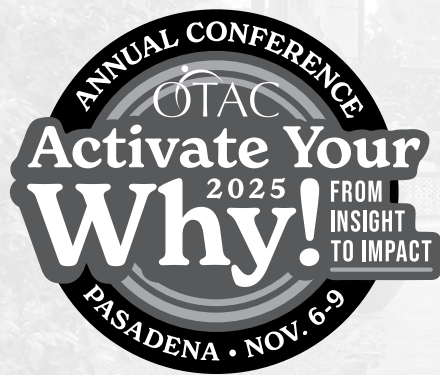




OTAC 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & INNOVATION EXPO

NOVEMBER 6-9, 2025 | PASADENA

ONSITE PROGRAM

 @OTACnews  @OTACofca
#OTACCONF2025 | #activateyourWHY



Distinguished Presenters



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

OTAC President



Sarah Adam,
OTD, OTR/L (MO)

Friday Keynote



Jean Koketsu,
OTD, OTR/L

CFOT Honored Lecturer



**Arameh
Anvarizadeh,**
OTD, OTR/L,
FAOTA

Saturday Keynote



**Kathryn
Sorensen,**
OTD, OTR/L
(NC), ADAC

Sunday Keynote



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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 100 hours of sessions 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, join now at special Conference rates to earn the Conference discount.

WE TRACK YOUR PDUS

Conference PDUs for OT/OTA practitioners will be entered into your OTAC account by January 31, 2026.

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
 - Green – Attendee
 - Gold – 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.

ABOUT PDUS

2024 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 him/her 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 and subscribers will be entered into your myotlicense record by January 15, 2025.
- **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.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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. Some complimentary sessions for registered OTAC members.

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

6:00pm–7:30pm
Movie Night: Boys of Riverside: A Powerful Story
Follows the story of the California School for the Deaf at Riverside football team

Join us for an extraordinary evening showcasing "Boys of Riverside," a powerful 28-minute documentary that will transform how you view ability, communication, and human potential. This inspiring film follows the California School for the Deaf at Riverside football team as they shatter expectations and redefine what's possible, turning what society perceives as a limitation into their greatest strength on their path to multiple state championships. Watch as deaf athletes and coaches demonstrate the power of alternative communication methods, adaptive strategies, and inclusive team dynamics that foster belonging and achievement. The personal journeys of players overcoming homelessness, coaches breaking barriers, and a community challenging stereotypes will resonate deeply with your professional mission of empowering individuals to participate fully in meaningful activities. This isn't just a sports story — it's a celebration of human resilience, the strength found in diversity, and the transformative power of believing in what people can accomplish when given the right support and opportunities.

Moderated discussion to follow with representatives from the California School for the Deaf at Riverside.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

11:30am–1:00pm
CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium (.5 PDUs)
\$85; \$10 Students-Only Gallery Seating (no lunch)
Featuring Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L

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

3:15pm–5:15pm
Awards Ceremony and Friday
Keynote Address (.5 PDUs)
Featuring Sarah Adam, OTD, OTR/L (MO)

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

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

11:30am–2:00pm
Expo Activities including Poster Presentations
(earn PDUs) Must purchase lunch in advance (\$20).

2:15pm–5:30pm
Concurrent Sessions (earn PDUs)

5:45pm–6:15pm
Saturday Keynote Address
Featuring Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

6:15pm–7:30pm
President's Mix 'N Mingle | Trivia Prizes
Join us to celebrate OT. Selfie station and trivia for prizes. Hosted light refreshments.

7:30pm–9:00pm
Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions;
Let's Connect! OTA Gathering & Black OT/OTA
Gathering

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30am–9:00am
OTAC Annual Meeting and Keynote Address,
with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare (.5 PDUs)
Featuring Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR,
CBIS, FAOTA, and Kathryn Sorensen, OTD, OTR/L
(NC), ADAC

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

2:15pm
OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawings

IMPORTANT NOTES: ABOUT KEYNOTES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Awards Ceremony precedes the Keynote Address in the same room. The timing for these two events is 3:15pm–5:15pm, at which time we will all proceed to the Innovative Expo Grand Opening Reception hosted by our exhibitors. Don't miss our keynote presenter, **Sarah Adam** OTD, OTR/L (MO)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Join us for this special Saturday Keynote Address by AOTA President **Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, about courage, community, and connection. Directly following her Keynote is the OTAC President's Mix 'N Mingle with light refreshment and a no-stress networking activity in the registration foyer. The information tables will be open. Come win a prize at one of the OTAC tables.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The OTAC Annual Meeting and Keynote is a light breakfast meeting from 7:30am–9:15am. You must have indicated on your registration form that you planned to attend this event (Activity L). It is not assumed that you will attend. Enjoy our keynote presenter, **Kathryn Sorensen** OTD, OTR/L (NC), ADAC



FOLLOW! CONVO! POST!

- Post on Instagram @otacofca
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- Start a conversation using #OTACconf2025
- Talk about #activateyourWHY
- Share with #OTConnections, #OTCourage, #OTCommunity
- Show your #OTACmemberpride

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. The Hilton Pasadena also offers a complimentary shuttle within a two-mile radius of the hotel.

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 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

OTAC staff as well as the Conference photographers 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.

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.

- **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 total amount of any liability for traveling to and from or participating in the Conference will be limited to a refund of the registration fees paid by the attendees, as so stated in the cancellation policy. The attendee acknowledges acceptance of this provision by registering for any aspect of the Conference.

MEET OUR SUPPORTERS

INNOVATION EXPO HALL DAYS

Friday, November 7
5:15pm–7:15pm
Saturday, November 8
11:30am–2:00pm

EXHIBITORS

Accessible Construction	Korro AI
Adventist Health	Legi Liner, LLC
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)	Los Angeles Unified School District
Ascend	Milemakers
Aya Education	National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
CAHELP	Nova Southwestern University
California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT)	Obi Robot
California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT)	Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC)
Casa Colina Centers For Rehabilitation	Omni Therapy, Inc.
Central California Rehabilitation Hospital	Point Quest Group
Centre for Neuro Skills	Psymark
Collaborative for Leadership in Ayres Sensory Integration (CLASI)	Raintree
Enhance Therapies/South Pacific Rehab Services	ReadySetConnect
Ensign Affiliates - FlagshipTherapy.com	SLEA Therapies
FeldCare Connect	SPG Therapy & Education
Generations Healthcare	The Genesis Group
interface rehab, inc.	The Stepping Stones Group
Keck Graduate Institute	University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
	USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

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California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT)
California Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Council (CAOTFC)
California State University, Dominguez Hills
National Lymphedema Network
Psymark
ReadySetConnect
Southern California University of Health Sciences
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
USC Lifestyle Redesign® Knowledge Mobilization Initiative

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HONORED LECTURER | KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

FRIDAY CFOT HONORED LECTURER – NOVEMBER 7

11:30am-1:00pm

CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium – separate fee required

Ask Yourself, 'WHY Not?': Answer and Activate! (.5 PDUs)

Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L

Jean Koketsu describes herself as an average, hard-working “risk adverse-front-line-bread and butter-generalist-OT” who left the safety net of a traditional healthcare setting after a dozen years to say “yes” to untested options. Koketsu will describe how answering “Why not?” to opportunities opened doors to experiences and impacts beyond what she originally imagined. In this presentation, Koketsu will also share insights on how to survive and thrive in challenging healthcare climates.



Jean Koketsu,
OTD, OTR/L

FRIDAY KEYNOTE – NOVEMBER 7

4:15pm-5:15pm

Directly following the Awards Ceremony in the same room

54 - Fueled by WHY: Purpose-Driven Grit in Occupational Therapy (.5 PDUs)

Sarah Adam, OTD, OTR/L (MO)

In a profession rooted in meaning, we spend our days helping others reconnect with purpose. But when the work gets heavy, how often do we pause to reconnect with our own purpose? As the landscape of OT continues to shift, many practitioners find themselves juggling new roles, changing demands, and increasing pressure. In this keynote, Paralympian and occupational therapy practitioner Sarah Adam brings us back to the core of our profession: the occupations that matter, the values that called us here, and the purpose that sustains us. Through stories from clinical practice, high-performance sport, and teaching, she will explore how our WHY becomes the fuel for the grit it takes to keep showing up. Not just in times of crisis, but across the long arc of a career. This is a call to reconnect with purpose not as an abstract idea, but as a daily practice that can ground us, guide us, and keep us moving forward.

Also presenting session 84 - Living Your WHY: A Practical Workshop on Purpose-Driven Practice (1.5 PDUs), Saturday, November 8 – 2:15pm – 3:45pm



Sarah Adam,
OTD, OTR/L (MO)

SATURDAY KEYNOTE – NOVEMBER 8

5:45pm-6:15pm

98 - Align with Your WHY: Courage as a Critical Link to Cultivating Connection, Fostering Community, and Empowering Collective Action (.5 PDUs)

Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

As we move toward realizing AOTA Vision 2030, activating our “WHY” begins with how we choose to show up for ourselves, for each other, and for the future of occupational therapy and science. This keynote invites us to reflect on the power of courageous, authentic connection as the foundation for meaningful collaboration and innovation. Together, we’ll explore the critical role of community in driving sustainable change and how, by owning our influence, we can challenge systems and structures to spark transformative progress. Through our collective voice, we will lead with purpose, show up bravely, expand our impact, and reimagine what’s possible for our profession and for those we serve.



Arameh Anvarizadeh,
OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

SUNDAY KEYNOTE – NOVEMBER 9

7:30am-9:00am

Included with OTAC Annual Meeting; must register to attend

L - Refueling Your Purpose: Reactivate the WHY That Got You Here (.5 PDUs)

Kathryn Sorensen, OTD, OTR/L (NC), ADAC

Occupational therapy is built on the belief that people, their stories, their identity, and their purpose matter. As an occupational therapy practitioner with a disability, I’ve experienced that truth from both sides. As a patient, I’ve felt the power of having the support to help me regain meaning and independence. As a practitioner, I’ve helped others find meaning while privately navigating my own search for identity and purpose. In this keynote, I’ll share the journey that led me to discover unexpected meaning (my “WHY”) through my disability, in the classroom, and in my unapologetic ADA nerdiness. Being an occupational practitioner isn’t about productivity metrics or polished careers; it’s about the impact we make with our clients, and the world, every single day. This talk is an invitation to pause and reflect on the stories and relationships that remind us how much of our own purpose can be found in the moments we often overlook. Because when we reflect on the impact we make and remember what we were created to do and why, it can reignite our passion and give us the strength to keep going.

Also presenting session 110 - The Good, the Bad, the Awkward: What I Wish Healthcare Providers Knew About Living with a Disability (2 PDUs), Sunday, November 9 – 10:30am – 12:30pm



Kathryn Sorensen,
OTD, OTR/L (NC),
ADAC

WHY ATTEND CONFERENCE

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

Wanted to build new skills

Always appreciate the opportunity to grow and thrive together

Brought my daughter who is a new OT

It is a tradition for me

INTENSIVES: 3 AND 4 HOUR SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:45pm-4:00pm

11 - Ethics 101 (3 PDUs)

Lora Woo, OTD, OTR/L

Today's healthcare environment presents ethical challenges that practitioners may not be aware of as being problematic. This session will heighten attendees awareness of possible ethical dilemmas and how to handle these situations through discussions of sample case scenarios.

12:45pm-4:00pm

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

Erin McIntyre, OTD, OTR/L; Jessica De Brun, OTD, OTR/L; Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L; Emily M. Petersen, OTD, OTR/L; Joanne Preece, MPH

Reprising the discussions from the 2023 and 2024 OTAC Annual Conference of mental health practice, policy, and innovations, join occupational therapy master clinicians and leaders working in mental health advocating for change for a high-level informed dialogue about the most current legislative and regulatory issues, trends that may impact occupational therapy practitioners in various systems, and where to focus efforts to affect change.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:15am-11:30am

27 - Transformational Educational Approach for OT Treatment for Substance Abuse Disorders (3 PDUs)

Rondalyn Whitney, PhD, OTR/L (MA), FAOTA; Donna Costa, DHS, OTR/L (NV), FAOTA

This workshop will deliver the evidence-based, classroom-tested, transformational curriculum design within occupational therapy education regarding pain assessment, non-pharmacological management of pain, and related psychosocial interventions associated with addiction, and substance use and abuse.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:15am-11:30am

66 - Purpose in Action: Finding and Living Your WHY for Lasting Impact (3 PDUs)

Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L

Join your friends and colleagues in an interactive and collaborative session to explore your passion, purpose, and WHY through a variety of lenses. Complete structured activities based on Simon Sinek's approach to finding your WHY. From this foundation, participants will collaborate about how this message can help develop a voice with purposeful narratives, meaning-making, and connections, all founded in the value of occupation.

8:15am-11:30am

67 - Addressing the Anxiety Epidemic: An Occupation-Based Approach (3 PDUs)

Don Gordon, PhD, OTR/L

Anxiety is a growing problem in the modern world. This course will examine the factors related to this emerging epidemic and provide participants with a range of tools that can help address this social issue.

8:15am-11:30am

68 - Evidence-Based Practice in Dysphagia: A Scoping Review (3 PDUs)

Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA; Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

The anatomy and physiology of oral and pharyngeal phases will be reviewed using evidence from a scoping review describing common problems for both phases. Specific evidence-based interventions will be discussed and applied using case illustrations.

2:15pm-5:30pm

88 - Partnering with Parents: Collaborative Coaching in Early Intervention (3 PDUs)

Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA; Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Occupational therapy practitioners in early intervention often struggle to engage caregivers in collaborative partnerships. This session will describe how coaching strategies can be effectively used to provide culturally responsive practice embedded into daily living activities.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:15am-1:45pm

107 - Lifestyle Is Manifested in Occupational Engagement (4 PDUs)

Shanpin Franchiang, PhD, OTR/L; Annette V. Morales, OTD; Jasmine Chapman, OTD; Michael J. Heaton, MA, OTR/L

How individuals engage in occupations is the manifestation of their lifestyles. In the era of smartphone lifestyle and lifestyle medicine, occupational therapy practitioners shall enhance practice through various lifestyle lenses with valid measures, approaches, and resources.

DOOR OF HOPE CHALLENGE

Support Our Conference Cause



There is still an unsheltered crisis in California. Los Angeles County alone has reported 66,433 homeless individuals and it is on the rise. And we all know that homelessness brings with it many dangers. The Door of Hope is a Christian nonprofit, based in Pasadena, serving Los Angeles County. It is one of the only homeless providers that can shelter any kind of family together in their own private unit, including moms, single dads, and two-parent families together with their children.

Our 2025 Conference challenge is to raise \$5,000 in Target gift cards to be distributed to families who attend the Door of Hope Christmas Festival on December 6. If every person who attends the Conference donates a \$5 Target gift card (you are welcome to donate more), we will be an occupational therapy force in empowering families facing homelessness to transform their lives. Bring your Target gift card to the Conference registration counter when you check in. We will accept gift cards right up until 2:00pm on Sunday of Conference. Together, let's shelter some unhoused families.

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Celebrating Our 44th Anniversary!

CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

11:30am-1:00pm

About the Awards Luncheon and Symposium

Recipients of the 2025 CFOT scholarships, research grants, and awards will be announced at the annual CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium on Friday, November 7, 11:30am-1:00pm.

Separate ticket required.

\$85 for lunch (\$10 for gallery seating; no lunch; students only).



HONORED LECTURER – JEAN KOKETSU, OTD, OTR/L

Ask Yourself, 'WHY Not?': Answer and Activate! (.5 PDUs)

Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L

Jean Koketsu describes herself as an average, hard-working “risk adverse-front-line-bread and butter-generalist-OT” who left the safety net of a traditional healthcare setting after a dozen years to say “yes” to untested options. Koketsu will describe how answering “Why not?” to opportunities opened doors to experiences and impacts beyond what she originally imagined. In this presentation, Koketsu will also share insights on how to survive and thrive in challenging healthcare climates.



Jean Koketsu,
OTD, OTR/L

Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L, was born and raised in Los Angeles in the Westside/Venice area. She received an undergraduate degree at University of California Los Angeles, MS in occupational therapy at San Jose State University (SJSU), and OTD at Eastern Kentucky University. She has over 30 years of experience in occupational therapy (OT) traditional healthcare settings in acute care, inpatient rehab, outpatient hand therapy, and community settings. Koketsu currently works as an OT at On Lok PACE with older adults and in a private practice as a sleep coach with national and international clients. She has been a lecturer at SJSU since 2009 and has taught on a variety of topics. Koketsu has presented on the topic of sleep and sleep routines at OTAC conferences, the Society for the Study of Occupation conference, at SJSU special events, and with community-dwelling older adults. Her interest in sleep started 16 years ago when she worked as an OT in a home health setting where all her clients had sleep issues. This started her on a path to research the topic of sleep. Koketsu authored or co-authored chapters on sleep and rest and ADL in three editions of Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction and co-authored a chapter on sleep in an upcoming edition of a pediatric occupational therapy textbook. She co-authored an article on sleep routines in the Journal of Occupational Science in 2023. Her vision is that all occupational therapy practitioners in all practice settings will help people across the lifespan with sleep. Her mission is to educate occupational therapy practitioners and students about sleep so that they can help more people with this important restorative occupation.

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Esther Yejin Suh Kwon, MA, OT/L

Esther Yejin Suh Kwon, MA, OT/L, is a trauma-informed occupational designer (occupational therapy practitioner + cosmetologist) with a focus on community-based and mental health practice, leading the field of occupational therapy (OT) service provision in anti-human trafficking and pro-human thriving work. Through her unique OT and beauty industry lens, Suh Kwon is using her experiences to uplift and create opportunities for women who have experienced oppression and institutional dependency to transition into inspired independent living. In 2015, she co-founded the first occupational therapy-based non-profit, Dwelle Collaborative - Qualified, serving survivors of human trafficking and restoring occupational justice in the areas of wellness, life/job skills, and community integration. Suh Kwon believes that when survivors are empowered to use their choices and voice to navigate their own recovery and thriving occupational journey, their achievements are limitless and success unstoppable.



Esther Yejin Suh
Kwon,
MA, OT/L

SUPPORT OUR FUTURE

SUPPORT ENHANCING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

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.



Past CFOT Awardees

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.

We welcome this opportunity at the OTAC Annual Conference & Innovation Expo to raise funds for our programs. “Thank you in advance for continuing to support our mission by donating during the OTAC Conference,” commented CFOT President Michele Berro, MA, OTR/L.



Michele Berro,
MA, OTR/L
CFOT President

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

DONATE

CFOT.ORG

CFOT MISSION

To advance the science and practice of occupational therapy to enhance health, well-being, and participation in life activities for all individuals, communities, and populations through supporting and promoting occupational therapy research, education, and public awareness.



Honoring Those Who Inspire Professional Excellence

COME HELP CELEBRATE OUR OTAC 2025 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 7, 3:15pm–4:15pm. This event is open to all Conference attendees registered for Friday.

You must have a blue ticket for the the event.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Terri Chew Nishimura,
MA, OTR, retired

Occupational Therapy Practice Award



Don Gordon,
PhD, OTR/L

Award of Excellence



Natalie A. Perkins,
PP-OTD, MBA, MEd,
OTR/L, FIIE, FAOTA

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educator Award



Cesar Arada,
OTD, OTR/L

Luella Grangaard Political Action Award



Rena Dinin Katrikh,
OTD, OTR/L



Lisa A. Test,
OTD, OTR/L

Susan J. Harris OT Entrepreneur Award



Barbara Phillips,
MS, OTD, OTR/L

Outstanding Student Award



Trinity K. Mecham,
OTS

OTAC Vision Award



Rebecca Cunningham,
OTD, OTR/L, MSCS, LRC

OTAC Media Award



Patricia Motus,
OTR/L, CTIS, RYT

Spirit of Occupational Therapy Award



Jhennylyn Rivera-Villano,
OTD, OTR/L

RECOGNITION OF OTAC AWARD HONOREES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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	Bekken Holdeman
2004	Susan Knox	1978	Gwen Wright
2003	Mary Foto	1977	Jean Peck
2002	Ruth Zemke		

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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

OTA HONORARY AWARD

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

JANICE MATSUTSUYU OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

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
2007	Marlene Steele		

SUSAN J. HARRIS OT ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

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
2014	Terri Nishimura		

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE AWARD

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
2005	Shawn Phipps		

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 Mardrossian
	Karen Pendleton		

SPECIAL AWARD

1986 Jane Marvin

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

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

AWARD OF APPRECIATION

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		O.T. Associates-
2017	Aviril Sepulveda	1988	Susan J. Harris
2016	Lynette Beadles		
2014	Sarah R. Bream		
2013	Lisa Hiestand		

VISION AWARD

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

SPIRIT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AWARD

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, Deborah Han		

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

2005	Senator Elaine White	1998	Loretta and Frank Biehl
	Alquist		
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

2025	Trinity K. Mecham	2014	Samantha Itaya
2022	Teresa Pham	2013	Dimos Tsigkakos
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
2015	Cynthia Ting		

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

2016	Florence Clark, Diane Mayfield, Judith Palladino	Recognized prior to 1977
2006	Lois Barber, Evelyn Jaffe, Lela Llorens, Mary Reilly	
2004	Ruth Zemke, Elizabeth Yerxa	
		Carolyn Brinn,
		Florence Cromwell,
		Doris Cutting
		Naomi Dommke
		Elizabeth Holdeman
		Ethlyn Stinson
		Carlotta Welles
		Harriet Zlatohlavek

2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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

Awards Coordinator – *Swati Shah*

Call for Papers/Program Coordinators – *Shohei Takatani, Graham Teaford, Kathryn Wise*

Exhibits Coordinator – *Mary Kay Gallagher*

Hospitality Coordinator – *Jhenny Rivera*

Photographer – *Diana Su-Erickson*

Presenter Concierge – *Jackie Mardirossian*

Registration Coordinator – *Laura Deary*

Social Media Coordinator – *Karen Park*

Volunteer Coordinators – *Salvador 'Sal' Chavez, Bambi Olujumu*

OTAC Professional Development & Leadership Chair – *Danny Pavlovich*

OTAC Student Leadership Chairs – *Jessica Padilla, Rachelle Murphy, Kristina Holcomb*

OTAC President – *Samia Rafeedie*

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

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 6

LET'S CONNECT GATHERINGS

4:00pm-5:00pm

A - LET'S CONNECT! OT Entrepreneur/Private Practice

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

B - LET'S CONNECT! California OT Fieldwork Council

Come enjoy light refreshments before Movie Night with academic fieldwork coordinators from OT and OTA programs in California! Learn more about being a fieldwork educator, grab some tips to improve your efficiency and skill as a fieldwork educator, and ask any fieldwork questions you may have!

C - LET'S CONNECT! Mental Health and DEIOJ Practitioners

If you are attending any of the Thursday mental health or DEIOJ sessions, sign up to connect and network with your peers. Hosted light refreshments.

D - LET'S CONNECT! Ethics, Older Adults, and More Practitioners

If you are attending any of the Thursday sessions on ethics, older adults, or collaborations, sign up to connect and network with your peers. Hosted light refreshments.

E - Movie Night: Boys of Riverside: A Powerful Story (.5 PDUs)

Follows the story of the California School for the Deaf at Riverside football team

6:00pm-7:30pm

Join us for an extraordinary evening showcasing "Boys of Riverside," a powerful 28-minute documentary that will transform how you view ability, communication, and human potential. This inspiring film follows the California School for the Deaf at Riverside football team as they shatter expectations and redefine what's possible, turning what society perceives as a limitation into their greatest strength on their path to multiple state championships. Watch as deaf athletes and coaches demonstrate the power of alternative communication methods, adaptive strategies, and inclusive team dynamics that foster belonging and achievement. The personal journeys of players overcoming homelessness, coaches breaking barriers, and a community challenging stereotypes will resonate deeply with your professional mission of empowering individuals to participate fully in meaningful activities. This isn't just a sports story — it's a celebration of human resilience, the strength found in diversity, and the transformative power of believing in what people can accomplish when given the right support and opportunities.

Moderated discussion to follow with representatives from the California School for the Deaf at Riverside.

Hosted popcorn and iced tea

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium

11:30am-1:00pm

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

Recipients of the 2025 CFOT scholarships, research grants, and awards will be announced. Also featured is the 2025 Honored Lecturer Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L, presenting *Ask Yourself, 'WHY Not?' Answer and Activate!* (.5 PDUs)

The Honored Lecturer Series joins the OTAC Annual Awards as among the most inspirational events at the Conference. Don't miss it!

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 tickets. Seating is limited for both categories.

Awards

Come help celebrate recipients of the 2025 California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) scholarships, research grants, and awards.

HONORED LECTURER – JEAN KOKETSU, OTD, OTR/L *Ask Yourself, 'WHY Not?': Answer and Activate!* (.5 PDUs)

Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L

Jean Koketsu describes herself as an average, hard-working "risk adverse-front-line-bread and butter-generalist-OT" who left the safety net of a traditional healthcare setting after a dozen years to say "yes" to untested options. Koketsu will describe how answering "WHY not?" to opportunities opened doors to experiences and impacts beyond what she originally imagined. In this presentation, Koketsu will also share insights on how to survive and thrive in challenging healthcare climates.

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

Special gallery seating is available to students only for \$10 (lunch not included).



Jean Koketsu,
OTD, OTR/L



SPECIAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 (CONT.)

3:15pm-5:15pm

54 - OTAC Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address

OTAC Awards Ceremony. Come one, come all! You are invited to come recognize and celebrate our 2025 award honorees who serve with excellence and inspire professional passion.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Fueled by WHY: Purpose-Driven Grit in Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs)

Sarah Adam, OTD, OTR/L (MO)

In a profession rooted in meaning, we spend our days helping others reconnect with purpose. But when the work gets heavy, how often do we pause to reconnect with our own purpose? As the landscape of OT continues to shift, many practitioners find themselves juggling new roles, changing demands, and increasing pressure. In this keynote, Paralympian and occupational therapy practitioner Sarah Adam brings us back to the core of our profession: the occupations that matter, the values that called us here, and the purpose that sustains us. Through stories from clinical practice, high-performance sport, and teaching, she will explore how our WHY becomes the fuel for the grit it takes to keep showing up. Not just in times of crisis, but across the long arc of a career. This is a call to reconnect with purpose not as an abstract idea, but as a daily practice that can ground us, guide us, and keep us moving forward.

Adam will also be presenting session 84 Living Your WHY: A Practical Workshop on Purpose-Driven Practice (1.5 PDUs), Saturday, November 8, 2:15pm-3:45pm.

G - INNOVATION EXPO

5:15pm-7:15pm

Grand Opening | Bingo and Trivia for Prizes

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

ALUMNI, STUDENT, AND FACULTY RECEPTIONS

7:30pm-9:00pm

Celebrate the end of each day by networking with your school alumni, fellow students, and faculty. Always a Conference highlight.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:15am-11:30am

H - Leadership Institute. Mentees & Mentors: Take the Journey Together! (3 PDUs)

Join us for the OTAC Leadership Institute (LI) cohort of mentees and mentors to take this exhilarating leadership journey together in this unique opportunity to explore, share, and grow as occupational therapy professionals. This is an orientation and the first module. Must register and/or apply in advance. To participate, mentors and mentees must complete the application process by August 31, 2025. Acceptance notices were sent mid-September. There is a fee for mentees; no fee for mentors. You can find more information about the LI and the application process here. Capacity is limited to 10 teams of two. OTAC Members Only. Separate fee to participate in this year-long program.

I - INNOVATION EXPO

11:30am-2:15pm

Poster Presentations | Bingo for Prizes | Grab and Go Lunch

Saturday offers a convenient lunch option – **advance purchase only**. If you purchase lunch in advance you are eligible for prize drawings. View poster presentations (eligible for up to 2 PDUs)!

POSTER PRESENTATIONS (earn up to 2 PDUs)

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

See page 19 for a list of posters by Group.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5:45pm-6:15pm

98 - Align with Your WHY: Courage as a Critical Link to Cultivating Connection, Fostering Community, and Empowering Collective Action (1.5 PDUs)

Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

As we move toward realizing Vision 2030, activating our "WHY" begins with how we choose to show up for ourselves, for each other, and for the future of occupational therapy and science. This keynote invites us to reflect on the power of courageous, authentic connection as the foundation for meaningful collaboration and innovation. Together, we'll explore the critical role of community in driving sustainable change and how, by owning our influence, we can challenge systems and structures to spark transformative progress. Through our collective voice, we will lead with purpose, show up bravely, expand our impact, and reimagine what's possible for our profession and for those we serve. Open to students.

J - President's Mix 'N Mingle

6:15pm-7:30pm

OTAC president, Samia Rafeedie, invites Conference attendees to come relax, play the connection game, and unwind. Shoot a lifetime of memories with your besties or new found friends at the photo booth. Play trivia for a chance at prizes. Mix, mingle, and connect! Hosted light refreshments.

INNOVATION EXPO ACTIVITIES

Friday, November 7 • 5:15pm-7:15pm

Saturday, November 8 • 11:30am-2:00pm

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**

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

N - Let's Connect! Academic Program Directors

6:45pm-7:30pm

M - Let's Connect! Black OT/OTA

7:30pm-8:30pm

K - LET'S CONNECT! OTA GATHERING

7:30pm-8:30pm

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

ALUMNI, STUDENT, AND FACULTY RECEPTIONS

7:30pm-9:00pm

Celebrate the end of each day by networking with your school alumni, fellow students, and faculty. Always a Conference highlight.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30am-9:00am

L - OTAC Annual Meeting | Keynote Address

Coffee and light breakfast fare

This event is included in your Sunday registration fee. Hear about the latest OTAC achievements and activities for the coming year, network at your region-designated table, and prepare to be inspired by the keynote address. If you wish to attend this event, you **MUST** indicate on your registration form. **Help conserve resources – only mark the event if you plan to attend.**

SUNDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Refueling Your Purpose: Reactivate the WHY That Got You Here (5 PDUs)

Kathryn Sorensen, OTD, OTR/L (NC), ADAC

Occupational therapy is built on the belief that people, their stories, their identity, and their purpose matter. As an occupational therapy practitioner with a disability, I've experienced that truth from both sides. As a patient, I've felt the power of having the support to help me regain meaning and independence. As a practitioner, I've helped others find meaning while privately navigating my own search for identity and purpose. In this keynote, I'll share the journey that led me to discover unexpected meaning (my "WHY") through my disability, in the classroom, and in my unapologetic ADA nerdiness. Being an occupational therapist isn't about productivity metrics or polished careers; it's about the impact we make with our clients, and the world, every single day. This talk is an invitation to pause and reflect on the stories and relationships that remind us how much of our own purpose can be found in the moments we often overlook. Because when we reflect on the impact we make and remember what we were created to do and why, it can reignite our passion and give us the strength to keep going.

Sorensen will also present session 110 - The Good, the Bad, the Awkward: What I Wish Healthcare Providers Knew About Living with a Disability (2 PDUs), Sunday, November 9 – 10:30am – 12:30pm

OT SUNDAY SUPER LEARNERS' PRIZE DRAWINGS

2:15pm

If you are registered for Sunday, you will receive a raffle ticket for the prize drawings. Yes! We appreciate the super learners who stay to the end of Conference! Drawings will be made at 2:00pm. Check the board at the registration table between 2:15pm-2:45pm. Must be present to win.



School of Nursing
and Health Sciences

Reduced Tuition for Future Occupational Therapists

Join our first cohort and you could pay under \$25k for tuition*.

Alliant University is pleased to introduce the **Occupational Therapy Futures Grant**, which reduces tuition costs for our Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program to just \$24,960* for students who join our first MOT cohort.

Classes begin January 12, 2026. We look forward to seeing you on campus!

Learn more at alliant.edu/ot-futures-grant

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*The Occupational Therapy Futures Grant reduces tuition to \$312 per unit, for an estimated total program tuition of \$24,960 based on the standard 80-unit Master of Occupational Therapy curriculum. Actual costs may vary depending on transfer credits, course sequencing, or program changes. The grant applies only to tuition and does not cover published fees or other program-related expenses. The terms of the grant are subject to change. For complete terms and conditions, visit our scholarship website.

Accreditation
The entry-level occupational therapy master's degree program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-4074 and its web address is www.aotacouncil.org. The program must have a pre-accreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accredited Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. Students must complete 24 weeks of Level II fieldwork within 12 months following completion of the didactic portion of the program.

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 6

- Attend any session at the publicized rate
- Movie Night (Free for all Conference attendees)
- Let's Connect! Gatherings

■ FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- F - Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence (No PDU's)
- CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium—\$85, or \$10 student-only gallery seating/no lunch
Honored Lecture: Ask Yourself, 'WHY Not?': Answer and Activate!
- Student Track (Sessions)
20, 23, 26, 30, 34, 36, 40, 43, 45, 46, 50, 53, 54
- OTAC Awards Ceremony
- Keynote Address: Fueled by WHY: Purpose-Driven Grit in Occupational Therapy
- Innovation Expo Grand Opening—meet recruiting exhibitors and network with practitioners, play Bingo for cash and prizes
- Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions

■ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- Student Track (Sessions)
61, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 81, 82, 84, 87, 91, 92, 93, 97, 98
- 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
- Keynote Address: Align with your WHY: Courage as a Critical Link to Cultivating Connection, Fostering Community, and Empowering Collective Action
- President's Mix 'N Mingle | Photo Booth | Trivia and Prizes
- Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions
- Let's Connect! OTA Gathering
- Let's Connect! Black OT/OTA

■ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- All concurrent sessions on Sunday are open to students at the special student registration fee
- OTAC Annual Meeting and Keynote with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare—included in Sunday registration fee.
- Keynote Address: Refueling Your Purpose: Reactivate the Why That Got You Here
- OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawing – Drawing at 2:00pm. Must be present to pick up prize (2:15pm–2:45pm).



**SPECIAL OTAC
STUDENT
REGISTRATION
DISCOUNT.**

**STUDENTS
MAY PAY THE
PRACTITIONER
RATES TO
ATTEND ANY
SESSION.**

**STUDENTS RECEIVED THE
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATE
UNTIL THE CLOSE OF ADVANCE
REGISTRATION, OCTOBER 27.**

**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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

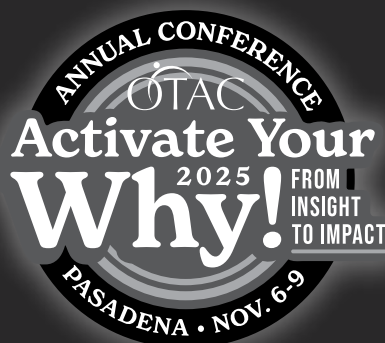
Registration Hours - 8:00am-6:30pm

9:00am	1 From Clinician to CEO: Start/Scale Your Business (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	2 Connection is the Intervention: How OTs Drive Collaboration (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	3 Evidence-Based Rubric for Inclusive Patient Education in OT (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	4 Pain Management: Somatics, Posture, and Ergonomics (1.5 PDUs) California
10:45am	5 Stuck in the Middle: Supporting Managers To Do Their Job! (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	6 The Power of We: Participatory Action for Practice (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	7 Best Practices for Managing Cultural Taxation (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	8 Occupational Therapy's Contribution to Aging in Place: Revisiting Home Evaluation Practices (1.5 PDUs) California
12:15pm				
12:45pm	9 Empowering OT Students: Life Coaching Strategies for Professional Growth (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	10 Occupational Therapy Sleep Interventions: Combining Lifestyle Redesign® and CBT-I (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	11 Ethics 101 (3 PDUs) Monterey	12 Mental Health in Everyday Practice: Reviewing Policy, Forecasting Trends, and Affecting Change (3 PDUs) California
2:15pm				
2:30pm	13 From Expertise to Enterprise: Identifying Your Profitable OT Niche (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	14 Optimize Post-Stroke Education with OT Through Experiential Learning (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel		
4:00pm	A - LET'S CONNECT! OT Entrepreneur/Private Practice – Pacific A/B			
	B - LET'S CONNECT! California OT Fieldwork Council – San Marino			
	C - LET'S CONNECT! Mental Health and DEIOJ Practitioners – California			
	D - LET'S CONNECT! Ethics, Older Adults, and More Practitioners – Monterey			
6:00pm	E - Movie Night: Boys of Riverside: A Powerful Story (1.5 PDUs) (6:00pm-7:30pm) – San Gabriel			

*All sessions open to students

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CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15pm-5:00pm							
8:15am	20 Protecting Our Careers: State and Federal Regulatory and Legislative Updates (1.5 PDUs) ST San Gabriel	21 Occupational Therapy Practitioners as Stewards of Neurodiversity-Affirming Care (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	22 Using Social Media and Apps to Reach Parents (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	23 Community-Based Mental Health OT: Inspired Action (1.5 PDUs) ST Pasadena	24 Facial Burns and Its Impact on Feeding and Swallowing: An OT Perspective (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	25 From Classroom to Clinic: Using AI as a Tool for Learning, Not a Substitute for Thinking (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	26 STUDENTS ONLY Perspectives in Mental Health: An OT Panel (NO PDUs) San Diego	27 Transformational Educational Approach for OT Treatment for Substance Abuse Disorders (3 PDUs) Monterey
9:45am								
10:00am	30 California Board of Occupational Therapy Annual Update (2 PDUs) ST San Diego	31 Are We Listening: The Path to Effective Collaboration (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	32 Identifying and Supporting Autistic Mothers' Perinatal Sensory Needs (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	33 Integrating Yoga and Meditation into Practice (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	34 Accounting for Psychosocial Responses to Life-Limiting Illness (1.5 PDUs) ST Pasadena	35 Addressing the Skills Gap: Supporting Occupational Therapy Student Success (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	36 STUDENTS ONLY Beyond the Clinic: Emerging Roles and Innovative Practice Settings (No PDUs) San Gabriel	
11:30am	CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium (1.5 PDUs) - Separate Ticket Required - \$85 (Students - \$85 or \$10 no lunch/gallery seating) - California							
12:00pm	F - Mindfulness in Daily Life: Practices that Support Presence - ST - San Gabriel							
1:00pm	40 Beyond Independence: Medical Justifications for Durable Medical Equipment (1 PDU) ST Pasadena	41 A Community Celebration Using Art for Creative Expression (1 PDU) San Marino	42 Improving Occupational Performance in Outpatient Mental Health OT (1 PDU) Monterey	43 STUDENTS ONLY From Student to CHT: Hands Down, What You Need to Know (No PDUs) San Gabriel	44 Demystifying OT-OTA Supervision, It's Giving ... Clarity (2 PDUs) Santa Barbara	45 Ethical Decision Making in Everyday Practice (2 PDUs) ST Pacific C	46 Deconstructing Occupation-Based Practice (2 PDUs) ST Pacific A/B	47 Inclusive Classroom Practices Supporting Student Engagement (2 PDUs) San Diego
2:00pm	50 How to Become a Paralympic Medical Classifier (1 PDU) ST San Gabriel	51 The Future of Work - Is OT Ready? (1 PDU) Monterey	52 Occupational Therapy's Crucial Role in Intensive Care Units (1 PDU) San Marino	53 STUDENTS ONLY Avoiding Burnout: Tools for New Practitioners (No PDUs) Pasadena				
3:00pm	All proceed to the Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address							
3:15pm	54 - OTAC Awards Ceremony and Friday Keynote Address (1.5 PDUs) - ST - California							
5:15pm	G - Innovation Expo Grand Opening Bingo and Trivia Prizes - International Ballroom							
7:30pm	Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions Dominican University of California - San Diego Samuel Merritt University - Pasadena San Jose Student University - Monterey USC Trojan Family - San Gabriel							

ST = practitioner sessions open to students

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15am-6:00pm										
8:15am	60 Evaluating the Effectiveness of MTSS in Center-Based Early Intervention (1 PDU) Pacific A/B	61 STUDENTS ONLY The Power of Staying Professionally Engaged (No PDUs) Pasadena	62 Game On: An Occupational Therapy Approach to Sports in Head Start (1 PDU) ST California	63 MMCR: Incorporating Clinical Reasoning for Evaluation and Intervention (1 PDU) San Diego	64 Interpreting Services for Clients with Limited English Proficiency (1 PDU) Pacific C	65 Pushing Boundaries: A Procedural Framework for International Fieldwork (1 PDU) San Marino	66 Purpose in Action: Finding and Living Your WHY for Lasting Impact (3 PDUs) ST Monterey	67 Addressing the Anxiety Epidemic: An Occupation-Based Approach (3 PDUs) San Gabriel	68 Evidence-Based Practice in Dysphagia: A Scoping Review (3 PDUs) Santa Barbara		
9:15am								8:15am-11:30am H Leadership Institute Pre-Training and Mentor/Mentee Pairing (3 PDUs) Del Mar Must Have Been Pre-Approved			
9:30am	70 Lived Occupational Experiences of Young Adults with Disabilities (1 PDU) San Marino	71 STUDENTS ONLY Preparing for the NBCOT® Exam (No PDUs) San Gabriel	72 The Practitioner-Client Connection: How Pediatric OT Well-Being Shapes Outcomes Through the Person Environment Occupation (PEO) Lens (2 PDUs) San Diego	73 Organization, Communication, Networking: Policy Change Through Everyday Action (2 PDUs) ST Pasadena	74 Practice Scholarship in Occupational Therapy: An Opportunity to Advance Practice and the Profession (2 PDUs) Pacific A/B	75 Building Fieldwork Capacity: Backward Design Meets Community Need (2 PDUs) Pacific C					
10:30am											
10:45am	76 Rheum to Grow: Pediatric Rheumatology Practice Review (1 PDU) San Marino	77 STUDENTS ONLY NBCOT® National Certification Exam (No PDUs) California									
11:30am	I - Innovation Expo Poster Presentations Bingo and Trivia Prizes Grab and Go Lunch – \$20 (must advance purchase) – International Ballroom										
2:15pm	80 Improving Pediatric Acute Care Outcomes Through Parent Empowerment (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	81 OT Startup Circuit: Conditioning Your Practice for Success (1.5 PDUs) ST San Diego	82 OG OT: Bringing Occupation Back to Mental Health (1.5 PDUs) ST California	83 What I See in the Mirror: Addressing Body Image (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	84 Living Your WHY: A Practical Workshop on Purpose-Driven Practice (1.5 PDUs) ST Monterey	85 Supporting the Whole Person: Psychosocial Care in Oncology (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	86 Graduate Healthcare Workshop (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara	87 STUDENTS ONLY NBCOT Exam Knowledge Quest (No PDUs) San Gabriel	88 Partnering with Parents: Collaborative Coaching in Early Intervention (3 PDUs) Pasadena		
3:45pm								97 STUDENT TRACK Interviewing and Rate Negotiations (No PDUs) San Gabriel			
4:00pm	90 From Role-Emerging to Flourishing OT Program: Lessons and Tools (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	91 Leading Together: Building Community Among Pediatric Practice Owners (1.5 PDUs) ST San Marino	92 The Impacts of Rules and Regulations in Occupational Therapy (1.5 PDUs) ST San Diego	93 Built to Last: Using Boundaries to Sustain Your Work in OT (1.5 PDUs) ST California	94 Reclaiming the Occupation of Rest (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	95 Care, Community, and SDOH: The OT Perspective (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	96 Commensality Groups: Resilience Programming for Occupational Therapy Students (1.5 PDUs) Santa Barbara				
4:45pm											
5:00pm											
5:30pm											
5:45pm	98 - Saturday Keynote Address (1.5 PDUs) – ST – California										
6:15pm	J - President's Mix 'N Mingle Photo Booth Trivia and Prizes – Foyer										
6:45pm	N - Let's Connect! Academic Program Directors – San Marino										
7:30pm	Alumni, Student, and Faculty Receptions CSUDH – Pasadena Loma Lina University – San Diego										
	K - Let's Connect! OTA Gathering – Monterey										
	M - Let's Connect! – Black OT/OTA – Del Mar										

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:15am	Registration Hours - 7:15am-2:45pm							
7:30am	L - OTAC Annual Meeting and Sunday Keynote Address (.5 PDUs) with Coffee and Light Breakfast Fare – International Ballroom							
9:15am	100 Driver Assistance Tech Education (1 PDU) Pacific C	101 Mobile Visual Assistive Applications for Low Vision (1 PDU) Pasadena		103 Partnering with Advisory Boards: Community- Engaged Stroke Rehabilitation Research (1 PDU) San Marino	104 Integrative Occupational Therapy: Lymphedema, Lipedema, and Pelvic Health (3 PDUs) California	105 Dementia Mastery: OT Empowered (3 PDUs) San Gabriel	106 Supporting Fieldwork Students with Accommodations (3 PDUs) Pacific A/B	107 Lifestyle Is Manifested in Occupational Engagement (4 PDUs) (ends at 1:45pm) San Diego
10:15am								
10:30am	110 The Good, the Bad, the Awkward: What I Wish Healthcare Providers Knew About Living with a Disability (2 PDUs) Monterey	111 OT's Role in the Growing World of PACE (2 PDUs) Pacific C	112 The Role of OT in Pediatric Mental Health (2 PDUs) Pasadena	113 Thriving in the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Role (2 PDUs) San Marino				
12:30pm								
12:45pm	120 Men Matter: A Scoping Review (1.5 PDUs) Pacific A/B	121 Older Adult Eye Conditions: OT Evaluation and Intervention (1.5 PDUs) Monterey	122 Leveling the Playing Field: Adaptive Gaming in OT (1.5 PDUs) San Gabriel	123 Pro Bono Clinical Experience for Parents with Disabilities (1.5 PDUs) San Marino	124 Implementing Lifestyle Redesign®: A 12- Year Journey in a Safety-Net Health System (1.5 PDUs) Pasadena	125 Aging with Grace, Health, and Peace of Mind (1.5 PDUs) California	126 Exploring Rest and Sleep in Chronic Migraine Patients (1.5 PDUs) Pacific C	
2:15pm	OT Sunday Super Learners' Prize Drawings Winners Posted at Registration Counter at 2:15pm							
2:45pm	Registration Closes - Safe Travels All!							

*All sessions open to students

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS IN THE INNOVATION EXPO

There are two poster presentation groups which may be viewed only on **Saturday, November 8, 2025** – 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

- Addressing Workplace Sexual Violence in Occupational Therapy
- An OT Perspective on Promoting Postpartum Exercise Participation
- Bridging Autism Care: OT and Dental School Collaboration
- **WITHDRAWN** Bridging Perspectives: A Pilot Study of Stakeholder Insights, Influences on Exoskeleton Use for Individuals with Physical Disabilities
- Campus Protest as Occupation: Form, Function, and Meaning
- Collaborative Online International Learning in OT Service-Learning Courses
- Cultural Humility in OTD Education
- Culturally Responsive OT for Parkinson's in Spanish-Speaking Farmers
- Development of a Computer-Scored Visual Motor Assessment
- Empowering The Unhoused: An Occupational Therapy Approach to Independent Living
- Essential Qualities of Mentors Supporting Early-Career Occupation-Based Practice
- Family-Centered Care in Pediatric Oncology
- Group Occupational Therapy Interventions and Substance Use Recovery
- Improvement in Pediatric Upper Extremity Dysfunction via MediTouch
- Mental Imagery and Action Observation Use by Practitioners
- Need for Occupational Therapy for Caregivers of Disabled or Sick Canines
- Occupational Therapy in Adaptive Swim Education
- Promoting Mental Health in SNF: Opportunities for OTPs
- Therapeutic Gardening: Portable, Temporary Garden Walls
- Transition to School Post-Pediatric Hemorrhagic Stroke

GROUP B

- BIPOC Experiences in Outdoor Occupations for Mental Health
- Bridging the Gap: Occupational Therapy Stroke Education for Hispanic Caregivers
- Building Bridges: Social Skills for Community Integration
- Caregivers' Experiences Transitioning Dementia Relatives to Long-Term Care
- Development of a Pilot Study on OT Effects Among Incarcerated Youth
- Empowering Autonomy in Cancer Survivors via Telehealth
- Examining OTP Perspectives on Outdoor Adventuring for Intellectual Developmental Disability
- Living Through a Disaster with a Disability
- Occupational Therapist's Role Post Gender Affirming Surgery
- Pediatric Hemorrhagic Stroke: Early vs. Late Trajectory Experiences
- Perinatal Loss: Culture, Religion, and Occupation
- Qualitative Study on Veterans' Transition Home
- Relax, Learn, Succeed: Trauma-Informed Strategies for OTAs
- SEL for Elementary Special Needs: An Advocacy Approach
- Sensory Processing Patterns, Stress, and Sleep in Parents of Young Children
- Social Participation and Navigation (SPAN): Description and Usability of App-Based Coaching Intervention for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Social Transformation Through Human Occupation: A Global Mapping Initiative
- The Role of Animals in Pediatric Telehealth
- Touch Grass: A Nature-Based Approach to Lifestyle Redesign
- Waves of Wellness: Aquatic Occupational Therapy for Veterans

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