



**Annual Conference
November 4, 2023
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REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1, 2023

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Program Highlights

General Information

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Meet Our Presenters

**A Thank you to our
sponsors!**

Conference Information

Ticket Information

Full Day OT:\$160

Full Day OTA: \$140

Full Day Student: \$50

Full Day Trustee: \$120

Full Day OT + 1 Year

Membership: \$200

Full Day OTA + 1 Year

Membership: \$180

Full Day Student+1 Year

membership: \$80

Single Session(limit 2): \$25

Keynote only: FREE

Session Information

- Basic zoom account required
- Attendance will be monitored by session proctors
- Please type your name at the beginning and end of each session to demonstrate “signing in/signing out”
- CEU certificates will be emailed within 1 month of conference ending

Poster Information

- Poster session will be held in a group setting
- Poster session will be monitored by a session proctor
- Poster presenters have up to 2 minutes to present and 2 minutes for questions
- You must remain in the poster session to receive the full credit
 - 5 posters: .5 hours CEU

Conference Itinerary

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Session Presentation #1 (1 Contact Hour)

- AOTF: Advancing the Science of Occupational Therapy
 - *Presented by Lawrence Liff*
- Early Indicators of Autism in Infants: Development of the IMES Screening Tool
 - *Presented by Barbara Demchick, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Joanne Flanagan, ScD, OTR/L, Rachel Cassidy, OTR/L*
- Neurovisual Screening Tools for Acute Care
 - *Presented by Megan Hamilton, MSOT*
- Alternative Healthcare Careers for Occupational Therapy Practitioners
 - *Presented by Marlene Riley, OTR/L, CHT, Kristen Aybar, OTR/L, CAPS, CLT, ECHM, LSVT, Felicia Stein, COTA/L, Debra Taylor, OTR/L, SIPT, Katie Swinson, OTR/L, Kim Perone, OTR/L, MBA, ECHM, Shari Lorch, MS, OTR/L*

9:15 AM-10:15AM Session Presentation #2 (1 Contact Hour)

- Facilitating Inclusion for Neurodiverse Students: A Strength-based Approach to Sensory Regulation within the Classroom
 - *Presented by Janis Leinfuss, OTD OTR/L & Erin O'Hara, MS OTR/L*
- Advocating Together: We Need You
 - *Presented by Virginia Morris, OTR/L, MIPH, FACHE, AOTPAAC Ambassador for Maryland*
- Formalizing The Virtual Mentoring Space: A Feasibility Study
 - *Presented by Selina S. Brijbasi, OTD, OTR/L*
- The Benefit of Occupational Therapy in the ICU
 - *Presented by Michelle Weikle, MS, OTR/L*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

10:30 AM-11:30 AM KEYNOTE (1 Contact Hour)



Cristina Feather, MD, MHS, FACS

Cristina Feather is an Acute Care Surgeon and Surgical Intensivist at Luminis Health, as well as Clinical Instructor at R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

She attended Temple School of Medicine, and she completed her general surgery residency at Temple University Hospital. She return to Maryland to complete surgical critical care fellowship at R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

Upon joining the AAMC medical staff in 2016, she has been part of both the Acute Care Sugery andCritical Care teams. She was most recently named the Director of Physician Wellness at Luminis Health.

Dr. Feather practices with first-hand knowledge of what it means to be a patient. In January 2018, she was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome, spending 6 months recovering from her illness. She will be speaking about her experience as a patient and how it has impacted her both as a clinician and as an individual.

Conference Itinerary

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Lunch

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Board Meeting and Awards (1.0 Contact Hour)

1:15 PM-1:45 PM: Poster Session (.5 Contact Hours)

- Recipes for Movement Improvement: An Occupation-Based Approach Addressing Motor Skills in a Neurodiverse Cooking Group
 - *Presented by Sarah Russell, OTD, OTR/L and Aiyana Odom, OTS*
- Pickleball & Parkinson's - A Literature Review
 - *Presented by Allysin E Bridges-German, OTD, MA, OTR/L, CAPS and Evan Bota, OTS*
- The Missing Link: How OT Can Address the Mental Health Needs of Children in the Schools
 - *Presented by Ashley Lankford, ScD, OTR/L, Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, and Erin Woodford, OTS*
- Factors Impacting Occupational Therapists' Advocacy Attempts: An Exploratory Study
 - *Presented by Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Sydney Tristani, OTS, & Ingrid L. L. Mbianga, OTS*
- Improving Self-Organization and Self-Efficacy of OT Students to Prepare for Clinical Practice: The Embodied and Embedded Motor Skill Curriculum EEMSC
 - *Presented by Jutta Brettschneider, OTD, OTR/L, GCFP; RSME*

2:00 PM-3:00 PM: Session #3 (1.0 Contact Hour)

- The Role of OT in Addressing Sleep Disturbance
 - *Presented by Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L*
- Artificial Intelligence for OT Practice and Education
 - *Presented by Amanda Jozkowski, PhD OTR/L*
- Life Hardening: The New Possibility of High Intensity in OT
 - *Presented by Philip Lamoreaux, OTD, OTR/L, CLCP, LCP-C*
- Occupational (Embodiment) Injustice: Doing, Being, Becoming and Belonging in the Transportation Built Environment
 - *Presented by Shuling Wu, MSOTR/L, MSLAc*
- NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know
 - *Presented by Vanessa (Hughes) Arndt, COTA/L, CMC, CAPS, CDP, NBCOT Ambassador*

Conference Itinerary

3:15 PM-4:15 PM: Session #4 (1.0 Contact Hour)

- New Formstack FWPE
 - *Presented by Junhua Liu, Vice President of Information Technology*
- Exploring OT Doctoral Education at Towson University: PhD and PPOTD
 - *Presented by Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L & Kendra Heatwole Shank, PhD, OTR/L, CAPS*
- Using AOTA's Official Documents to Advocate Our Distinct Value
 - *Presented by Derek Piggot, MOT, OTR/L*
- Implications of the Use of Bedrails in Nursing Homes
 - *Presented by Radiatou H Boucar, OTD, OTR/L*

4:30 PM-5:30 PM: Session #5 (1.0 Contact Hour)

- The Brain in the Feet: Somatic Experience and Its Relevance to Transfer Training in OT
 - *Presented by Jutta Brettschneider, OTD, OTR/L, GCFP, RSME*
- An "Impossible Balance": Parenting with Long COVID
 - *Presented by Grace Fordman, OTD, MS, OTR/L*
- Using an Equity Lens to Reflect on Power and Partnership in School-Based Occupational Therapy Practice
 - *Presented by Grace Sambuco, MS, OTR/L*

Meet Our Presenters

Vanessa Arndt, COTA/L, CMC, CAPS, CDP, NBCOT Ambassador - Maryland

Vanessa (Hughes) Arndt is a COTA/L with twenty years of experience working with Older Adults in community settings, she is employed by the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence as a Program Manager and is a volunteer for NBCOT serving as Ambassador for the State of Maryland.

Kristen Aybar, OTR/L, CAPS, CLT, ECHM, LSVT

Kristen Aybar has thirteen years of clinical practice with a focus in gerontology. She is currently a Home Care Administrator

Jutta Brettschneider, OTD, OTR/L, GCFP, RSME

Junta Brettschneider is a trained as an occupational therapist in Germany and the US. She is also an international trained Feldenkrais® teacher, working with individuals of all ages and groups and offers regularly community workshops. The Feldenkrais Method® of somatic education helps people to move with more ease and improve coordination. In 2015, she founded "The Movement Clinic" in College Park/Maryland, where she works with children and adults on developing healthy movement habits and improving daily living skills. For her doctorate capstone, she developed the Embedded and Embodied Motor Skill Curriculum EEMSC with modules that combines somatic experience into OT motor and ADL/IADL skill training. She is looking forward to share a module with you that addresses posture and body mechanics during transfer training, an activity highly relevant for both OT practitioners and clients safety.

Allysin Bridges-German OTD, MA, OTR/L, CAPS

Allysin Bridges-German is an occupational therapist and Certified Aging in Place Specialist with over 20 years' experience treating adults and older adults with an array of diagnoses in various settings, from hospitals to homes to the community. She is a clinical assistant professor at Towson University where she continues her research and exploration on age-friendly communities, aging in place, and fall prevention. Allysin is a published author and has spoken nationally on fall prevention and aging in place. She is a wife and mother of two sons and a dog, all who keep her very busy!

Selina Brijbasi OTD, OTR/L

Selina Brijbasi has utilized her lived experiences as a neurological event survivor, along with clinical and teaching experiences, to support students transitioning into the profession through mentorship. Her research interests include understanding non-traditional teaching and learning strategies, instructional technologies' and supplemental programs' impacts on traditional classroom instruction. She earned her Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate at The George Washington University in Washington DC, with a specialization in teaching and learning in health professions education. She recently joined Towson University's Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science Department as an adjunct professor and hopes to continue her research into supplemental programs' impacts on instruction and inform guidelines for integrating virtual mentoring programs into the existing curriculum.

Radiatou Hama Boucar OTD, OTR/L

Radiatou Hama Boucar holds a post-professional occupational therapy doctoral degree from Towson University in Towson, Maryland where she previously earned a bachelor's and a master's in occupational therapy and occupational science. Radiatou has several years of clinical experience in skilled nursing facilities where she has been committed to increasing the client's maximum potential, and overall quality of life using evidence-based practice as well as inspiring other healthcare professionals to provide the highest quality of care.

Rachel Cassidy, OTR/L

Rachel is a staff occupational therapist at Kennedy Krieger Institute for the past 2 years.

Barbara Demchick ScD, OTR/L,FAOTA

Barbara Demchick is a Professor Emerita at Towson University with many years experience with children and their families and higher education. She researches early identification of infants with autism and family quality of life.

Joanne Flanaganis ScD, OTR/L

Joanne Flanaganis an Associate Professor at Nova Southeastern University with extensive experience in working with children and their families. She primarily researches Early identification of autism, and lectures extensively on this subject

Grace Fordman OTD, MS, OTR/L

Grace Fordman has a post-professional doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Towson University, an MS in Occupational Therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a BA in Sociology from Beloit College. Grace has been an acute-care OT for 9 years, and currently practices at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. When she isn't at work helping clients achieve their goals, she enjoys traveling, swimming laps, and spending time with her family.

Megan Hamilton, MSOT

Megan Hamilton is a recent alumna from Messiah University's Master of Occupational Therapy program. Megan also obtained her Bachelor's of Science in Biopsychology from Messiah University as well, which sparked an interest in neuroscience and its intersection with occupational therapy. For her fieldwork rotations, Megan worked at an outpatient pediatric clinic and an acute care hospital, Anne Arundel Medical Center. Currently, Megan is studying for the NBCOT examination and will be pursuing her license thereafter. She is hopeful of working as an OT in an acute or rehabilitation hospital. Aside from her interest in the neuro and even NICU population, Megan enjoys reading, gardening, spending time with friends, and learning more about community advocacy—all valued occupations.

Kendra Heatwole Shank, PhD, OTR/L, CAPS

Kendra Heatwole Shank is Associate Professor, Department Chairperson, and Director of the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Program at Towson University. With a background in both nursing and occupational therapy, Dr. Heatwole Shank has focused on issues related to aging and wellbeing, specifically how older adults engage in and navigate their communities while aging in place.

Amanda Jozkowski, PhD, OTR/L

Amanda Jozkowski, PhD, OTR/L, is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science, and Program Director for the MSOT at Towson University. Her teaching and scholarship have long been influenced by advances in technology, as she was an early adopter of hybrid flipped classroom models, online learning, open educational resources, and assistive technology applications. Dr. Jozkowski recently took interest in the implications of generative artificial intelligence on teaching, learning, ethics, and scholarly productivity and has been closely following thought leaders on these topics. In spring 2023, she served on the Towson University Faculty Academic Center for Excellence in Teaching's panel on AI technologies for educators, and represented graduate programs as a presenter at the Council of University System Faculty's all-campus Town Hall.

Philip Lamoreaux, OTD, OTR/L, CLCP, LCP-C

Phil obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Utah and completed his Doctorate at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas in 2023. He initiated his professional career in school-based therapy and subsequently transitioned to inpatient neuro rehabilitation. Over a span of six years, Phil secured certifications in Neuro-IFRAH, the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS), and Life Care Planning. Over the past three years, he has been developing and integrating "Life Hardening" principles into occupational therapy practice within his inpatient rehabilitation. Phil has also served as an Expert Witness in more than 60 litigation cases, crafting occupational profiles and evaluating individual functional capacities. Recently, he embraced an academic role as the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for an emerging OTD program in Southern Utah. Outside of work, Phil's passions include competitive pickleball, running, vacationing, and cherishing moments with his wife and four children.

Ashley Lankford, ScD, OTR/L

Ashley Lankford is an Assistant Professor in the Occupational Therapy/Occupational Science department at Towson University. Her research interests include school-based occupational therapy practice, interprofessional collaboration, assistive technology, and inclusive practices. Ashley is also a member of the Maryland State Steering Committee for Occupational and Physical Therapy School Based Programs. Prior to joining the Towson faculty, Ashley worked as an occupational therapist at a local Maryland county for 9 years.

Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Dr. Sonia Lawson currently serves as the VP for Advocacy for MOTA and teaches the Issues in OT class for Towson University's OT programs. She aims to increase the power of OT through advocacy.

Janis Leinfuss, OTD OTR/L

Dr. Janis Leinfuss is a passionate occupational therapist with over 24 years of experience working with the pediatric population. She is a specialist in Sensory Processing and Integration Disorder, certified in the evaluation and treatment of SPD by the Sensory Therapies and Research Institute, specializing in the treatment of children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), ADHD, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Her clinical experiences include public and private schools, private practice, and early intervention. Dr. Leinfuss received her B.S. degree in occupational therapy from Quinnipiac University and achieved an M.S. in Exceptionalities in Special Education from Bloomsburg University of Pa and an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) from Gannon University. Dr. Leinfuss has been published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented professionally to local, national, and international audiences. She is an active member of AOTA and her state OT association, contributing to quarterly newsletters and participating in community practice group sessions. She is an adjunct faculty member in the ppOTD program at Gannon University and in the MSOT program at Seton Hall University.

Lawrence Liff

Lawrence is the Chief Development Officer at AOTF, a role he has been in for almost 6 years. During this time he has helped grow the community of supporters engaged with AOTF, building new opportunities to expand research and research careers. Lawrence has been a fundraising professional for almost 20 years working in annual, major corporate and planned giving as well as event planning and volunteer leadership. Lawrence has a BA in History and Political Science and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Maryland

Junhua Liu

Junhua Liu is the Vice President of Information Technology at AOTA. She oversees all the IT initiatives and day-to-day operations.

Virginia Morris, OTR/L, MIPH, FACHE, AOTPAC Ambassador for Maryland

Virginia Morris has been an occupational therapist for 26 years and an AOTA member for over 16 years. She is the Director of Rehabilitation at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and MedStar Southern Maryland Hospitals and recently joined the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC) as an AOTPAC Ambassador.

Erin O'Hara, MS, OTR/L

Erin O'Hara earned a BS degree in Occupational Therapy from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT in 2002. Finding a passion in pediatrics, she found herself drawn to those children who needed her help the most. Erin went on to receive her Sensory Integration Certificate from the University of Southern California and then earn an MS in educational studies with a focus on Mind, Brain, and Teaching and Autism from Johns Hopkins University. She is a co-author of the published, peer reviewed article, "Demystifying sensory processing to promote effective interprofessional and caregiver collaboration" and has composed various columns for NJOTA newsletters. Erin has presented professionally at both national and international conferences.

Derek Piggott, MOT, OTR/L

Derek Piggott is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science at Towson University. His area of clinical expertise is mental health practice in inpatient and community settings. His teaching and scholarship are focused on mental health practice and fieldwork education. He serves as a fieldwork educator at the Institute for Well-Being in the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism in various programs focused on improving occupational engagement for individuals living in the community.

Marlene Riley, OTR/L, CHT

Marlene Riley graduated from Towson University 1980. Her primary practice focuses on adult physical rehab and community health promotion. She is a Clinical Associate Professor Emerita of Towson University. She is the owner of a solo mobile OT practice.

Sarah Russell,OTD, OTR/L

Dr. Sarah Russell is an Occupational Therapist with four years of experience in school-based, outpatient, and early intervention settings. She received her Post-Professional Doctorate and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Autism Studies from Towson University. She received her Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy with a Pediatric Specialization from Misericordia University. She also received a Bachelors Degree in Health Science and a minor in Psychology from Misericordia University.

Grace Sambuco, MS, OTR/L

Grace Sambuco is an occupational therapist working in Baltimore County Public Schools. Grace has worked in Baltimore County Public Schools for five years. She is completing her Post Professional Occupational Doctorate Degree at Towson University, and this presentation is her Capstone Project for the program.

Michelle Weikle, MS, OTR/L

Michelle Weikle graduated from Salisbury University with a BS degree in Psychology in 2008, and graduated from Towson University with a Masters in Occupational Therapy in 2011. She has worked at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center since August 2011, where she served as the CCCE for 9 years and currently is the primary OT in the ICU and a CI mentor to her OT team.

Shuling Wu, MSOTR/L, MSLAc

Shuling Wu is a PhD student in the PCS program at the University of Maryland. Shuling is interested in understanding the embodiment process behind chronic conditions and how they are shaped by the Neighborhood and Built Environment and other governmental infrastructures.

Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L

Dr. Jenna Yeager is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University, and has been on the faculty for over 25 years. Her practice area is mental health and she has over 20 years of experience in various psychosocial settings.

Debra Taylor, OTR/L , SIPT Certified

Debra is a graduate from Temple University. She has held a variety of OT positions in peds and mental health. Her current focus is medical sales work.

Kate Swinson, OTR/L

Kate is a 2015 graduate from Towson University. Her current focus is real estate.

Kim Perone, MBA, MSHA, OTR/L, SHRM-CP, ECHM, CPAM, CIMI

Kim has 20+ years experience as an occupational therapy. Her current focus is recruitment.

Shari Lorch, MS, OTR/L

Shari is currently the Assistant Principal Dayton Oaks Elementary School.

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their commitment to excellence



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