

1st Annual OTAC Research Symposium – Sat, July 19, 2025

VIRTUAL

IN
COLLABORATION
WITH



VIRTUAL

Participate from anywhere you
have a strong internet
connection

RECORDINGS WILL BE
AVAILABLE BY AUGUST 1,
2025 FOR REGISTRANTS.

DATE AND TIME

Sat, July 19, 2025
8:45am to 3:45pm

Register Online

<https://otac.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1973084&group=>

Register by Mail or Fax
Using this Registration Form

QUESTIONS?

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

Agenda – 8:45am to 3:45pm – Earn 5.5 PDUs

- 8:45am – 9:00am:** Welcome/Agenda Overview
- 9:00am – 10:15am:** KEYNOTE: Partnering Up in Research Engagements with Mary Lawlor, ScD, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA
- 10:15am – 10:30am:** BREAK
- 10:30am – 11:30am:** Neurodevelopment and Sensory Processing – Two Panel Presentations
- 11:30am – 12:30pm:** Adult Rehabilitation in the Post-Pandemic World – Two Panel Presentations
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm:** LUNCH ON OWN
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm:** Narrowing the Gap: Research Practice Partnerships to Integrate Value-Based Occupational Therapy
- 2:30pm – 3:30pm:** Breakout Rooms and Student Posters by Practice Areas
- 3:30pm – 3:45pm:** WRAP UP

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

	OT/OTA MEMBERS	OT/OTA NONMEMBERS	STUDENT MEMBERS	STUDENT NONMEMBERS
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EARLY BIRD ☐ \$89

☐ \$119

☐ \$49

☐ \$79

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATE AVAILABLE UNTIL REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY, JULY 18.

Please review the cancellation/refund policy.

Name _____

Title _____

Employer _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Mobile _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS: CHECK ONE

☐ Check (make payable to OTAC)

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

☐ AMEX

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date _____ VCode _____

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____

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

☐ Mail: OTAC, 3620 American River Dr, Ste 230, Sacramento, CA 95864,

OR, REGISTER ONLINE - <https://otac.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1973084&group=>

Cancellation/Refund.

\$35 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice must be received in the OTAC office by July 17, 2025, to be eligible for refunds. No refunds after this date. OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will be made based on these changes.



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Program Overview

The Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) are excited to announce their collaboration for our first annual virtual Research Symposium. The goals of this Symposium are to:

1. Build connections between clinicians and researchers to advance evidence-based practice and
2. Provide networking opportunities for students who are interested in research.

Attendees will hear from clinicians and researchers who are actively engaged in clinical research and select student poster presentations. Small-group discussions geared toward building collaborative partnerships will close out the Research Symposium.

AGENDA

8:45am – 9:00am

Welcome/Agenda Overview

9:00am – 10:15am

KEYNOTE: Partnering Up in Research Engagements

Mary Lawlor, ScD, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA

Attendees will hear about lessons learned, reflections, and examples about how to optimize the engagement of researchers, clinicians, and community partners in research. Emphasis will be placed on how to leverage complementarity in expertise, co-produce knowledge and research, facilitate productive conversations and mutual endeavors, and support research relationships.

10:15am – 10:30am – BREAK

10:30am – 11:30am

Neurodevelopment and Sensory Processing:
Two panel presentations include moderated discussions.

Presentation 1: Organization-Level Occupational Therapy Consultation to Support Cultural Arts Participation Among People with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Caroline Umeda, PhD, OTR/L

This session will provide an overview of occupational therapy's role in disability access and inclusion efforts within cultural arts organizations. The presenters' past and current research projects examining the components, structure, and impact of this emerging practice area and identify key next steps for occupational therapy practitioners and researchers will be discussed.

Presentation 2: Following Ayres' Path

Erna Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA;

Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L

Fifty years ago, Ayres established a path for research that is now difficult to follow. She developed her theory, assessment tools, and interventions while maintaining close ties to clinical practice. This presentation will focus on the challenges and benefits of maintaining a clinical presence while engaging in academic research. At the end of this presentation, participants will understand the need to collect systematic data in clinical settings and the associated challenges.

11:30am – 12:30pm

Adult Rehabilitation in the Post-Pandemic World Panel

Two panel presentations include moderated discussions.

Presentation 1: Patient and Provider Experiences of Navigating Return-to-Work with Long COVID: Lessons Learned and Community-Driver Priorities

Shawn C. Roll, PhD, OTR/L, RMSKS, FAOTA, FAIUM; Jamie Wilcox, OTD, OTR/L

Long COVID, a chronic condition with wide-ranging symptoms and impairments, affects nearly 7% of American adults. Returning to work with this poorly understood, yet complex, chronic condition within our health and social systems is challenging. This presentation will provide perspectives and experiences of individuals living with this condition, an overview of the roles of occupational therapy practitioners in supporting their return to work, and emerging findings from a community-engaged research project aimed at identifying priorities for practice, advocacy, and research.

Presentation 2: Wearing Two Coats: Research in a Clinician's World

John Margetis, OTD, OTR/L

A brief overview will be provided of ongoing clinical and translational research efforts at Keck Medical Center of USC with a focus on feasibility of participation for a full-time clinician. Participants will discuss potential challenges for participating in research efforts as well as identify strategies to contribute to research efforts within their own institutions.

12:30pm – 1:30pm – LUNCH ON OWN

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Narrowing the Gap: Research Practice Partnerships to Integrate Value-Based Occupational Therapy

Alison Cogan, PhD, OTR/L; Pamela Roberts, PhD, OTR/L, SCFES, FAOTA, CPHQ, FNAP, FACRM

This session will summarize value-based strategies for integrating research evidence into practice. It will highlight research practice partnerships, the need for readily accessible evidence, and the value of mentorship in fostering evidence-based practice. Attendees will hear how occupational therapy practitioners can effectively partner with researchers to identify relevant research and translate findings into clinical practice and provide tools and strategies for accessing, understanding, and communicating research evidence.

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Breakout Rooms and Student Poster Presentations by Practice Areas

3:30pm – 3:45pm – WRAP UP

Symposium Coordinators

Emily Sweiss, PhD, OTR/L

Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS,

FAOTA, Director of Professional Program in Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California

About Our Presenters



Erna Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, is a clinical professor of occupational therapy, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California. She is an

internationally known expert in the areas of evaluation and intervention of sensory processing disorders in children with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. Blanche has authored and co-authored multiple publications on these topics, has lectured extensively around the globe, and has received multiple national and international recognitions for her work in pediatric occupational therapy. She is also co-owner and a co-founder of Therapy West, Inc., a clinical facility that serves more than 1,000 children per year in multiple locations in California. In her multiple roles as professor, international lecturer, and clinician, Blanche crosses the boundaries between clinical practice and academic research.



Alison M. Cogan, PhD, OTR/L, is an occupational therapy practitioner, occupational scientist, and health services researcher. Her work aims to improve the quality of rehabilitation services by identifying what combinations of

services work best for whom to enable optimal functional performance and community participation for adults with acquired brain injury.



Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L, received her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. She has worked for more than 20 years as a pediatric occupational

therapy practitioner and specializes in working with children with autism spectrum disorders, neuromotor disorders, and feeding and oral-motor difficulties and their families. Gunter has taught courses and hands-on practica on the topics of sensory integration theory and intervention, autism spectrum disorders, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and medical billing and documentation. She is also the director of clinical operations at Therapy West, Inc., where she oversees operations of three clinical sites and supervises both administrative and therapeutic staff.



Mary Lawlor, ScD, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA, is a professor and associate chair for research, USC Chan. She is regarded for her work in the areas of pediatric occupational therapy, maternal and child health,

family-centered care, interdisciplinary models of service delivery and ethnographic research. She graduated magna cum laude from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy, received her Master of Education degree from Harvard University, and earned her Sc.D. in therapeutic studies from Boston University. She is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association, a member of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's Academy of Research, and recipient of the AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award, the occupational therapy profession's highest academic honor. Lawlor's research interests are in examining the meanings of illness and disability in family life, the social nature of therapeutic experience, and cultural

influences on health care and developmental processes. She was principal investigator of Boundary Crossings, an interdisciplinary longitudinal ethnographic research project that received more than \$5.5 million in total federal research funding over more than 15 years. She has also received grants from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the U.S. Department of Education and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Her many years of service to the profession include chairing the AOTF Board of Trustees, the AOTF Scientific Advisory Council, and the AOTF Academy of Research; serving on editorial and review boards of numerous journals including the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*; reviewing grant submissions, professional and regulatory standards revisions and conference proposals.



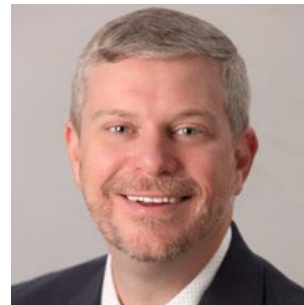
John Margetis, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, specializes in neurologic and critical care rehabilitation with clinical and research interests in vascular/acquired brain injury, stroke, neuro-imaging and neuro-cognitive dysfunction. In

addition to providing direct patient care, Margetis mentors junior faculty members and trainees of all levels, lectures in the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and actively participates in multiple research efforts at USC.



Pamela Roberts, PhD, MSHA, OTR/L, SCFES, FAOTA, CPHQ, FNAP, FACRM, is the executive director in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and professor and executive director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and professor of Biomedical

Sciences at Cedars-Sinai. She is also senior director of Quality, Outcomes, and Research at California Rehabilitation Institute. She is the co-director of the Division of Informatics in the Department of Computational Biomedicine Sciences and associate director of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship program. She is also senior director of quality, outcomes and research at California Rehabilitation Institute and adjunct faculty at the University of Southern California, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Roberts works in interprofessional roles involving operations, quality, education, and research to systematically impact patient care. In these endeavors, she seeks to advance practice for discovery, research, healthcare delivery to catalyze inquiry and discovery across the enterprise. Finally, Roberts' published research focuses on utilization of large data to influence treatment models, quality, outcomes, and policy.



Shawn C. Roll, PhD, OTR/L, RMSKS, FAOTA, FAIUM, is a professor in the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. His scholarship

aims to understand the intersections among the built, social, and organizational environments, with a focus on health and well-being as we engage in occupations, particularly within the workplace.



Caroline Umeda, PhD, OTR/L, is associate professor and director of curriculum and assessment in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Dominican University of California. She has over 20 years of clinical experience in pediatric

practice, specializing in service provision for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. For the past 10 years, Umeda has

focused on practice and research related to occupational therapy consultation within cultural arts organizations to support access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities and their families. In addition, she engages in an active line of scholarship related to resilience in occupational therapy education and practice.



Jamie Wilcox, MPH, OTD, OTR/L, is the clinical manager of outpatient occupational therapy at Keck Medicine of USC and a clinical specialist in pulmonary, transplant, and long COVID rehabilitation. She is a co-

investigator on an AHRQ-funded interdisciplinary grant initiative to expand access to long COVID care through the Keck USC Covid Recovery Clinic. Wilcox teaches in both the USC Chan Division's entry-level OTD program and the KMC AOTA Fellowship program in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

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ABOUT THIS VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Cancellation/Refund Policy

\$35 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice must be received in the OTAC office by the due date on the registration form. Disclaimer: OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will be made based on those changes.

This Symposium Will Be Recorded

This Symposium will be recorded. Participate virtually on July 19, 2025, 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.



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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>

Earned PDUs

PDUs will be entered into your cloud-based PDU tracking 'filing cabinet' associated with your membership record.

Why OTAC Symposia?

To support OTAC Core Value No. 7 - Professional Development: To provide quality education and resources to advance the knowledge, skills, and continued competence of occupational therapy practitioners.

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.

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