

50 Golden YEARS 1976–2026
ONE POWERFUL FUTURE
OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OTAC 2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & *Innovation Expo*

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2026 | PASADENA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Samia H. Rafeedie
OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA
OTAC President



Bryant Edwards
OTD, MA, OTR/L, MPH, FAOTA
CFOT Honored Lecturer



Gordon Muir Giles
PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA
Friday Keynote



Luis de Leon Arabit
OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA
Sunday Keynote

Distinguished Presenters

Register Today
https://tinyurl.com/bdh8csx7

OTAC
Occupational Therapy Association of California

@OTACnews @OTACofca
#OTACCONF2026 | #OTACpowerfulfuture

OTACU

AOTA American Occupational Therapy Association
State Affiliate

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OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A Premier Professional Development Conference— Earn Professional Development Units

OTAC's Annual Conference offers high-quality continuing education at cost-effective prices. Conference registrants have the opportunity to select from more than 125 hours to apply towards continuing education requirements for California license renewal. You won't find an easier, quicker, or more cost-effective way to earn PDUs required by CBOT (for direct delivery of occupational therapy services) and by NBCOT (for practice area of emphasis).

OTAC members receive a discount on the Conference registration fees. If you are not a member, your Conference registration fee may qualify you for a 1-year membership (exceptions may apply).

MY OT LICENSE

Conference PDUs for OT/OTA practitioners will be entered into your OTAC membership account by January 31, 2027.

IMPORTANT NOTES

CONFERENCE DISCOUNTED EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION SPECIALS!

- Attend all three days (November 6-8) for only $359! Must register by September 21, 2026 for this rate.
- Get great rates on the November 5 Pre-Conference Institute sessions.
- OTAC Student Members: check out student reduced fees. Must pre-register for best rate!

2026 DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

September 11	Submit Student Legacy Fund Scholarship.
September 21	Discounted Early Bird Registration Special deadline (BEST VALUE $359!).
September 22 - October 26	Registration rates increase by $60 ($359 + $60 = $419).
October 1	Submit Online Volunteer forms.
October 14	Cut-off date for hotel reservations at OTAC rates. Room block may sell out before this date; make your reservation today.
	Medically necessary dietary or special needs requests deadline. You must register and submit your requests in writing by this date in our efforts to accommodate you.
	Cut-off date for Workplace Colleague discount.
	Date to cancel registration.
October 26	Advanced Conference registration closes at 8:59pm. After this date/time you must register at the event. On-site fees at the Conference increase by $90 ($359 + $90 = $449).

IMPORTANT NOTES

2026 Certificate Policy and PDU Credits

- **Individual Session Tickets.** When you check in at the Conference Registration Counter, you will receive a blue ticket imprinted with your name on it for every session and activity for which you are registered. The room monitor will collect the tickets as you enter every session and activity room. If the room monitor does not collect your ticket, please seek them out. These tickets are maintained at the OTAC office as verification of your attendance.
- **Certificate of Completion.** When you check in at the Conference Registration Counter, you will receive a Certificate of Completion form. Fill in the appropriate information for every session you attend. At the conclusion of your attendance at the Conference, submit the white copy of the Certificate of Completion form at the OTAC Conference Registration Counter. Keep the yellow copy for your own records. OTAC will keep an electronic version on file along with the blue tickets for each session as verification.
- **To earn a Certificate of Completion, attendance is required.** Please arrive on time to the sessions and don't depart early. Your Certificate should reflect actual number of hours attended. Note: CBOT defines one PDU as one hour of instruction.
- **myotlicense.** PDUs for OTAC members will be entered into your account by January 31, 2027.
- **CBOT.** Select PDUs may be used for Advance Practice Approval as indicated. Check with the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT) for details.
- **CHT.** Some sessions may be used to meet recertification requirements. Check with the Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC) for details.
- **NBCOT.** Sessions may be used to meet recertification. Check with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) for details.
- **Certificate of Completion:** ***Sponsor University of St Augustine for Health Sciences***

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:00am–6:30pm
Registration Hours
If you registered in advance, this is a convenient opportunity to pick up your registration materials for any days. You can also register on site.

9:00am–4:00pm
Pre-Conference Institute (earn PDUs)
Separate registration fees, including one complimentary session for registered OTAC members.

4:00pm–5:00pm
Let's Connect! Gatherings

6:00pm-7:30pm
Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs)
A historical exposé of Willowbrook State School, a state supported institution for children and adults with developmental disabilities

Join us for the screening of this powerful documentary that sparked a national reckoning over the treatment of people with developmental disabilities in institutional care. At the time, Willowbrook State School was the largest institution of its kind housing over 6,000 residents. In 1972, Geraldo Rivera exposed the overcrowding and unsanitary conditions and reported how the children and adults were deprived of stimulation, basic human care, and their human dignity. This Emmy-winning documentary shares the lived experience of Willowbrook through the voices of former residents, staff, and journalists. This is a reflection on the lessons learned, a testament of positive change through advocacy, a celebration of inclusion, and the ongoing work towards full community integration for people with disabilities. This documentary raises questions every occupational therapy practitioner should be asking themselves regarding institutional environments, legislative and policy changes, ethical violations, and advocacy. Willowbrook catalyzed the deinstitutionalization movement, community-based care models, and the disability rights legislation that shaped the occupational therapy profession we practice today.

Discussion to follow, facilitated by Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:15am–11:30am
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

11:30am–1:00pm
CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium (.5 PDUs)
$85; $10 Students-Only Gallery Seating (no lunch)
Featuring Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, MPH, FAOTA

12:00pm–12:45pm
Mindfulness in Daily Life
Let's Connect! DEIOJ

1:00pm–3:00pm
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

3:15pm–5:15pm
Awards Ceremony and Friday Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)
Featuring Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

5:15pm–7:15pm
Innovation Expo Grand Opening

7:30pm–9:00pm
Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00am–8:00am
Let's Connect! Gatherings

8:00am–11:30am
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

11:30am–2:15pm
Expo Activities including Poster Presentations (earn PDUs)
Must purchase lunch in advance ($20).

2:30pm–5:45pm
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

6:00pm–7:15pm
OTAC 50th Birthday Party
Join us to celebrate OTAC. Birthday cake! Music! Dancing!

7:30pm–9:00pm
Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions; Let's Connect! Gatherings

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:30am–9:00am
OTAC Annual Meeting and Keynote Address, with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare (.5 PDUs)
Featuring Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA, and Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA

9:15am–2:30pm
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

2:15pm–2:45pm
OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawings

STUDENT CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP

Are you interested in volunteering at Conference?

Volunteering is a great way to learn more about Conference operations, meet other dynamic occupational therapy practitioners and students, enhance your Conference experience, and have fun. There are many opportunities to contribute. You can volunteer at Conference and still participate in other activities. Volunteers play a vital role in the success of the West Coast's largest occupational therapy professional development conference. You can access the volunteer form **here:**

VOLUNTEER FORM

Deadline to submit: October 1

FOLLOW! CONVO! POST!

- Post on Instagram @otacofca
- Friend us on Facebook @OTACnews
- Start a conversation using #OTACconf2026
- Talk about #powerfulfuture
- Show your #OTACmemberpride

Attending Sessions?

Volunteer as a Room Monitor!

ROOM MONITOR FORM

Deadline to submit: October 1

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."
– HELEN KELLER

We invite you to be a Conference room monitor … and together we can do so much for OT. See form for more information:

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Hilton Pasadena
168 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 577-1000
toll-free (800) 445-8667

ALL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES ARE AT THE HILTON

OTAC reserved a block of sleeping rooms at the Conference hotel, Hilton Pasadena. Room rates of $199 are available for Wednesday, November 4 through Sunday, November 8, 2026. When booking your room, please indicate you are attending the OTAC 2026 Annual Conference. ***The deadline to receive the OTAC special rate is Wednesday, October 14, 2026.*** (Rates and space upon availability.)

Hotel reservations are now open. You may reserve your sleeping room online. **Click here.**

The Hilton Pasadena is a short walk from shops and restaurants, as well as just several blocks from historic Old Pasadena and the Playhouse District. The hotel's lobby and lounge/restaurant are contemporary, modern, and welcoming.

We encourage you to stay at the Hilton Pasadena to ensure that OTAC meets its contractual obligations for the sleeping rooms that we have set aside for the attendees. The Association pays a penalty if all the reserved sleeping rooms are not utilized.

BEING GREEN: RECYCLABLES

The Hilton Pasadena collects all its trash into a huge compactor on its property. The entire trash container is picked up weekly and sent to a recycling plant for sorting of recyclable items. Generally, 60% of the hotel trash is able to be recycled.

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Hilton Pasadena is pleased to be a strong community partner. In addition to extensive community outreach with its employees, they sponsor several annual blood drives with the Red Cross and an annual toy drive with the Salvation Army. They also donate to local food banks through employee contributions, and after the fires, they contributed through Habitat for Humanity.

PARKING

Note: OTAC does not validate for parking. All prices are subject to change.

Hilton Pasadena ***(All conference activities are at the Hilton.)***
Overnight: $21/self park; $23/valet.
Day use: $12/self park; $12/valet.

Pasadena Convention Center ***(No conference activities here.)***
Daily Parking Rate: $15. On-site Parking: 800 spaces.
Two entrances: Marengo Avenue to the west and Euclid Avenue to the east between Green Street and Cordova Street.

Additional Parking
2,500 spaces within a one-block radius.

GUEST REGISTRATION

Conference registrants may use Section 4 of the Registration Form to pre-register a guest ($90 per person). A Guest Registration includes the Movie Night/Thursday, Awards Ceremony & Keynote Address/Friday, Innovation Expo Grand Opening/Friday, Expo/Saturday, and the OTAC 50th Birthday Party/Saturday. This is for those attending in a social capacity only. Guests may not be members of OTAC, an OT/OTA practitioner, or enrolled in an occupational therapy/assistant program. *Note: Additional meal function tickets may also be purchased for guests. 2026 OTAC Conference Award Honorees should contact the OTAC office at execdir@otaconline.org about their guests for the Awards ceremony.*

TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORTS

Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) – *16 miles to Pasadena*
2627 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 840-8840 • www.hollywoodburbankairport.com

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) – *32 miles to Pasadena*
1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(855) 463-5252 • www.flylax.com

Ontario International Airport (ONT) – *37 miles to Pasadena*
2900 E. Airport Drive, (Terminal 4) Ontario, CA 91761
(909) 937-2700 • www.flyontario.com

Long Beach Airport (LGB) – *38 miles to Pasadena*
4100 Donald Douglas Drive, Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 570-2600 • www.lgb.org

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION *(Information subject to change)*

Union Station Flyaway
(866) 435-9529 • www.lawa.org/flyaway

Nonstop bus service to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) via Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. From Union Station, passengers can ride the A Line light rail to Pasadena. Exit Del Mar Station for the Pasadena Convention Center (approximately five blocks). $12.50 one-way.

Foothill Transit Authority
(800) 743-3463 • www.foothilltransit.org

The buses serve the San Gabriel and Pomona valleys, with express bus routes to Pasadena and Downtown Los Angeles. Adult base fare is $1.25.

Pasadena Transit Bus
(626) 398-8973 • www.cityofpasadena.net/pasadena-transit/

The buses travel between Old Pasadena, South Lake Avenue, and the Playhouse District. Adult fare is 75¢.

Metro A Line (rail and bus service)
(323) 466-3876 • www.metro.net

The A Line is a 13-mile light rail line within the Los Angeles-area Metro Rail network that transports passengers from Pasadena to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. Take it to connect to other Los Angeles rail lines or Amtrak. Trains operate daily and include six stops in Pasadena. Purchase tickets from self-service ticket vending machines at Metro Rail stations. Cost is $1.75 one way.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Prime Time Shuttle
(800) 733-8267 • www.primetimeshuttle.com

SuperShuttle
(800) 258-3826 • www.supershuttle.com

TAXI SERVICE

LA City Cab • (888) 248-9222
United Taxi • (800) 822-8294

CONFERENCE TIPS

1. Register early as sessions may fill up.
2. Make your Conference session selections carefully as requesting changes on site may lead to long waits in line at the Registration counter and sessions may not be available.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEAR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS, FRIENDS, AND MEMBERS,

Welcome to the Occupational Therapy Association of California's **50th Annual Conference & Innovation Expo!**



Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, OTAC President

This year is unlike any other in OTAC's history. Together, we celebrate **50 Golden Years: One Powerful Future**—a milestone that honors the vision, leadership, and dedication of those who came before us while inspiring us to imagine what the next 50 years of occupational therapy in California can become.

As we gather once again in beautiful Pasadena, I am filled with gratitude and excitement. Every annual conference is an opportunity to learn, reconnect, and grow together. This year, however, carries special meaning. It is a celebration of the people, relationships, and shared purpose that have made OTAC a thriving professional community for half a century.

Over the past 50 years, OTAC has been strengthened by extraordinary volunteers, visionary leaders, passionate practitioners, dedicated educators, committed students, professional staff, and countless members who believed that we are stronger together than we are alone. I am especially excited to welcome many of our past presidents, whose leadership helped shape the association we know today. We also look forward to celebrating alongside distinguished guests from across our profession as we honor this remarkable anniversary.

Our Annual Conference Committee has created an exceptional program that celebrates both our rich history and our exciting future. I am deeply grateful to every Committee member whose creativity, commitment, and countless volunteer hours have made this conference possible. A special thank you goes to Lora Woo, whose leadership in coordinating many of our 50th Anniversary festivities—including our Mahjong Mingle, anniversary celebrations, and special evening entertainment—will help make this a conference we will remember for years to come.

This year's educational programming reflects the incredible breadth and innovation of occupational therapy. Based on your feedback, we are excited to offer an expanded hand therapy track featuring invited experts and opportunities for advanced practice learning, along with an outstanding 1½-day neurological-related workshop presented by Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Our women's health and entrepreneurial programming continues to grow, reflecting emerging areas of practice and leadership, while our academic sessions explore one of the most rapidly evolving topics in higher education—the impact of artificial intelligence on occupational therapy education and practice.

We are equally honored to welcome an exceptional lineup of distinguished speakers. Gordon Giles will challenge us to think differently about *The Long Road to Functional Cognition*. Bryant Edwards, delivering the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy Honored Lecture, will present *The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession*. And Luis Arabit will inspire us to look ahead with his closing keynote, *From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future*.

One of the experiences I am most looking forward to is continuing a conversation we began together over the past two conferences. Alongside Ada Boone Hoerl, I invite you to join us as we revisit OTAC's WHY!, celebrate the values that have guided our association for 50 years, and engage in envisioning what the next 50 years can become. We are so grateful for past presidents who will join this conversation! Your ideas, your experiences, and your voice will help shape OTAC's future. After all, our most powerful future is one we create together.

While outstanding education is the cornerstone of our conference, some of the most memorable moments happen between sessions. I encourage you to participate in our Let's Connect! networking gatherings; alumni, student, and faculty receptions; anniversary celebrations; and the many informal opportunities to meet colleagues, reconnect with old friends, and welcome those attending OTAC for the very first time. These conversations often become collaborations, mentorships, and lifelong friendships—and they are part of what has made OTAC feel like home for so many over the past 50 years.

As I move into my second term as president, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible privilege it has been to serve this Association. Every day I am inspired by your compassion, innovation, resilience, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the people we serve. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this journey.

Whether this is your first OTAC Conference or your 50th, I hope you leave Pasadena inspired by what we have accomplished together, energized by the possibilities that lie ahead, and proud to be part of an association whose greatest strength has always been its people.

Thank you for being part of OTAC's remarkable story. Here's to **50 Golden Years ... and One Powerful Future.**

Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA
President, Occupational Therapy Association of California

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE LEGACY FUND

It is with great honor that OTAC carries on with the Susan J. Harris Focus on the Future Legacy Fund established by Therapy Specialists, a HealthPRO-Heritage Company, in collaboration with OTAC. Harris was a long-time active supporter, valued friend, and member of OTAC. In 2020, OTAC's Entrepreneur Award was renamed in her honor as the Susan J. Harris Occupational Therapy Entrepreneur Award. She was also an awardee of OTAC's Award of Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Award. Harris had founded Therapy Specialists more than 43 years ago and grew it into a successful practice.

With this Legacy Fund, OTAC provides support to the profession in three primary areas: entrepreneurialism and innovation, advocacy, and a leadership pathway for practitioners of diverse backgrounds. At the 2026 Annual Conference, we bring you an Advocacy/Leadership/Private Practice/Emerging Areas/DEIOJ/Cultural Track.



Susan J. Harris
1941-2020

Student Legacy Fund Scholarship. The Legacy Fund also includes the opportunity for two students of diverse backgrounds (students of color, students with disabilities, students within the LGBTQ+ community) to apply for a scholarship to the Annual Conference to attend the sessions in the Track mentioned above, as well as to attend the OTAC Board of Directors and Committee Chairs meeting on the Thursday of Conference. This scholarship is intended to support students in their professional journey through exposure to occupational therapy leadership and professional development. The scholarship includes full Conference registration and up to a $300 hotel or travel expense reimbursement. Interested students should complete the application and submit by September 11, 2026.

CHAIRS' MESSAGE

DEAR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONERS, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, COLLEAGUES, AND FRIENDS

OTAC is celebrating 50 years of EXCELLENCE! The theme for the OTAC 2026 Annual Conference is ***50 Golden Years, 1 Powerful Future***, and you can be part of OTAC's next 50 years at the 2026 OTAC Conference! Come to learn, grow, and CELEBRATE!



Joseph (Joe) Juse, OTD, OTR/L



Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and the 2026 OTAC Annual Conference & Innovation Expo Committee, we are excited to invite you to join us for the 50th Annual Conference!

This year's OTAC Annual Conference is a ***milestone celebration of advocacy and advancement.*** Occupational therapy has been grounded in the value of participation in purposeful, meaningful, therapeutic occupations to promote health and balance across physical, mental, and social well-being. The growth and advancement of our profession include a range of practice areas to benefit all persons, groups, and populations. As practitioners, educators, or students, we must continue to enrich our knowledge and cultivate evidence-based occupational therapy interventions for those who receive our valuable services.

We are honored to have three amazing, distinguished speakers this year! Dr. Gordon Giles will present the Friday keynote address, echoing his Eleanor Clark Slagle lecture entitled: *The Long Road to Functional Cognition.* The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy honored lecturer on Friday, will be Dr. Bryant Edwards, a former OTAC president, who will discuss *The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession.* And we are excited that Dr. Luis de Leon Arabit, former OTAC vice president and AOTPAC regional director, will be the keynote speaker at the Sunday Business Meeting, presenting on *From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future.*

We are excited to offer the Annual Conference & Innovation Expo in person at the Hilton Pasadena! We know each attendee will be able to celebrate the *50th Anniversary of OTAC and develop the skills to advance the profession into the future* by participating in professional development, nurturing future practitioners, and engaging in networking opportunities.

The high-caliber, peer-reviewed conference presentations and poster sessions will reinforce your commitment to the unique roles occupational therapy practitioners have in providing innovative approaches to support and promote occupational engagement for everyone we serve. The resolve to increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the occupational therapy profession continues, and the OTAC Annual Conference is one opportunity to pursue that goal.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person at the OTAC Annual Conference & Innovation Expo in Pasadena!

Your OTAC Conference Chairs,

Joseph (Joe) Juse, OTD, OTR/L
Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

OUR HOST CITY–PASADENA
A melting pot of culture & entertainment

TOP 10 PASADENA AWESOME ACTIVITIES

1. **Stroll Old Pasadena:** Explore this highly walkable, 22-block historic district. Wander along Colorado Boulevard (historic Route 66) to discover boutiques, courtyards, and diverse dining housed in turn-of-the-century brick buildings.
2. **Admire the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens:** Just south in San Marino, this sprawling 120-acre estate features world-class art galleries, a rare Gutenberg Bible, and stunning themed botanical sections like the Japanese and Desert Gardens.
3. **Tour the Norton Simon Museum:** Famous for its incredible private art collection, this museum holds European masterpieces from artists like Degas, Picasso, and Van Gogh, as well as a beautiful sculpture garden.
4. **Visit the Gamble House:** A stunning masterpiece of the American Arts and Crafts movement. Designed in 1908 by architects Charles and Henry Greene, it offers guided tours showcasing its gorgeous woodwork and handcrafted details. From the movie Back to the Future fame.
5. **Hike Eaton Canyon:** Escape into nature at the base of the mountains. The 3.5-mile roundtrip Eaton Canyon Trail features a rewarding, 40-foot seasonal waterfall.
6. **Find Joy at the Kidspace Children's Museum:** Enjoy kid-driven experiences inspiring them to become joyful, active learners.
7. **Marvel at the Pasadena City Hall Architecture:** A marvel of 1920s architecture, this iconic landmark features a striking, 200-foot dome, beautiful Spanish-Renaissance influences, and a lush, tree-lined central courtyard.
8. **Relax in the Arlington Garden:** A peaceful, community-built urban retreat. This free, 3-acre garden is filled with olive trees, citrus groves, and cozy seating, making it a perfect spot to relax or have a picnic.
9. **Catch a Show at the Pasadena Playhouse:** Open since 1925, this historic State Theatre of California hosts high-quality theatrical productions, musicals, and community events.
10. **Take in the Views at Colorado Street Bridge:** Take in the breathtaking views from this historic 1913 arched bridge. Its Beaux-Arts lampposts and dramatic arches make it a local favorite for sunset strolls.

2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chairs – *Joseph (Joe) Juse, Winifred Schultz-Krohn*

Awards Coordinator – *Swati Shah*

Call for Papers/Program Coordinators – *Shohei Takatani, Graham Teaford, Annie Wong*

Exhibits Coordinator / Presenter Concierge – *Jackie Mardirossian*

Hospitality Coordinator – *Jhenny Rivera-Villano*

Photographer – *Diana Su-Erickson*

Registration Coordinator – *Laura Deary*

Social Media Coordinator – *Sherry Younesi*

Volunteer Coordinators – *Renee Bovin Makin, Kristina Holcomb, Morgan Kam*

50th Anniversary Coordinator – *Lora Woo*

OTAC Professional Development & Leadership Chairs – *Danny Pavlovich, Sara Wallace*

OTAC Student Leadership Chair – *Rachelle Murphy*

OTAC Officers – *Samia H. Rafeedie, Candace Chatman, Kersten Laughlin, Lauren Lopez*

OTAC Management Team – *Karen Polastri, Shannon Rutledge, Tracy Brown, Jenni Schaupp, Tammy Hitchcock*

HONORED LECTURER | KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

FRIDAY CFOT HONORED LECTURER – NOVEMBER 7

11:30am-1:00pm

CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium – separate fee required

The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession (.5 PDUs)



Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

Our honored lecturer, Dr. Bryant Edwards, will explore the concept of authenticity and its connection to occupational therapy practice, leadership within the profession, and one's own personal-professional empowerment. He will also share how authenticity has enhanced his own professional journey, why it should be an important consideration in all occupational therapy professionals' practice, and how it can impact the future and fuel the profession forward.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE – NOVEMBER 7

4:15pm-5:15pm

Directly following the Awards Ceremony in the same room

51 - The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)



Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

This keynote address will describe the personal and professional milestones that lead to Dr. Giles' current focus on functional cognition. Beginning in the UK working at the first behavior disorder program for traumatic brain injury in the world, to the development of the first non-aversive neurobehavioral programs west of the Mississippi, he has had several professional preoccupations. In this presentation, Dr. Giles will re-examine the questions that preoccupied him over the course of his career, such as the role of errorless learning, the development of awareness, and the use of strategy-based intervention in cognitive rehabilitation. Engaging with these questions has led him to the belief that the assessment and management of functional cognition is an important opportunity for the occupational therapy profession. *Dr. Giles was an AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Awardee.*

Also presenting session 73 - Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs), Saturday, November 7, 10:00am-11:30am

SUNDAY KEYNOTE – NOVEMBER 9

7:30am-9:00am

Included with OTAC Annual Meeting — must register to attend

From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future (.5 PDUs)



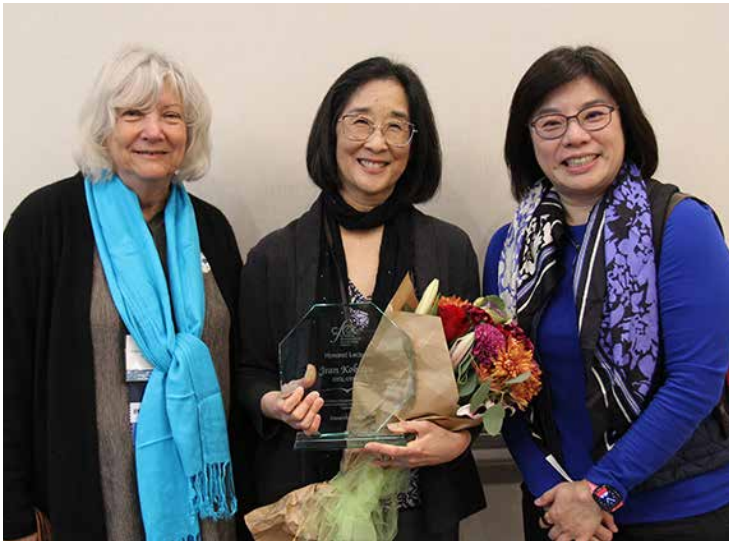
Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA

Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA

As OTAC celebrates its 50th Anniversary, this keynote invites practitioners to reflect on the profession's remarkable journey while envisioning the opportunities ahead. Through personal stories of patient care, mentorship, and advocacy, Arabit will explore how passion for helping others evolves into purpose-driven leadership. Grounded in the belief that occupational therapy restores possibility, dignity, and hope, the address will challenge every practitioner to recognize their capacity to lead — whether in clinical practice, education, research, or community engagement. Honoring the pioneers who built occupational therapy in California, this keynote will issue a call to action: move beyond celebrating our past and actively build a powerful future for the profession. Attendees will leave inspired to transform their passion into purpose, their purpose into advocacy, and their advocacy into leadership — ensuring occupational therapy continues to transform lives for generations to come.

Sponsor: Bonita Kraft

Also facilitating the Thursday Movie Night Activity D: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook, a historical exposé of Willowbrook State School, a state supported institution for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



WHY ATTEND CONFERENCE

Here's what your colleagues said about their past experiences – why they attended and/or what they liked best.

Wanted to build new skills

Always appreciate the opportunity to grow and thrive together

Brought my daughter who is a new OT

It is a tradition for me

INTENSIVES: 3, 4 AND 9 HOUR SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:00am-12:15pm

04 – Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs)

Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Occupational therapy can be a powerful intervention addressing the occupational health of a critical, underserved yet ubiquitous population: widows. This workshop will advocate for the urgent role of occupational therapy in facilitating healthy grieving through occupation. Stay around for a book signing with this author.

9:00am-4:00pm

05 – Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury (Part 1) (6 PDUs) (A total of 9 PDUs with Part 2 on Saturday)

Jacob Baquir, MHA, OTR/L, CSRS, CBIS; Remy Chu, Jr., MHA, OTR/L, CBIS; Tawnee Sullenger, OTD, OTR/L

This 1.5 day course will provide a practical, clinically-focused exploration of electrical stimulation for individuals recovering from stroke or spinal cord injury. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, guided problem solving, and hands-on experience, participants will deepen their understanding of key physiological principles and learn how to apply them to optimize patient outcomes. Attendees will strengthen their clinical reasoning skills and build confidence in safely and effectively integrating electrical stimulation into everyday practice to support patients in achieving meaningful functional goals. **Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their workplace electrical stimulation unit to enhance the hands-on learning experience. (Part 2 – Saturday, November 7, 8:15am- 11:45am, 3 PDUs)**

12:45pm-4:00pm

12 – Mental Health in Everyday Practice: Reviewing Policy, Forecasting Trends, and Affecting Change (3 PDUs)

Jessica De Brun, OTD, OTR/L; Emily M. Petersen, OTD, OTR/L; Erin McInytre, OTD, OTR/L; Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L

Join us for our 3rd annual 'summit' on occupational therapy mental health practice, policy, and innovation. Our occupational therapy master clinicians and leaders working in behavioral and mental health advocating for change look forward to engaging in high-level informed dialogue about the most current legislative and regulatory issues and trends that may impact occupational therapy practitioners in various systems. Let's identify where we want to focus our efforts to affect change.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:15am-11:30am

28 – Conservative Management of Soft Tissue Injuries of the Elbow and Wrist (3 PDUs)

Megna Sahni-Patel, CHT, CKTP, MBA, MS, OTR/L; Adrienne Tesarek, OTR/L, CHT, CKTP

This course is designed for beginner to intermediate occupational therapy practitioners seeking to enhance their understanding of elbow and wrist anatomy, as well as common soft tissue injuries affecting these joints. The session will begin with a comprehensive review of relevant anatomy, complemented by a palpation lab to reinforce identification of surface landmarks. Participants will then explore common injury presentations and evidence-based treatment approaches. The course will conclude with an introduction to kinesio taping techniques, including practical applications for the conditions discussed. This interactive lecture and lab will incorporate hands-on learning to support skill development and clinical application.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:15am-11:45am

68 – Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)

Don Gordon, PhD, OTR/L; Marielly Mitchell, OTD, OTR/L, SIPT

This presentation will examine the fundamental occupation of breathing. The cultural significance of the breath, its vital role in child development, and the many ways it can be used to influence health will be illuminated.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:15am-2:00pm

106 – Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs)

Stephanie Kokesh, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will provide an overview of assessment and intervention for sexual health. The client context will be adults who are cognitively intact. Information will include considerations for physical disabilities, gender affirming care, and learning about your OWN body!

9:15am-2:00pm

107 – Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs)

Kate Hayner, EdD, OTR/L; Ginny Gibson, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Shoulder subluxation from neurological injury limits function. This course will review pathophysiology and interventions, highlight the California Tri-Pull Taping Method, and provide hands-on lab instruction. **Attendees should wear a shoulder-accessible top to participate in the lab.**

9:15am-2:00pm

108 – Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs)

Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Michaelann Gabriele, OTD, OTR/L; Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L; Merry Lee, OTD, OTR/L

As funding, CPT coding, and social media reshape healthcare, occupational therapy practitioners must redefine their role in sensory-based interventions. Participants will learn how to critically appraise and adapt to these dynamic changes and trends.

INTENSIVES: 3, 4 AND 9 HOUR SESSIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 [CONT.]

11:00am-2:30pm

120 – Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs)

Rick Hayden; Amy Lyons-Brown, OTD, OTR/L; Alesha Thomas, BS, IBCLC; Claire Uke, MOT, OTR/L, ATP

The aim of this session is to describe the process of developing faculty-led occupational therapy pro-bono clinics designed for underserved populations. Lessons learned about creating and sustaining these clinics will be discussed.

11:00am-2:30pm

121 – Between the Lines of Handwriting (3 PDUs)

Jennifer Sato, MA, OTR/L

Handwriting requires more than just fine motor skills. Praxis is often overlooked even though it accounts for 83% of referrals. This workshop will explore assessment components, shared instruction responsibilities, and tier 1 multi-tiered system support (MTSS) collaborative strategies.

11:00am-2:30pm

122 – Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs)

Debra Ouellette, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, BCPR, SCLV, FNAP; Nilima Tanna, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT; Graham Teaford, OTD, OTR/L, SCLV

This presentation will address adult vision rehabilitation services, emphasizing visual neuroanatomy, evidence-based assessment, functional implications of visual dysfunction, clinical interventions, and collaborative strategies supporting occupational participation.

11:00am-2:30pm

123 – Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model. (3 PDUs)

Georgina (Gina) Phelps, OTD, OTR/L

Gardening is a widely used therapeutic and wellness intervention. This course will demonstrate how to create both an ADA-accessible vegetable garden and a sustainable sensory garden informed by the naturalistic collectivism of the Kawa Model.



SENSORY RESET STATION

DIY BRACELET BAR AND COLORING CORNER

Get a sensory reset at the OTAC Hospitality Table. Make your own friendship bracelet and/or unwind in the coloring corner. There will also be limited supplies of fancy pens and fidgets. Find us in the Conference registration area. Our hospitality volunteer crew can't wait to greet you.

MOBILITYDOG CHALLENGE

Support Our Conference Cause

Since 2018, MobilityDog has had a lasting impact on individuals with mobility disabilities, empowering them through service dogs, education, and community support in the Pasadena area and encompassing communities. MobilityDog is dedicated to raise, train, and place highly skilled mobility service dogs for essential life changing support. Their vision is to advance FUNctional independence for people with disabilities through service dogs, education, and empowerment. By building the sense of community and relationships, they compassionately foster barrier-free, sustainable, and meaningful independence.

Our 2026 Annual Conference challenge is to raise $5,000 to support their ongoing FUNdraising for FUNctional Independence. Programs include their Annual A.R.F (Accessibility Resource Fair), PAWS and WAG workshops (confidence building workshops to support daily life), and their dream to build "The Center for Excellence & Wellness Garden" a safe, accessible, real world practice space to enhance functional mobility, learn advocacy, and grow confidence.

Please join our "**$5.00 for Fido**" campaign to help MobilityDog make their dreams a reality!







MobilityDog Donate Here!

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Celebrating Our 45th Anniversary!

CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

11:30am-1:00pm

About the Awards Luncheon & Symposium

Recipients of the 2026 CFOT scholarships, research grants, and awards will be announced at the annual CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium on Friday, November 6, 11:30am-1:00pm.

Separate ticket required.
$85 for lunch ($10 for gallery seating; no lunch; students only).

CFOT HONORED LECTURER – BRYANT EDWARDS, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession (.5 PDUs)

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA



Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

Our honored lecturer, Dr. Bryant Edwards, will explore the concept of authenticity and its connection to occupational therapy practice, leadership within the profession, and one's own personal-professional empowerment. He will also share how authenticity has enhanced his own professional journey, why it should be an important consideration in all occupational therapy professionals' practice, and how it can impact the future and fuel the profession forward.

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA, was born in Los Angeles and raised in Culver City and Thousand Oaks. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California, then earned his Master of Public Health from The Ohio State University. Edwards returned to Los Angeles and worked in behavioral health before returning to USC to earn his Master of Arts and Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

He has over 20 years of practice experience, focusing in pediatrics. He has worked clinically in the hospital, private clinic, and school settings. Edwards now serves as the director of rehabilitation, clinical nutrition, and lactation services at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). He has also been adjunct faculty at West Coast University since 2016, primarily lecturing on topics of management and leadership in occupational therapy.

In addition to his professional experience, Edwards served as a volunteer leader within the Occupational Therapy Association of California for over 12 years, including two terms as president. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Edwards has presented nationally and internationally throughout his career. He earned a Board Certification in Pediatrics from the American Occupational Therapy Association in 2016 and, in 2022, received the Association's Roster of Fellows Award for his leadership service to the profession.

SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

SUPPORT ENHANCING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

The annual fundraiser for the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT), held in conjunction with the OTAC Annual Conference & Innovation Expo, again has an online component! We welcome this opportunity to reach a wider audience. "Thank you in advance for continuing to support our mission by donating during the OTAC Conference," commented CFOT President Michele Berro, MA, OTR/L.



Past CFOT Awardees

CFOT was founded in 1981 as a nonprofit, public benefit organization to help support students, practitioners, and researchers advance their knowledge and skills, thereby enhancing occupational therapy services to the public.



Michele Berro, MA, OTR/L
CFOT President

Since its inception, many scholarships, traineeships, and grants have been awarded annually. In addition, CFOT's goal is to educate the public about the potential benefits of occupational therapy services.

YOU ARE INVITED TO DONATE TO CFOT IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION

DONATE

CFOT HUMANITARIAN

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L



Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L, is the occupational therapy chief for Los Angeles County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing, where she leads a growing team serving individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Since joining the department as its first occupational therapy practitioner in 2022, she has helped grow occupational therapy from a single practitioner into a department of more than 15 clinicians working across interim housing, permanent supportive housing, and licensed residential care. Through functional assessment, intervention, and systems development, Moon and her team address barriers to safety, independence, housing stability, and meaningful participation — demonstrating the vital role occupational therapy can play in helping people not only become housed but truly make a home and engage in a life of their choosing.



Honoring Those Who Inspire Professional Excellence

COME HELP CELEBRATE OUR OTAC 2026 AWARD HONOREES

Please join us in congratulating your friends and colleagues on their awards as well as expressing your appreciation for their contributions to the profession and the Association. These individuals will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony, Friday, November 6, 3:15pm–4:15pm. This event is open to all Conference attendees registered for Friday.



2025 AWARD HONOREES



COMING SOON!

FOLLOW THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON OUR FREE MOBILE APP.



The conference mobile app includes:

- Full Conference schedule and a feature to build a customized schedule
- Social sharing on Instagram
- Detailed information about presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors
- Notifications of important updates, special offers, and more.

It's easy! Download the 2026 OTAC Annual Conference app for iPhone, iPad, and Android directly from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store and all other web browser-enabled devices by searching OTAC. Once you have found the app, tap either Download or Install. Login note: Login for the mobile app is not the same as your OTAC membership/customer login. You must create a new account to access the app's full features.



SPECIAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The OTAC Annual Conference offers much more than the opportunity to earn professional development units. It is also an opportunity to network with friends and colleagues, to make interesting contacts, to discover new resources, and to fully immerse yourself in all the activities designed to support you and the profession.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

4:00pm-5:00pm

A – Let's Connect! OT Entrepreneurs/Private Practice

If you are in or exploring the wonder of private practice and side hustles, register for any session on Thursday and you can sign up to connect with other occupational therapy practitioners and entrepreneurs. Hosted light refreshments.

B – Let's Connect! Mental Health, Wellness, Ethics, and Grieving

If you are attending any of the Thursday sessions on mental health, wellness, ethics, or grieving sessions, sign up to connect with others interested in these areas. Hosted light refreshments. Special activity. Book signing with author Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

C – Let's Connect! Women's Health, Sports, and Physical Disabilities

If you are attending any of the Thursday sessions on women's health, sports, and physical disabilities, sign up to connect with others interested in these areas. Hosted light refreshments.

6:00pm-7:30pm

D – Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook

A historical exposé of Willowbrook State School, a state supported institution for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Join us for the screening of this powerful documentary that sparked a national reckoning over the treatment of people with developmental disabilities in institutional care. At the time, Willowbrook State School was the largest institution of its kind housing over 6,000 residents. In 1972, Geraldo Rivera exposed the overcrowding and unsanitary conditions and reported how the children and adults were deprived of stimulation, lacked basic human care, and stripped of their human dignity. This Emmy-winning documentary shares the lived experience of Willowbrook through the voices of former residents, staff, and journalists. This is a reflection on the lessons learned, a testament of positive change through advocacy, a celebration of inclusion, and the ongoing work towards full community integration for people with disabilities. This documentary raises questions every occupational therapy practitioner should be asking themselves regarding institutional environments, legislative and policy changes, ethical violations, and advocacy. Willowbrook catalyzed the deinstitutionalization movement, community-based care models, and the disability rights legislation that shaped the occupational therapy profession we practice today.

Discussion to follow, facilitated by Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea.

BUILD YOUR CUSTOMIZED SCHEDULE

See pages 15 through 17 for a list of sessions by practice area. Build your own practice area schedule or mix and match.

Conference Bag and Badge Sponsor: CFOT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

11:30am-1:00pm

45th Annual CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium (.5 PDUs)

Come help celebrate recipients of the 2026 California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) scholarships, research grants, and awards. The Honored Lecturer Series and the CFOT Humanitarian Award join the OTAC Annual Awards Ceremony as among the most inspirational events at Conference. Don't miss it!

$85; $10 students-only gallery (lunch not included)

Note: You may attend this event even if you are not attending any other part of the Conference. Use the Conference Registration Form to purchase your ticket(s).

CFOT Honored Lecturer

The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession (.5 PDUs)

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA



Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

Our honored lecturer, Dr. Bryant Edwards, will explore the concept of authenticity and its connection to occupational therapy practice, leadership within the profession, and one's own personal-professional empowerment. He will also share how authenticity has enhanced his own professional journey, why it should be an important consideration in all occupational therapy professionals' practice, and how it can impact the future and fuel the profession forward.

CFOT Humanitarian

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L



Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L, is the occupational therapy chief for Los Angeles County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing, where she leads a growing team serving individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Since joining the department as its first occupational therapy practitioner in 2022, she has helped grow occupational therapy from a single practitioner into a department of more than 15 clinicians working across interim housing, permanent supportive housing, and licensed residential care. Through functional assessment, intervention, and systems development, Moon and her team address barriers to safety, independence, housing stability, and meaningful participation — demonstrating the vital role occupational therapy can play in helping people not only become housed but truly make a home and engage in a life of their choosing.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

E – Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence (no PDUs)

12:00pm-12:45pm

Celso Delgado, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH; Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP; Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L

This session will provide participants with information on how informal mindfulness exercises can reduce stress, increase presence, and improve daily life experience. Participants will then engage in a variety of informal mindfulness practices and identify which they would like to participate in their own lives.

F – Let's Connect! DEIOJ

12:00pm-12:45pm

Real Talk: Keeping DEIOJ Front and Center Amid Rapid Professional Shifts

Michele Arakaki, OTD, OTR/L; Ayobamibo (Bambi) Olujumu, MS, OTR/L

Our professional landscape is shifting rapidly due to artificial intelligence, healthcare policy changes, and evolving curricula, often threatening to push our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and occupational justice (DEIOJ) to the background. This gathering invites you to "real talk" about these pressures and how they impact our daily practice. Together, we will move beyond identifying barriers to collaboratively strategize actionable habits that keep DEIOJ at the center of our work. Join us to share experiences, hold one another accountable, and ensure our practice remains equitable in an ever-evolving field.

51 – OTAC Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)

3:15pm-5:15pm
Awards: 3:15pm-4:15pm | Keynote: 4:15pm-5:15pm
Must register to attend

OTAC Awards Ceremony

Come one, come all! You are invited to come recognize and celebrate our 2026 Award honorees who serve with excellence and inspire professional passion.

WHY ATTEND CONFERENCE

Here's what your colleagues said about their past experiences – why they attended and/or what they liked best:

A great opportunity to be involved
The hands-on experience
The topics
My employer invited me to attend and paid for my registration
It was affordable
The variety of sessions
To practice my networking skills
To earn PDUs all in one place
Weekend availability
It is a friendly environment
I always attend
Attended for my own well-being

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)

Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

This keynote address will describe the personal and professional milestones that led to Dr. Giles' current focus on functional cognition. Beginning in the UK working at the first behavior disorder program for traumatic brain injury in the world, to the development of the first non-aversive neurobehavioral programs west of Mississippi, he has had several professional preoccupations. In this presentation, Dr. Giles will re-examine the questions that preoccupied him over the course of his career, such as the role of errorless learning, the development of awareness, and the use of strategy-based intervention in cognitive rehabilitation. Engaging with these questions has led him to the belief that the assessment and management of functional cognition is an important opportunity for the occupational therapy profession. *Dr. Giles was an AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Awardee.*

Also presenting session 73 - Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs), Saturday, November 7, 10:00am-11:30am

G – INNOVATION EXPO

5:15pm-7:15pm

Innovation Expo Grand Opening | Bingo and Trivia for Prizes

Join us for the grand opening of our Innovation Expo! More than 30 exhibitors await you to share the latest in services and products that support your practice and/or clients. Learn about employment opportunities, too. Play Exhibitor Bingo and trivia at the OTAC booth for prizes. Many exhibitors also offer prizes. Prizes awarded on Saturday.

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

7:30pm-9:00pm
Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

H – Let's Connect! Researchers and Clinicians

7:00am-8:00am
Join us for a gathering to share your ideas and needs for evidence-based practice, collaborate with colleagues who share your passion, and, most importantly, caffeinate before a full day of conference! See you at the hotel restaurant, bright and early!

I – INNOVATION EXPO

11:30am-2:15pm

Exhibitors | Poster Presentations | Grab and Go Lunch (for purchase) | Exhibitor Bingo and OTAC Trivia for Prizes

Come on in! Grab a quick 'to go' lunch (separate advanced purchase required – only $20). Purchasing advance lunch makes you eligible for a prize giveaway. Visit our more than 30 exhibitors, the OTAC booth trivia prize wheel, and 40 posters to view for PDUs. Prizes announced at 2:00pm.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (earn up to 2 PDUs)

11:30am-12:30pm and 1:00pm-2:00pm

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

J – OTAC 50th Birthday Party

6:00pm-7:15pm

It's true! OTAC has been serving the OT community for half of a century. Join us as we celebrate our 50 golden years and look forward to one impactful future. Music! Dancing! Birthday cake! And more!

Sponsor: USC

K – Let's Connect! OTA Gathering

7:30pm-9:00pm

Calling all OTAs! If you have been participating in our OTAC OTA member virtual meetings or are curious about what we've been up to, sign up to join us. Hosted light refreshments.

L – Let's Connect! Mahjong Mingle!

7:30pm-9:00pm

Celebrate OTAC's 50th Anniversary by mixing mahjong tiles and mingling with fellow occupational therapy practitioners and students at Mahjong Mingle! Played with beautifully decorated tiles, mahjong is a game of strategy, luck, and community. All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. Facilitators will be available throughout the event to help everyone learn, play, and enjoy the wonderful game of mahjong. Let's fill the night with the satisfying sounds of shuffling tiles, laughter, and meaningful connections. Hosted light refreshments

Sponsor: CSUDH

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

7:30pm-9:00pm

Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

M – OTAC Annual Meeting | Keynote Address

7:30am-9:00am

Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare

This event is included in your Sunday registration fee, but you must register for it to receive a ticket. Hear from OTAC president, Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA, about current OTAC achievements and activities for the coming year. Network at your region-designated tables and be prepared to be inspired by the keynote address. And don't forget the OTAC-PAC drawing. *Help conserve resources – only mark the event in the registration if you plan to attend.*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future (.5 PDUs)

Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA

As OTAC celebrates its 50th Anniversary, this keynote invites practitioners to reflect on the profession's remarkable journey while envisioning the opportunities ahead. Through personal stories of patient care, mentorship, and advocacy, Arabit will explore how passion for helping others evolves into purpose-driven leadership. Grounded in the belief that occupational therapy restores possibility, dignity, and hope, the address will challenge every practitioner to recognize their capacity to lead — whether in clinical practice, education, research, or community engagement. Honoring the pioneers who built occupational therapy in California, this keynote will issue a call to action: move beyond celebrating our past and actively build a powerful future for the profession. Attendees will leave inspired to transform their passion into purpose, their purpose into advocacy, and their advocacy into leadership — ensuring occupational therapy continues to transform lives for generations to come.

Sponsor: Bonita Kraft

OT SUNDAY SUPER LEARNERS' PRIZE DRAWINGS

2:15pm – 2:45pm

If you are registered for Sunday, your Sunday blue tickets will make you eligible for the prize drawings. Yes! We appreciate the Sunday super learners who stay to the end of Conference! Drawings will be made at 2:00pm. Check the board in the registration table between 2:15pm-2:45pm. Must be present to win. Prizes will include 2027 Annual Conference registration, OTAC membership, OTAC specialty symposia registrations, and more!



LET'S CONNECT!

MAHJONG MINGLE!

Celebrate OTAC's 50th Anniversary by mixing mahjong tiles and mingling with fellow occupational therapy practitioners and students at Mahjong Mingle! Played with beautifully decorated tiles, mahjong is a game of strategy, luck, and community. First played in China and now enjoyed globally, mahjong has evolved into many different styles of play. Across every variation, players share one objective: be the first to create a winning 14-tile hand! Note: We will play Chinese-style mahjong.

At Mahjong Mingle! the winner of each round will receive an opportunity drawing ticket for a chance to win exciting prizes. Don't let the tiles intimidate you! All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. Facilitators will be available throughout the event to help everyone learn, play, and enjoy the wonderful game of mahjong.

Let's fill the night with the satisfying sounds of shuffling tiles, laughter, and meaningful connections.

Hosted light refreshments.

L – Saturday, November 7 | 7:30pm-9:00pm

Sponsor: CSUDH

CUSTOMIZE YOUR SCHEDULE: SESSIONS BY PRACTICE AREAS

ACADEMIC/EDUCATION/FIELDWORK

15 Does Asking Help? An OT Student Wellness Study (1.5 PDUs)
26 Innovative Community-Based Fieldwork: Navigating Challenges and Fostering Partnerships (1.5 PDUs)
36 Reimagining OT Training for Thriving Aging Care (1.5 PDUs)
47 Supervising Across Generations: Supporting Today's Fieldwork Students (2 PDUs)
62 Let's Go for Therapeutic Groups in Spanish (1 PDU)
66 Global Challenges for OT Clinicians Entering Academia (1.5 PDUs)
76 Being/Becoming: Safety and Growth on College Campuses (1.5 PDUs)
86 Close Collaboration: Comparing OT and OTA Students' Perceptions (1.5 PDUs)
90 Beyond Clinical Competence: Cultivating Brave Spaces Through Emotional Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Leadership (1.5 PDUs)

ADULTS/OLDER ADULTS/ONCOLOGY/VISION

25 Ethical Challenges in Subtle Neurocognitive Dysfunction (1.5 PDUs)
35 Exercise: A Vital Occupation for Mind and Body (1.5 PDUs)
36 Reimagining OT Training for Thriving Aging Care (1.5 PDUs)
49 Addressing Psychosocial Needs in Oncology OT (1 PDU)
51 Friday Keynote: The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)
61 OT's Role in Post-Surgical Management of Bladder Cancer (1 PDU)
68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)
71 Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care (2 PDUs)
107 Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs)
122 Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs)

ADVOCACY/LEADERSHIP/PRIVATE PRACTICE/ EMERGING AREAS/DEIOJ/CULTURAL/ETHICS

02 Cultural Awareness, Ethics, and OT Clinical Practice (1.5 PDUs)
03 Sex Work: Introduction, Harm Reduction and Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
07 Going Nonclinical: Pathway to Medical Legal Consulting (1.5 PDUs)
08 Synergistic Advocacy for OT Practitioners and America's Veterans (1.5 PDUs)
10 From Clinician to CEO: Concrete Strategies to Start and Grow Your Own Business (1.5 PDUs)
14 The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Private Practice (1.5 PDUs)
20 Protecting Our Careers: State and Federal Regulatory and Legislative Updates (1.5 PDUs)
25 Ethical Challenges in Subtle Neurocognitive Dysfunction (1.5 PDUs)
30 California Board of Occupational Therapy Annual Update (1.5 PDUs)
32 Intentional Development of Future OT Visionaries (1.5 PDUs)
41 Self-Advocacy Among Adult Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors (1 PDU)
43 Ethical Everyday Occupational Therapy Practice: AI and Beyond! (2 PDUs)
62 Let's Go for Therapeutic Groups in Spanish (1 PDU)
81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients (1.5 PDUs)
82 Lifestyle Redesign® for Central Disorders of Hypersomnolence (1.5 PDUs)
85 Practical Strategies; Incorporating Cultural Humility in Pediatric Feeding (1.5 PDUs)
88 From Legacy to Vision: Defining the Next 50 Years of OTAC (3 PDUs)
90 Beyond Clinical Competence: Cultivating Brave Spaces Through Emotional Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Leadership (1.5 PDUs)
101 AI-Facilitated Debriefing: Cultivating Growth Mindset in OT (1 PDU)
102 Piloting an Occupational Therapy Program with Survivors of Domestic Violence (1.5 PDUs)
110 Finding Your Entrepreneurial Flow: From Barriers to Breakthroughs (2 PDUs)
120 Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs)
125 Almost Leaving, Now Leading: Reclaiming Your OT Identity (1 PDU)
M Sunday Keynote: From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future (.5 Pdus)

BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH/WELLNESS/ COGNITION/NEURODIVERSITY

04 Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs)
12 Mental/ Behavioral Health Summit (3 PDUs)
15 Does Asking Help? An OT Student Wellness Study (1.5 PDUs)
21 Occupation of Addiction and Occupation of Recovery (1.5 PDUs)
23 From Chaos to Connection: Designing an OT Pediatric Social Skills Groups (1. 5 PDUs)
25 Ethical Challenges in Subtle Neurocognitive Dysfunction (1.5 PDUs)
31 Integrating Somatic Holistic Yoga into Occupational Therapy Practice (1.5 PDUs)
35 Exercise: A Vital Occupation for Mind and Body (1.5 PDUs)
42 Exploring OTP Burnout Together: Risk, Resilience, and Restoration (2 PDUs)
44 An Introduction to Executive Functions (2 PDUs)
46 Dog Companionship and Community Participation: Lived Experiences of Autistic Adults (2 PDUs)
49 Addressing Psychosocial Needs in Oncology OT (1 PDU)
51 Friday Keynote: The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)
63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI (1.5 PDUs)
64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation (1.5 PDUs)
67 Comorbid Complexity: The Intersection of POTS and Long-COVID (1.5 PDUs)
68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)
73 Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs)
81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients (1.5 PDUs)
82 Lifestyle Redesign® for Central Disorders of Hypersomnolence (1.5 PDUs)
83 Detecting Autism Early: Navigating Conversations and Screening Strategies (1.5 PDUs)
84 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind (1.5 PDUs)
87 Navigating Uncharted Territories: Sustainable Weight Loss and GLP-1s (1.5 PDUs)
91 The Sense of Belonging (1.5 PDUs)
92 Occupational Therapy's Role in Street Medicine Teams (1.5 PDUs)
95 Auditing the Load: Occupational Balance for OTP Parents (1.5 PDUs)
102 Piloting an Occupational Therapy Program with Survivors of Domestic Violence (1.5 PDUs)

CUSTOMIZE YOUR SCHEDULE: SESSIONS BY PRACTICE AREAS

104 Occupational Therapists' Experiences with Animal-Assisted Therapy Competencies (1.5 PDUs)
105 Tiered Sensory Supports in School-Based OT (1.5 PDUs)
106 Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs)
108 Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs)
120 Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs)
123 Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model. (3 PDUs)
124 Clinical Reasoning Using Sensory Integration Theory in Practice (1 PDU)
E Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence

GENERAL PRACTICE

04 Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs)
22 Strategies and Resources for Occupation-Based Practice (1.5 PDUs)
68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)
72 Beyond Symptom Management: Root-Cause Approaches to Chronic and Neuropathic Pain (2 PDUs)
77 POTS: An Aquatic OT Approach (1.5 PDUs)
104 Occupational Therapists' Experiences with Animal-Assisted Therapy Competencies (1.5 PDUs)

PEDIATRICS/SCHOOL-BASED

11 From Impulse to Intent: Teaching Safe Decision-Making Through Adaptive Martial Arts (1.5 PDUs)
23 From Chaos to Connection: Designing an OT Pediatric Social Skills Groups (1. 5 PDUs)
24 The Write Stuff: Evaluation and Treatment for Dysgraphia (1.5 PDUs)
33 Teletherapy in OT: Engagement, Assessment, and Outcomes (1.5 PDUs)
34 STEAM and EI: Role of Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
44 An Introduction to Executive Functions (2 PDUs)
45 OT in the Wild: Toddlers Before the Referral (2 PDUs)
64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation (1.5 PDUs)
68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)
73 Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs)
74 Safety First: OT's Unique Role with Secondary Students (1.5 PDUs)
83 Detecting Autism Early: Navigating Conversations and Screening Strategies (1.5 PDUs)
84 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind (1.5 PDUs)
85 Practical Strategies; Incorporating Cultural Humility in Pediatric Feeding (1.5 PDUs)
93 Evidence-Based Practice for Pediatric Feeding Disorders (1.5 PDUs)
94 AI to Support School-Based OT Practitioners and Students (1.5 PDUs)
95 Auditing the Load: Occupational Balance for OTP Parents (1.5 PDUs)
97 Evidence and Opportunity: Mitigating Morbidity in Pediatric Cardiac Care (1.5 PDUs)
100 Just Right Challenge: Rethinking Parent Home Programs (1 PDU)
105 Tiered Sensory Supports in School-Based OT (1.5 PDUs)
108 Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs)
109 Supporting School Transitions Following Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (1 PDU)
111 Designing Play Spaces With Young Student Voice (1. PDU)
121 Between the Lines of Handwriting (3 PDUs)
123 Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model. (3 PDUs)
124 Clinical Reasoning Using Sensory Integration Theory in Practice (1 PDU)

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES/HANDS/SPORTS

05 Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury (Parts 1 and 2) (9 PDUs)
09 Listening Beyond Words: Women's Rehabilitation Reimagined (1.5 PDUs)
11 From Impulse to Intent: Teaching Safe Decision-Making Through Adaptive Martial Arts (1.5 PDUs)
13 Trailblazing the Line-Up: A Qualitative Study of Elite Women Adaptive Surfers (1.5 PDUs)
28 Conservative Management of Soft Tissue Injuries of the Elbow and Wrist (3 PDUs)
48 Breaking Bad: Rehabilitation for Hand Fractures (2 PDUs)
63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI (1.5 PDUs)
67 Comorbid Complexity: The Intersection of POTS and Long-COVID (1.5 PDUs)
71 Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care (2 PDUs)
77 POTS: An Aquatic OT Approach (1.5 PDUs)
80 Occupational Therapy in Burn Care: Evaluation and Intervention (1.5 PDUs)
107 Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs)
122 Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs)
D Movie Night: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs)

TECHNOLOGY

33 Teletherapy in OT: Engagement, Assessment, and Outcomes (1.5 PDUs)
43 Ethical Everyday Occupational Therapy Practice: AI and Beyond! (2 PDUs)
65 Smart Home Technology in Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
75 Try 3D Printing in OT: Beginner's Hands-On Workshop (1.5 PDUs)
94 AI to Support School-Based OT Practitioners and Students (1.5 PDUs)
96 A Human-Centered AI Framework for Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
101 AI-Facilitated Debriefing: Cultivating Growth Mindset in OT (1 PDU)

WOMEN'S HEALTH

01 OT Redefining the Fourth Trimester: Postpartum Acute Care (1.5 PDUs)
03 Sex Work: Introduction, Harm Reduction and Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
06 Perinatal Pelvic Health: An Introduction for Occupational Therapy Practitioners (1.5 PDUs)
13 Trailblazing the Line-Up: A Qualitative Study of Elite Women Adaptive Surfers (1.5 PDUs)
106 Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs)

CUSTOMIZE YOUR SCHEDULE: SESSIONS BY PRACTICE AREAS

STUDENTS

The STUDENT TRACK is discounted for students and consists of the list of Friday and Saturday sessions below plus any session on Thursday and Sunday. Thursday sessions are separate fees, with very affordable pricing. Students may choose to pay the practitioner registration fee to attend ANY session on Friday and Saturday.

05 Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury (Parts 1 and 2)
20 Protecting Our Careers: State and Federal Regulatory and Legislative Updates
23 From Chaos to Connection: Designing an OT Pediatric Social Skills Groups
27 From OT Student to Social Impact CEO: Making Waves in Accessibility
30 California Board of Occupational Therapy Annual Update
33 Teletherapy in OT: Engagement, Assessment, and Outcomes
37 Holistic Self-Care for the Student: A Whole Health Perspective to Prevent Burnout
40 Beyond the Traditional Path: A Sports OT Perspective
41 Self-Advocacy Among Adult Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors
45 OT in the Wild: Toddlers Before the Referral
46 Dog Companionship and Community Participation: Lived Experiences of Autistic Adults
49 Addressing Psychosocial Needs in Oncology OT
50 Where Will OT Take You? Exploring the World of Travel Therapy
60 From Student to Supervisor: Building Emotional Intelligence Foundations for Future OT Leaders
63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI
64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation
70 AI Tools in Clinical Practice and Decision Support
74 Safety First: OT's Unique Role with Secondary Students
78 NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know
81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients
84 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind
89 Preparing for the NBCOT® Exam: Study Strategies and Test-Taking Tips with OT Miri (Part 1)
NBCOT Exam Knowledge Quest (Part 2)
103 Hand Therapy: Practically Preparing for Fieldwork II













SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENTS

The OTAC Conference Committee, in partnership with the OTAC Student Leadership Committee, is pleased to again offer special programming to meet the needs of our student members. ***Students receive a discount on Conference registration fees.***

ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- Attend any session at the publicized rate
- D - Movie Night (Free for all Conference attendees)
- Let's Connect! Gatherings
- Book signing with Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium—
  $85, or $10 student-only gallery seating/no lunch
  Honored Lecture: *The Kaleidoscope of OT: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession*
- E - Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence
- F - Let's Connect! DEIOJ
- Student Track (Sessions)
  20, 23, 27, 30, 33, 37, 40, 41, 45, 46, 49, 50
- OTAC Awards Ceremony
- Keynote Address: *The Long Road to Functional Cognition*
- Innovation Expo Grand Opening—meet recruiting exhibitors and network with practitioners, play Bingo for cash and prizes
- Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- Student Track (Sessions)
  05, 60, 63, 64, 70, 73, 74, 78, 81, 84, 88, 89, 92, 94
- Expo Activities: Poster Presentations, visit more exhibitors/recruiters, play Bingo for cash and prizes, purchase lunch in advance for only $20 and be eligible for a drawing
- OTAC 50th Birthday Party | Music | Dancing | Birthday Cake
- Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions
- Let's Connect! Gatherings

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- All concurrent sessions on Sunday are open to students at the special student registration fee
  - Student Only Session 103 - Hand Therapy: Practically Preparing for Fieldwork II
- OTAC Annual Meeting and Keynote with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare—included in Sunday registration fee.
- Keynote Address: *From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership and OTAC's Powerful Future*
- OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawing – Drawing at 2:15pm. Must be present to pick up prize (2:15pm–2:45pm).





SPECIAL OTAC STUDENT REGISTRATION DISCOUNT.

STUDENTS MAY PAY THE PRACTITIONER RATES TO ATTEND ANY SESSION.

STUDENTS RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATE UNTIL THE CLOSE OF ADVANCE REGISTRATION, OCTOBER 26. BUT CAPACITY IS LIMITED. **REGISTER NOW!**

STUDENTS MAY ATTEND ANY SESSION ON THURSDAY AT THE PUBLICIZED RATE AND SUNDAY AT THE STUDENT RATE.



STUDENT TRACK

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

For many years, OTAC has offered student members a deep discount on registration fees for Annual Conference as a component of the OTAC Board of Directors' goal to support the future leaders of the profession and the Association. The Annual Conference & Innovation Expo affords students an opportunity to network with other students from around the state, network with practitioners for mentorship opportunities, learn about clinical applications outside of the school and fieldwork settings, meet with employment recruiters in the Expo, and be energized and excited about their profession and the Association. The Student Track selections are a collaboration of the OTAC Student Leadership Committee, which includes the Committee's Student Delegates (two students from each OT/OTA program), and the OTAC Conference Committee.

Students are also encouraged to attend Pre-Conference Institute sessions on Thursday. While there isn't a student discount, these sessions often offer unique content as well as exposure to alternative and emerging practice methods, and a discounted rate for members.

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SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

ALL SESSIONS ON THURSDAY ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS AT THE PUBLICIZED RATE.

THURSDAY – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

8:00am-6:30pm
Thursday Registration Hours

Registration for all four days will be located on the ground floor of the Hilton Pasadena in the Foyer (by the International Ballroom). Anyone registered in advance for any day is welcome to pick up their registration packet on Thursday. If you live in the area and are stopping by to pick up your registration packet, be sure to register/stay for the Thursday Movie Night and enjoy complimentary popcorn and iced tea.

4:00pm-5:00pm
Let's Connect! Gatherings

Thursday session attendees! Join us in one of our three Let's Connect! Gatherings for light refreshments and to continue our conversations and connecting from our sessions. One of the Gatherings will feature a book signing with Rhonda Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, author of books on grieving.

6:00pm-7:30pm
D Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs)

A historical exposé of Willowbrook State School, a state supported institution for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Discussion to follow, facilitated by Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea.



WHY ATTEND CONFERENCE

Here's what your colleagues said about their past experiences – why they attended and/or what they liked best.

Helps me keep up to date on regulations

Professional camaraderie

I attended before and enjoyed it

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

ALL SESSIONS ON THURSDAY ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS

8:00am-6:30pm
Thursday Registration Hours

Registration for all four days will be located on the ground floor of the Hilton Pasadena in the Foyer (by the International Ballroom). Anyone registered in advance for any day is welcome to pick up their registration packet on Thursday. If you live in the area and are stopping by to pick up your registration packet, be sure to register/stay for the Thursday Movie Night and enjoy complimentary popcorn and iced tea.

9:00am-10:30am

01 OT Redefining the Fourth Trimester: Postpartum Acute Care (1.5 PDU)
Mazelle Jacobs, OTR/L

This session will explore the development of a postpartum acute care occupational therapy (OT) program addressing Cesarean sections and high-degree perineal lacerations, highlighting program design, evidence-informed interventions, outcomes, and occupational therapy practitioners' essential role in addressing a critical gap in healthcare services.

02 Cultural Awareness, Ethics, and OT Clinical Practice (1.5 PDUs)
Alyssa Stead, COTA/L; James Vea, COTA/L

This course will prepare occupational therapy practitioners to apply cultural humility and cultural competence in practice. Emphasis will be placed on self-reflection, understanding diverse client backgrounds, addressing health disparities, and delivering respectful, client-centered occupational therapy services.

03 Sex Work: Introduction, Harm Reduction, and Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
Gabriel Cravens, OTD, OTR/L; Lawrence Stevenson, OTD, OTR/L

This session will explore sex work as an overlooked occupation within occupational therapy and occupational science, examining how systemic oppression impacts marginalized communities and highlighting the importance of recognizing sex work to better understand occupation, reduce stigma, and address diverse lived experiences.

9:00am-12:15pm

04 Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs)
Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Occupational therapy can be a powerful intervention addressing the occupational health of a critical, underserved yet ubiquitous population: widows. This workshop will advocate for the urgent role of occupational therapy in facilitating healthy grieving through occupation.

9:00am-4:00pm

05 Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke or Spinal Cord Injury (Part 1) (6 PDUs)
Jacob Baquir, MHA, OTR/L, CSRS, CBIS; Remy Chu, Jr., MHA, OTR/L, CBIS; Tawnee Sullenger, OTD, OTR/L

This 1.5 day course will provide a practical, clinically focused exploration of electrical stimulation for individuals recovering from stroke or spinal cord injury. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, guided problem solving, and hands-on experience, participants will deepen their understanding of key physiological principles and learn how to apply them to optimize patient outcomes. Attendees will strengthen their clinical reasoning skills and build confidence in safely and effectively integrating electrical stimulation into everyday practice to support patients in achieving meaningful functional goals. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their workplace electrical stimulation unit to enhance the hands-on learning experience. (Part 2 – Saturday, November 7, 8:15am - 11:45am, 3 PDUs) Attendees must attend both parts.

SCHEDULE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

10:45am-12:15pm

06 Perinatal Pelvic Health: An Introduction for Occupational Therapy Practitioners (1.5 PDUs)

Carlin Daley Reaume, OTD, OTR/L, DipACLM, PMH-C, LRC

The perinatal period represents a time of profound transition, during which pelvic health plays a critical role in supporting health, well-being, and occupational participation. This session will introduce occupational therapy practitioners to the foundational concepts of perinatal pelvic health, emphasizing the interconnectedness of physical, psychosocial, and environmental factors that influence recovery and participation. Participants will gain practical knowledge to recognize pelvic health concerns, support clients through basic interventions, and identify pathways for continued professional development in this specialty area.

07 Going Nonclinical: Pathway to Medical Legal Consulting (1.5 PDUs)

Elisa Marks, OTR/L, CEAS, CHT, CLCP; Ashea Neil, OTD, OTR/L, CLCP, CWCE

This session will explore emerging practices of life care planning, functional capacity evaluator, and vocational rehabilitation using occupational therapy skills and knowledge in new ways to help clients with catastrophic injuries. The session will include case studies and pathways to additional certification.

08 Synergistic Advocacy for OT Practitioners and America's Veterans (1.5 PDUs)

Ixchel Perez-Danh, OTD, OTR/L

Attendees will discover an occupational therapy (OT) practitioner-led, low-cost program empowering homeless US veterans with vital independent living skills. See how it championed essential roles OT practitioners could provide and cemented job security in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

12:45pm-2:15pm

09 Listening Beyond Words: Women's Rehabilitation Reimagined (1.5 PDUs)

Eleanor Galit, MOT, OTR/L

This presentation will explore whole-person rehabilitation through an occupational therapy lens, examining how women communicate readiness, fear, and trust through body language, informed by sports rehabilitation to support confidence, strength progression, and participation in meaningful activity.

10 From Clinician to CEO: Concrete Strategies to Start and Grow Your Own Business (1.5 PDUs)

Rakesh Shah, MBA; Swati Shah, OTR/L

This presentation will help clinicians take the leap to CEO by helping them bridge clinical expertise with business success, covering legal, financial, and operational essentials while highlighting key traits like adaptability, discipline, and communication to effectively build, manage, and grow a thriving practice.

11 From Impulse to Intent: Teaching Safe Decision-Making Through Adaptive Martial Arts (1.5 PDUs)

Amanda Piepgras, COTA/L

This session will present a structured, movement-based program integrating martial arts and social-emotional learning to support self-regulation, safety awareness, and decision-making in children with developmental differences through visual supports, guided discussion, and scenario-based instruction in real-world contexts.

12:45pm-4:00pm

12 Mental Health in Everyday Practice: Reviewing Policy, Forecasting Trends, and Affecting Change (3 PDUs)

Jessica De Brun, OTD, OTR/L; Emily M. Petersen, OTD, OTR/L; Erin McInytre, OTD, OTR/L; Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L

Join us for our 3rd annual 'summit' on occupational therapy mental health practice, policy, and innovation. Our occupational therapy master clinicians and leaders working in behavioral and mental health advocating for change look forward to engaging in high-level informed dialogue about the most current legislative and regulatory issues and trends that may impact occupational therapy practitioners in various systems. Let's identify where we want to focus our efforts to affect change.

2:30pm-4:00pm

13 Trailblazing the Line-Up: A Qualitative Study of Elite Women Adaptive Surfers (1.5 PDUs)

Tia Cantler, OT Student; Maureen Johnson, PhD, MS, OT/L, BCPR, C/NDT, CHSE; Madeline Meadows, OT Student

Through the stories of 12 women, this session will examine a qualitative study of the adaptation process in competitive adaptive surfing. Findings will reveal how mental strength and a resilient mindset drive success in their professional athletic journeys.

14 The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Private Practice (1.5 PDUs)

Domenique Embrey, OTD, OTR/L; Cameron Veach, OT Doctoral Graduate

There are a lot of details in starting your own private practice: business licenses, insurance, contracts, rates, and more. Join us for a discussion on what the small private practice owner needs to know and how to do it. Checklists and practice applications will be emphasized as well as a sharing of resources.

15 Does Asking Help? An OT Student Wellness Study (1.5 PDUs)

Lauren Newhouse, OTD, OTR/L; Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L; Julie Werner, PhD, OTR/L, CHT

This program should come with a warning sign! This presentation will share the results of a study investigating occupational therapy students' mental health using scheduled self-care surveys as a prompting tool to impact graduate student depression, anxiety, stress, sleep, life satisfaction, and resilience.

4:00pm-5:00pm

A Let's Connect! OT Entrepreneurs/Private Practice

If you are in or exploring the wonder of private practice and side hustles, register for any session on Thursday and you can sign up to connect with other occupational therapy practitioners and entrepreneurs. Hosted light refreshments.

B Let's Connect! Mental Health, Wellness, Ethics, and Grieving

If you are attending any of the Thursday sessions on mental health, wellness, ethics, or grieving sessions, sign up to connect with others interested in these areas. Hosted light refreshments. Special activity. Book signing with author Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

C Let's Connect! Women's Health, Sports, and Physical Disabilities

If you are attending any of the Thursday sessions on women's health, sports, and physical disabilities, sign up to connect with others interested in these areas. Hosted light refreshments.

6:00pm-7:30pm

D Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs)

A historical exposé of Willowbrook State School, a state supported institution for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Join us for the screening of this powerful documentary that sparked a national reckoning over the treatment of people with developmental disabilities in institutional care. At the time, Willowbrook State School was the largest institution of its kind housing over 6,000 residents. In 1972, Geraldo Rivera exposed the overcrowding and unsanitary conditions and reported how the children and adults were deprived of stimulation, lacked basic human care, and stripped of their human dignity. This Emmy winning documentary shares the lived experience of Willowbrook through the voices of former residents, staff, and journalists. This is a reflection on the lessons learned, a testament of positive change through advocacy, a celebration of inclusion, and the ongoing work towards full community integration for people with disabilities. This documentary raises questions every occupational therapy practitioner should be asking themselves regarding institutional environments, legislative and policy changes, ethical violations, and advocacy. Willowbrook catalyzed the deinstitutionalization movement, community-based care models, and the disability rights legislation that shaped the occupational therapy profession we practice today.

Discussion to follow, facilitated by Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea.

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

FRIDAY – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

7:15am-5:00pm
Friday Registration Hours

Pre-registration for Conference is strongly encouraged. Attendance at sessions and activities is first registered, first served. Seating capacity is limited. If registering on-site, arrive early as the wait can be lengthy.

11:30am-1:00pm
45th Annual CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium

$85; $10 Students-gallery (lunch not included)

CFOT AWARDS

Come help celebrate recipients of the 2026 California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) scholarships, research grants, and awards. The Honored Lecturer Series and the CFOT Humanitarian Award join the OTAC Annual Awards Ceremony as among the most inspirational events at Conference. Don't miss it!

CFOT HONORED LECTURER

The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession (.5 PDUs)

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

12:00pm-12:45pm

E **Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence (no PDUs)**

F **Let's Connect! DEIOJ**

Real Talk: Keeping DEIOJ Front and Center Amid Rapid Professional Shifts

3:15pm-5:15pm

Awards: 3:15pm-4:15pm | Keynote: 4:30pm-5:15pm

51 **OTAC Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)**

OTAC AWARDS CEREMONY

Come one, come all! You are invited to come recognize and celebrate our 2026 Award honorees who serve with excellence and inspire professional passion.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)

Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

This keynote address will describe the personal and professional milestones that lead to Dr. Giles' current focus on functional cognition. Beginning in the UK working at the first behavior disorder program for traumatic brain injury in the world, to the development of the first non-aversive neurobehavioral programs west of Mississippi, he has had several professional preoccupations. In this presentation, Dr. Giles will re-examine the questions that preoccupied him over the course of his career, such as the role of errorless learning, the development of awareness, and the use of strategy-based intervention in cognitive rehabilitation. Engaging with these questions has led him to the belief that the assessment and management of functional cognition is an important opportunity for the occupational therapy profession. *Dr. Giles was an AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Awardee.*

5:15pm-7:15pm

G **Innovation Expo Grand Opening | Bingo and Trivia for Prizes**

Join us for the grand opening of our Innovation Expo! More than 30 exhibitors await you to share the latest in services and products that support your practice clients. Learn about employment opportunities, too. Play Exhibitor Bingo and trivia at the OTAC booth for prizes. Many exhibitors also offer prizes. Prizes awarded on Saturday.

7:30pm-9:00pm

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:15pm-5:00pm
Friday Registration Hours

Pre-registration for Conference is strongly encouraged. Attendance at sessions and activities is first registered, first served. Seating capacity is limited. If registering on-site, arrive early as the wait can be lengthy.

8:15am-9:45am

20 Protecting Our Careers: State and Federal Regulatory and Legislative Updates (1.5 PDUs)

Lea Le, MS, OTR/L; Jeffery J. Steckler, OTD, OTR/L; Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA; Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Join us for a critical briefing on the latest legislative and regulatory changes impacting the occupational therapy profession and OTAC's grassroots advocacy program, GO-TO-OT. Open to students.

21 Occupation of Addiction and Occupation of Recovery (1.5 PDUs)

Michael Heaton, OTR/L

How occupational therapy (OT) practitioners can use the OT Practice Framework as a guide to help individuals experiencing addiction within a variety of settings recover through occupation-based interventions will be explored.

22 Strategies and Resources for Occupation-Based Practice (1.5 PDUs)

Jordan Bowling, PhD, OTR/L; Wendy Stav, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Evidence clearly indicates occupation-based practice (OBP) generates better outcomes. Recognition of OBP and knowing how to implement it can be challenging. This session will review OBP and include a rotation through OBP strategy and resource stations.

23 From Chaos to Connection: Designing an OT Pediatric Social Skills Groups (1.5 PDUs)

Alexandra Arguelles, OTD, OTR/L

In this session, attendees will examine how occupational therapy supports pediatric social participation beyond social skills. Participants will explore supporting evidence, strengths-based approaches, child autonomy, family considerations, and practical strategies for developing meaningful pediatric social groups. Open to students.

24 The Write Stuff: Evaluation and Treatment for Dysgraphia (1.5 PDUs)

Dominique Blanche Kiefer, OTD, OTR/L, BCP; Lisa Test, OTR/L, OTD, FAOTA

This presentation will define dysgraphia, outline a structured evaluation process with case studies and video, and discuss comprehensive intervention strategies to help practitioners understand its features and impact.

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

25 Ethical Challenges in Subtle Neurocognitive Dysfunction (1.5 PDUs)
Jess Holguin, OTD, OT/L

This session will examine ethical and occupation-based challenges associated with subtle neurocognitive dysfunction, including participation, autonomy, uncertainty, functional cognition, communication, and safety-sensitive recommendations through case discussion, visuomotor observation, and guided roleplay exercises for contemporary occupational therapy practice.

26 Innovative Community-Based Fieldwork: Navigating Challenges and Fostering Partnerships (1.5 PDUs)
Jennie DiGrado, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT; Sheri Genovese, OTD, OTR/L; Jaynee Taguchi Meyer, OTD, OTR/L

This session will present development of evolving community-based fieldwork experiences from perspectives of fieldwork educators and an academic fieldwork coordinator. Session participants will share and consider local community opportunities and develop their own plans for growth.

27 STUDENTS ONLY From OT Student to Social Impact CEO: Making Waves in Accessibility (no PDUs)
Kelly Twichel

Attendees will learn what it takes to build a social impact enterprise in assistive technology using your occupational therapy background, passion, and grit. The presenter will share her journey with Access Trax, including all the ups and downs, and practical tips so you feel more informed and inspired to ride your own wave of innovation. This engaging session will include Q&A.

8:15am-11:30am

28 Conservative Management of Soft Tissue Injuries of the Elbow and Wrist (3 PDUs)
Megna Sahni-Patel, CHT, CKTP, MBA, MS, OTR/L; Adrienne Tesarek, OTR/L, CHT, CKTP

This course is designed for beginner to intermediate occupational therapy practitioners seeking to enhance their understanding of elbow and wrist anatomy, as well as common soft tissue injuries affecting these joints. The session will begin with a comprehensive review of relevant anatomy, complemented by a palpation lab to reinforce identification of surface landmarks. Participants will then explore common injury presentations and evidence-based treatment approaches. The course will conclude with an introduction to kinesio taping techniques, including practical applications for the conditions discussed. This interactive lecture and lab will incorporate hands-on learning to support skill development and clinical application. CBOT Advanced Practice approval pending.

10:00am-11:30am

30 California Board of Occupational Therapy Annual Update (1.5 PDUs)
Beata Morcos, CBOT President; Christine M. Wietlisbach, MPA, OTD, CHT, CBOT Vice President; Austin Porter, CBOT Executive Officer

Come learn about the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT), the state licensing board for occupational therapy practitioners. The session will cover licensing, regulatory issues, and enforcement changes affecting OTs and OTAs. Open to students.

31 Integrating Somatic Holistic Yoga into Occupational Therapy Practice (1.5 PDUs)
Pooja Rao, MS, OTR/L, CSRS, RYT200

This presentation will explore evidence-based yoga and somatic-informed techniques for nervous system regulation within occupational therapy rehabilitation practice. Topics will include breathwork, interoception, movement, and mind-body approaches supporting anxiety, stress management, and patient-centered care across rehabilitation settings.

32 Intentional Development of Future OT Visionaries (1.5 PDUs)
Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Dawn Albarado Sonnier, OTR/L, CAPS, FAOTA; Tracy Nguyen, OT Doctoral Graduate

What does it take to move an idea from concept to real-world impact? Leadership in occupational therapy policy and practice transformation is supported at its core through an elemental understanding of issue and project development for a successful capstone (or any project). Come learn about foundational tools and concepts surrounding advocacy, collaboration, and action plans in support of operationalizing students' capstone lived experience transforming them into change agents.

33 Teletherapy in OT: Engagement, Assessment, and Outcomes (1.5 PDUs)
Rebecca Crouch, OTD, OTR/L; Karen Shelton, OTD, MOT, OTR/L

This session will explore practical evidence-based, occupation-focused strategies for effective occupational therapy teletherapy, including virtual assessment, engagement techniques, facilitator collaboration, and documentation to support participation and functional outcomes across pediatric settings. Open to students.

34 STEAM and EI: Role of Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
Jen Godin, MSOT, OTR/L; Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

Occupational therapy (OT) early intervention services can be enhanced using science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). An OT-led STEAM program will be described along with suggestions for implementation in early intervention services.

35 Exercise: A Vital Occupation for Mind and Body (1.5 PDUs)
Don Gordon, PhD, OTR/L

This presentation will examine exercise as occupation, vital to everyone. Recent findings regarding its value to mental health, physical health, longevity, and numerous other facets of overall health will be discussed from an occupational perspective.

36 Reimagining OT Training for Thriving Aging Care (1.5 PDUs)
Guy Reavis, OTD, OTR/L, CAPS; Lawrence Stevenson, OTD, OTR/L; Bari Turetzky, OTD, OTR/L

This session will present a transformational occupational therapy course designed to prepare future practitioners to treat aging populations through emphasizing positive approach to care, applied learning in diverse fieldwork experiences, and the use of standardized patient care.

37 STUDENTS ONLY Holistic Self-Care for the Student: A Whole Health Perspective to Prevent Burnout (no PDUs)
Joanna Seber, OTD, OTR/L; Gabriella Ulloa, OT Student

Come participate in an interactive session to explore holistic strategies for occupational therapy (OT) student self-care in collaboration with an occupational therapy practitioner and yogi alongside an OT student. The presenters will facilitate a range of micro habits available to busy OT students. Grounded in OT theory, students will envision a life of self-care, healthy stress management, and resilience in the face of risks for burnout.

Register Today

https://tinyurl.com/bdh8csx7

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

11:30am-1:00pm

45th Annual CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium (.5 PDUs)

An additional $85 fee is required to attend this event and includes lunch.

Special gallery seating is available to students only for $10 – lunch not included.

Seating is limited in both categories.

Note: You may attend this event even if you are not attending any other part of the Conference. Use the Conference Registration Form to purchase your ticket(s).

CFOT AWARDS

Come help celebrate recipients of the 2026 California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) scholarships, research grants, and awards. The Honored Lecturer Series and the CFOT Humanitarian Award join the OTAC Annual Awards Ceremony as among the most inspirational events at Conference. Don't miss it!

CFOT HONORED LECTURER

The Kaleidoscope of Occupational Therapy: How Your Authenticity Can Fuel the Profession (.5 PDUs)

Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA

Our honored lecturer, Dr. Bryant Edwards, will explore the concept of authenticity and its connection to occupational therapy practice, leadership within the profession, and one's own personal-professional empowerment. He will also share how authenticity has enhanced his own professional journey, why it should be an important consideration in all occupational therapy professionals' practice, and how it can impact the future and fuel the profession forward.

CFOT HUMANITARIAN

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L

Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L, is the occupational therapy chief for Los Angeles County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing, where she leads a growing team serving individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Since joining the department as its first occupational therapy practitioner in 2022, she has helped grow occupational therapy from a single practitioner into a department of more than 15 clinicians working across interim housing, permanent supportive housing, and licensed residential care. Through functional assessment, intervention, and systems development, Moon and her team address barriers to safety, independence, housing stability, and meaningful participation — demonstrating the vital role occupational therapy can play in helping people not only become housed but truly make a home and participate in a life of their choosing.

12:00pm-12:45pm

E Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence

Celso Delgado, OTD, OTR/L, BCMH; Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP; Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L

This session will provide participants with information on how informal mindfulness exercises can reduce stress, increase presence, and improve daily life experience. Participants will then engage in a variety of informal mindfulness practices and identify which they would like to participate.

F Let's Connect! DEIOJ

Real Talk: Keeping DEIOJ Front and Center Amid Rapid Professional Shifts

Our professional landscape is shifting rapidly due to AI, healthcare policy changes, and evolving curricula, often threatening to push our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and occupational justice (DEIOJ) to the background. This gathering invites you to "real talk" about these pressures and how they impact our daily practice. Together, we will move beyond identifying barriers to collaboratively strategize actionable habits that keep DEIOJ at the center of our work. Join us to share experiences, hold one another accountable, and ensure our practice remains equitable in an ever-evolving field.

1:00pm-2:00pm

40 STUDENTS ONLY Beyond the Traditional Path: A Sports OT Perspective (no PDUs)

Eleanor Galit, MOT, OTR/L

This presentation will explore how occupational therapy can extend beyond traditional practice settings while remaining deeply rooted in the profession's core principles of participation, meaning, and identity. Through the lens of sports rehabilitation and private practice, students will examine how personal interests, lived experiences, and emerging practice areas can shape a unique clinical path. The session will encourage students to think creatively about occupational therapy (OT), embrace nontraditional opportunities, and recognize that meaningful practice can be built without leaving the foundations of OT behind.

41 Self-Advocacy Among Adult Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors (1 PDU)

Chloe Chapin, OT Student

This presentation will explore how adult pediatric brain tumor survivors navigate self-advocacy. Findings will highlight the factors that impact self-advocacy within the context of relevant daily occupations, roles, and routines of adulthood (25-50 years old). Open to students.

1:00pm-3:00pm

42 Exploring OTP Burnout Together: Risk, Resilience, and Restoration (2 PDUs)

Karrie Kingsley, OTD, OTR/L

This session will provide an opportunity for occupational therapy practitioners (OTP) to build resilience and social support using an intentional format for reflective discussion, creating personal goals, and identifying accountability supports.

43 Ethical Everyday Occupational Therapy Practice: AI and Beyond! (2 PDUs)

Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA; Graham Teaford, OTD, OTR/L, SCLV

The AOTA Code of Ethics is a principled guide for occupational therapy practice. This document, combined with the practice smart and the shared decision-making approach, supports ethical practice across settings, including use of artificial intelligence (AI).

44 An Introduction to Executive Functions (2 PDUs)

Jennifer Sato, MA, OTR/L

School occupational therapy practitioners are often asked about executive functions but will defer to other members of the individualized education program (IEP) team to address. This session will explore executive function and how deficits in executive function affect occupational performance in school.

45 OT in the Wild: Toddlers Before the Referral (2 PDUs)

Jen Godin, MSOT, OTR/L

This experiential live lab will reframe toddler participation through environmental design and caregiver coaching. Participants will engage in three sensory-rich simulations that transform input into meaningful occupation, increasing regulation, engagement, and connection before referral. Open to students.

SCHEDULE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

46 Dog Companionship and Community Participation: Lived Experiences of Autistic Adults (2 PDUs)
Svitlana Stremousova, MS, MBA, OTR/L

The presentation will discuss selected findings from a dissertation project, designed to understand the lived experiences of autistic adults related to dog companionship and community participation. Implications for clinical practice will be presented. Open to students.

47 Supervising Across Generations: Supporting Today's Fieldwork Students (2 PDUs)
Amber Borchert, OTR/L; Abbie Bryant, OTD, OTR/L; Candace Chatman, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will explore how generational differences influence fieldwork educator-student relationships, identify two factors affecting student performance, and provide three strategies to support educators in communication, teaching approaches, and fostering a supportive learning environment.

INNOVATION EXPO ACTIVITIES

Friday, November 6 • 5:15pm–7:15pm

Saturday, November 7 • 11:30am–2:15pm

Join our Exhibitors and Sponsors at the Innovation Expo to:

- learn about **new products and services**
- meet with **exhibiting recruiters**
- be eligible for **giveaways**
- play **Bingo** for cash prizes
- enjoy the **Grand Opening Reception**—Friday (5:15pm–7:15pm)
- **earn PDUs** by viewing posters – Saturday
- grab a quick **lunch** ($20 advanced purchase to be eligible for prize giveaways) – Saturday
- learn about your **professional association**



BUILD YOUR CUSTOMIZED SCHEDULE

See pages 15 through 17 for a list of sessions by practice area.
Build your own practice area schedule or mix and match.

48 Breaking Bad: Rehabilitation for Hand Fractures (2 PDUs)
Aimee Aguillon, OTD, OTR/L, CHT; Trevor San Antonio, OTD, OTR/L; Chalon McGlothurn, OT Student

Hand fractures present complex challenges due to varying factors influencing treatment. This session will review fracture anatomy and provide guidance on appropriate rehabilitation strategies, interventions, and clinical decision-making to optimize patient outcomes during recovery. CBOT Advanced Practice approval pending.

2:00pm-3:00pm

49 Addressing Psychosocial Needs in Oncology OT (1 PDU)
Vanessa Yanez, PhD, OTR/L

Individuals living with and beyond cancer (LWBC) face an elevated risk of psychosocial changes (e.g., depression and anxiety) impacting occupational participation and performance. This presentation will highlight occupational therapy's role in addressing psychosocial needs in oncology. Open to students.

50 STUDENTS ONLY Where Will OT Take You? Exploring the World of Travel Therapy (no PDUs)
Claudia Jones, MS, OTR/L

Have you ever wondered what it is like to build a career while exploring new places? Join this presenter as she shares her personal journey into travel occupational therapy and how it has shaped both her professional career and personal life over the past four years. In this session, students will gain an inside look at what travel therapy is, how to determine if it is the right career path, and the step-by-step process of becoming a travel practitioner after graduation.

3:15pm-5:15pm
Awards: 3:15pm-4:15pm | Keynote: 4:30pm-5:15pm

51 OTAC Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)
Must register to attend

OTAC AWARDS CEREMONY

Come one, come all! You are invited to come recognize and celebrate our 2026 Award honorees who serve with excellence and inspire professional passion.

Keynote Address: The Long Road to Functional Cognition (.5 PDUs)
Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

This keynote address will describe the personal and professional milestones that lead to Dr. Giles' current focus on functional cognition. Beginning in the UK working at the first behavior disorder program for traumatic brain injury in the world, to the development of the first non-aversive neurobehavioral programs west of Mississippi, he has had several professional preoccupations. In this presentation, Dr. Giles will re-examine the questions that preoccupied him over the course of his career, such as the role of errorless learning, the development of awareness, and the use of strategy-based intervention in cognitive rehabilitation. Engaging with these questions has led him to the belief that the assessment and management of functional cognition is an important opportunity for the occupational therapy profession. *Dr. Giles was an AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Awardee.*

5:15pm-7:15pm

G Innovation Expo Grand Opening | Bingo and Trivia for Prizes

Join us for the grand opening of our Innovation Expo! More than 30 exhibitors await you to share the latest in services and products that support your practice and clients. Learn about employment opportunities, too. Play Exhibitor Bingo and trivia at the OTAC booth for prizes. Many exhibitors also offer prizes.

7:30pm-9:00pm

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

SATURDAY – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

7:00am-8:00am

H Let's Connect! Researchers and Clinicians Gathering

7:15am-6:00pm

Saturday Registration Hours

Pre-registration for Conference is strongly encouraged. Attendance at sessions and activities is first come, first served. Seating capacity is limited. If registering on-site, arrive early as the wait in line can be long

11:30am-2:15pm

I Innovation Expo | Poster Presentations | Grab and Go Lunch (for purchase) | Exhibitor Bingo and OTAC Trivia for Prizes

Come on in! Grabe a quick 'to go' lunch (separate advanced purchase required – only $20). Purchasing advance lunch makes you eligible for a prize giveaway. Visit our more than 30 exhibitors, the OTAC booth trivia prize wheel, and 40 posters. Prizes announced at 2:00pm.

6:00pm-7:15pm

J OTAC 50th Birthday Party

It's true! OTAC has been serving the OT community for half of a century. Join us as we celebrate our 50 golden years and look forward to one impactful future. Birthday cake! Music! Dancing … learn a few simple hip-hop steps as well as moves for generational favs! And more!

Sponsor: USC

7:30pm-9:00pm

K Let's Connect! OTA Gathering

L Let's Connect! Mahjong Mingle!

Celebrate OTAC's 50th Anniversary by mixing mahjong tiles and mingling with fellow occupational therapy practitioners and students at Mahjong Mingle! All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. Facilitators will be available throughout the event to help everyone learn, play, and enjoy the wonderful game of mahjong. Let's fill the night with the satisfying sounds of shuffling tiles, laughter, and meaningful connections. See full description on page 14.)

Sponsor: CSUDH

ALUMNI, STUDENT, AND FACULTY RECEPTIONS

Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00am-8:00am

H Let's Connect! Researchers and Clinicians

Join us for a gathering to share your ideas and needs for evidence-based practice, collaborate with colleagues who share your passion, and, most importantly, caffeinate before a full day of conference! See you at the hotel restaurant, bright and early!

7:15am-6:00pm

Saturday Registration Hours

Pre-registration for Conference is strongly encouraged. Attendance at sessions and activities is first come, first served. Seating capacity is limited. If registering on-site, arrive early as the wait in line can be long

8:15am-9:15am

60 STUDENTS ONLY From Student to Supervisor: Building Emotional Intelligence Foundations for Future OT Leaders (no PDUs)

Natalie Perkins, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

This presentation, tailored specifically for occupational therapy students, will focus on the transition from student to leader and the early development of emotional intelligence skills.

61 OT's Role in Post-Surgical Management of Bladder Cancer (1 PDU)

Cecilia Tran, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR

Radical cystectomy with urinary diversion is a surgical intervention for patients with bladder cancer. This session will outline occupational therapy practitioners' potential in addressing medical, post-operative, and patients' quality of life goals in the acute care setting.

62 Let's Go for Therapeutic Groups in Spanish (1 PDU)

Elizabeth (Beth) Ching, OTD, MEd, BSOT, OTR/L

Entry-level occupational doctoral (OTD) and master's (MOT) programs require students to have at least one fieldwork experience in mental health. This session will present a case study of a psychosocial fieldwork I experience which was faculty-led.

8:15am-9:45am

63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI (1.5 PDUs)

Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L, CBIS, FAOTA

This evidence-based presentation will explore factors impacting successful and satisfying community participation following traumatic brain injury (TBI) and identifies person-centered interventions to support functional independence. Emphasis will be placed on the role of self-awareness and other executive cognitive functions. Open to students.

64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation (1.5 PDUs)

Svitlana Stremousova, MS, MBA, OTR/L; Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Drawing on results of a multi-perspectival qualitative research study, this course will explore how the autism community develops resources and builds capacities. Clinical implications and suggested strategies and tools for practitioners will be identified. Open to students.

65 Smart Home Technology in Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)

Shanpin Fanchiang, PhD, OTR/L; Alyssa Dharmawan, OT Doctoral Graduate; Lauren Rohrs, OT Student

With the ubiquitous 'internet of things' to help the functionality of smart home technology, occupational therapy practitioners should take an active approach to update the development and application of smart home technology.

66 Global Challenges for OT Clinicians Entering Academia (1.5 PDUs)

Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA; Allen Espelita, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CLT, CEAS I, CPAM; Terry Peralta-Catipon, PhD, OTR/L

This presentation will examine global challenges in occupational therapy clinician-to-academic transitions using interview and survey data from 40+ respondents across countries representing six continents, highlighting barriers, facilitators, and strategies, with facilitated small group discussion.

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

67 Comorbid Complexity: The Intersection of POTS and Long-COVID (1.5 PDUs)
Erin Bussell, OTD, OTR/L, LRC, CEAS II; Marilyn Thompson, OTD, OTR/L, LRC; Kati Wechsler, OTD, OTR/L, LRC

Occupational therapy can support individuals living with comorbid post-COVID and POTS to manage their health more effectively through identifying exacerbating and alleviating factors of their condition and by addressing energy conservation and cognitive function.

8:15am-11:45am

68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)
Don Gordon, PhD, OTR/L; Marielly Mitchell, OTD, OTR/L, SIPT

This presentation will examine the fundamental occupation of breathing. The cultural significance of breath's vital role in child development, and the many ways it can be used to influence health will be illuminated.

05 CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY: Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke or Spinal Cord Injury (Part 2) (3 PDUs) (total of 9 PDUs for both days)
Jennifer Bashar, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIST; Lidia Fernandez, OTD, OTR/L; Elvy Fuentes, MSOT, OTR/L

This 1.5 day course will provide a practical, clinically focused exploration of electrical stimulation for individuals recovering from stroke or spinal cord injury. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, guided problem solving, and hands-on experience, participants will deepen their understanding of key physiological principles and learn how to apply them to optimize patient outcomes. Attendees will strengthen their clinical reasoning skills and build confidence in safely and effectively integrating electrical stimulation into everyday practice to support patients in achieving meaningful functional goals. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their workplace electrical stimulation unit to enhance the hands-on learning experience. (Part 1 – Thursday, November 5, 9:00am- 4:00pm) Attendees must attend both parts.

9:30am-10:30am

70 STUDENTS ONLY AI Tools in Clinical Practice and Decision Support (no PDUs)
Tammy Richmond, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, FATA

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming occupational therapy by automating documentation, enhancing patient engagement, enabling real-time assessment analytics, and supporting home safety. These tools improve efficiency, personalize interventions, and extend care beyond sessions while preserving occupation-centered, client-focused practice.

9:30am-11:30am

71 Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care (2 PDUs)
Amy Brown, OTD, OTR/L, CLT; Elaine Myung, OTR/L, CLT

Occupational therapy practitioners are uniquely situated to attend to the needs of individuals with cancer-related lymphedema. This presentation will go into the basics of lymphedema care and occupational therapy's unique role in assisting this population.

72 Beyond Symptom Management: Root-Cause Approaches to Chronic and Neuropathic Pain (2 PDUs)
Shara Ogin, OTR/L, GCFP®, CEAS

This workshop will introduce alternative, root-cause approaches to chronic pain management — using manual techniques and movement sequences (based in the Feldenkrais® method) – to stimulate the vagus nerve and improve patient outcomes.

10:00am-11:30am

73 Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs)
Gordon Muir Giles, PhD, DipCOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

The Menu Task is being used across practice settings to screen for functional cognition in adults. This presentation will describe emerging evidence for the usability and clinical utility of the Menu Task in acute and inpatient settings and describe the initial development of a pediatric (5-12 years: The School Menu Task) and adolescent (12-17 years: the Adolescent Menu Task) versions of the measure. Open to students.

74 Safety First: OT's Unique Role with Secondary Students (1.5 PDUs)
Kirsten Beshay, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational therapy practitioners should be key school team members who promote the safety aspect of independent living skills. Attendees will learn tools to empower students with internet safety skills, stranger awareness, and how to safely interact with the police. Open to students.

75 Try 3D Printing in OT: Beginner's Hands-On Workshop (1.5 PDUs)
Marisa Hernandez Moore, OTD, OTR/L; Lucy Hosoda, OTD, OTR/L, Neuro-IFRAH, CBIS, CLT; Yadira Domenicucci, OT Student

Attendees will explore how occupational therapy practitioners can integrate 3D printing across clinical settings. Through evidence, clinical examples, and hands-on activities, participants will learn practical workflows and strategies to begin implementing customized adaptive devices in practice.

76 Being and Becoming: Safety and Growth on College Campuses (1.5 PDUs)
Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Josephine Stutzke, OT Doctoral Graduate

Being and becoming during one's undergraduate years in college can yield exciting personal reflection and growth. Occupational therapy providing population-level interventions can provide safe spaces for those discovering unfamiliar identities in others and themselves.

77 POTS: An Aquatic OT Approach (1.5 PDUs)
Bianca Callier, OTD, OTR/L, CTIS; Kalavanya Dhruva, OT Student

This session will present the mixed-methods feasibility findings from an aquatic occupational therapy program designed to support symptom management, exercise tolerance, and occupational participation for adults living with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS).

10:45am-11:45am

78 STUDENTS ONLY NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know (no PDUs)
Cesar Arada, OTD, MHS, OTR/L; Allen Espelita, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CLT, CEAS I, CPAM

During this session, NBCOT ambassadors will share valuable information about preparing and applying for the national OTR and COTA certification exams and hear about the best approaches to achieve your goal for occupational therapy certification.

11:30am-2:15pm

I Innovation Expo | Poster Presentations | Grab and Go Lunch (for purchase) | Exhibitor Bingo and OTAC Trivia for Prizes

Come on in! Grabe a quick 'to go' lunch (separate advanced purchase required – only $20). Purchasing advance lunch makes you eligible for a prize giveaway. Visit our more than 30 exhibitors, the OTAC booth trivia prize wheel, and 40 posters. Prizes announced at 2:00pm.

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

2:30pm-4:00pm

80 Occupational Therapy in Burn Care: Evaluation and Intervention (1.5 PDUs)
Joann Chun, OTR/L, CHT

This presentation will review burn terminology and classification systems, outline occupational therapy's role across emergent, acute, and rehabilitation phases, explain burn-specific evaluation and interventions, and apply clinical reasoning through case scenarios to promote functional recovery.

81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients (1.5 PDUs)
John Sovec, MA, LMFT

Affirming and informed care of LGBTQIA+ clients can change outcomes in treatment with supportive responses assisting in clinical connection. This session will offer education and evidence-based tools to create affirming environments for LGBTQIA+ clients. Open to students.

82 Lifestyle Redesign® for Central Disorders of Hypersomnolence (1.5 PDUs)
Bethany Gruskin, PhD, OTR/L; Anna Lynch, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will provide didactic education on central disorders of hypersomnolence and explores through a series of case studies the application of Lifestyle Redesign® to improve function, quality of life, and self-management in this population.

83 Detecting Autism Early: Navigating Conversations and Screening Strategies (1.5 PDUs)
Julia Lisle, OTD, OTR/L; Allison Madrid, OTD, OTR/L

Early autism screening is critical. Many occupational therapy practitioners do not feel prepared to implement early screening and discuss the results with families. Attendees will gain practical skills to integrate early autism screening processes in practice.

84 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind (1.5 PDUs)
Jenna Kobara, OTD, OTR/L; Tamara Matic, PhD

This session will explore authentically facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration between an occupational therapy practitioner and a clinical psychologist in a pediatric mental health context. Attendees will discover lessons learned and how to implement interventions utilizing DIR Floortime, play therapy, sensory strategies, and trauma-informed care. Open to students.

85 Practical Strategies: Incorporating Cultural Humility in Pediatric Feeding (1.5 PDUs)
Merry Lee, OTD, OTR/L

Attendees will learn about actionable strategies for integrating cultural responsiveness into pediatric feeding interventions within occupational therapy. Participants will learn how to honor family food traditions, mealtime routines, and cultural values to improve engagement and outcomes.

86 Close Collaboration: Comparing OT and OTA Students' Perceptions (1.5 PDUs)
Domenique Embrey, OTD, OTR/L; Joyce Fries, MS, OTR/L; Diane Tom, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Quantitative and qualitative differences between occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students' perceptions of an online collaborative class were analyzed. A shared leadership model was particularly impactful for occupational therapy students and value affirming for occupational therapy assistant students.

87 Navigating Uncharted Territories: Sustainable Weight Loss and GLP-1s (1.5 PDUs)
Erin Bussell, OTD, OTR/L, LRC, CEAS II; Emma Schiewe, OTD, OTR/L, TTS, LRC; Marilyn Thompson, OTD, OTR/L, LRC

This presentation will explore occupational therapy's role in weight management during the era of GLP-1s. Attendees will learn intervention approaches to support clients in meeting their weight loss goals through sustainable and consistent occupational engagement.

2:30pm-5:45pm

88 From Legacy to Vision: Defining the Next 50 Years of OTAC (3 PDUs)
Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L; Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA; Bryant W. Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH, FAOTA; Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Christine M. Wietlisbach, MPA, OTD, CHT, CBOT Vice President; Linda (Lin) M. Reed, MBA, OTR/L; Mary M. Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA, ScD (Hon.)

Fifty years of service provides a remarkable opportunity to reflect on purpose. By combining organizational storytelling with strategic visioning, this interactive 50th anniversary session will honor OTAC's legacy while exploring the enduring purpose that has sustained the association through decades of change and growth. Through reflection on key milestones; leadership contributions by past OTAC presidents including Lin Reed, Mary Evert, Christine Weitlesbach, Bryant Edwards, and Heather Kitching; advocacy achievements; and member impact; participants will identify the recurring themes that have shaped OTAC's identity across five decades. Using Simon Sinek's Golden Circle framework, attendees will engage in a collaborative process to articulate an organizational WHY! that not only honors OTAC's past, but also provides a foundation for navigating future opportunities, challenges, and strategic priorities facing the profession and the Association. Open to students.

2:30pm-3:30pm – Part 1 | 3:45pm-4:45pm – Part 2

89 STUDENTS ONLY - Part 1 (2:30pm-3:30pm): Preparing for the NBCOT® Exam: Study Strategies and Test-Taking Tips with OT Miri (no PDUs)
Miri Lee, OTD, OTR/L, CNS

In this session, OT Miri will share her insights on how to prepare effectively for the NBCOT® exam, including both study techniques and test-taking strategies. Whether you are just getting started or entering the final review phase, this presentation will offer structure, guidance, and practical tips to help you approach the exam with greater clarity and confidence.

STUDENTS ONLY - Part 2 (3:45pm-4:45pm): NBCOT® Exam Knowledge Quest (no PDUs)
Julie B. Kornbluth, MA, OTR/L

Join this exciting competition for OT/OTA students to enhance their NBCOT exam preparation. Exam questions and construction, format, and test-taking strategies will be highlighted in a fun and competitive atmosphere. Participate as part of a team or just watch and learn. Sign up for your team in **advance**.

4:15pm-5:45pm

90 Beyond Clinical Competence: Cultivating Brave Spaces Through Emotional Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Leadership (1.5 PDUs)
Natalie Perkins, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

This session will explore bridging clinical and leadership gaps via emotional intelligence. Attendees will learn to create brave spaces, reducing burnout and improving team dynamics through practical conflict resolution strategies tailored for occupational therapy leaders.

91 The Sense of Belonging (1.5 PDUs)
Sherry Younesi, BS, OTD, COTA/L

Individuals participating in forensic programs often face barriers to connecting with peers and belonging to a greater collective. This presentation will highlight a capstone project focused on promoting belonging at a forensic facility.

92 Occupational Therapy's Role in Street Medicine Teams (1.5 PDUs)
Lilly Christenson, OT Student

This presentation will advocate for occupational therapy's role in street medicine teams. Topics discussed in this presentation will include interdisciplinary team dynamics, relevant frameworks and assessments, and practical treatment planning tools. Open to students.

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

93 Evidence-Based Practice for Pediatric Feeding Disorders (1.5 PDUs)
Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA; Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Pediatric feeding disorders can arise from several factors including motor, sensory, and emotional issues. Developmental trajectories of feeding behaviors will be reviewed, and specific evidence-based interventions will be described to address these issues using case illustrations.

4:15pm-5:45pm

94 AI to Support School-Based OT Practitioners and Students (1.5 PDUs)
Jayson Davies, OTR/L, FAOTA

Get introduced to artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool to support both you and the students you serve. Attendees will learn how to ethically save time and support students in the least restrictive environment (LRE) with introductory AI tools. Open to students.

95 Auditing the Load: Occupational Balance for OTP Parents (1.5 PDUs)
Ashley Bonzell, OTD, OTR/L; Winny Soenaryo, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Using the purpose, outcomes, and process (POP) framework, this session will empower occupational therapy parents to combat double-duty burnout by auditing parenting occupations. Participants will build self-efficacy through micro-goal and boundary setting and prioritize happiness to reclaim occupational balance and well-being.

96 A Human-Centered AI Framework for Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)
Tammy Richmond, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, FATA

A human-centered artificial intelligence (AI) framework for occupational therapy in education, practice, and profession should ensure that technology augments—not replaces—clinical reasoning, therapeutic relationships, and client engagement, while promoting new AI competencies and practice guidelines.

97 Evidence and Opportunity: Mitigating Morbidity in Pediatric Cardiac Care (1.5 PDUs)
Lauren Newhouse, OTD, OTR/L

This session will focus on an in-depth review of current literature delving into (neuro)developmental risk factors for children with congenital heart disease (CHD) aiming to highlight opportunities for occupational therapy research and intervention across the pediatric care continuum.

6:00pm-7:15pm

J OTAC 50th Birthday Party

It's true! OTAC has been serving the OT community for half of a century. Join us as we celebrate our 50 golden years and look forward to one impactful future. Birthday cake! Music! Dancing … learn a few simple hip-hop steps as well as moves for generational favs! And more!

7:30pm-9:00pm

K Let's Connect! OTA Gathering

Calling all OTAs! If you have been participating in our OTAC OTA member virtual meetings or are curious about what we've been up to, sign up to join us. Light refreshments.

L Let's Connect! Mahjong Mingle!

Celebrate OTAC's 50th Anniversary by mixing mahjong tiles and mingling with fellow occupational therapy practitioners and students at Mahjong Mingle! All are welcome, regardless of experience or skill level. Facilitators will be available throughout the event to help everyone learn, play, and enjoy the wonderful game of mahjong. Let's fill the night with the satisfying sounds of shuffling tiles, laughter, and meaningful connections. See full description on page 14.)

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

Join the hosting schools for fun and networking. These are always a Conference highlight.

SUNDAY – SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

7:15am-2:45pm

Sunday Registration Hours

Pre-registration for Conference is strongly encouraged. Attendance at sessions and activities is first registered, first served. Seating capacity is limited. If registering on-site, arrive early as the wait in line can be long.

7:30am-9:00am

M OTAC Annual Meeting | Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)
Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare

This event is included in your Sunday registration fee, but you must register for it to receive a ticket. Hear from OTAC president, Samia H. Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, FAOTA, about current OTAC achievements and activities for the coming year. Network at your region-designated tables and be prepared to be inspired by the keynote presenter. And don't forget the OTAC-PAC drawing.

Keynote Address: From Passion to Purpose: Advocacy, Leadership, and OTAC's Powerful Future (.5 PDUs)
Luis de Leon Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCN, BCPR, C/NDT, FAOTA

As OTAC celebrates its 50th Anniversary, this keynote invites practitioners to reflect on the profession's remarkable journey while envisioning the opportunities ahead. Through personal stories of patient care, mentorship, and advocacy, Arabit explores how passion for helping others evolves into purpose-driven leadership. Grounded in the belief that occupational therapy restores possibility, dignity, and hope, the address challenges every practitioner to recognize their capacity to lead — whether in clinical practice, education, research, or community engagement. Honoring the pioneers who built occupational therapy in California, this keynote issues a call to action: move beyond celebrating our past and actively build a powerful future for the profession. Attendees will leave inspired to transform their passion into purpose, their purpose into advocacy, and their advocacy into leadership — ensuring occupational therapy continues to transform lives for generations to come.

Sponsor: Bonita Kraft

2:15pm-2:45pm

OT SUNDAY SUPER LEARNERS' PRIZE DRAWINGS

Your Sunday blue tickets will make you eligible for the prize drawings. Yes! We appreciate the Sunday super learners who stay to the end of Conference. Prize drawings will be made at 2:00pm. Check the board in the registration area between 2:15pm-2:45pm. Must be present to win. Prizes will include 2027 Annual Conference registration, OTAC membership, OTAC specialty symposia registrations, and more!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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Sponsor: Bonita Kraft

9:15am-10:15am

100 Just Right Challenge: Rethinking Parent Home Programs (1 PDU)

Laura Petix, MS, OTR/L

Occupational therapy practitioners create home programs—but parents often can't follow through. This session will apply the just right challenge to parents, offering practical tools to assess capacity, ask better questions, and build sensory lifestyles that actually stick.

101 AI-Facilitated Debriefing: Cultivating Growth Mindset in OT (1 PDU)

Meredith Grinnell, OTD, OTR/L

This session will explore how artificial intelligence (AI)-facilitated debriefing transforms reflective practice in occupational therapy education and clinical settings. Attendees will learn practical frameworks for integrating growth mindset principles into structured debriefs to deepen learning, build professional resilience, and support meaningful occupational engagement.

9:15am-10:45am

102 Piloting an Occupational Therapy Program with Survivors of Domestic Violence (1.5 PDUs)

Heather Javaherian, NBC-HWC, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Cindy Simmons, OTD, OTR/L; Jacqueline Orendain-Garcia, OT Student

Domestic violence profoundly impacts physical and emotional health, self-esteem, and daily functioning. These effects align with occupational therapy domains. This presentation will review domestic violence and outcomes from data collected during an eight-session occupational therapy program.

103 STUDENTS ONLY Hand Therapy: Practically Preparing for Fieldwork II (no PDUs)

ALL SESSIONS ON SUNDAY ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS

Vivian Duprey-Avalos, MA, OTR/L, CHT; Joanna Madrid, MA, OTR/L, CHT; Prisca Wu, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CKTP

Attendees will learn and practice practical skills needed for a successful entry into level II fieldwork: palpation, surface anatomy, goniometry, provocative tests, and orthoses for common diagnoses of the upper extremity.

104 Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Experiences with Animal-Assisted Therapy Competencies (1.5 PDUs)

Macy Burr, EdD, OTD, OTR/L, ATP, C-AAIS, CAS

This presentation will explore research related to occupational therapy practitioners' experiences with the Association of Animal Assisted Intervention Professionals and competencies for safe and ethical practice. Recommendations on how professionals can implement these guidelines will be provided.

105 Tiered Sensory Supports in School-Based OT (1.5 PDUs)

Krysti Teng, MS, OTR/L, BCP

In this session attendees will investigate how school-based occupational therapy practitioners can use tiered, occupation-centered sensory supports within the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). Participants will examine evidence-based strategies, apply interventions across tiers, and build a toolbox to support student participation in classroom routines and learning.

9:15am-2:00pm

106 Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs)

Stephanie Kokesh, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will provide an overview of assessment and intervention for sexual health. The client context will be adults who are cognitively intact. Information will include considerations for physical disabilities, gender affirming care, and learning about your OWN body!

107 Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs)

Kate Hayner, EdD, OTR/L; Ginny Gibson, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Shoulder subluxation from neurological injury limits function. This course will review pathophysiology and interventions, highlight the California Tri-Pull Taping Method, and provide hands-on lab instruction. Attendees should wear a shoulder-accessible top to participate in the lab.

108 Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs)

Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Michaelann Gabriele, OTD, OTR/L; Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L; Merry Lee, OTD, OTR/L

As funding, CPT coding, and social media reshape healthcare, occupational therapy practitioners must redefine their role in sensory-based interventions. Participants will learn how to critically appraise and adapt to these dynamic changes and trends.

10:30am-11:30am

109 Supporting School Transitions Following Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (1 PDU)

Grace Lee, EdM, OTR/L

Occupational therapy practitioners face fragmented systems during pediatric acquired brain injury (ABI) school transitions. Preliminary insights will highlight role ambiguity and coordination barriers. This session will introduce practical strategies and tools to support transition planning across medical and educational settings.

SCHEDULE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

10:30am-12:45pm

110 Finding Your Entrepreneurial Flow: From Barriers to Breakthroughs (2 PDUs)
Jayson Davies, OTR/L, FAOTA; Sarah Putt, MA, OTR/L

Occupational therapy practitioners will use the Kawa Model to analyze their own entrepreneurial barriers, identify common business challenges, and engage in collaborative problem-solving and networking to develop actionable next steps in their business.

11:45am-12:45pm

111 Designing Play Spaces with Young Student Voice (1 PDU)
Krysti Teng, MS, OTR/L, BCP

Attendees will learn how occupational therapy practitioners can partner with students to inform inclusive play space design in school settings. Participants will explore student voice methods, examine examples, and apply strategies for participation, belonging, and meaningful play.

11:00am-2:30pm

120 Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs)
Rick Hayden; Amy Lyons-Brown, OTD, OTR/L; Alesha Thomas, BS, IBCLC; Claire Uke, MOT, OTR/L, ATP

The aim of this session is to describe the process of developing faculty-led occupational therapy pro-bono clinics designed for underserved populations. Lessons learned about creating and sustaining these clinics will be discussed.

121 Between the Lines of Handwriting (3 PDUs)
Jennifer Sato, MA, OTR/L

Handwriting requires more than just fine motor skills. Praxis is often overlooked even though it accounts for 83% of referrals. This workshop will explore assessment components, shared instruction responsibilities, and tier 1 multi-tiered system support (MTSS) collaborative strategies.

122 Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs)
Debra Ouellette, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, BCPR, SCLV, FNAP; Nilima Tanna, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT; Graham Teaford, OTD, OTR/L, SCLV

This presentation will address adult vision rehabilitation services, emphasizing visual neuroanatomy, evidence-based assessment, functional implications of visual dysfunction, clinical interventions, and collaborative strategies supporting occupational participation.

123 Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model. (3 PDUs)
Georgina (Gina) Phelps, OTD, OTR/L

Gardening is a widely used therapeutic and wellness intervention. This course will demonstrate how to create both an ADA-accessible vegetable garden and a sustainable sensory garden informed by the naturalistic collectivism of the Kawa Model.

1:00pm-2:00pm

124 Clinical Reasoning Using Sensory Integration Theory in Practice (1 PDU)
Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L; Juliana Gutierrez, OTD, OTR/L

This presentation will examine 408 pediatric occupational therapy intervention notes (each representing one child), describing clinical reasoning using sensory integration/Ayres Sensory Integration® practices. Findings will highlight how occupational therapy practitioners implement intervention in practice along with an introduction to an electronic template for analyzing intervention delivery.

125 Almost Leaving, Now Leading: Reclaiming Your OT Identity (1 PDU)
Kersten Laughlin, OTD, OTR/L

Through personal narrative and professional reflection, this session will examine burnout, professional identity, and leadership, offering practical strategies for occupational therapy practitioners to reconnect with their profession through advocacy, community involvement, and collective action.

ALL SESSIONS ON SUNDAY ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS

2:15pm-2:45pm

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WHY ATTEND CONFERENCE

Here's what your colleagues said about their past experiences – why they attended and/or what they liked best.

Wanted to attend sessions outside of my practice area

So inspiring

Catching up with old friends I hadn't seen in a while

Wanted to expand knowledge in my own field

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

All sessions open to students

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Registration Hours - 8:00am-6:30pm

9:00am	01 OT Redefining the Fourth Trimester: Postpartum Acute Care (1.5 PDU)	02 Cultural Awareness, Ethics, and OT Clinical Practice (1.5 PDUs)	03 Sex Work: Introduction, Harm Reduction and Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)	04 Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs)	05 Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke or Spinal Cord Injury (Part 1) (6 PDUs) **Saturday, November 7** 8:15am-11:45am (Part 2) (3 PDUs) Attendees must attend both parts.
10:30am					
10:45am	06 Perinatal Pelvic Health: An Introduction for Occupational Therapy Practitioners (1.5 PDUs)	07 Going Nonclinical: Pathway to Medical Legal Consulting (1.5 PDUs)	08 Synergistic Advocacy for OT Practitioners and America's Veterans (1.5 PDUs)		
12:15pm					
12:45pm	09 Listening Beyond Words: Women's Rehabilitation Reimagined (1.5 PDUs)	10 From Clinician to CEO: Concrete Strategies to Start and Grow Your Own Business (1.5 PDUs)	11 From Impulse to Intent: Teaching Safe Decision-Making Through Adaptive Martial Arts (1.5 PDUs)	12 Mental Health in Everyday Practice: Reviewing Policy, Forecasting Trends, and Affecting Change (3 PDUs)	
2:15pm					
2:30pm	13 Trailblazing the Line-Up: A Qualitative Study of Elite Women Adaptive Surfers (1.5 PDUs)	14 The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Private Practice (1.5 PDUs)	15 Does Asking Help? An OT Student Wellness Study (1.5 PDUs)		
4:00pm	A – LET'S CONNECT! OT Entrepreneurs/Private Practice				
	B – LET'S CONNECT! Mental Health, Wellness, Ethics, and Grieving				
	C – LET'S CONNECT! Women's Health, Sports, and Physical Disabilities				
6:00pm	D – Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs)				

***All sessions open to students**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15am-5:00pm								
8:15am	20 Protecting Our Careers: State and Federal Regulatory and Legislative Updates (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	21 Occupation of Addiction and Occupation of Recovery (1.5 PDUs)	22 Strategies and Resources for Occupation-Based Practice (1.5 PDUs)	23 From Chaos to Connection: Designing an OT Pediatric Social Skills Groups (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	24 The Write Stuff: Evaluation and Treatment for Dysgraphia (1.5 PDUs)	25 Ethical Challenges in Subtle Neurocognitive Dysfunction (1.5 PDUs)	26 Innovative Community-Based Fieldwork: Navigating Challenges and Fostering Partnerships (1.5 PDUs)	27 STUDENTS ONLY From OT Student to Social Impact CEO: Making Waves in Accessibility (no PDUs)	28 Conservative Management of Soft Tissue Injuries of the Elbow and Wrist (3 PDUs)
9:45am									
10:00am	30 California Board of Occupational Therapy Annual Update (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	31 Integrating Somatic Holistic Yoga into Occupational Therapy Practice (1.5 PDUs)	32 Intentional Development of Future OT Visionaries (1.5 PDUs)	33 Teletherapy in OT: Engagement, Assessment, and Outcomes (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	34 STEAM and EI: Role of Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)	35 Exercise: A Vital Occupation for Mind and Body (1.5 PDUs)	36 Reimagining OT Training for Thriving Aging Care (1.5 PDUs)	37 STUDENTS ONLY Holistic Self-Care for the Student: A Whole Health Perspective to Prevent Burnout (no PDUs)	
11:30am-1:00pm	45th Annual CFOT Awards Luncheon & Symposium (.5 PDUs) Separate Ticket Required - $85 (Students - $85 or $10 for the gallery seating /no lunch option)								
12:00pm	E – Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence (no PDUs)								
	F – LET'S CONNECT! DEIOJ								
1:00pm	40 STUDENTS ONLY Beyond the Traditional Path: A Sports OT Perspective (no PDUs)	41 Self-Advocacy Among Adult Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivors (1 PDU) **ST**	42 Exploring OTP Burnout Together: Risk, Resilience, and Restoration (2 PDUs)	43 Ethical Everyday Occupational Therapy Practice: AI and Beyond! (2 PDUs)	44 An Introduction to Executive Functions (2 PDUs)	45 OT in the Wild: Toddlers Before the Referral (2 PDUs) **ST**	46 Dog Companionship and Community Participation: Lived Experiences of Autistic Adults (2 PDUs)	47 Supervising Across Generations: Supporting Today's Fieldwork Students (2 PDUs)	48 Breaking Bad: Rehabilitation for Hand Fractures (2 PDUs)
2:00pm	49 Addressing Psychosocial Needs in Oncology OT (1 PDU) **ST**	50 STUDENTS ONLY Where Will OT Take You? Exploring the World of Travel Therapy (no PDUs)							
3:00pm	All proceed to the Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address								
3:15pm	51 - OTAC Awards Ceremony and Friday Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)								
5:15pm	G - Innovation Expo Grand Opening | Bingo and Trivia for Prizes								
7:30pm	Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions								

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15am-6:00pm									
7:00am	H – Let's Connect! Researchers and Clinicians									
8:15am	60 STUDENTS ONLY From Student to Supervisor: Building Emotional Intelligence Foundations for Future OT Leaders (no PDUs)	61 OT's Role in Post-Surgical Management of Bladder Cancer (1 PDU)	62 Handwriting: Aligning Current Evidence with School-Based Practice (1 PDU)	63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI (1.5 PDUs)	64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation (1.5 PDUs)	65 Smart Home Technology in OT (1.5 PDUs)	66 Global Challenges for OT Clinicians Entering Academia (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	67 Comorbid Complexity: The Intersection of POTS and Long-COVID (1.5 PDUs)	68 Breathing: Everyone's First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs)	05 CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY - Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke or Spinal Cord Injury (Part 2) (3 PDUs) Attendees must attend both parts.
9:15am										
9:30am	70 STUDENTS ONLY AI Tools in Clinical Practice and Decision Support (no PDUs)	71 Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care (2 PDUs)	72 Beyond Symptom Management: Root-Cause Approaches to Chronic and Neuropathic Pain (2 PDUs)							
9:45am										
10:00am				73 Further Development of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	74 Safety First: OT's Unique Role with Secondary Students (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	75 Try 3D Priting in OT: Beginner's Hands-On Workshop (1.5 PDUs)	76 Being and Becoming: Safety and Growth on College Campuses (1.5 PDUs)	77 POTS: An Aquatic OT Approach (1.5 PDUs)		
10:30am										
10:45am	78 STUDENTS ONLY NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know (no PDUs)									
11:30am										
11:45am										
11:30am	I - Innovation Expo | Poster Presentations | Bingo and Trivia Prizes | Grab and Go Lunch – $20 (must advance purchase)									
2:30pm	80 Occupational Therapy in Burn Care: Evaluation and Intervention (1.5 PDUs)	81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	82 Lifestyle Redesign® for Central Disorders of Hypersomnolence (1.5 PDUs)	83 Detecting Autism Early: Navigating Conversations and Screening Strategies (1.5 PDUs)	84 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	85 Practical Strategies: Incorporating Cultural Humility in Pediatric Feeding (1.5 PDUs)	86 Close Collaboration: Comparing OT and OTA Students' Perceptions (1.5 PDUs)	87 Navigating Uncharted Territories: Sustainable Weight Loss and GLP-1s (1.5 PDUs)	88 From Legacy to Vision: Defining the Next 50 Years of OTAC (3 PDUs) **ST**	89 STUDENTS ONLY Part 1: Preparing for the NBCOT® Exam: and Test-Taking Tips with OT Miri (no PDUs) Part 2: NBCOT® Exam Knowledge Quest (no PDUs)
4:00pm										
4:15pm	90 Beyond Clinical Competence: Cultivating Brave Spaces (1.5 PDUs)	91 The Sense of Belonging (1.5 PDUs)	92 Occupational Therapy's Role in Street Medicine Teams (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	93 Evidence-Based Practice for Pediatric Feeding Disorders (1.5 PDUs)	94 AI to Support School-Based OT Practitioners and Students (1.5 PDUs) **ST**	95 Auditing the Load: Occupational Balance for OTP Parents (1.5 PDUs)	96 A Human-Centered AI Framework for Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)	97 Evidence and Opportunity: Mitigating Morbidity in Pediatric Cardiac Care (1.5 PDUs)		
5:45pm										
6:00pm	J - OTAC 50th Birthday Party									
6:00pm	K - Let's Connect! OTA Gathering | L- Let's Connect! Mahjong Mingle									
7:30pm	Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions									

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

*All sessions open to students

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

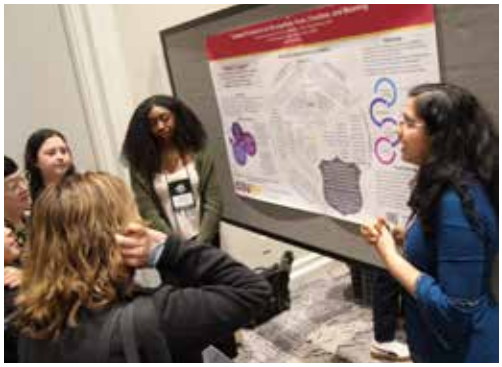
7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15am-2:45pm								
7:30am	M - OTAC Annual Meeting and Sunday Keynote Address (.5 PDUs) with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare								
9:15am	100 Just Right Challenge: Rethinking Parent Home Programs (1 PDU)	101 AI-Facilitated Debriefing: Cultivating Growth Mindset in OT (1 PDU)	102 Piloting an Occupational Therapy Program with Survivors of Domestic Violence (1.5 PDUs)	103 STUDENTS ONLY Hand Therapy: Practically Preparing for Fieldwork II (no PDUs)	104 Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Experiences with Animal-Assisted Therapy Competencies (1.5 PDUs)	105 Tiered Sensory Supports in School-Based OT (1.5 PDUs)	106 Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs)	107 Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs)	108 Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs)
10:15am									
10:30am	109 Supporting School Transitions Following Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (1 PDU)	110 Finding Your Entrepreneurial Flow: From Barriers to Breakthroughs (2 PDUs)							
10:45am									
11:00am			120 Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs)	121 Between the Lines of Handwriting (3 PDUs)	122 Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs)	123 Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model (3 PDUs)			
11:30am									
11:45am	111 Designing Play Spaces with Young Student Voice (1 PDU)								
12:45pm									
1:00pm	124 Clinical Reasoning Using Sensory Integration Theory in Practice (1 PDU)	125 Almost Leaving, Now Leading: Reclaiming Your OT Identity (1 PDU)							
2:00pm									
2:30pm									
2:15pm	OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawings | Winners Posted in Registration Area at 2:15pm								
2:45pm	Registration Closes - Safe Travels All!								

Register Today

https://tinyurl.com/bdh8csx7

*All sessions open to students







POSTER PRESENTATIONS

There are two poster presentation groups which may be viewed only on **Saturday, November 7, 2026** – Group A: 11:30am–12:30pm; and Group B: 1:00pm–2:00pm in the Expo Hall. To earn PDUs, the **poster presenter(s) must initial your Certificate of Completion** form. You may earn .25 PDUs for each poster with a maximum of 2 PDUs allowed for the two-hour session.

Adaptive Sports and Lifestyle Management in SCI
Daniel Moss, OT Student; Vanessa Yanez, PhD, OTR/L

Assessing Playgrounds for Accessibility for Parents with Disabilities
Alyanna Kayla Paulino, OTD, OTR/L

Barriers to Assistive Technology for Aging in Place
Valierose Bulosan, OT Student; Rocio Hernandez Lopez, OT Student

~~Burnout Band-Aid: Supporting OTD Student[illegible]upational Balance~~ WITHDRAWN
~~Sarah Skinner, OT Student~~

Caregiver Voices to Inform Pediatric Home Programs
Katherine Gonzalez, OT Student

Connecting the Dots: Pediatric Occupational Therapy Vision Readiness
Kelly Auld-Wright, OTD, OTR/L; Roger Bueno, OT Student; Elizabeth Lamprecht, MS, OTR/L, CLVT; Daniele Rahman, MHS, OTR/L, CLVT

Cultural Stigma, Trauma, and Mental Health Service Utilization in Immigrants
Leah Stein Duker, PhD, OTR/L; Svitlana Stremousova, MS, MBA, OTR/L

Development of Lymphedema Program Serving Large Urban Hospital "No More Waiting:" Bringing Lymphedema Care In-House
Caitlin Greene, OTD, OTR/L, CLT; Prudence Lin, OTD, OTR/L, CLT

Developmental Training for Nursing Staff in the PICU
Michelle Chen, OTR/L; Kinshoo Tyagi, DPT

Doctoral Capstone Project: Deletion Syndrome Occupational Therapy Handbook
Nancy Ascencio, OT Student

Empowering Key Educational Stakeholders with Neuro-Affirming Knowledge
Diva Desai, OTD, OTR/L, LSVT, CEAS; Jessalyn Sulamo, OT Student

Empowering Sleep Health in Spinal Cord Injury
Susan Arakaki, OTR/L; Lauren Kuwahara, OTR/L

Enhancing Student Engagement in Leadership and Advocacy
Rosie Mejia, OT Student

Evaluating the COPM in Acute Rehabilitation: A 25-Year Retrospective Review
Michele Berro, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA; Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT, FAOTA

Experiences of Picky Eating in Adults
Hye Min (Lisa) Ji, OTS; Nicholette Kenny, OT Student; Christina Le, OT Student; Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L

Exploring Bisexual Occupational Identity and Narratives of Daily Purpose
Josephine Stutzke, OT Doctoral Graduate; Jennifer Taosuvanna, OTD, OTR/L; Jordan Bellamy, OT Doctoral Graduate; Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L

Express and Empower: Boxing and Fiction-Based Writing for First Responders
C.A. De Naissance, MA, OT Doctoral Graduate

Feasibility of Lifestyle Redesign® in ADHD OT Groups
Kelly Liao, OTD, OTR/L, LRC

GenAI in OT Education: What Educators Really Think
Malia Haines, OT Student; Nathan Miller, OT Student, COEE; Taylor Sunga, OT Student

Insights into Students' Sense of Safety and Belonging
Sarah Bream, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Daniel Park, OTD, OTR/L

Intimate Partner Relationships for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities
Danielle Lightner, OT Student; Drake Madriago, OT Student; Melanie Martinez, OT Student; Ronald Matthew Montehermoso, OT Student

Movement Strategies to Support Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning
Julie Kornbluth, MA, OTR/L

Neurorehabilitation Virtual Escape Rooms in Occupational Therapy Education
Ashwini Salpekar, OTD, OTR/L

Not Your Average OTP: Addressing Menstruation in Pediatrics
Alexandra Arguelles, OTD, OTR/L

Occupation-Based Digital Skills for Refugee Integration
Justina Necola, OT Student

Occupational Therapy Capstone Experience: Impact on Graduates' Careers
Carlin Bruce, OT Student; Christina Bunggo, OT Student; Allyson Casella, OT Student; Joanna Espericueta, OT Student

Outcome Measures vs. Lived Experiences: Pediatric Hemorrhagic Stroke
Pamela Avalos, OT Student; Katrina Rei Garcia, OT Student; Sandra Romero, OT Student; Renne Takahashi, OT Student

Promoting Participation and Social-Emotional Wellness: Sensory Garden Program
Faith Moy, OTD, OTR/L; Alyssa Sack, OT Student

Promoting Well-Being in First Generation College Students
Diana Ochoa, OT Student; Vanessa Yanez, PhD, OTR/L

POSTER PRESENTATIONS, CONT.

Role of OT in Community-Based Fatherhood Program
Alyssa Dharmawan, OT Doctoral Graduate; Amy Zhao, OTD, OTR/L

Sensory Processing and Self-Regulation Parent Education Program
Wendy Phillips, OTD, OTR/L

Sensory Processing Patterns and Stress in Healthy Adults: A Post-COVID-19 Study
Megan Chang, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Sensory Processing Patterns, Stress, and Sleep in Musicians
Megan Chang, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

~~Social Flourishing in Dungeons and Dra~~ WITHDRAWN
~~*Melisa Kaye, EdD, OTR/L; Danika Wede, OT Student*~~

Staff Perceptions of OT Using ASI on Students' Participation Outcomes
Kelly Auld-Wright, OTD, OTR/L; Kiley Hutchinson, OT Student; Aja Roley, OTD, OTR/L; Amy Ukleja, MOT, OTR/L

Stroke Education for Secondary Prevention in Inpatient Rehabilitation
Joseph Jacinto, OT Student; Ivana Poste, OTR/L; Lauren Sheehan, OTD, OTR/L

Test-Retest Reliability and Minimal Detectable Change of Hand Strength and Dexterity in Aging Adults
Jennie DiGrado, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT; Mohan Ganesan, PT, MPT, PhD; Carlos Tapia, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT

Therapeutic Relationships Across Language Groups in Occupational Therapy
Guadalupe Echevarria, OT Student; Catherine Gaynor, OT Student; Janelle Lloyd, OT Student; Ashley Mora, OT Student

Trading Stress for Support: A Student Wellness Exchange
Ashley Castillo, OT Student; Nadine Cube, OT Student; Lillian Em, OT Student; Vicky Vu, OTD, OTR/L, MBA, BCP

Understanding Menopause: An Education Series Within Pelvic Health
Vanessa Garcia, MS, OT Doctoral Graduate



MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

INNOVATION EXPO HALL DAYS
Friday, November 6
5:15pm–7:15pm
Saturday, November 7
11:30am–2:15pm

THERE IS STILL TIME TO EXHIBIT OR SPONSOR!

CALL SHANNON RUTLEDGE AT (888) 686-3225 OR EMAIL AT SHANNON@OTACONLINE.ORG

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50 Golden YEARS
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OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

(form on page 41)

1. **Registrant:** Please print or type all data. (Online registration is available on the OTAC website at www.otaconline.org through October 26, 2026 at 8:59pm.)
2. **Program Selection:** Every session and activity has a number or letter. Circle the number/letter of each session/activity you will attend. Attendance is limited by seating or by speaker's request. ***Registration forms will NOT be accepted if you select overlapping sessions.***
3. **Registration Fee:** First, locate your professional status (OT/OTA, Student), select the combination of days you will attend, and circle the appropriate Registration Fee amount that applies to your professional status and combination of days. Additional fees may apply.
4. **Summary Section:**
   - You must check all boxes that apply or your registration is not complete.
   - Workplace Colleague Special Discount: See section below on this page for policy/criteria.
   - Special Meal Needs: You must pre-register by October 14, 2026 or we may not be able to accommodate you.
   - Special Needs: You must pre-register by October 14, 2026.
   - Special Activities (SA): These events must be prepaid. There most likely will be no 'at-the-door' availability. Seating is limited.
   - Refund Policy: A refund, less $75 administrative fee ($45 for students), will be issued if written notice of cancellation is received by the OTAC Office postmarked on or before October 14, 2026. No refunds after that date. Refunds will not be processed until after Conference.

Deadlines: See page 2 for Deadlines to Remember.

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE AGREEMENTS/ DISCLAIMERS

ATTENTION

By registering for or attending any event or activity associated with the Occupational Therapy Association of California's (OTAC) 2026 Annual Conference & Expo, I agree to the following:

Professional Development/Information Disclaimer

OTAC's 2026 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo is sponsored by the Occupational Therapy Association of California for professional development, networking, and OTAC business purposes. 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 in arriving at their own conclusions and consequent application. Attendees participating in this professional development education program do so with full knowledge that they waive any claim they may have against OTAC and its staff or representatives for reliance on any information presented during these educational activities.

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Registration and attendance at, or participation in, OTAC meetings and other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant for OTAC's use and distribution (both now and in the future) of the registrant's or attendee's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic/print reproductions, and audio tapes of such events and activities.

Waiver of Liability Agreement

By registering for any component of this conference, I release the Occupational Therapy Association of California, its staff, elected and appointed officials, presenters, and any other individuals or entities associated with OTAC's 2026 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo from any and all liability connected with my participation, as well as from any liability related to changes to the schedule, events, or activities. I acknowledge and agree that I am participating of my own choice and assume all risk in connection thereof, and that in the event that a need for emergency medical service arises, I authorize and consent to such services being provided at my own expense.

WORKPLACE COLLEAGUE 10% DISCOUNT

Don't get enough time to visit with those in your workplace? Want a way to save money together? You can travel together and room together, you can also save on registration together. All individual registration forms, full payment, and membership applications (if applicable) must be submitted together by October 14, 2026.

Discount policies

- Three or more OTAC members from the same **physical** workplace address can receive a 10% discount when pre-registering for conference together. Minimum of three registrants required.
- You cannot register online to receive this discount. Registration forms must be **submitted together** by fax, email attachment, or by mail.
- Discount available to OTAC members only; however, a nonmember can submit a membership application along with the registration forms to qualify for discount.
- This is a pre-registration special only. Special ends October 14, 2026.
- Discount applies only to the Registration Fee for Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday. Discount does not apply to any other fees including presenter/material fees/costs, special event fees including meals, and pre-conference institutes.
- No refunds given if number of colleagues registered together drops below three; however, new workplace colleagues may be substituted for previous registrants at any time (OTAC membership required).
- Student members already receive a discounted rate and do not qualify for this discount.
- Conference registrants receiving any other registration discount do not qualify for this discount.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

See page 2 for deadlines and increases to Early Bird Registration Rates!

1. REGISTRANT: (Please print or type)

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Last Name _____ Credentials _____

Home Address _____

Home City/State/Zip _____

Phone Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

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Who to contact in case of an emergency: (Name and cell phone) _____

2. PROGRAM SELECTION: (Circle) the sessions/activities you will attend. Sessions/activities are included in registration for the corresponding day. ***You may not register for overlapping sessions.***

	THURSDAY (ADD'L FEES)					FRIDAY									SATURDAY										SUNDAY								
AM Additional fees required for Thursday. See Below	01	02	03	04	05	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	05	100	101	102	103	104	105			
	06	07	08			30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37		70	71	72								109	110					106	107	108
	09	10	11			40	41								78			73	74	75	76	77			111		120	121	122	123			
PM Additional fees required for Thursday. See Below	13	14	15	12		49	50	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	124	125							
															90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97											
ACTIVITIES	A B C D					51	E F G								H I J K L										M								

3. REGISTRATION FEE: (Circle) the combination of days you are attending in order to be registered. Enter amount in Section 4/Registration Fee below.

FEES INCREASE SEPTEMBER 22, 2026	FRI./SAT./SUN.	FRI. ONLY	FRI./SAT.	FRI./SUN.	SAT. ONLY	SAT./SUN.	SUN. ONLY
OT/OTA	$359	$169	$299	$299	$169	$299	$169
OTS (Student-no license)	$199	$129	$169	$169	$129	$169	$129
ADD-ON: NON-OTAC MEMBER FEE/NEW MEMBER DUES	OT: Add $140 to the fees above • OTA: Add $110 to the fees above • OTS: Add $50 to the fees above. This add-on fee qualifies you for a 1-year membership if you have not been a member since 8/2025.						

4. SUMMARY SECTION: Fill in and check all boxes ☑ that apply or your registration form is not complete and may be subject to additional fees.

- ❑ Registration Fee (from Section 3 above) $_____
  - ❑ Workplace Colleague Special Discount (Subtract 10%) $(_____)
- ❑ Non-OTAC Member Fee (OT) $140 – (may include membership) $_____
- ❑ Non-OTAC Member Fee (OTA) $110 – (may include membership) $_____
- ❑ Non-OTAC Student Member Fee $50 – (may include membership) $_____
- ❑ Session 01 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 02 (Members $0 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 03 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 04 (Members $29 | Nonmembers $39) (3 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 05 (Members $169 | Nonmembers $199) (9 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 06 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 07 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 08 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 09 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 10 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 11 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 12 (Members $29 | Nonmembers $39) (3 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 13 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 14 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ Session 15 (Members $19 | Nonmembers $29) (1.5 PDUs) $_____
- ❑ SA: Guest Registration (see page 4) _____ @ $90ea. $_____
- ❑ SA: Friday CFOT Symposium/Lunch _____ @ $85ea. $_____
- ❑ SA: Friday CFOT Symposium/No Lunch _____ @ $10ea. (students only) $_____
- ❑ SA: Saturday Expo Lunch _____ @ $20ea. $_____
- ❑ SA: Sunday Breakfast Keynote: Extra Ticket _____ @ $35ea. $_____
- ❑ Saturday Expo Hall Only: Member $0/Nonmember $25 (OT/OTA/OTS Only) $_____
- ❑ Registration received between 9/22/26-10/26/26 – $60 (Add) $_____
- ❑ Registration received after 10/26/26 onsite – $90 (Add) $_____

TOTAL (Send check or use credit card) $_____

5. PAYMENT INFORMATION

Do not email your registration from with credit card information. Emails are not secure, please fax to the secure number - (916) 294-0415.

❑ AMEX ❑ MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ Discover

❑ Check #_____ *(Payable to OTAC)*

Card Number _____ VCode* _____

Name of Cardholder _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

**The VCode is a 3 or 4 digit number on the back of your card following your card number (front of AMEX card).*

❑ WORKPLACE COLLEAGUE DISCOUNT (Must register by October 14):
See page 40 for details

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

❑ MEDICALLY NECESSARY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS OR SPECIAL NEEDS:
(Must notify us by October 14) Attach description of requests.

6. SUBMIT REGISTRATION

Fax (916) 294-0415 – Secure Fax

Mail OTAC, 3620 American River Drive, Suite 230, 95684

Online www.otaconline.org

https://tinyurl.com/bdh8csx7

7. KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

Questions? By Phone: (916) 567-7000 | By Email: staff@otaconline.org

*Beginning October 27, 2026, registration will only be accepted "on-site" at the Hilton Pasadena and the fee increases $90.

*Cancellation Fee: $75/Practitioners; $45 Students. Must cancel in writing by October 14, 2026.

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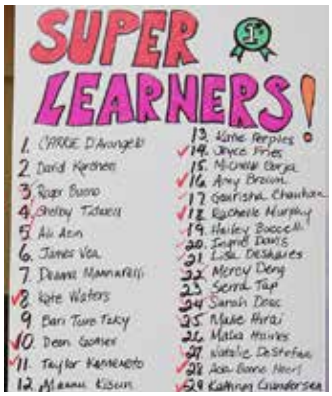



Diana Su-Erickson

























Photos by: Diana Su-Erickson