



GOTA Conference 2022 Presentation Abstract Synopses

- All work as submitted by authors. References available upon request.

Presenter	Title	Abstract Synopsis
Mary P. Shotwell	Staying "grounded" while advocating for our clients, our selves, and our profession	As OTs, we readily advocate on behalf of our client's well-being, but we may be less comfortable advocating for ourselves or our profession. This session will discuss the different types of advocacy in as well as strategies and tactics for advocating at the local, regional, and national levels.
Jennifer Allison, Amanda Buono, Mia Van Schalkwyk	Trauma Informed Care in Adult Occupational Therapy Practice	Over 50% of Georgians have experienced a traumatic event that can have life-long health implications. Trauma informed care (TIC) has been established as best practice for all healthcare workers. This course aims to introduce the six principles of TIC and illustrate how they can be applied in OT practice.
Stacey Sanders	Implementing an Evidenced-Based Motor Lab into a Primary School Setting	The demands of the classroom are becoming increasingly difficult for primary school students to meet. Participants will learn how to prepare for and set up a motor lab, train educators on how to maintain the motor lab components, and monitor program effectiveness. Current literature and motor lab programs will be reviewed.
Adrienne Smiley	Neuroethics and Abject Poverty:	In a modern and industrialized society such as the United States, and the state of Georgia, medical decline due to lack of access to quality, comprehensive health care should hardly ever be the case. However, streamlined, holistic care is not a mainstream reality for many health care recipients, and as a result, many individuals experience

	Occupational Therapists' Role in Advocacy for Holistic Health	greater harm (as opposed to rehabilitation and healing) by the very medical system that should be designed to mitigate and resolve health care issues. Ethical problems resulting from insurance limits, practitioner shortages, and lack of advocacy have exacerbated health challenges, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As our nation potentially moves toward a post-pandemic era, advocacy for comprehensive, holistic care on the basis of innovative neuroethics is necessary to support minoritized individuals and those of low socioeconomic status especially, who are at risk for harsher health care outcomes. This presentation (1) will highlight medical disparities fostered by compartmentalized, fractured health care practices, (2) critically define the classical and non-traditional indicators of marginalization, subjugation, and medical experienced by health care recipients and (3) propose strategies for occupational therapy professionals to address these issues with the ultimate aim of providing holistic care and prompting the necessary conversations, productive research, and advocacy for holistic care that will improve health care outcomes for health care recipients
Amanda Buono	Sleep Performance in the Acute Care Setting: Interventions to Support Individuals, Groups & Populations	An introduction into the relationship of sleep and health and the importance of assessing sleep function for patients in the acute care setting. The course will cover a variety of individual interventions and discuss OTs might shape institutional policy to support sleep health across the population.
Meghan Hall	A Geriatric Interprofessional Educational Workshop: An Adaptable Framework for IPE Events in the Educational Curriculum of the OT and OTA	Attendees will learn the significance of IPE as part of the educational curriculum in the context of compliance with ACOTE standards and development of the OTP. Attendees will engage in a simulated IPE event, followed by consideration of alternative IPEs in alignment with program strengths and needs.
Irma Alvarado	Conversations That Matter for Student OT/OTA: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	The occupational therapy profession is answering the call for a diverse workforce to adequately meet its consumers' needs by being '... intentionally inclusive and equitable and embrace diversity (DEI) in all its forms. Guiding strategic principles involve 'Build[ing] the capacity of OT practitioners for the knowledge, learning, and professional and leadership development...' (AOTA, 2021). This facilitated session addresses conversations that matter to OT/OTA students within their chosen career objectives. The group will utilize AOTA references to address the issues that OT/OTA students in Georgia encounter in their learning in and out of traditional classroom environments, virtual learning, and on-site field experiences. Student proposed issues also include action on moving DEI discussions from recruitment to workforce and making meaningful connections through mentorship before entering the workforce. Students will discuss concerns or disadvantages in the workplace related to

		Medicare reimbursement for OTAs. This session is not restricted to these topics and will be guided by conversations that matter to OT/OTA students.
Sarah Norris	Self-Compassion and Sensation: Dual Strategies for Regulation in the Era of Post-pandemic Stress	As we emerge from the pandemic, we need to be trauma-informed and equipped with as many tools as possible. Combining the powerful strategies of mindful self-compassion and sensation, we can model transformative self-care and be a buoy for each other and our clients in a sea of chaos.
Heidi Edgar	Sensory, Emotions and the Behaviors of Daily Life: Using Co-Regulation to Help Pediatric Clients and their Families, Caregivers	Pediatric clients and families live with stress that increased significantly during COVID-19. Providing families with strategies for emotional awareness is vital and utilizing co-regulation for increased connectedness between children and their families is an opportunity to support success.
Kay Graham	The Positivity Effect and Older Adults: What OTs Need to Know and What it Means for Optimizing Healthy Aging	When compared to younger adults, older adults consistently show a preference to the positive in their attention, memory, and choices (Carstensen & DeLiema, 2018). This positivity effect is not associated with cognitive decline or dementia (Ruthig, Poltavski, & Petros, 2019). Recently, researchers found that older adults recalled and agreed with more positively framed COVID-related statements than did middle age groups (Alzpurua, Migueles, & Aranberri 2021). Explanations for this well-researched effect often include the decreasing time horizons put forth in the socioemotional selectivity theory. This theory posits that older adults show a shift from a negative to positive bias with increasing age due to changing goals based on perceptions of decreasing time living (Carstensen & DeLiema, 2018). While the reason behind the effect is still being debated, older adults' prioritization of more emotional goals should be considered in messaging and communications. For successful communications with older adults, Carstensen and Hershfield (2021) recommended emphasizing positive rather than negative messages and using more emotional and in the moment type of messages. Interactions that highlight individual resilience and strength may also be more successful than fear-based or negative communications. OT practitioners need to incorporate understanding of the positivity effect into their health communications and health management interventions with older adults. Attendees will be exposed to recent research and OT case applications about the positivity effect and then will be invited to work in small groups to develop and then share intervention strategies that make use of the positivity effect. By the end of the presentation, attendees will be able to identify relevant research about the positivity effect seen in older adults, what this means for healthy aging, and apply research regarding the positivity effect to working with older adults.
Ruth Bourque Haley McDonald	Physical and Occupational Therapists' Collaboration for Spinal Cord Injury	Spinal Cord Injury in the pediatric population often involves an additional layer of social and emotional needs to have optimal recovery and return to independent function. Navigating access to services in the acute and post-acute settings to achieve mobility and IADLs in the community, school, leisure, and home environments may be very different than the adult population. Environmental and social access for these children is key for collaboration

	Management in Youth and Adolescents	between providers in the rehabilitation setting. Access and assessment to seating devices, environmental modifications, mobility, and other adaptations remains primary in interdisciplinary care for these patients. Occupational and physical therapist collaboration in the care of children with spinal cord injuries remains best care management during the continuum of care. During a child's transition back to middle and high school, PT and OT support remains crucial for the child's success in independence and mobility. This session will focus on the role of the PT/OT in the care of adolescents in the transition to school, community, and post-educational services including vocation, college, and independent life skills.
Stephanie Johnson	What's Up With all These Professional	During this presentation, the learner will begin to understand the impact of membership- from a national and state level- in associations and how this directly impacts daily practice. Coverage of topics includes associations within Georgia, such as GOTA, the Georgia State Licensing Board, the Political Action Committee (PAC) Group within Georgia, as well as national associations such as AOTA, ACOTE, NBCOT, and AOTA PAC. Information regarding the impact of federal government laws, policies, and programs will also be covered, such as Medicare and Medicaid, from a perspective of associational involvement.
Kate Wagner	The Global Effects of Retained Primitive Reflexes and Blomberg RMT: A Neuro-Developmental Movement Program	Reflexes are innate, stereotypical responses to sensory stimuli that body uses to ensure survival and develop neuro-sensorimotor functions. There will be a brief review of brain anatomy relating dysfunction in brain maturation to development and integration of reflexes which are the foundation for physical, emotional, and cognitive development. We will discuss why reflexes remain active. Symptoms of key reflexes and how they affect posture, muscle tone, balance, motor coordination, flexibility, fine and gross motor skills, cognitive and sensory processing, vision, and emotional regulation will be presented. Blomberg RMT theory will be discussed and BRMT techniques will be demonstrated
Valarie Chapman	Boot Camp: An Alternative	The purpose of this course is to show one way to complete a Level 1 Fieldwork for pediatrics in a classroom setting when a clinical placement is not an option. Activities are designed to facilitate the application of classroom knowledge, critical thinking, and creativity.
Kinsuk Maitra	Access to Diverse Occupations Within Walking Distance from Home Predicts Health	Community built environment structures have been known to affect a population's occupational participation and resultant health outcomes. Here we present the results of a path analysis utilizing data sourced from Walk Score® and the AARP Livability Index. The results, for the first time, showed a strong relationship between the diversity of occupational destinations and health outcomes. Secondly, diverse opportunities that increase the potential for social participation within walking distances were also found to be positively associated with health. The findings suggests that in community based or population based occupational therapy it is important to assess the access of the diversity of occupations within walking distance of home to promote not only the health and wellness of the individual and/or the population but also promote occupational participation.
Shaun Conway	NBCOT® National Certification Exam:	Connect with NBCOT and hear about the best approaches to achieve your goal for Occupational Therapy Certification.

	Information You Need to Know	
Carolyn Podolski	Brain-Based Learning: How Occupational Therapy Practitioners Can Inspire Our Clients and Their Caregivers to Improve Therapeutic Outcomes	Collaboration between the OT and the OTA is important in clinical practice. Additionally, ACOTE requires OT and OTA student to understand each other's roles and be able to work together collaboratively. However, OT and OTA students traditionally have little opportunity to collaborate and learn together in academic programs. To address this issue, Georgia State University's OT program and 3 OTA programs in the state of Georgia developed a collaborative, virtual level I Fieldwork program using specifically designed case-studies. These case-studies required the OT and OTA students to work together to complete the OT process. addressing OT across the lifespan and integrated application of the OT process for physical conditions with co-existing behavioral and mental health conditions. This program can serve as a model for other academic programs to expand inter-professional higher educational/training programs.
Stephanie Johnson	A Scoping Review: International Interprofessional Education and Collaboration Among Allied Health Providers	International interprofessional education is pertinent as healthcare professionals strive for optimal client-centered care amongst increasing diversity. Within the United States, 13% are foreign born, 22% speak a language other than English at home, and the Hispanic population is expected to double in size by 2050 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). After completing a scoping literature review, the results show that cultural competency and professional development are enhanced through the international interprofessional experience. We identified beneficial patterns of collaboration and education in an international setting for allied health professionals and students. Professional development included increased interprofessional communication, collaboration and education, and improved cultural competency allowed participants to become more aware of cultural differences in health care and to create partnerships. Allied health professionals often worked closely with medical disciplines such as doctors and nurses during collaborative experiences. It is critical that students and professionals are exposed to different cultural experiences beyond their own familiarity in order to best treat all individuals (Mandich et al., 2017). Our results show that international interprofessional experiences increase the cultural competency needed and suggest that further research should identify the benefits of international interprofessional collaboration in improving patient satisfaction and interprofessional communication.
Pamalyn Kearney	What is the Evidence Supporting Lifestyle Intervention Programs to Improve Occupational Performance for Older Adults?: A Systematic Review	Research on lifestyle interventions programs such as Lifestyle Redesign® suggest that these programs can improve older adult occupational performance, mental health, social functioning, life satisfaction (Clark et al 2012; Jackson et al, 1998) and slow the rate of decline associated with aging and chronic conditions (Levasseur et al., 2019). A systematic review of the literature was conducted to synthesize the current research evidence to support lifestyle interventions and to identify best practices within this model of intervention. This poster presentation will describe the search strategy and methodology for this systematic review as well as the findings related to the current evidence regarding lifestyle intervention programs, strategies, and outcomes.
Laurie Tison	Aging in Place: Young-Old Versus Old-Old Assistive	Older adults' general decision-making processes and strategies often differ from those of younger adults. This two-phase study used a qualitative grounded theory approach to better understand community-dwelling older adults'

	Technology Decision-Making Process	decision making regarding assistive technology (Phase 1) and then narrows its focus to explore differences and similarities between young-old and old-old adults (Phase 2). Older adults in this study made choices to make life better. Old-old participants sought less information and fewer options. By understanding the decision-making process in assistive technology among young-old and old-old adults, occupational therapy (OT) practitioners and other disciplines can enhance services to promote aging in place as well as provide a more client-centered approach.
Stephanie Johnson	A Scoping Review: Driving Implications for Persons with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Research is ongoing, but preliminary findings suggest 2% of available literature explores how driving is impacted among PALS compared to 98% that explores driving and the other specified neurodegenerative diagnoses, HD, MS, and PD. Driving falls into the realm of OT as an IADL and adds value in daily function (Cornelis et al., 2017). It is critical to promote IADL activities among all populations of patients with neurodegenerative diseases, including ALS. Preliminary findings suggest OTs play a unique role in promoting IADL driving activities among patients with neurodegenerative diseases. According to AOTA Vision 2025, OT aims to maximize well-being and QoL for all people. This vision should also apply to driving and PALS. Research shows a prominent gap in literature between driving with HD, MS, or PD and driving with ALS. More research is required to understand how driving is impacted among PALS and other neurodegenerative diseases.
Veronica Rowe	Assessing the Usability, Feasibility, and Accessibility of REHAPP, a Mobile Application Used by Occupational and Physical Therapists to Provide Home Exercise Programs	This presentation will describe the feasibility, usability, and accessibility of a mobile health application, REHAPP, as an improved method to deliver rehabilitative home exercise programs for stroke survivors.
Veronica Rowe	Kinematic Analysis of Motor Impairments In Stroke Survivors	A feasible and user-friendly pose estimation program to validly assess upper extremity movement and impairment in adults recovering from stroke can facilitate improved assessment methods needed in the rehabilitation of stroke survivors.
Meghan Hall	Assessments Tools Available for Use in Evaluating the Relationship Between Psychosocial Factors and Upper Extremity Trauma: A Scoping Review	OTPs working in biomechanical settings recognize that treatment of the whole person is essential to positive outcomes. This poster session will focus on exposing the gap in available assessment tools for use in defining and quantifying the need for skilled OT services in the rehabilitation of the client following a UE trauma.

Patricia Watford	Factors That Influence Compliance with Self-Care Management of Chronic Lymphedema	<p>Approximately 250 million people worldwide are affected by lymphedema, a chronic condition which often develops following cancer surgery and radiation. Treatment for lymphedema includes complete or complex decongestive treatment (CDT) which includes two phases. Phase I is conducted by a therapist certified in lymphedema treatment. Phase II, also known as the maintenance phase, is dependent on the client following a self-care management program. Unfortunately, client adherence to Phase II can be poor, which may lead to increase hospitalization, permanent damage to the tissue, and physical disability. Reasons for client adherence to CDT Phase II must be studied to give therapists insight into how they can best partner with clients to improve the outcomes of lymphedema. We conducted a scoping review to answer the following question: “What are the factors that influence adherence with self-care management in Phase II of CDT within the scope of occupational therapy?” We followed the Arskey and O’Malley’s 2005 framework for conducting a scoping review. In addition, the checklist from the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) was used to manage the process. We searched CINAHL Plus, Nursing & Allied Health Source, and PubMed. EndNote® (Version 20) was used to organize and review the search results. Researchers screened articles first by title and abstract, then by full-text review, then extracted pertinent data from each article. Preliminary results reveal factors such as time, cost of materials, and transportation impact client adherence with Phase II of CDT. We will explore the factors related to client adherence with Phase II of CDT and discuss ways that therapists can address these factors with clients to improve the outcomes associated with lymphedema treatment.</p>
Hope Williams	The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Childhood Occupations: A Scoping Review	<p>COVID-19 has impacted individuals of all ages globally. It is imperative for occupational therapy providers to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on occupational performance of children (Cusinato et al., 2020). The purpose of our research is to examine the impact of COVID-19 on childhood occupations. We conducted a scoping review of the gray and published literature and followed a multi-step protocol (Levac et al., 2010). Articles were included if they evaluated participants ages 3-18y and described an impact on childhood occupations. Information sources included: PubMed, CINAHL, Google Scholar, and Cochrane. Gray literature was included if measurable data was available. We extracted the following variables for synthesis: country of origin, age, gender, and occupation impacted. Research is ongoing, but preliminary themes suggest that COVID-19 has had positive and negative impacts on childhood occupations such as education, leisure, and sleep. Findings of this study will inform future researchers by providing a basic understanding of current information available concerning the impacts of COVID-19 on childhood occupations and expose any gaps in the literature. This study will enable clinicians to understand preliminary impacts of COVID-19 on clients and adjust their practice accordingly. Our study suggests that OT practitioners should invest in future research to examine the impact of COVID-19 on this population.</p>
Jennifer Boyette	The Intentional Relationship Model as a Guide for	<p>Current research shows that intentional and purposeful relationship-building as a component of clinical reasoning helps the therapeutic relationship recover from negative situational events.</p>

	Managing Inevitable Interpersonal Events that Occur in Outpatient Hand Therapy	
Stephanie Johnson	Quality of Life and Occupational Therapy: A Holistic, Individualized Perspective	A renewed appraisal for QoL definition and measurement is called for in OT literature, as well as a more in-depth application within practice (Baron et al., 2019). The nuance differences of QoL, including global versus health related, disease specific versus disease agnostic, and lastly individual QoL, need to be thoroughly understood to offer client driven care. Realization within OT practice that QoL for persons: can and does change throughout one's life (Carr, Gibson, & Robinson, 2001); can be improved (Cummins, 2005); is dynamic (Allison, Locker, & Feine, 1997); and often encompasses multiple domains, although for most similar building blocks (Cummins, 2005) is critical for holistic, individualized practice. Without a thorough understanding of the types of QoL, as well as potential for response shift—a change in QoL definition for a person, due to a re-valuing, recalibration, and reconceptualization (Schwartz & Sprangers, 1999)—OT practitioners could be missing the mark for care that is client centered.
Jennifer Boyette	Reducing Injuries in the Workplace: The Role of Occupational Therapists as Key Practitioners	The presentation describes how Occupational Therapists play a key role in reducing injuries in the workplace and addressing high risk tasks in order to reduce barriers for return to work.
Irma Alvarado Aileen Deogracias Melissa Toporek	Service Users' Experiences with Occupational Therapy, How Can I Improve? A Listening Session and Workshop	In this listening session, workshop participants will deeply listen to a panel of service users from a Georgia self-advocacy network describe their experiences in OT and complete activities to reflect, identify areas for improvement, and generate a plan for carrying aspects forward into practice.
Bryan Clever	Seating and Wheeled Mobility: Why OT?	This class is meant to teach what a good seating system can accomplish, what a bad seating system can cost the patient and healthcare system, how to distinguish between different types of equipment and what they are used for, what the practitioner's role is in obtaining seating and wheeled mobility equipment, how to properly assess and evaluate someone for a seating and wheeled mobility system, and what different funding sources are looking for in documentation.
Aileen Deogracias	Telehealth Occupational Therapy in Georgia: Legislation, Advocacy, and Pediatric Service User Perceptions	This session covers Georgia telehealth legislation, advocacy efforts, and results of GOTA's 2020 & 2022 surveys on Georgia service users' perceptions of telehealth occupational therapy. Understanding relevant legislation and user perceptions improves practice, advocacy, and broadens access to OT.

Kara Ross	Clinician to Academia	With the growth of occupational therapy (OT) academic programs, there is an increase need for OT educators. Many clinicians are interested in teaching, but do not know how to start the process. Do they need an advanced degree? What are some ways to begin to delve into the world of academia? Unless clinicians have a connection to academic institutions, they are left wondering how one can get involved in teaching beyond the clinic. Infused with humor and practical advice, the presentation will attempt to guide clinicians to make the transition into academia.
Ryan Carrick	What Can an OT Practitioner Do for a Sedentary Older Adult?	Older adults will soon outnumber the young. Will occupational therapy (OT) be ready? This presentation will provide direction for OT practitioners to motivate the sedentary older adult, be reflective on the OT approach and include case study discussion rooted in meaningful occupations.
Shaun Conway	Your National OTR or COTA Credential: What It Means for You	For those interested, connect with NBCOT and hear about maintaining national occupational therapy certification as well as methods that can be used to contribute to professional competency.
Aileen Deogracias	Legislative Updates	Important legislative updates will be provided within this session, focusing on the needs of OTPs within the state of Georgia.
Rob McClellan	Georgia OT Licensure Updates	The Georgia Occupational Therapy board members have been working on revising the current rules to improve clarity and to align with the practice act statutes. The purpose of the Georgia OT Licensure Updates presentation is to provide participants with current updates and planned updates to the statutes and rules for best practices. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will have understanding and knowledge of navigating the Georgia Secretary of State Website, OT rules and statutes, and licensing procedures.
Jennifer Boyette	Ethics for Ga Occupational Therapists	Coverage of key ethical and jurisprudence topics will be discussed, including ethical concepts from the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics, ethical decision making, and application during case examples.