



OTAC 2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & *Innovation Expo*

NOVEMBER 5-8, 2026 | PASADENA



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

ONSITE PROGRAM



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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).



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

IMPORTANT NOTES

NAME BADGE POLICIES

- The following policies are necessary to assure equal and fair treatment for all attendees and were designed to address issues/problems/situations/abuses noted during past conferences as well as to help promote safety.
- Name badges must be worn so that your name is clearly visible at all times.
- All name badges are coded according to fees paid for days registered, and color-code by category of attendee.
 - Thu., Fri., Sat., and Sun. – days(s) registered
 - Purple – Attendee
 - Green – Exhibitor
- Admittance to any session, event, or exhibit area is not allowed without properly coded/colored name badge.
- Name badges are the sole responsibility of the attendee/exhibitor. Lost, misplaced, or forgotten badges may be replaced at a charge of \$10 at the On-Site Registration counter.
- Wearing someone else's name badge, with or without their permission, is strictly prohibited. Doing so is a serious matter and may be grounds for removal from the Conference altogether for all parties involved with no refunds.
- Room monitors, Conference committee members, and other OTAC officials or their designees are empowered to assure compliance with all above requirements.

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! DEI0J

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! Gathering

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! Hip Hop Demo!

7:30pm–9:00pm

Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions;

Let's Connect! OTA Gathering

Let's Connect! Mahjong Mingle

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

CONFERENCE SESSION AND CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS

We are going green too! Complete all your session evaluations by scanning here.



Complete your conference evaluation by scanning here.



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- Post on Instagram @otacofca
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- Talk about #powerfulfuture
- Show your #OTACmemberpride

- **DISCLAIMER.** OTAC, its professional team, officers, and agents claim no liability for the acts of any suppliers to this meeting, nor for the safety of any attendee while attending or in transit to or from the Conference. The attendee acknowledges acceptance of this provision by registering for any aspect of the Conference.

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

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.

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.

CONFERENCE ONLINE HANDOUTS

Presenters are encouraged to provide handouts. Those that have been provided are available to attendees through the Conference mobile app. It is recommended that you download them in advance of attending Conference in the event that the hotel wi-fi is overloaded. We also recommend you bring a pad of paper and pen or a device to take notes. Please note that sometimes presenters provide handouts after the Conference; and that we keep the handouts online for at least one month post Conference.

CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHY/SOCIAL MEDIA

OTAC staff as well as the Conference photographer and social media ambassadors will photograph sessions, special activities, and general areas throughout the Conference. The images taken at Conference are used for promotional purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed, please identify yourself to the photographer/ambassadors. Look for their MEDIA ribbon.

FITNESS WAIVER

Participation in OTAC events is at your own risk. OTAC encourages you to participate at a level that is consistent with your general physical health and abilities. By attending Conference and participating in activities you do hereby release and forever discharge OTAC, its agents, volunteers, and professional team from any and all claims in connection with your attendance/participation.

RECORDING AND CONTENT USE

OTAC conference sessions contain original work shared by our presenters. To protect that content, attendees may not record sessions (audio, video, or screen capture) or use AI note-taking, transcription, or summarization tools to capture session content without prior written consent from OTAC. Attendees are welcome to take personal notes and to share their own takeaways and insights; however, reproducing or distributing session content, in whole or in part, including recordings, transcripts, or AI-generated summaries, is not permitted without written permission. By registering for the OTAC Conference, attendees agree to these terms. OTAC reserves the right to take appropriate action in response to violations.

MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

INNOVATION EXPO HALL DAYS

Friday, November 6

5:15pm–7:15pm

Saturday, November 7

11:30am–2:15pm

EXHIBITORS

Adventist Health

Alliant International University

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)/AOTPAC

AMN Healthcare

Ascend

Axis Patient Solutions

Aya Education

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions (CAHELP)

California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT)

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers of Healthcare

Enhance Therapies

Ensign Affiliates -
FlagshipTherapy.com

FeldCareConnects

FMRC Health Group

Gallagher Pediatric Therapy

Generations Healthcare

Grow Through Life Counseling
interface rehab, inc.

Kandu, Inc.

Kaweah Health

KFK Designs

Loma Linda University
Occupational Therapy

National Board for Certification in
Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)*

Neurovirt

Occupational Therapy Association
of California (OTAC)

Office Relief, Inc.

Point Quest Group

Sirica Therapeutics

SLEA Therapies

SolutionBased Inc.

Speech Babe

SPG Therapy & Education

The Genesis Group

The Stepping Stones Group

University of St. Augustine for
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USC Chan Division of
Occupational Science and
Occupational Therapy

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Occupational Science and
Occupational Therapy

Stanbridge University

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

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

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

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



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

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

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/ San José State University

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.



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

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 Mardrossian

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

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 McIntyre, 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.

THANK You

to our Conference Committee, volunteers, staff, presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors. Your generous and dedicated support makes this premier OT professional development possible, and extraordinary, as we celebrate 50 years of excellence together.

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

05 – Stimulating Change: Noninvasive Therapies for Individuals After a Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury (Part 2) (3 PDUs) (A total of 9 PDUs with Part 1 on Thursday)

Jennifer Bashar, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIST; Lidia Fernandez, OTD, OTR/L; Elvy Fuentes, MSOT, OTR/L

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 6 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.

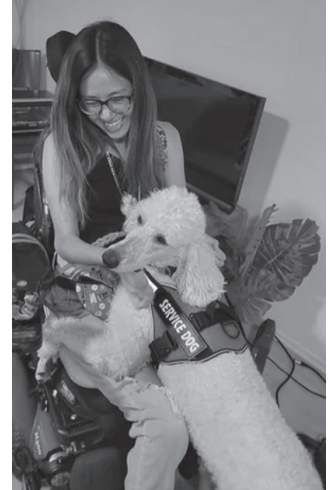
MOBILITYDOG CHALLENGE

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

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

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



Past CFOT Awardees

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.

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: tinyurl.com/5hdzp47a

VISIT: cfot.org

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 engage in a life of their choosing.



Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L



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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 to them 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.

You must have a blue ticket for the event.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Christine M. Wietlisbach,
OTD, OTR/L, CHT, MPA

Occupational Therapy Practice Award



Graham Teaford,
OTD, OTR/L, SCLV

Award of Excellence



Ada Boone Hoerl,
MA, COTA/L, ROH

Award of Appreciation



Annie Baltazar Mori,
OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Janice Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award



Jacalyn Mardrossian,
MA, COTA/L, ROH

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educator Award



Jennifer Andaya-Lambinico,
EdM, OTR/L, ATP

Susan J. Harris OT Entrepreneur Award



Robyn Chu,
MOT, OTR/L

Outstanding Student Award



Karla Rodriguez,
OT Student

OTAC Vision Award



Sherry Hite,
MOT, OTR/L, FAOTA

Occupational Therapy Assistant Honorary Award



Laura Deary,
BS, OTR/L, ROH

Spirit of Occupational Therapy Award



Sherry Younesi,
OTD, COTA/L

OTAC Honorary Lifetime Membership



Linda L. Florey,
PhD, OT Retired, FAOTA



Patricia S. Nagaishi,
PhD, MA, OT Retired

Congratulations Award Honorees!

RECOGNITION OF OTAC AWARD HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2026	Christine M. Wietlisbach	2002	Ruth Zemke
2025	Terri Chew Nishimura	2001	Florence Clark
2024	Alison H. George	2000	Dottie Ecker
2023	Gordon Muir Giles	1999	Elizabeth Yerxa
2022	Erna Imperatore Blanche	1998	Evelyn Jaffe
2021	Jerilyn 'Gigi' Smith	1997	Sarah Kelly
2020	Winifred Schultz-Krohn	1996	Ada Granger
2019	Anne MacRae	1995	Jan Matsutsuyu
2018	Susan Harris	1994	Kilulu Von Prince
2017	Guy L. McCormack	1993	Doris Heredia
2016	Ruth Ramsey	1992	Edwinna Marshall
2015	Lisa Test	1991	Lela Llorens
2014	Ann Neville-Jan	1990	Frances Kelly
2013	Michele Berro	1989	Eleanor L. Hillger
2012	Mary Evert	1988	Dorothy Wilson
2011	Heidi McHugh Pendleton	1984	Florence Cromwell
2010	Catherine Earhart	1983	Ethlyn Stinson
2008	Margaret Phillips	1982	A. Jean Ayres
2007	Amy Killingsworth	1981	Carlotta Welles
2006	Linda Florey	1980	Doris Cutting
2005	Diane Foti	1979	Bekke Holdeman
2004	Susan Knox	1978	Gwen Wright
2003	Mary Foto	1977	Jean Peck

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT HONORARY AWARD

2026	Laura Deary	2004	Danielle Meglio
2022	Sharon L. Pavlovich	2001	Marlene Van Vliet
2017	Erika Agustin	2000	Patricia Shiokari
2015	Ada Boone Hoerl	1999	Barbara Forte
2014	Cindy Garcia	1996	Jacalyn Mardirossian
2011	Gloria Romero	1995	Terri Olivas-De La O
2009	Yvonne C. Trousdale	1994	Patricia O'Hare
2005	Bobbi Jean Tanberg		

JANICE MATSUTSUYU OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

2026	Jacalyn Mardirossian	2007	Marlene Steele
2024	Joseph A. Juse	2006	Rondalyn Whitney
2023	Heather J. Kitching	2004	Patricia Nagaishi
2022	Alison H. George	2003	Sarah Kelly
2020	Jerilyn 'Gigi' Smith	2002	Linda Tank
2019	Sherry M. Hite	2001	Danielle Meglio
2018	Bryant Edwards	2000	Luella Grangaard;
2017	Elizabeth G. Gomes		Guy McCormack
2016	Luis Arabit	1999	Diana Su-Erickson
2014	Gayle San Marco	1998	Michele Berro
2013	Arameh Anvarizadeh	1997	Patricia Bascom
2012	Samia Rafeedie	1996	Cindy Burt
2011	Heather Kitching	1995	Barbara Gale
2010	Lora Woo	1994	Diane Crabtree
2009	Bonita A. Kraft	1993	Laura Caron-Parker
2008	Gina Ceja	1992	Janet Jabri

SUSAN J. HARRIS OT ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

2026	Robyn Chu	2014	Terri Nishimura
2025	Barbara Phillips	2013	Tammy Richmond
2024	Swati Shah	2012	Bonnie Nakasuji;
2023	Jayson Davies		Erna Imperatore Blanche
2022	Hiral Khatri	2011	John Goodfellow
2020	Laura Park Figueroa	2010	Mary Kay Gallagher
2018	M. Terry Bowman	2009	Fredlyn S. Berger
2016	Sonia Lopez	2008	Tara Delaney
2015	Julie Groves	2007	Susan Harris

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

2026	Ada Boone Hoerl	2001	Christine Wietlisbach
2025	Natalie A. Perkins	2000	Elizabeth Cara
2024	Sharon A. Cermack	1999	Linda Fazio
2023	Claudia G. Peyton	1997	Brenda Collins
2022	Deborah J. Bolding	1996	Linda Florey
2021	Margaret 'Peg' Ann Bledsoe	1995	Susan Harris
		1994	Ruth Zemke
2020	Christy Billock	1993	Janet Jabri
2017	Deborah B. Pitts	1992	Margaret A. Phillips
2016	Heather Thomas	1991	Susan Knox
2015	Julie Bissell	1990	Patricia Shiokari
2014	Shawn Phipps	1989	Ardith Breton
2013	Pamela Richardson	1988	Susan Cleary Schwartz
2012	Bonnie Nakasuji	1987	Diane Hendricks
2011	Erna Imperatore Blanche	1986	Kilulu Von Prince
2010	Michele Berro	1985	Mary Kasch
2009	Teri Wiss	1984	Mary Margaret Evert
2008	Winifred Schultz-Krohn	1983	Evelyn Jaffe
2007	Thelma Wellerson Hook	1982	Dale Houston
2006	Linda Tank	1981	Dorothy Wilson
2005	Jerilyn 'Gigi' Smith	1980	Sarah Kelly
2004	Pamela Roberts	1978	Mary Lou Hymen
2003	Heidi Pendleton	1977	Julie Shaperman
2002	Charles Strauch		

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE AWARD

2026	Graham Teaford	2005	Shawn Phipps
2025	Don Gordon	2004	Laurie Nelson
2024	Denise Ha	2003	Valerie Adams
2023	Zoe Mailloux	2002	Winifred Schultz-Krohn
2022	Julie Groves	2001	Karin Bonfils Kleinhans
2021	Ana G. Verran	2000	Gordon Muir Giles
2020	Stephanie Foster	1999	Marti Southam
2018	Monica Becerril	1998	Elise Holloway
2017	Kathleen J. Shanfield	1997	Elizabeth Snow
2016	Sandra Okada	1996	Luella Grangaard
2015	Chantelle Rice	1995	Joanna Patton
2014	Nicolaas van den Heever	1994	Deborah Morawski
2013	Elizabeth G. Gomes	1993	Georgette Dufresne
2012	Michal Atkins	1992	Claudia Allen
2011	Deborah B. Pitts	1991	Yuriko Lynn Yasuda
2010	Sarah R. Bream	1990	Margaret A. Phillips
2009	Christine Wietlisbach	1989	Thelma Hook
2008	Margaret 'Peg' Bledsoe	1988	Susan Knox
2007	Lisa Deshaies	1985	Linda Ogden
2006	Lynna Kaplan	1984	Dorothy Ecker

OT/OTA PARTNERSHIP AWARD

2023	Ingrid Leu;	2005	Terry Olivas-De La O;
	Rodney Harris		Elvira Arzaga Rubio
2019	Dawn N. Hironaka;	2004	Laurie Nelson;
	Laura Deary		Suzanne Olah-Macek;
2012	Christine Wietlisbach;		Rebecca Gibson
	Danielle Meglio	1997	Renee Soderlund;
2007	Sharon Pavlovich;		Jacalyn Mardirossian
	Karen Pendleton		

SPECIAL AWARD

1986	Jane Marvin
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MEDIA AWARD

2025	Patricia Motus	2020	Goodfellow
2024	Kiley Hanish		Occupational Therapy
2022	Karen L. Park	2017	Sarah R. Bream
2021	Bill Wong		

RECOGNITION OF OTAC AWARD HONOREES (CONTINUED)

FIELDWORK EDUCATOR AWARD

2026	Jennifer Andaya-Lambinico	2013	Alann Salvador
2025	Cesar Arada	2012	Judi Palladino
2024	Paul Penoliar	2009	Barbara Rodrigues
2022	Harold T. Neuendorff	2008	Marilyn Masunaka-Noreiga
2021	Becky Crouch	2007	Lora Woo
2020	Mariel Schmidt	2006	Deborah Bolding
2018	Dawn Arias	2005	Bonnie Nakasuji
2017	Janet A. Daimaru	2004	Fred Snively
2016	Gina Phelps	2002	Jayne Taguchi-Meyer
2015	Karen L. Park	2000	Kathryn Gundersen
2014	Diane Mayfield	1999	Gitu Bhavnani

AWARD OF APPRECIATION

2026	Annie Baltazar Mori	2013	Lisa Hiestand
2024	Erin McIntyre	2012	Mildred "Mickey" Galef
2023	Carlin Daley Reaume,	2010	Denise M. Miller
2022	Chana K. Hiranaka	2007	John Watson
	Taisha Trotman	2006	Patti Yonochko Horsley
2021	Eileen S. Auerbach	2005	Mary Reilly
	Lynna Kaplan	2004	Gelya Frank
2020	Susan C. Robertson	2001	Psychiatric Occupational Therapy Action Coalition (POTAC)
2019	Kathryn I. Gundersen		
2017	Aviril Sepulveda		
2016	Lynette Beadles	1988	O.T. Associates-
2014	Sarah R. Bream		Susan J. Harris

VISION AWARD

2026	Sherry Hite	2021	CSU Dominguez Hills & Santa Ana College OT/OTA Collaborative Fieldwork Program
2025	Rebecca Cunningham		Jennifer Brouwers
2024	California Foundation for Occupational Therapy		Zurit Horowitz
2023	Heather Javaherian		Hecky Hua
	Dysinger, Assembly Member		Courtney Jarvis
	Blanca E. Rubio		Faith R. Moy
2021	Assembly Member		Jessica Padilla
	Cecilia Aguiar-Curry	2017	OT Centennial Rose Parade Float Committee and Volunteers

SPIRIT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARD

2026	Sherry Younesi		Deborah Han
2025	Jhennylyn Rivera-Villano	2019	Homeboy Industries
2024	Wendy B. Stav	2017	Frank Kronenberg
2023	Stephanie Moon	2016	CSU Dominguez Hills - Integrating Cultures through Occupational Therapy
2022	Maureen E. Johnson		
2020	Paul Penoliar,		
	Elvy Fuentes,		

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

2005	Senator Elaine White	1998	Loretta and Frank Biehl
2000	Fred Somers, Charles Strauch, Chuck Willmarth		

LUELLA GRANGAARD POLITICAL ACTION AWARD

2025	Rena Dinin Katrikh	2014	Kyle Yetter
	Lisa A. Test	2013	Luis Arabit
2023	Luis Arabit	2012	Guy L. McCormack
2022	Richard A. Bookwalter	2011	Michelle Farmer
2021	Lauren Lopez	2010	Christine Wietlisbach
2018	Jerry Jordan	2007	Matthew Arigo
2015	Sabrena McCarley	2004	Luella Grangaard

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

2026	Karla Rodriquez	2015	Cynthia Ting
2025	Trinity K. Mecham	2014	Samantha Itaya
2022	Teresa Pham	2013	Dimos Tsiggakos
2021	Jhennylyn Rivera	2012	Monique Wolkoff
2020	Maria Cristina Jimenez	2011	Eun Sik (Charlie) Yu
2019	Colleen Nunn	2010	Brittney Sevo Weinerth
2018	Jessica Roestenburg	2005	Amy Olney
2017	Hiral Khatri	2002	Heather J. Kitching
2016	Noelani Brisbane	2001	Elizabeth Chung

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

2020	Diana Su-Erickson	2007	Annette Bushong
2018	Julie Bissell	2006	Marlene Steele, Chuck Strauch
	Lisa Test		Linda Lederer
	Capitol Advocacy	1991	Julie Groves
2011	Amy Lamb	1990	Hazel Simin
2010	Florence Clark, Judith Palladino	1989	Jeanette Workman-Cosentino
2009	Penny Moyers Cleveland, Brian J. Stiger, Chuck Willmarth	1987	Barbara Forte
2008	Annette Bushong, Charles Strauch		

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER

2026	Linda L. Florey,	Recognized prior to 1977
	Patricia S. Nagaishi	
2016	Florence Clark, Diane Mayfield, Judith Palladino	
2006	Lois Barber, Evelyn Jaffe, Lela Llorens, Mary Reilly	
2004	Ruth Zemke, Elizabeth Yerxa	

2027 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

It's never too early to make a nomination for our 2027 Awards Ceremony.

Scan here to nominate a deserving colleague(s)!



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.

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

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

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 engage in a life of their choosing.



Stephanie Moon, OTD, OTR/L

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 (1.5 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.

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**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Long Road to Functional Cognition (1.5 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! Hip Hop Demo! 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 | San José State University

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

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! Gathering

■ 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 RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATE UNTIL THE CLOSE OF ADVANCE REGISTRATION, OCTOBER 27.

STUDENTS MAY PAY THE PRACTITIONER RATES TO ATTEND ANY SESSION.

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.



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) Pacific A/B	02 Cultural Awareness, Ethics, and OT Clinical Practice (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	03 Sex Work: Introduction, Harm Reduction and Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	04 Viewing Grief and Bereavement Through an Occupational Lens (3 PDUs) California	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. Monterey	
10:30am						
10:45am	06 Perinatal Pelvic Health: An Introduction for Occupational Therapy Practitioners (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	07 Going Nonclinical: Pathway to Medical Legal Consulting (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	08 Synergistic Advocacy for OT Practitioners and America's Veterans (1.5 PDUs) San Marino			
12:15pm						
12:45pm	09 Listening Beyond Words: Women's Rehabilitation Reimagined (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	10 From Clinician to CEO: Concrete Strategies to Start and Grow Your Own Business (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	11 From Impulse to Intent: Teaching Safe Decision-Making Through Adaptive Martial Arts (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	12 Mental Health in Everyday Practice: Reviewing Policy, Forecasting Trends, and Affecting Change (3 PDUs) California		
2:15pm						
2:30pm	13 Trailblazing the Line-Up: A Qualitative Study of Elite Women Adaptive Surfers (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	14 The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Private Practice (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	15 Does Asking Help? An OT Student Wellness Study (1.5 PDUs) San Marino			
4:00pm	A – LET’S CONNECT! OT Entrepreneurs/Private Practice San Marino					
	B – LET’S CONNECT! Mental Health, Wellness, Ethics, and Grieving California					
	C – LET’S CONNECT! Women’s Health, Sports, and Physical Disabilities Pacific AB					
6:00pm	D – Movie Night: The Path Forward: Remembering Willowbrook (.5 PDUs) San Gabriel					

*All sessions open to students

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

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

OTAC 2027
ANNUAL
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& EXPO
CONTINUING
EDUCATION
PASADENA
NOVEMBER 11-14

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2027 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo | November 11-14 | Hilton Pasadena
2027 Saturday Keynote will be announced at the 2026 OTAC Annual Meeting on Sunday.
We are so excited!

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 Hilton Restaurant									
8:15am	60 STUDENTS ONLY From Student to Supervisor: Building Emotional Intelligence Foundations (no PDUs) California	61 OT’s Role in Post-Surgical Management of Bladder Cancer (1 PDU) San Diego	62 Let’s Go for Therapeutic Groups in Spanish (1 PDU) San Marino	63 Facilitating Self-Awareness Following Moderate to Severe TBI (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	64 Looking at Resource Development in the Autism Community Through the Lens of Occupation (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	65 Smart Home Technology in OT (1.5 PDUs) Pasadena	66 Global Challenges for OT Clinicians Entering Academia (1.5 PDUs) ST Pacific C	67 Comorbid Complexity: The Intersection of POTS and Long-COVID (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	68 Breathing: Everyone’s First and Last Occupation (3 PDUs) Pacific A/B	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. Del Mar
9:15am				73 Further Dev. of the Menu Task: Usability and Clinical Utility Across the Lifespan (1.5 PDUs) ST San Gabriel	74 Safety First: OT’s Unique Role with Secondary Students (1.5 PDUs) ST Pacific C	75 Try 3D Priting in OT: Beginner’s Hands-On Workshop (1.5 PDUs) Pasadena	76 Being and Becoming: Safety and Growth on College Campuses (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	77 POTS: An Aquatic OT Approach (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	8:15am - 11:30am Leadership Institute Must be pre-registered San Jose	
9:30am	70 STUDENTS ONLY AI Tools in Clinical Practice and Decision Support (no PDUs) California	71 Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care (2 PDUs) San Marino	72 Beyond Symptom Management: Root-Cause Approaches to Chronic and Neuropathic Pain (2 PDUs) San Diego							
9:45am										
10:00am										
10:30am										
10:45am	78 STUDENTS ONLY NBCOT® Exam: Information You Need to Know (no PDUs) California									
11:30am										
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) Monterey	81 Affirming Practices for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Clients (1.5 PDUs) ST Pacific C	82 Lifestyle Redesign® for Central Disorders of Hypersomno- lence (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	83 Detecting Autism Early: Navigating Conversations and Screening Strategies (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	84 Interdis- ciplinary Collaboration: Holding the Whole Child in Mind (1.5 PDUs) ST Pasadena	85 Practical Strategies: Incorporating Cultural Humility in Pediatric Feeding (1.5 PDUs) San Diego	86 Close Collaboration: Comparing OT and OTA Students’ Perceptions (1.5 PDUs) Del Mar	87 Navigating Uncharted Territories: Sustainable Weight Loss and GLP-1s (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	88 From Legacy to Vision: Defining the Next 50 Years of OTAC (3 PDUs) ST San Gabriel	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) California
4:00pm										
4:15pm	90 Beyond Clinical Competence: Cultivating Brave Spaces (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	91 The Sense of Belonging (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	92 Occupational Therapy’s Role in Street Medicine Teams (1.5 PDUs) ST San Marino	93 Evidence-Based Practice for Pediatric Feeding Disorders (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	94 AI to Support School-Based OT Practitioners and Students (1.5 PDUs) ST Pasadena	95 Auditing the Load: Occupational Balance for OTP Parents (1.5 PDUs) Del Mar	96 A Human-Centered AI Framework for Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	97 Evidence and Opportunity: Mitigating Morbidity in Pediatric Cardiac Care (1.5 PDUs) San Diego		
5:45pm										
6:00pm	J - OTAC 50th Birthday Party International Ballroom									
6:00pm	K - Let’s Connect! OTA Gathering San Marino; L - Let’s Connect! Mahjong Mingle International Ballroom									
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 International Ballroom												
9:15am	100 Just Right Challenge: Rethinking Parent Home Programs (1 PDU) Pacific A/B	101 AI-Facilitated Debriefing: Cultivating Growth Mindset in OT (1 PDU) Monterey	102 Piloting an Occupational Therapy Program with Survivors of Domestic Violence (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	103 STUDENTS ONLY Hand Therapy: Practically Preparing for Fieldwork II (no PDUs) Del Mar	104 Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Experiences with Animal-Assisted Therapy Competencies (1.5 PDUs) Pasadena	105 Tiered Sensory Supports in School-Based OT (1.5 PDUs) California	106 Addressing Sexual Health: Assessment and Practical Intervention (4 PDUs) San Diego	107 Shoulder Subluxation: Anatomy, Intervention, and California Tri-Pull Taping (4 PDUs) San Gabriel	108 Using Sensory Integration Theory in Contemporary Clinical Practice (4 PDUs) San Marino				
10:15am													
10:30am	109 Supporting School Transitions Following Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (1 PDU) Pacific A/B	110 Finding Your Entrepreneurial Flow: From Barriers to Breakthroughs (2 PDUs) Monterey											
10:45am													
11:00am													
11:30am			120 Faculty-Led Pro Bono Clinics and Community Partnerships (3 PDUs) Del Mar	121 Between the Lines of Handwriting (3 PDUs) Pasadena	122 Vision Rehab 101: Beyond OT School Basics (3 PDUs) California	123 Gardening: Accessibility. Sustainability. Sense-Ability. Incorporating the Kawa Model (3 PDUs) Pacific C							
11:45am	111 Designing Play Spaces with Young Student Voice (1 PDU) Pacific A/B												
12:45pm													
1:00pm	124 Clinical Reasoning Using Sensory Integration Theory in Practice (1 PDU) Pacific A/B	125 Almost Leaving, Now Leading: Reclaiming Your OT Identity (1 PDU) Monterey											
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!												

*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.

GROUP A

- Adaptive Sports and Lifestyle Management in SCI
- Burnout Band-Aid: Supporting OTD Students' Occupational Balance
- Cultural Stigma, Trauma, and Mental Health Service Utilization in Immigrants
- Development of Lymphedema Program Serving Large Urban Hospital "No More Waiting:" Bringing Lymphedema Care In-House
- Doctoral Capstone Project: Deletion Syndrome Occupational Therapy Handbook
- Evaluating the COPM in Acute Rehabilitation: A 25-Year Retrospective Review
- Experiences of Picky Eating in Adults
- Exploring Bisexual Occupational Identity and Narratives of Daily Purpose
- Feasibility of Lifestyle Redesign® in ADHD OT Groups
- GenAI in OT Education: What Educators Really Think
- Insights into Students' Sense of Safety and Belonging
- Movement Strategies to Support Schoolwide Social and Emotional Learning
- Neurorehabilitation Virtual Escape Rooms in Occupational Therapy Education
- Not Your Average OTP: Addressing Menstruation in Pediatrics
- Outcome Measures vs. Lived Experiences: Pediatric Hemorrhagic Stroke
- Promoting Participation and Social-Emotional Wellness: Sensory Garden Program
- Role of OT in Community-Based Fatherhood Program
- Sensory Processing Patterns and Stress in Healthy Adults: A Post-COVID-19 Study
- ~~Social Flourishing in Dungeons and Dragons Campaign~~ - Withdrawn
- Staff Perceptions of OT Using ASI on Students' Participation Outcomes

GROUP B

- Assessing Playgrounds for Accessibility for Parents with Disabilities
- Barriers to Assistive Technology for Aging in Place
- Caregiver Voices to Inform Pediatric Home Programs
- Connecting the Dots: Pediatric Occupational Therapy Vision Readiness
- Developmental Training for Nursing Staff in the PICU
- Empowering Key Educational Stakeholders with Neuro-Affirming Knowledge
- Empowering Sleep Health in Spinal Cord Injury
- Enhancing Student Engagement in Leadership and Advocacy
- Express and Empower: Boxing and Fiction-Based Writing for First Responders
- Intimate Partner Relationships for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities
- Occupation-Based Digital Skills for Refugee Integration
- Occupational Therapy Capstone Experience: Impact on Graduates' Careers
- Promoting Well-Being in First Generation College Students
- Sensory Processing and Self-Regulation Parent Education Program
- Sensory Processing Patterns, Stress, and Sleep in Musicians
- Stroke Education for Secondary Prevention in Inpatient Rehabilitation
- Test-Retest Reliability and Minimal Detectable Change of Hand Strength and Dexterity in Aging Adults
- Therapeutic Relationships Across Language Groups in Occupational Therapy
- Trading Stress for Support: A Student Wellness Exchange
- Understanding Menopause: An Education Series Within Pelvic Health

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EXCITING *News*

A stronger occupational therapy profession starts with access to learning, leadership, and opportunity. The OTAC Education Foundation is investing in California's occupational therapy community — helping students and practitioners grow their skills, prepare for emerging challenges, and better serve communities across the state.

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The OTAC Education Foundation has been established and has applied for recognition as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3); the application is pending with the IRS. Contributions are not currently assured to be tax-deductible, and deductibility depends on IRS approval, thus we are asking for pledges for when we do become approved.

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