



DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

February 7, 2026
8:30AM to 2:30PM

VIRTUAL

QUESTIONS?

Email OTAC staff at
staff@otaonline.org or chat
live M-F, 9AM to 4PM

***Early Bird Registration**
ends January 12, 2026

****Advance Registration**
between January 13, 2026
through February 5, 2026

Last Day to Register
February 5, 2026

Register Online
<https://otac.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2004554&group=>



VIRTUAL Symposium Schedule (5.5 PDU's)

8:30am-8:45am	Welcome and Introductions <i>Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L</i>
8:45am-9:45am	Humanizing Critical Care: The Role of OT in the Oncology ICU <i>Christina Watkins, OTR (TX), MOT, BCPR</i>
9:45am-10:45am	Closing the Great Divide: Prospective Screening of OT Services to Reduce Ongoing Participation and Performance Restrictions Throughout the Cancer Care Continuum <i>Katie M. Polo, DHS, OTR/L (IN), CLT-LANA, FAOTA</i>
10:45am-11:00am	Break
11:00am-12:00pm	Strategies to Improve Access to OT Services for Children with Cancer <i>Allison L'Hotta, PhD, OTD, OTR/L (CO)</i>
12:00pm-1:00pm	Integrating Functional Cognition into Oncology Care: Practical Approaches Across Practice Settings <i>Dennis Lin, OTD, OTR/L</i>
1:00pm-1:15pm	Break
1:15pm-2:15pm	Type 2 Diabetes and Cancer Care: The Double Whammy <i>Brenda Yeung, RN, MSN, OCN, CBCN, CDCES</i>
2:15pm-2:30pm	Wrap up and Q&A <i>Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L</i>

REGISTRATION FEES

	MEMBERS	NONMEMBERS	MEMBER STUDENTS	NONMEMBER STUDENTS
EARLY BIRD*	\$89	\$109	\$59	\$79
ADVANCE**	\$109	\$129	\$79	\$99

REGISTER ONLINE – [CLICK HERE](#)

Cancellation/Refund Policy. \$35 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice must be received in the OTAC office by February 5, 2026, to be eligible for refunds. No refunds after this date. Disclaimer: OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will be made based on these changes.

9th Annual OT in Oncology Symposium (5.5 PDU's)

Symposium Schedule and Session Descriptions

8:30am – 8:45am

Welcome

Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L, Moderator and Symposium Coordinator

8:45am – 9:45am

Humanizing Critical Care: The Role of Occupational Therapy in the Oncology ICU

Christina Watkins, OTR (TX), MOT, BCPR

Currently, there is limited information encompassing the full breadth of the role of occupational therapy (OT) for the critically ill oncology population. As the presence of OT continues to grow in both oncology and critical care settings, this session will explore how occupational therapy practitioners can provide meaningful and impactful services for these patients at this stage in their lifespan. Areas of focus will include OT's role within the A-F Bundle, and address topics such as post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), delirium, coping, participation in meaningful and leisure-based activities during an intensive care unit (ICU) stay, and support during end-of-life care through legacy building. Attendees will leave with practical tools and a deeper understanding of how to support this medically complex and often underserved population.

9:45am – 10:45am

Closing the Great Divide: Prospective Screening of Occupational Therapy Services to Reduce Ongoing Participation and Performance Restrictions Throughout the Cancer Care Continuum

Katie M. Polo, DHS, OTR/L (IN), CLT-LANA, FAOTA

This presentation will address the unmet need for occupational therapy (OT) services among cancer survivors whose persistent participation and performance restrictions diminish their quality of life. We will first establish the problem of the underutilization of rehabilitation services and the benefits of prospective surveillance, analyzing the barriers and supports to screening. A discussion of current practices for screening rehabilitation services, including the use of patient-reported outcome measures (PROs) and the limitations of these processes in accurately identifying a need for therapy services, will ensue. The **Screen of Cancer Survivorship-Occupational Therapy Services (SOCS-OTS)** will then be introduced, detailing its development, structure, and mechanism for revolutionizing the referral process, thereby closing the great divide in cancer care.

10:45am – 11:00am ~ Break

11:00am – 12:00pm

Strategies to Improve Access to Occupational Therapy Services for Children with Cancer

Allison L'Hotta, PhD, OTD, OTR/L (CO)

Children with cancer experience a range of treatment-related acute and long-term effects that can be effectively addressed with occupational therapy interventions. Despite a growing recognition of occupational therapy's value in pediatric oncology, referrals and service use remain low. This presentation will provide an overview of current gaps in access to occupational therapy services for children with cancer and identify strategies to reduce barriers to care.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Integrating Functional Cognition into Oncology Care: Practical Approaches Across Practice Settings

Dennis Lin, OTD, OTR/L

This session will address oncology specific cognitive deficits and enhance understanding of how cognitive-based treatments are an important part of occupational therapy's scope of practice across practice settings. Attendees will gain insight into the factors that contribute to these impairments, along with approaches and resources to guide use of cognitive-based treatments. Attendees will also gain a better understanding of how to utilize cognitive billing codes.

1:00pm – 1:15pm ~ Break

1:15pm – 2:15pm

Type 2 Diabetes and Cancer Care: The Double Whammy

Brenda Yeung, RN, MSN, OCN, CBCN, CDCES

Diabetes and cancer are closely related and the care for one requires the careful balance and care of the other. We will review the complicated relationship between diabetes and cancer along with the side effects of treating both. We will also go over tools to monitor progress towards helping patients live a healthy lifestyle.

2:15pm – 2:30pm

Wrap-Up and Q&A

Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L, Moderator and Symposium Coordinator

About Our Presenters



Allison L'Hotta, PhD, OTD, OTR/L (CO), is an assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at University of Colorado and occupational therapy practitioner in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's Hospital Colorado. Her research focuses on improving access to evidence-based rehabilitation interventions for children with cancer.



Dennis Lin, OTD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner at City of Hope National Medical Center, serving patients in both acute inpatient and outpatient oncological care since 2015. He has helped establish a cognitive rehabilitation program as part of an

interdisciplinary effort to address the specific cognitive needs of patients who experience cancer related cognitive impairments. Lin has addressed various cognitive goals, ranging from helping people return to work, training caregivers to create supportive environments, and preparing patients to safely manage their healthcare following hospital discharge. He has also supported occupational therapy (OT) organizational efforts through presentations and articles to promote OT's specialty in cognition.



Katie M. Polo, DHS, OTR/L (IN), CLT-LANA, FAOTA, is a professor in the School of Occupational Therapy at the University of Indianapolis. She and her research team developed the first screening tool for the cancer population that detects the need for occupational therapy (OT) services. The Screen of Cancer Survivorship-Occupational

Therapy Services (SOCS-OTS) is a novel, open-access, patient-reported screening tool that allows referring professionals to understand when an order for OT services is needed. Polo is currently translating the tool into Hebrew and Arabic versions and is working with the MD Anderson Cancer Center to explore its psychometric properties.



Christina Watkins, MOT, OTR (TX), MOT, BCPR, is a senior occupational therapy practitioner and ICU clinical specialist at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she has served since 2019. She holds a master's in occupational therapy from the University of Texas Medical Branch and received

a Bachelor of Science in allied health from Texas A&M. Watkins has also recently received a Board Certification in Physical Rehabilitation from the American Occupational Therapy Association. Her clinical focus lies in early mobility, oncology ICU care, end-of-life care, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Watkins has developed CEU-accredited courses, been an invited speaker on multiple occasions in various settings, and presented at state and national conferences. She actively mentors occupational therapy doctoral capstone and fieldwork students and serves on multiple institutional and professional committees. Her work has earned recognition through awards for innovation, safety, and quality improvement. Watkins is a dedicated advocate for advancing OT practitioners role in critical care and oncology rehabilitation.

About Our Presenters, Cont.



Brenda Yeung RN, MSN, OCN, CBCN, CDCES, is a nurse and the diabetes prevention program coordinator in an outpatient endocrinology department. She is passionate about teaching and integrating technology to work smarter, not harder to help patients gain the knowledge they need to manage or prevent

diabetes.

About This Virtual Symposium

This Symposium Will Be Recorded

Participate virtually on February 7, 2026, and then re-watch at your convenience for the life of the recording on OTAC's platform. Recordings are generally available 14 days following the conclusion of the event.

System Requirements. OTAC webinars are broadcast through Zoom. A broadband internet connection is required. For minimum system requirements, visit the following page:

Zoom - <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux>

Professional Development Units (PDUs) Tracking

PDUs will be entered into your OTAC account.

To earn PDUs, registrants must complete the post event survey that is emailed out within one week following the event.

Symposium Disclaimer

This Symposium 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.

[Click here for OTAC's complete disclaimer/terms. You must agree to these disclaimers/terms. Please don't register if you do not.](#)

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Why OTAC Symposia? 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 and its mission to support the profession.

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.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIA

Watch for announcements about our category of virtual and in-person specialty symposia for 2026.