

VIRTUAL

DATE AND TIME
Tuesday, July 21, 2026
6:30pm – 7:30pm

- Session will be recorded for attendees' use.
- The recording will be available approximately 2 weeks following.
- PDUs will be entered into your OTAC account. (Be sure to complete the post-event questionnaire to be eligible for PDUs.)

REGISTER BY
Monday, July 21, 2026

Register Online
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QUESTIONS?
Contact OTAC staff:
Email staff@otaonline.org
Call toll-free (888) 686-3225



FREE FORUM. EDUCATION ALLIANCE.

Participatory Study of Belonging Among International OT Alumni (1 PDU)

Presenters Yousef Babish, BScOT, BLS, YMHFA, and Svitlana Stremousova, MS, MBA, OTR/L

This session will present findings from a digitally facilitated participatory qualitative study with international occupational therapy students in the United States, exploring how they cultivate a sense of belonging amid the school-to-work transition.

No cost. Complimentary for OT/OTA program directors and faculty as an introduction to the OTAC Education Alliance Membership Subscription.



Yousef Babish, BScOT, BLS, YMHFA, is a Palestinian occupational therapy practitioner and emerging scholar pursuing a PhD in occupational science at the USC Chan Division. Grounded in a commitment to social justice, his work examines the intersections of culture, mental health, and emplacement. His research focuses on community-based mental health, Palestinian epistemologies theorization, and family-based recovery, with current interest in psychoeducational family interventions, recovery environments, and experiences of institutionalization. Babish is a research assistant at the Health Equity Action Lab (HEAL), where he collaborates on multi-site projects that integrate spatial and community-based participatory methods to promote equity and recovery for people most affected by serious mental illness, experiencing homelessness, and/or residing in permanent supportive housing. He is also a published author, community organizer, and advocate for inclusion practices in academia.



Svitlana Stremousova, MS, MBA, OTR/L, is a PhD candidate at the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy under the mentorship of Dr. Mary Lawlor. In her present role, Stremousova supports research projects examining current understandings of the sensory processing difficulties of autistic individuals across the lifespan and managing uncertainty in the lives of autistic children, families, and clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her dissertation research project explores dog companionship and community participation of autistic adults. She is specifically interested in applying qualitative research methodologies, both textual and visual, to inform researchers, clinicians, families, and community members about first-person experiences of autistic people.

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ABOUT THE EDUCATION ALLIANCE

As California's premier advocate and professional organization for occupational therapy, OTAC champions and advances our profession. We elevate occupational therapy professionals through high-quality continuing education, vigorous legislative and regulatory advocacy, and the promotion of high ethical standards and behaviors. Since 1976, OTAC has been a driving force shaping occupational therapy's future to ensure our profession remains strong, valued, and forward-looking.

The OTAC Education Alliance unites California's practitioners and occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant academic programs to create **an unparalleled force**. With more than 40 academic programs, employing hundreds of faculty members, fieldwork educators, and academic fieldwork coordinators **guiding the next generation of OT professionals and sustaining our future**, we stand as the nation's largest state-based alliance in occupational therapy. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we establish **best practices** in OT education, advocate for innovative teaching and clinical training methods, create opportunities for collaborative research and professional development, and strengthen the pipeline of skilled practitioners serving our diverse communities. **We invite and encourage you to join us in this important work. Let's maximize the POWER we have in numbers. Together, we are UNSTOPPABLE.**

Click here for more information about the Education Alliance.

ABOUT SPECIAL TOPIC FORUMS

Why OTAC Special Topic Forums? To support OTAC Core Value 7 – Professional Development: To provide quality education and resources to advance the knowledge, skills, and continued competence of occupational therapy practitioners.

To earn PDUs. Registrants must complete the post event questionnaire that is emailed out within one week following the event.

Tracking PDUs. PDUs earned are recorded in registrant's OTAC account if you are an OTAC member.

Event Disclaimer.

This event is sponsored by OTAC for the purpose of professional development. The material presented is not intended to represent the only or the best methods appropriate for the occupational therapy and/or medical condition, or professional development issues being discussed, but rather is intended to present the opinions of the presenters, which may be helpful to other health care professionals at arriving at their own conclusions and consequent application. Attendees participating in this professional development education program do so with the full knowledge that they waive any claim they may have against OTAC and its representatives for reliance on any information presented during this educational event.

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About OTAC. OTAC is a nonprofit, 501c6. This means that end-of-year net revenue is retained for operations and benefit of the members and is not distributed to private owners. It is governed by an elected, noncompensated Board of Directors and hires a professional association management team.

OTAC Mission Statement. OTAC is the collective voice that serves, promotes, and supports the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners.

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