1st Annual OTA Symposium - VIRTUAL

VIRTUAL

Participate from anywhere you have a strong internet connection

RECORDING WILL BE AVAILABLE BY JAN. 19, 2024 FOR REGISTRANTS.

DATE AND TIME
January 13, 2024
9:00 AM to 2:15 PM

ADVANCE REGISTRATION CLOSES
January 11, 2024
5:00 PM

Register Online
https://www.otaconline.org/education/specialty-symposiums/ota-symposium

Register by Fax
916/294-0415

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

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 – 9:00am to 2:15pm (earn 5 PDUs)

9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome and Introduction
9:15am – 10:45am	Creating an Intentional Professional Development Plan
10:45am – 11:45am	The OTA Workforce Study
11:45am – 12:00pm	Break
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Section description coming soon
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Building Bridges: A Journey of Occupational Therapy Assistants in Education and Leadership
2:00pm – 2:15pm	Wrap Up | Questions

REGISTRATION FORM *One form per person. Please type or print clearly. Check appropriate boxes.*

OT/OTA MEMBERS	OT/OTA NONMEMBERS	STUDENT MEMBERS	STUDENT NONMEMBERS
☐ $79	☐ $109	☐ $49	☐ $79

TOTAL DUE: $_____ Please review the cancellation/refund policy below.
Advance registration closes Thursday, January 11, 2024

Name_____

Employer_____

Home Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Email_____

Mobile_____

PAYMENT OPTIONS: CHECK ONE

☐ Check (make payable to OTAC) ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX

Credit Card Number_____

Exp Date_____ **VCode**_____

Cardholder Name_____

Cardholder Signature_____ **Date**_____

SUBMIT PAYMENT:
☐ Fax to: 916/294-0415, or

REGISTER ONLINE - https://www.otaconline.org/education/specialty-symposiums/ota-symposium

Cancellation/Refund Policy. $25 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice to staff@otaconline.org must be received in the OTAC office by January 11, 2024 to be eligible for refunds. No refunds after this date. Disclaimer: OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will made based on these changes.

OTAC is a nonprofit organization whose mission to be the collective voice representing the occupational

Occupational Therapy Association of California
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1st Annual OTA Symposium - VIRTUAL

Schedule, Topic Descriptions, and About Our Presenters

Recording will be available by January 19, 2024 for registrants.

9:00am – 9:15am
Welcome and Introduction
Sherry Hite, MOT, OTR/L
Jessica Padilla, COTA/L
Sherry Younesi, BS, COTA/L

9:15am – 10:45am
Creating an Intentional Professional Development Plan
Abi Swidergal, MS, COTA/L, CKTP, ROH, and Melissa Tilton, MS, COTA/L, ROH
Occupational therapy practitioners are bound to practice acts, licensure requirements, and code of ethics to ensure we are providing effective intervention in creation of the best possible outcomes for each client and practice. To do so, we must engage in an intentional process for creating our professional development plans. Practitioners will identify methods for intentional planning of professional development.

10:45am – 11:45am
The OTA Workforce Study
Sharon Pavlovich, EdD, COTA/L
In collaboration with the California Board of Occupational Therapy, the California Community College Centers of Excellence conducted a 2019 California Occupational Therapy Assistant Workforce Survey for OTAs in California. This presentation will examine the report findings which combine original survey data with recent educational and employment statistics and projections to describe the current OTA workforce, the educational programs that train OTAs, and the growing employer demand for OTAs in California.

11:45am – 12:00pm
Break

12:00pm – 1:00pm
Rodney Harris, COTA/L
Section description coming soon.

1:00pm – 2:00pm
Building Bridges: A Journey of Occupational Therapy Assistants in Education and Leadership
Laura Deary, BS, COTA/L, and Jessica Padilla, COTA/L
The journey of two occupational therapy assistants whose history of volunteerism at the state and national organizational levels, coupled with their passion for the future of occupational therapy practitioners, has led them ultimately into the field of academia. The presenters will reflect on their journeys and expose the possibilities for other OTAs to follow in their footsteps.

2:00pm – 2:15pm
Wrap Up | Questions

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About Our Presenters



Laura Deary, BS, COTA/L, is currently an occupational therapy analyst at California State University, Dominguez Hills, in the Department of Occupational Therapy. After 10 years in corporate marketing, Deary discovered her second career as an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) and has spent the last 25 years working as a practitioner at Cedars-Sinai, California Rehabilitation Institute and in home health. In her spare time, Deary has been involved in volunteerism on committees at the organizational, state, and national levels such as with OTAC, AOTA, NBCOT, and ACOTE. When asked about an OT career highlight, she doesn't hesitate to state that the highlight includes traveling to Ukraine as part of a rehabilitation team to teach Ukrainian colleagues regarding the rehabilitation process and the OT/OTA collaboration. When not working, Deary loves to travel and plan reunions - especially with other families who have adopted from Russia, where her daughter is from.



Rodney Harris, COTA/L, grew up in Northern California, where his initial professional endeavor was law enforcement. Harris spent 10 years working in the gang unit, becoming an academy instructor and a G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) officer. He became an occupational therapy assistant when the sun set on this career. Harris went to school in Arizona and has worked in pediatrics and geriatrics. He has also enjoyed working with the autistic and mental health populations. He is drawn to working with those who are severely impacted by autism and mental health challenges while advocating for their inclusion and independence. As a resident of Southern California, Harris feels he has something special to offer both populations from a unique life experience background. He is the 2023 recipient of the OTAC OT/OTA Partnership Award along with Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L.



Jessica Padilla, COTA/L



Sharon Pavlovich, EdD, COTA/L, is an assistant professor in the profession of occupational therapy; past president of the California Board of Occupational Therapy; and Harvard Macy Scholar. She is the author of the PSQ (Pavlovich Sexuality Questionnaire) and has research and teaching interests in leadership, advocacy, DEI, and LGBTQA+ health and inclusive spaces.



Abi Swidergal, MS, COTA/L, CKTP, ROH, is the founding program director at Black Hawk College in its new occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program. Her clinical expertise is in pediatrics, specifically hippotherapy. Her love of the profession, and especially advocating for occupational therapy assistants, has led to many volunteer positions, and pursuing the growth of her leadership skills. As a participant in the AOTA Emerging Leaders Program in 2016, her excitement for leadership within the profession expanded. Swidergal previously served on the Illinois Leadership Development Committee, and as the OTA Representative and ILOTA Awards Chair. Currently she is AOTA's Representative Assembly OTA-Representative, hoping to increase the national voice and engagement for all OTA members across the country. She was a participant in the AOTA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for 2022-2023 and is currently pursuing her PhD.

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Melissa Tilton, MS, COTA/L, ROH, has been an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) for over 25 years with experience as a multi-site director in skilled rehabilitation facilities, supporting rehabilitation in areas of practice, regulatory, advocacy, education, risk, and quality outcomes. Tilton now works as quality manager in accreditation at AOTA, focused on quality outcomes and risk management for OT/OTA programs who are Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) accredited and those working towards accreditation. Tilton has extensive experience in volunteering with various national and local committees focused on policy, regulatory, legislation and leadership. She presents nationally and locally with a strong interest in leadership, management, and quality outcomes.

Symposium Committee
Sherry Hite, MOT, OTR/L
Jessica Padilla, COTA/L
Sherry Younesi, BS, COTA/L

About This Virtual Symposium

This Symposium Will Be Recorded
Participate virtually on January 30, 2024, and then re-watch at your convenience for the life of the recording on OTAC's platform. Recordings are generally available 7 days following the conclusion of the event.

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

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

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

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

Professional Development Units (PDUs) | MyOTlicense

Earn up to 5 PDUs.

PDUs will be entered into your MyOTLicense cloud-based PDU tracking 'filing cabinet.' (Must be an OTAC member or MyOTLicense subscriber. This service is available only to OT/OTA licensees.)

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

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About MyOTLicense. MyOTLicense is a secure, cloud-based, easy-to-use virtual information and management tracking tool to help occupational therapy practitioners manage their professional information: licenses, certificates, memberships, professional development. You can think of MyOTLicense as your professional virtual electronic filing cabinet.

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

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

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

1st Annual OTA Symposium

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIA

February 3, 2024
7th Annual Oncology Symposium
Registration is open

March 12, 2024
1st Annual Student Conclave

April 13, 2024
3rd Annual Acute Care Symposium

May 18, 2024
6th Annual Mental Health Symposium

June 21, 2024
3rd Annual Academic Symposium

September 7, 2024
6th Annual School-Based OT Symposium

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