

10th Annual OT in Oncology Symposium – Virtual (5.5 PDU's)

Presented by OTAC and City of Hope

OTAC 2027
10TH Annual
ONCOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM
VIRTUAL FEB 6⁺



DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

February 6, 2027
8:30AM to 2:30PM



QUESTIONS?

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

*Early Bird Registration
ends January 12, 2027

**Advance Registration
between January 13, 2027
through February 4, 2027

Last Day to Register
February 4, 2027

Scan Me To Register



VIRTUAL Symposium Schedule (5.5 PDU's)

8:30am-8:45am	Welcome and Introductions <i>Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L, FAOTA</i>
8:45am-9:45am	Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema <i>Amy Brown, OTD, OTR/L, CLT; Elaine Myung, MA, OTR/L, CLT</i>
9:45am-10:45am	Impact of Aromatase Inhibitors on Occupations for Women with Breast Cancer: Occupational Therapy Strategies and Interventions <i>Rochelle Mendonca, PhD, OTR/L (NJ), FAOTA, FNAP; Colleen Maher, OTD, OTR/L (NJ), CHT; Milly Raj, OTD, OTR/L (NY)</i>
10:45am-11:00am	Break
11:00am-12:00pm	Beyond Survival: Bridging Cancer Disparities Through Occupational Identity <i>Stephanie Gross, MS, OTR/L (NY), CLT; Alexandra Byrne, MOT, OTR/L (NY), CLT</i>
12:00pm-1:00pm	Integrating Occupational Therapy in Pediatric Oncology: Impact, Standardized Order Sets, and Peripheral Neuropathy Screening <i>Kathryn Moreno, OTR/L</i>
1:00pm-1:15pm	Break
1:15pm-2:15pm	Comprehensive Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Care: From Diagnosis Through Survivorship <i>Estella Barrios, LCSW</i>
2:15pm-2:30pm	Wrap Up and Q&A <i>Sherry M. Hite, MOT, OTR/L, FAOTA</i>

REGISTRATION FEES

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

REGISTER ONLINE – [CLICK HERE](#)

Cancellation/Refund Policy. \$35 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice must be received in the OTAC office by February 4, 2027, to be eligible for refunds. No refunds after this date. Disclaimer: OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will be made based on these changes.

8:30am – 8:45am

Welcome

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

8:45am – 9:45am

Occupational Therapy in Oncological Lymphedema Care

Amy Brown, OTD, OTR/L, CLT;

Elaine Myung, MA, OTR/L, CLT

This session will provide an overview of occupational therapy's role in lymphedema care, including how we navigate challenges with patient adherence and lifestyle factors that impact outcomes. There will also be discussion about alternative therapies for lymphedema treatment.

9:45am – 10:45am

Impact of Aromatase Inhibitors on Occupations for Women with Breast Cancer: Occupational Therapy Strategies and Interventions

Colleen Maher, OTD, OTR/L, CHT NJ);

Rochelle Mendonca, PhD, OTR/L (NJ), FAOTA, FNAP;

Milly Raj, OTD, OTR/L (NY)

In the United States, there were 321,190 women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2026 (American Cancer Society, 2026). Postmenopausal women who are diagnosed with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer are often treated with aromatase inhibitors (AIs) to deplete their body of estrogen production that stimulates the growth of cancer. Although AIs are often referred to as the 'gold standard' for postmenopausal women with HR+ breast cancer, it comes with many side effects such as joint and bone pain, bone density loss, neuropathy, sleep disturbances, and fatigue. These side effects can lead to a disruption of a person's ability to perform occupations such as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), health management, and community participation. This session will present results of a recent study on the impact of AIs on occupations for women with breast cancer and describe how occupational therapy practitioners can provide interventions and strategies to address the impact of these side effects on everyday functioning.

10:45am – 11:00am ~ Break

11:00am – 12:00pm

Beyond Survival: Bridging Cancer Disparities Through Occupational Identity

Alexandra Byrne, MOT, OTR/L, CLT;

Stephanie Gross, MS, OTR/L, CLT

A cancer diagnosis doesn't just change a body – it changes a life. The United States recorded over one million distinct new diagnoses of cancer in 2023, reflecting the most recent census data. Cancer diagnosis affects individuals across the country, but does it impact everyone equally? This presentation will focus on the interaction between social drivers of health, including personal, social, and environmental factors and occupational engagement. Designed for occupational therapy practitioners across all practice settings (inpatient, outpatient, home health, and skilled nursing), this presentation will outline an individual's journey from diagnosis through survivorship with a focus on rebuilding occupational identity, roles, habits, and routines frequently disrupted by cancer. Attendees will gain insight into cancer disparities across a variety of healthcare and community-based settings and leave with evidence-based, setting specific strategies to identify and close equity gaps in their own practice.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Integrating Occupational Therapy in Pediatric Oncology: Impact, Standardized Order Sets, and Peripheral Neuropathy Screening

Kathryn Moreno, OTR/L

Pediatric cancer affects far more than a child's medical health – it can disrupt development, independence, daily routines, and the ability to simply be a kid. Occupational therapy plays a critical role in identifying functional challenges early and helping children continue to play, learn, participate, and develop throughout their cancer journey. This presentation will explore the impact of occupational therapy in pediatric oncology, with a focus on standardized occupational therapy order sets and proactive peripheral neuropathy screening. By promoting early and consistent occupational therapy involvement, these practices support timely identification of functional needs and help children maintain participation and quality of life despite medical complexity.

1:00pm – 1:15pm ~ Break

1:15pm – 2:15pm

Comprehensive Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Care: From Diagnosis Through Survivorship

Estella Barrios, LCSW

Cancer during adolescence and young adulthood can bring unique medical, emotional, social, and life stage challenges. The Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Program at City of Hope supports patients aged 15-39 with specialized resources throughout their cancer journey. This presentation will explore fertility preservation navigation, psychosocial support, peer connection, education and career guidance, and survivorship resources, highlighting a comprehensive approach to care from diagnosis through survivorship.

2:15pm – 2:30pm

Wrap Up and Q&A

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

About Our Presenters



Estelle Barrios, BA, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker with credentials in both oncology and palliative care. She is an adolescent and young adult program specialist as well as a direct mental health clinician. Her oncology expertise is in lymphoma, stem cell transplantation, and graft-

versus-host disease. In her 13-year career at City of Hope, she has provided therapeutic intervention as well as grants and resources for patients throughout their treatment trajectory. Her current role as program specialist aims toward ensuring the best possible psychosocial outcomes for adolescent and young adult patients and survivors.



Amy Brown, OTD, OTR/L, CLT, is an occupational therapy practitioner and certified lymphedema therapist (CLT) with nearly a decade of experience within the acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, psychiatric unit, and hospital-based outpatient settings. She

earned a Master of Arts in occupational therapy from University of Southern California (USC) in 2017 and a clinical doctorate in 2018. Brown currently provides clinical care at Keck Medical Center of USC and is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy within the USC Chan Division. Her clinical expertise includes providing complete decongestive therapy to those individuals experiencing lymphedema, applying compression in various forms, and providing comprehensive care to survivors of breast cancer as she leads the outpatient lymphedema and recovery program. Brown's work also includes providing peer mentorship and training and serving as a clinical educator for doctoral capstone students.



Alexandra Byrne, MOT, OTR/L (NY), CLT, is an advanced clinical occupational therapy practitioner with 13 years of experience. She earned both a Bachelor of Science in health science and a Master of Occupational Therapy from Quinnipiac University and is a certified lymphedema therapist (CLT). Byrne has been with Memorial Sloan

Kettering Cancer Center for over eight years, specializing in oncology rehabilitation and lymphedema therapy. Her diverse clinical background also includes acute rehabilitation, inpatient and outpatient cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, and custom wheelchair and seating system evaluation, fitting, and training. Throughout her career, Byrne has focused on helping patients maximize function, independence, and quality of life across a wide range of diagnoses and stages of recovery.



Stephanie Gross, MS, OTR/L (NY), CLT, is an advanced clinician occupational therapy practitioner with over eight years of oncology experience and a certified lymphedema specialist (CLT). She specializes in the acute care setting at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center treating individuals across the lifespan.

With specialty areas including pediatrics, intensive care, and lymphedema, Gross has a wealth of experience working with individuals with enumerable cancer diagnoses and sequelae.



Colleen Maher, OTD, OTR/L (NJ), CHT, CLT, has 35 years of clinical experience working with adults with physical disabilities. She has been a certified hand therapist (CHT) since 1992 and additionally as a certified lymphedema therapist (CLT). In addition to her more than 30 years of clinical experience, Maher has also worked as an educator in

higher education for more than 13 years teaching in occupational therapy at Columbia University as an assistant professor. She is also an emeritus professor of occupational therapy at Saint Joseph's University. Her research has focused on cancer management and exploration and psychometric properties of hand assessments. Over her career as a faculty member and administrator, Maher has authored book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, and presented in numerous state and national conferences and has received five funded research grants. She was the co-recipient of the 2004 Best Practice Award for Patient Guide: Lymphedema, awarded by the Joint Commission. In 2022, she was a co-recipient of the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Innovation Award as director of Camp Discovery, a community-based occupational therapy program that included assessing the quality of life and well-being of women who were diagnosed with cancer.



Rochelle Mendonca, PhD, OTR/L (NJ), FAOTA, FNAP, is associate professor and director of Post-Professional Doctoral Programs in Occupational Therapy at Columbia University. She received a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy in India and an MS and PhD in health

sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her career as a practitioner, educator, and researcher for 20 years has focused on accessibility and assistive technologies for people with disabilities to improve function, participation, and engagement in environments and communities. She is co-director of Camp Recovery, an occupation-focused program for women diagnosed with cancer, for the past 14 years. Mendonca has been awarded over \$5.4 million in federal, foundation, and local funds and has served on the U.S. Access Board Committee to develop standards for accessible medical equipment. She is currently on the Board of Trustees for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and a board member for the Stroke Recovery Committee of the American Heart Association.



Elaine Moreno, OTR/L, is an inpatient pediatric occupational therapy practitioner dedicated to advancing rehabilitation care for children with complex medical needs, with a particular focus on pediatric oncology. Over the past number of years, she has taken an active

leadership role in developing oncology rehabilitation services through interdisciplinary collaboration, education, and program development. Moreno has presented to oncology physicians on the role of occupational therapy in pediatric cancer care and continues to support collaboration through ongoing functional outcome data. She mentors new practitioners, co-leads occupational therapy department development initiatives, and contributes to education for rehabilitation teams and medical residents. Moreno focuses on

promoting early occupational therapy involvement, identifying functional challenges throughout the cancer journey, and helping children maintain participation, development, and meaningful childhood occupations despite medical complexity. She is passionate about advocating for the role of occupational therapy in pediatric oncology and improving outcomes for children and families in all aspects of the care continuum.



Elaine Myung, MA, OTR/L, CLT, is an occupational therapy practitioner and certified lymphedema therapist (CLT) with over a decade of experience across acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, and outpatient settings. She earned a Master of Arts in occupational therapy from the University of Southern

California (USC) and has been practicing since 2012. Myung currently practices at Keck Medical Center of USC, where she provides comprehensive occupational therapy services in outpatient lymphedema management. Her clinical expertise includes complete decongestive therapy, compression management, and long-term patient-centered strategies to improve functional outcomes and quality of life. Her work includes active involvement in interdisciplinary quality improvement efforts, and lymphedema program development and growth. Myung also serves as a fieldwork educator for occupational therapy students and contributions to ongoing professional development within the field.



Milly Raj, OTD, OTR/L (NY), is an occupational therapy practitioner serving underserved populations within the New York City public system. She strives to provide therapeutic occupational therapy services not just for but in collaboration with her patients and students within a culturally diverse and

neurodiversity-affirming environment. Raj's doctoral project focused on investigating the occupational impact of aromatase inhibitors on the daily functional performance of female breast cancer survivors. She presented her preliminary findings at the 2025 American Occupational Therapy Inspire Conference. Her current research interests include women's health, specifically maternal health, as well as, psychometric testing for assessments related to autistic young adults.

About This Virtual Symposium

This Symposium Will Be Recorded

Participate virtually on February 6, 2027, and then re-watch at your convenience for the life of the recording on OTAC's platform. Recordings are generally available 14 days following the conclusion of the event.

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

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

Professional Development Units (PDUs) Tracking

PDUs will be entered into OTAC members' accounts.

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

Symposium Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIA

Watch for announcements about other specialty symposia in 2027.

- January 23, 2027 – **Occupational Therapy Assistant Symposium** | Virtual
- May 1 and 2, 2027 – **Spring Symposium** | San Jose
- **And more!**