consultation, program development, business development, education and advocacy and policy.

She maintains a full-time director position at Glendale Adventist Medical Center in Glendale, CA where she researched, designed, developed and implemented the Live Well (55+) Senior Program. This program helps seniors and/or their caregivers or families effectively navigate the healthcare system with access to wellness and prevention interventions. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN and a Master's in Business Administration from La Sierra University in Riverside, CA.

Ms. Miller is a part-time professor at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah. She co-teaches an online class entitled "Healthcare Advocacy: Policy, Legal, and Ethical Aspects of Occupational Therapy." She was the Region 5 Director of the American Occupational Therapy Association Political Action Committee (AOTPAC) for two-terms (six years). She also served in the Special Interest Section of work programs for nine years. She is an active member of both the California (OTAC) and the American Occupational Therapy (AOTA) Associations and has served in a variety of leadership roles in both associations throughout most of her career.

Currently, Ms. Miller is a Governor appointee and the President of the California Board of Occupational Therapy. She is also a City Council appointee of the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women. In the first part of her career, Ms. Miller was a nationally recognized leader for Occupational Therapy in the Work and Industry arena, authoring seven work-related manuals, a chapter in a self-paced clinical course, chapters in two text books and a regular column on Work in *Advance for Occupational Therapists*. She has spent the last 12 years effectively lecturing and advocating for occupational therapy in the political arena. She has also shifted her program expertise from work to productive aging and the senior population.

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Professionally, Ms. Miller received the 2014 AOTA Lindy Boggs Political Action Award for her advocacy work at the local, state and federal level and a 2010 Award of Appreciation by the Occupational Therapy Association of California for significant advocacy for the profession of Occupational Therapy. Her civic awards include the 2014 Business Life Women Achievers (25th Anniversary); the 2012 Glendale Latino Association Woman of the Year; a 2010 Resolution/Proclamation by her State Senator and Assemblymembers and a 2007 Legislative Women in Business award.

***Session 12 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am and
Session 34 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm***



Bernadette Mineo, PhD, OTR/L, is Professor and Program Director for online post-professional OT programs at A.T. Still University in Mesa, AZ. She mentors faculty and students in their professional development and promotes partnerships with other organizations to educate practitioners in areas of service and research need.

Session 53 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am

Helene Morgan, MSW, has 30 years of experience working with children and their families in a medical setting. Helene's focus and passion continues to be supporting families at the end of life. She worked at UCLA Medical Center for 15 years in pediatric cardiology and heart transplant. Then Helene worked for TrinityKids Care Hospice, providing end of life care in the home for newborns, children, and adolescents. She is currently working at Children's Hospital Los Angeles where she was a member of the founding team that developed the first palliative care program at CHLA. Helene is also an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Southern California.

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Elizabeth Moyer, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, is currently the Program Director of the new blended OTA program at American Career College in Anaheim. She has also taught at Western New Mexico University and West Virginia University (both COTA ladder programs), the University of New England, and was the OT Division Chair at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Clinically she has worked mainly in mental health and adult neurological rehabilitation. She has presented widely on applying motor learning / motor control methods with persons with Parkinson's disease.

Session 10 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am



Molly Murphy, OTS, is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. A native of New York, Molly's interest in Occupational Therapy began back on the east coast when she volunteered at Children's National Medical Center. After the events in Ferguson, MO this summer, Molly began brainstorming occupational therapy-led community program initiatives that could initiate individualized, positive social interaction between police officers and community youth in lower socioeconomic areas.

Session 22 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 11:00am - noon



Bernard A.K. Muriithi, PhD, OTR, is a recent graduate of occupational therapy from USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. He holds an interdisciplinary PhD in applied musicology and music therapy from the Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg, Germany, and has researched and published on music, health and healing, spirituality, culture and protest music as occupational reconstruction. His practice fields of interest are physical disabilities and mental health. He has an interest in teaching and conducting research in occupational therapy interventions that involve music and creative arts.

Session 21 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 11:00am - noon



Patricia S. Nagaishi, PhD, OTR/L, has more than 30 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner with expertise in early intervention (birth to five), evaluation, and assessment of young children, autism spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities, sensory processing / self-regulation, and infant and early childhood mental health. She has worked in medical and community-based settings, and also has extensive knowledge of interdisciplinary assessment and training; evidence-based interventions; and the laws/regulations affecting occupational therapy practice in the California systems serving children and youth. Currently, Nagaishi is in school-based practice as an occupational therapy specialist on the Preschool Assessment Team with the Pasadena Unified School District. Among her previous roles, she was an occupational therapy

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consultant with the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center for many years, and has also served on the faculty with the Occupational Therapy Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Nagaishi is the President of the Occupational Therapy Association of California and chairs the Autism Subcommittee of the OTAC Practice, Ethics and Reimbursement Committee, which reviews and monitors legislation and regulations related to autism issues and services; their impact on occupational therapy practice; and makes recommendations for OTAC positions and actions in education and advocacy activities to ensure individuals with autism and their families have access to occupational therapy services and that OT practitioners are reimbursed by funding sources and payers.

Session 34 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm



Terri Nishimura, OTR/L, has trained under Dr. A Jean Ayres as a research assistant to help collect data of the Sensory Integration and Praxis test. She is the course creator and instructor for the test administration for the SIPT in collaboration with the USC OT department and Western Psychological Services. She has well developed great partnerships with such businesses as Western Psychological Services, Educational Insights, Virco Manufacturing, Convaid, and the Annenberg Foundation. Terri has helped oversee receiving ARRA and federal funding of \$1.5 billion to help develop and run an Early Head Start program that helps disadvantaged babies and toddlers. She also has served as the chairperson of Los Angeles County's Education Coordinating Council of Early Childhood Education work groups and on the OTAC Autism Ad Hoc Committee. Terri is currently one of the founding directors and sole CEO of Pediatric Therapy Network, a nonprofit organization that provides high quality services and supported research and education.

Session 54 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon



Megan Norton, OTS, is a graduate student in the Occupational Therapy program at Loma Linda University. Prior to attending Loma Linda University, Megan earned a B.S. in Biology at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California. Following graduation, she discovered her interest in occupational therapy while working as a Special Education Instructional Aide at the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. She admired the therapeutic relationships built between the therapists and children through creative interaction, while helping the children to overcome their daily challenges. For this reason, she strives to continue her work in education as an occupational therapist.

Session 51 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 10:30am

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Judith Olson, PhD, OTR, has been an occupational therapist for over 30 years and has over 20 years of experience in occupational therapy education. She received her MOT degree from Columbia University in New York City and her PH. D. in Early Childhood Education from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. Her area of specialization in occupational therapy is infant mental health. She has co-authored several articles and is the co-editor of the book “Mothering Occupations: Challenge, Agency and Participation.” Dr. Olson was previously the Program Director for the MOT Program at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. Additionally, she held a variety of different administrative positions there. Dr. Olson is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA). Dr. Olson is married and has four adult children and two adorable twin granddaughters.

***Session 35 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Student Track***

Amy Onderdonk, MS, CCC-SLP, attended the University of California, Davis for her undergraduate degree and then continued on to complete her Master of Science in Communicative Disorders, Speech-Language Pathology at San Francisco State University in 2008. After completing her Clinical Fellowship working with adults, she joined the outpatient team at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles in 2009. She transitioned to the acute team in 2010. She spent two years working in California’s public school districts, and has recently returned to the acute team at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Her areas of interest include feeding and swallowing, augmentative and alternative communication, craniofacial anomalies, complex pediatric trauma, and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Session 33 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm



Jazminne Orozco, OTD, OTR/L, has provided community-based mental health services to children and families living in the south central area of Los Angeles during the last two years of her career. She has recently joined the clinical faculty at the University of Southern California (USC) where she has been appointed to USC’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) to provide mental health services to children and families focusing on wellness and healthy lifestyle.

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Donna Ozawa, MFA, ECHM, OTS, is a graduate student in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. She has worked as a visual artist in community arts, school, museum and recreational settings for the last 15 years. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. As an OT student working on her second master degree, Donna began two student groups: The USC Meditation Group (a drop-in group to practice mindfulness) and USC OT Design in Action. She is interested in mindfulness practices, fall prevention, creative pediatric and adult physical rehab interventions, improving LGBTQQ health services, home modifications and innovative design solutions that can meet specialized needs. Donna is in the process of conceptualizing an online forum for DIY makers and creative hackers in occupational therapy called OTMaker.org. When not studying OT or making art, Donna is playing drums. She is from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Session 13 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - noon



Jill Peck-Murray, MOT, OTR/L, CHT, specializes in the treatment of pediatric patients with upper extremity problems. She has worked as an occupational therapist at Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego since 1982 and she has been a certified hand therapist since 1995. She has been teaching on Pediatric Hand Therapy and Splinting since 2007 around the country for Rehab Education. She has written a chapter on Pediatric Splinting in the latest edition of Jacob and Austin’s book on Splinting Principles. She has co-authored a book entitled “101 Creative Therapy Ideas.” She has several other journal articles pending publication. She is involved with several professional organizations. She is President of the San Diego Hand Special Interest Group.

***Session 20 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 11:00am - noon and
Session 50 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 9:00am - 10:30am***



Barb Phillips, MS, OTD, OTR/L, started her career working in physical disabilities over 25 years ago. She developed an interest in assistive technology where she worked with individuals living with severe physical disabilities. After 15 years, she shifted her focus to disability prevention and began working in the field of ergonomics. She created and ran two ergonomic programs. In 2011, she received her OTD from USC. Her doctoral project was the coordination of the structure that lead to the success of the Wellness Center at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. She also created a volunteer program called “Simple Wishes”, for which she won several awards. She served on the OTAC Communication Committee from 2011-2013 and currently owns and operates her own corporate wellness and ergonomics business; Ergo Life Solutions.

Session 32 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm

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Deborah B. Pitts, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH, CPRP, Assistant Professor, USC's Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, is an expert in mental health practice, chaired and/or served on AOTA's MHSIS, Board Certification in Mental Health workgroup, and mental health practice adhoc work groups. She received OTAC 2011 Practice Award for her advocacy of occupational therapy in mental health.

Session 60 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:30am - noon and

Session 71 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 3:00pm and

Session 81 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:00pm - 4:30pm



Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, is an occupational therapist and assistant professor in clinical occupational therapy in the Chan Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. She has been on faculty since 2008 and is responsible for teaching the Adult Physical Rehabilitation Immersion course, as well as the Kinesiology course. Her primary practice area has been with adults in a physical rehabilitation setting, as well as the older adult population in extended care facilities and skilled nursing facilities. She uses humor and compassion as therapeutic tools to connect with her clients and students alike. Samia considers herself a generalist practitioner with a passion for developing occupation-centered experiences. She volunteers her time with the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and is very passionate about the profession and what it has to offer.

Session 13 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - noon



Amy F. Rogers, OTR/L, is a mental health OT employed at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center working primarily in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Recovery Program as well as in substance use services. She has a decade-long track record of assisting clients to address tobacco dependence and is dedicated to the notion that tobacco reduction and cessation are fundamental components of a successful, holistic recovery. She is a former “Secret Smoker” herself, and therefore intimately understands the pain and then triumph of addressing this issue. She has presented at numerous conferences, contributed to local tobacco policy, and made media appearances to help raise awareness and increase treatment options for those in behavioral healthcare.

Session 31 – Saturday, March 31, 2015 1:30pm – 3:30pm

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Carly M. Rogers, OTD, OTR/L, is the Director of Programs for the Jimmy Miller Memorial Foundation where she oversees and facilitates a unique therapeutic surfing program with a mental health emphasis titled Ocean Therapy. She created and adapted the program for use with diverse populations including disadvantaged youth and injured servicemen and women. Rogers has worked at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System, providing mental health occupational therapy services to OEF/OIF/OND veterans. She also continues to lecture at USC and beyond on the importance of occupational therapy for our veterans suffering from PTSD and depression. Concurrently with her mental health work, Rogers has a background in pediatrics and is SIPT certified. She has worked in early intervention, school-based practice and in clinic-based settings.
Session 55 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - noon



Arezou Salamat, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, is an assistant professor at Loma Linda University, Department of Occupational Therapy. Her emphasis as a faculty member are in research, teaching and mentoring occupational therapy students in working with young children and their families in the areas of sensory processing, school based and infant mental health. Through the Department of Occupational Therapy, Dr. Salamat currently works in the Countywide Screening, Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART) program and providing occupational therapy services for infants and young children who experienced maltreatment or prenatal exposure to narcotics and alcohol. She is certified in theory and intervention in utilizing sensory integration as well as administration and interpretation of the Sensory Integration and Praxis Test. She is certified in infant massage and has extensive training in infant Neurodevelopmental Treatment. Dr. Salamat believes in empowering caregivers and identifying strategies to support meaningful relationships through community integration and active participation in daily routines to promote overall health and well being of a child and community inclusion.
Session 62 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon

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Adam Sanchez, OTR/L, PAM, has been practicing as an OT for 17 years and a total of 29 years in the medical field. Adam graduated from York College, City University of New York. He also has a degree in Business Management. After graduating he accepted a position as a staff therapist at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein Division in his home borough of the Bronx. He worked on the acute rehab unit and the outpatient rehab program. He assisted in the development of the acute care services for OT. In 2007, he relocated to Southern California and accepted a position at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, outpatient neurological clinic. During his time at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center he assisted in the development of the seating center, the development of their driving program and presented at OTAC on the role of the OT Generalist in relations to driving, became a Car-Fit event coordinator and technician and served as an advisor for the Wellness program. In 2011, he accepted a position with North American Health Care/North Coast Rehab as a Rehab Clinical Service Manager and Regional Rehab Director, serving facilities in Orange County, Riverside County, and LA County. Adam enjoys running and recently completed 50 ½ marathons by 50 years of age. He has two grown children and a dog named Schnickers.

***Session 15 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:00am - 10:00am
Student Track***



Gayle San Marco, OTR/L, is the coordinator of the Driver Preparation Program at Northridge Hospital Medical Center and has been working in the field of driver rehabilitation for more than 20 years. She has made local and national presentations in the area of driver rehabilitation and the medically at-risk driver. San Marco is the current chair of the OTAC Ad Hoc Committee on Driver Rehabilitation. In this capacity she supports the role of OTAC in promoting the emerging practice area of driver rehab and participated in California's Strategic Highway Safety Program in cooperation with the DMV, CHP and various agencies involved with driver safety for our maturing population.

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Erin Schwier, OTD, OTR/L, holds a bachelor's degree in child and family development from San Diego State University, and a master's degree and clinical doctorate in occupational therapy from University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Dr. Schwier has more than 15 years of experience working with children who have disabilities and their families through many school districts and clinics in San Diego. She currently works as an Educational Consultant and OT at Sierra Academy of San Diego, specializing in sensory integration and the influence on academic performance and social skills, and is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Occupational Therapy program for The University of St. Augustine. Dr. Schwier has conducted trainings and in-services to many educational programs in San Diego County and is the co-author of *Breaking Bread and Nourishing Connections, Mealtimes for People with and without Disabilities*.

Session 41 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 3:30pm - 4:30pm



Kristy Seaver, CHES, OTS, received her BA degree in Community Health Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She then pursued her master's degree in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California, where she is currently finishing up her degree. She is an active member in USC's Student-Run Clinic, Occupational Therapy and Science Council, and a Student Ambassador for the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Kristy intends to continue her education at USC by pursuing the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD).

Session 81 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 3:00pm - 4:30pm

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Rosemond Seligson, MA, OTR/L, ATP, has more than 30 years of clinical experience as an OTR, including 10 years working for the Southwest SELPA as an Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology Consultant. Ro brings a diverse clinical background to her work. She has experience in various practice settings including neurological rehabilitation, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, community re-entry, early intervention and pediatrics/sensory integration. She was a founding member of the ACT Team (Autism Collaboration Team) developed by SELPA Director Bob Farran, where she provided support and training to school districts on program development and curriculum modification. Ro received her MA in Occupational Therapy from Tufts University in 1980, and AT certification through RESNA (Rehab Engineering Society of North America) in 2007. Ro is a part-time instructor in the Teach for America and CAST Programs at Loyola Marymount University. She has presented nationally on the integration of Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology. She specializes in autism and development of visual supports. She is also a parent of a young adult with autism.

Session 70 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 1:30pm - 3:00pm



Jennifer Snyder, MPH, the OTAC Lobbyist, is a partner in Capitol Advocacy, LLC, one of Sacramento's premier lobbying firms. She has 20 years of legislative and advocacy experience with an emphasis on health and human services issues in California. She has a bachelor's in political science and a master's in public health administration. Snyder's legislative career was spent in the California State Senate for five years as a legislative consultant specializing in health and education issues. She then served as the legislative director for the California Association of Health Facilities and the California Alliance of Child and Family Services. In 2000, she was hired by the California Hospital Association to spearhead their psychiatric hospital advocacy program. Snyder joined Capitol Advocacy in 2003, and became a partner in 2006. She has since worked with a broad range of clients on a wide array of issues in the legislative, administrative, and regulatory settings.

Session 34 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 1:30pm - 4:30pm

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Daniel Swiatek, OTR/L, has 17 years of experience as an occupational therapist. Swiatek is a graduate of Creighton University in Omaha and began his career in acute care and later transitioned into geriatrics, working in both rural home healthcare and in SNF/LTC facilities in the Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri. He relocated to California in 2001 to take a position in Los Angeles at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he worked in the acute and intensive care units. Swiatek later joined Hallmark Rehabilitation in Los Angeles and worked as a director of rehabilitation. In 2011 he became a multisite rehab specialist for Hallmark and currently provides clinical and operational support to Hallmark skilled nursing facilities in the Los Angeles area. Swiatek is currently employed as a multisite rehab specialist for Hallmark Rehabilitation and provides clinical and operational support to Hallmark Rehabilitation skilled nursing facilities in the Los Angeles area.

Session 63 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon



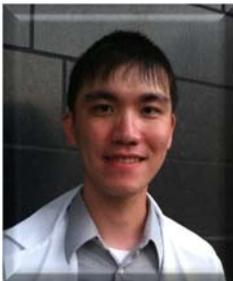
Joann Vargas, OTR, is an Occupational Therapist with more than 23 years of experience in various settings such as Adult & Pediatric Physical Dysfunctions (acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, home health, skilled nursing facility, outpatient pediatrics) and school based. Four of the 23 years were as a COTA. She has mentored and supervised COTAs throughout the years, and currently supervises a COTA.

Session 15 – Saturday, March 21, 2015 10:00am - noon

Student Track

Rachel Wheeler, OTS, is a graduate student who is interested in health and wellness. She has experience working with at-risk youth in Riverside County.

Session 61 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 10:30am - noon



Bill Wong, OTD, OTR/L, went to occupational therapy school at USC from 2009 to 2011 for his masters. He is currently studying for his clinical doctorate degree in OT at USC. Bill is currently serving as the OTD representative at the OT Student Council at USC. He has been a regular participant in #OTalk, #Occhat, and #OTalk2US since January 2012 and has hosted three #OTalks during this span.

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Corey Young, OTS, is a third year Masters of Occupational Therapy Student from Loma Linda University. He is excited to graduate in April 2015 and begin helping his clients live life to the fullest through engagement in occupation. Corey has a strong interest in working with the pediatrics population and in mental health settings. He is currently a teacher's assistant in charge of supervising level I fieldwork students at Anderson School in San Bernardino. At Anderson School, he helps new OT students evaluate, design, and implement interventions for a variety of special needs students. In addition, he also has a passion for hand therapy and has completed a three-month level II fieldwork experience at the Loma Linda Medical Center East Campus Hand Rehabilitation Clinic. From this opportunity, he learned the importance of communication, clinical reasoning, manual therapy and teamwork. Corey looks forward to beginning his career as a clinician in occupational therapy and advocating further for the profession.

Session 62 – Sunday, March 22, 2015 11:00am - noon
