



Annual Conference
November 2nd, 2024
Hosted by Towson University
Earn up to 6.0 CEUs

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Questions? Contact: conference.mota@gmail.com

**Program
Highlights**

General Information

Session Information

Conference Itinerary

Meet Our Presenters

A Thank You to Our
Sponsors

Welcome!

Welcome to the Maryland Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference! We are so excited you have decided to join us for our first in-person event since 2019!

In this brochure, you will find ticketing/pricing, session details, information about our keynote speaker, CEU credit information, conference itinerary, presenter biographies, and a thank you to our sponsors.

We hope you find the conference informative, educational, and inspirational. MOTA's mission is to represent, support, and advance the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Maryland. Our hope is that the conference lives up to our mission!



Conference Admission

Regular Registration: September 1-September 30

OT Member	\$180
OT Non-Member	\$215
OTA Member	\$145
OTA Non-Member	\$160

Last Call Registration: October 1-October 15

OT Member	\$215
OT Non-Member	\$250
OTA Member	\$160
OTA Non-Member	\$195



Presentation Information

- All sessions are LIVE
- Attendance will be monitored by session proctors
- Presentations are 15-20 minutes in duration with a Q&A
- Each hour allocated for presentations will include 3 presentations
- You must remain in the same room for blocks of presentations to receive full CEU credit

Poster Information

- Poster session will be held concurrently with lunch from 12:30 PM-2:00 PM
- Poster session will be monitored by a session proctor
- Poster CEU outlines as follows:
 - 6 posters: 0.5 CEU
 - 12 posters 1.0 CEU



Workshop/Course Information

- All sessions are LIVE
- Attendance will be monitored by session proctors
- Workshops/courses are 60 minutes in duration including Q & A
- Each workshop/course is worth 1 CEU. You must remain in the workshop/course for its entire duration to receive CEU credit



Keynote Speaker



Dorothea Copeland, OTD, OT/L

Dorothea Copeland, OTD, OT/L is employed by Prince George's County Public Schools as the Instructional Supervisor for Support Programs and Related Services. She is responsible for the delivery and supervision of adapted instructional programs and related services that promote access to instruction for students with disabilities. She is fortunate to work in a supervisory capacity with a team of committed professionals, led by their discipline-specific Instructional Specialists: Adapted Physical Education teachers, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility teachers, Audiologists, Teachers of the Deaf and Hearing Impairment, Assistive Technology Resource Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Educators and Speech Language Pathologists on the Bilingual Assessment Team. She has worked in acute and rehabilitation hospital settings, in addition to the past 28 years in school-based practice.

Dr. Copeland is a proud graduate of Towson University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy in 1984, while also majoring in Psychology. She earned her Occupational Therapy Clinical Doctorate Degree in 2008 from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. She holds professional certifications in Administration and Supervision (John Hopkins University) and a certificate in Mental Health in Infancy and Early Childhood (University of Maryland, Baltimore).

Dr. Copeland has presented at the state and national levels on a variety of topics relevant to occupational therapy practice. She was recognized by the American Occupational Therapy Association in 2019 for her contributions to the profession as a policy advisor for children and youth.

The Power of Possibility: Breaking Down Barriers and Empowering Opportunity

When you awaken to begin your work day, do you envision yourself being a change agent? By sharing stories and insights collected during her 40 year professional journey as an occupational therapy practitioner, Dr. Dorothea Copeland will describe how creatively adapting core principles of humanistic psychology can guide professional agency. Barriers are minimized and opportunities are maximized as we take action to reflect, recharge and reimagine our true identity as occupational therapy practitioners.



Conference Itinerary

Session 1: 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Presentations, Room 1 (1.0 CEU)

- **Returning to Our Roots: OT's Role in Mental Health**
 - Presented by Rae Ann Smith, MEd, OTD, OTR/L
- **AOTF: The Power of Philanthropy Advancing the Science of Occupational Therapy**
 - Presented by Lawrence Liff, MA and Antoinette Shaw, OTR, OTD
- **Integrating Sustainable Development in Occupational Therapy**
 - Presented by Ivy Lazzarini, OTD, EdD

Presentations, Room 2 (1.0 CEU)

- **CBT Pain Management Strategies for Service Members**
 - Presented by Linh Tran Pham, OTS, Joseph Matthews, OTS, Shelby Dechert, OTS, Allysin Bridges-German OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCG, CAPS
- **What the heck is DEP?**
 - Presented by Allysin Bridges-German OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCG, CAPS, Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Anisha Carr, OTD, OTR/L
- **Advocacy 101 - What Every Practitioner Needs to Know to be a Successful Advocate**
 - Presented by Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Michael Paddy

Workshop/Course, Room 3 (1.0 CEU)

- **Personalized Learning Paths Using Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools for Occupational Therapy Education**
 - Presented by Amanda Jozkowski, PhD, OTR/L, Angela Tabak, BS, BFA, Grace Martino, BS, Aubrey Baier, BS

Workshop/Course, Room 4 (1.0 CEU)

- **NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know**
 - Presented by Vanessa Arndt, COTA/L, CMC, CAPS, CDP

Workshop/Course, Room 5 (1.0 CEU)

- **Fall Prevention with Kinesthetic Training**
 - Presented by Jutta Brettschneider, OTD, OTR/L



Conference Itinerary

Session 2: 9:45 AM-10:45 AM

Presentations, Room 1 (1.0 CEU)

- **3D Printing for Function**
 - Presented by Amanda Summers, MS, OTR/L, ATP and Kathryn Peck, MOT, OTR/L
- **Elevating Your Inpatient Stroke Rehab: An Evidence-Based Approach to Care**
 - Presented by Courtney Heidle, OTR/L, MSOT, CPAM
- **The Benefit of OT in the ICU**
 - Presented by Michelle Weikle, MS, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 2 (1.0 CEU)

- **The Occupational Therapist's Guide to Therapeutic Gardening**
 - Presented by Katie Ryzhikov, M.S., OTR/L HTR

Workshop/Course, Room 3 (1.0 CEU)

- **Trauma-Informed Care Across all Healthcare Settings**
 - Presented by Crystal Barchacky, MSOT, OTD, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 4 (1.0 CEU)

- **The Feasibility of an Upper Extremity Circuit Training Group**
 - Presented by Teresa M. Green, PhD, OTR/L, Lauren Zahner, MS, OTR/L, Daniel Hollern, MS, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 5 (1.0 CEU)

- **Enhancing and Advocating for OT Services for School-based Mental Health**
 - Moderated by Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L (moderator)
 - Participants include: Amy Miller, OTD/L, Dorthea Copeland, OTD, OT/L, Rae Ann Smith, OTR/L, Abe Saffer, MBM



Conference Itinerary

Keynote and Awards: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Keynote, Auditorium (1.0 CEU)

- **The Power of Possibility: Breaking Down Barriers and Empowering Opportunity**
 - *Presented by Dorothea Copeland, OTD, OT/L*

Awards and Presentations

- **Facilitated by Jennifer Wingrat, ScD, OTR/L**



Conference Itinerary

Poster Presentations and Lunch 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Poster Presentations, Room 1

- **Correlations Between Fall Risk Factors and Fall Severity at Mercy Ridge Senior Living Community**
 - Presented by Kathleen Eglesder, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Monica Polanco, OTS, Graciela Echeverria, OTS, Elaine Kaplan, OTS
- **Evaluation of a Capstone Orientation to Prepare PPOTD Students for Independent Research**
 - Presented by Rae Ann Smith, MEd, OTD, OTR/L
- **Practice Makes Perfect: The Value of Participating in a Standardized Simulation as a Formative Learning Experience**
 - Presented by Audrey Combs, OTD, MS OTR/L, Shelby Dechert, OTS, Ariana Jacobs, OTS, Linh Tram Pham, OTS, and Tess Sammut, OTS
- **Transitioning Back to Life: How OT Can Bridge the Distance Between Residential & Community Living in Behavioral Health Care**
 - Presented by Melissa Flanders, MS, OTR/L and Anne Crockett, OTR/L
- **Innovative Best Practices to Promote Intraprofessional Collaboration in Academia, Fieldwork Education and Beyond**
 - Presented by Jeanne Coviello, OTD, OTR/L and Terri Reichley Dennehy, D.Ed., OTR/L
- **Integrating Animal Assisted Therapy with Social Emotional Learning: Enhancing Student Outcomes in an Urban School Setting**
 - Presented by Marlena Barbera, OTR/L, CLT and Mollie, certified animal-assisted therapy and trauma response team dog
- **Educational Supports for Caregivers of Children Who Receive Outpatient Pediatric Therapy**
 - Presented by Brooke Hare, OTD and Ashley Lankford, ScD, OTR/L
- **Community-Based Therapy: Extending Stroke Rehab through Group Programs**
 - Presented by Daniel Hollern, MS, OTR/L
- **Pickle Ball and Parkinson's: A pilot study**
 - Presented by Allysia Bridges-German, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCG, CAPS and Sarah Coffman, OTS
- **Sensation deficits: Identifying, assessing and treating in the acute care hospital setting**
 - Presented by Nicole Rosenbaum, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM and Kristina Choe, MOT, OTR/L



Conference Itinerary

Poster Presentations and Lunch 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Poster Presentations, Room 1

- **Improving Occupational Therapists' Utilization and Competence of the JFK Coma Recovery Scale-Revised (CRS-R)**
 - Presented by Amalia Beltran, OTR/L, CSRS
- **Enhancing Recovery: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Assertive Community Treatment**
 - Presented by Hannah Krich, OTD, OTR/L and Teri Gilley, DHSc, OTR/L, BCP, CTP
- **The Role of Occupational Therapists in Sustainable Healthcare Practices**
 - Presented by Brooke Boyland, OTS and Tamerill Faison, OTD, MS OTR/L
- **Tackling Dyslexia through a Structured Literacy Approach**
 - Presented by Kanan Shah
- **Heroes and Horses: Helping Veterans Find Meaning and Purpose**
 - Presented by Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L and Elizabeth Spinks, MS, OTR/L
- **Flexor Tendon Rehab**
 - Presented by Ritu Goel, MS, OTR/L, DHSc, CHT
- **The Effect of Occupational Therapy Input on Customer Satisfaction for Commercially Available Assistive Technology**
 - Presented by Courtney Gorsuch, OTD, OTR/L and Lynda Lemisch

CEU Credit as follows:

- Visit 6 posters, obtain 6 stamps from proctors = 0.5 CEU credits
- Visit 12 posters, obtain 12 stamps from proctors = 1.0 CEU credits



Conference Itinerary

Session 3: 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Presentations, Room 1 (1.0 CEU)

- **Predictive Factors of State Licensure Board Disciplinary Actions in Occupational Therapy**
 - Presented by Daniel Martin D.Sc., OTR/L and Autumn Servera OTD, OTR/L
- **Occupational Justice in Globalizing Spaces**
 - Presented by Shuling Wu, PhD candidate, MSOTR/L, MS Acu
- **Addressing the Needs of Patients with Substance Use Disorder in Acute Care: The Role of Occupational Therapy**
 - Presented by Leanna Washington OTD, OTR/L, CPAM and Kelly Casey, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, ATP, CPAM

Presentations, Room 2 (1.0 CEU)

- **Measuring Quality of Life (QoL) Through Participation in Meaningful Activity: Going Beyond Health-Related QoL**
 - Presented by Nancy Carlson, Ph.D. OTR/L CAPS
- **Qualitative Analysis of Disabled OTs' Experiences of Ableism**
 - Presented by Jenna Heffron, PhD, OTR/L, ADAC
- **Integrating Occupational Therapy Services within the classroom for skills generalization**
 - Presented by Sarah Quirk, COTA/L

Workshop/Course, Room 3 (1.0 CEU)

- **Long COVID is exhausting: How Occupational Therapy can fit in**
 - Marie Curtis, MS, OTR/L, SCLV

Workshop/Course, Room 4 (1.0 CEU)

- **AOTF and Early Career Research**
 - Panel Discussion moderated by Emily Felipe, MS, OTR/L
 - Participants include: Satvika Garg, PhD, OTR/L, Kendra S. Heatwole Shank, PhD, OTR/L, CAPS, Shanteria Carr, OTD, OTR/L, Julie Malloy, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, PMP, CPHQ, FNAP, Shannon White, MA, COTA/L, CAPM, ROH, Miranda Donnelly, PhD, OTR/L, Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT, Dominique H. Como, PhD, EdM, OTR/L, Khalilah R. Johnson, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA

Workshop/Course, Room 5 (1.0 CEU)

- **Trauma-Informed Care for Adverse Childhood Experiences**
 - Presented by Amy Mae Miller, OTD



Conference Itinerary

Session 4: 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Presentations, Room 1 (1.0 CEU)

- **Implementing a Patient Feedback Survey to Improve Psychiatric Occupational Therapy Practice**
 - Presented by Kelly Musgrove, OTR/L, Lauren Hong OTR/L, Kiera Murphy OTR/L, Heidi Ramadan COTA/L, Nancy Velasquez-Chavez COTA/L
- **Determinates of Goal Setting by Occupational Therapists for Patients with Low Vision**
 - Presented by Theresa Smith, PhD, OTR/L, CLVT
- **Using Simulation Based Training to Enhance Therapist Response to Emergent Medical Situations**
 - Presented by Katherine Frampton, MS, OTR/L and Kate Heyman, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 2 (1.0 CEU)

- **In the Know: Using AOTA's Official Documents to Promote our Distinct Value**
 - Presented by Derek Piggot, MOT, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 3 (1.0 CEU)

- **Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together: OT's Role in Comprehensive and Evidence-Based Evaluation and Treatment of Clients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)**
 - Presented by Jennifer Milsovic, OTR/L

Workshop/Course, Room 4 (1.0 CEU)

- **Above Par for Parkinson's: Best Practices in Assessment, Treatment, and Community Intervention for Individuals with Parkinson's Disease**
 - Presented by Lauren Zahner, MS, OTR/L and Marie Curtis, MS, OTR/L, SCLV

Workshop/Course, Room 5 (1.0 CEU)

- **Current Practice Issues Maryland Occupational Therapy Practitioners (OTP) are Facing**
 - Presented by Marie Riley, OTR/L, Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA and Lori Patria, MS, OTR/L



Meet our Presenters

Vanessa (Hughes) Arndt, COTA/L, CMC, CAPS, CDP, NBCOT Ambassador- MD has over twenty years of experience working with older adults in community settings. She works for the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence as a Program Manager. She volunteers for NBCOT serving as Ambassador for the State of Maryland.

Aubrey Baier, BS, OTS is a student in the entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate program at Towson University. She participated in the piloting of the AI Learning Paths project as part of her advanced research methods course in the summer of 2024.

Marlena Barbera, OTR/L, CLT is a 2014 graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University with her Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy. She currently practices at Baltimore City Schools serving a pre-K through 12th grade population. Marlena began an animal assisted therapy program (AAT) within city schools with her certified AAT dog, Mollie.

Crystal Barchacky MSOT, OTD, OTR/L, a pediatric occupational therapist with 8 years of experience, brings a trauma-informed care focus to her work. Currently teaching at Shenandoah University, her research passion lies in mental health interventions for children.

Amalia Beltran, OTR/L, CSRS is an advanced occupational therapist II at the University of Maryland Medical Center working on the Shock Trauma Team. As a Certified Stroke Rehabilitation Specialist (CSRS), she is passionate about caring for neurologic populations and creating educational resources for occupational therapists.

Brooke Boyland, OTD/S is a first year entry-level doctorate student at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her poster presentation is on The Role of Occupational Therapists in Sustainable Healthcare Practices.

Allysin E. Bridges-German, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCG, CAPS has over 20 years' experience treating adults and older adults with an array of diagnoses in various settings. She is the Doctoral Capstone Coordinator at Towson University as well as a clinical assistant professor where she continues her research on fall prevention.



Meet our Presenters

Jutta Brettschneider, OTD, OTR/L, trained as an occupational therapist in Germany and the US. She is also an internationally trained Feldenkrais® teacher. 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. Fall prevention is a topic that she addresses quite frequently both with children and adults. Jutta also developed the Embedded and Embodied Motor Skill Curriculum EEMSC with modules that combine somatic experience into OT motor and ADL/IADL skill training, which she is excited to share with you!

Anisha Carr, OTD, OTR/L, CAPS is a recent graduate of the Towson ELOTD program. Her capstone research study focused on integrating occupational therapists into universal design and home modification projects. Anisha’s work addresses barriers to interprofessional collaboration with a goal of aiming to enhance accessible residential design and improve occupational performance and usability for all individuals.

Nancy Carlson, Ph.D. OTR/L CAPS is conducting research on Quality of Life in the population of older adults who have Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus. She has consulted with the Hydrocephalus Association (HA) and the Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP) foundation to advocate for using participation in meaningful activity as a quantitative and qualitative metric in outcomes research.

Kelly Casey, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, ATP, CPAM has been an OT in acute care/ICU at The Johns Hopkins Hospital for the past 18 years. She is the Acute Care Rehab Therapy Manager and the Director of the Johns Hopkins OT Acute Care Fellowship Program. She is the PI of several studies addressing cognition in acute care.

Kristina S. Choe, MOT, OTR/L has been an acute care occupational therapist for 2 years. While primarily working with the neurosciences population at Johns Hopkins Hospital, she has also been an active member of the social committee and is excited for her first poster presentation.

Dominique H. Como, PhD, EdM, OTR/L is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research is focused on reducing barriers to healthcare across the lifespan, highlighting the lived-experiences of under researched groups, and improving patient-provider relationships.



Meet our Presenters

Sarah Coffman, OTS, is a second year entry-level occupational therapy doctoral student. She was Dr. Bridges-German's Research Assistant during the summer of 2024 and helped progress the study of Parkinson's and Pickleball in recruitment and data collection.

Audrey Combs, OTD, MS OTR/L teaches as clinical faculty at Towson University. Her background work in adult physical rehabilitation influences her teaching. She recognizes the importance of learning OT skills in realistic environments through simulated evaluations and interventions.

Anne Crockett, MS, OTR/L has been practicing occupational therapist for 4 years, first starting in pediatrics then transitioning to mental health. Her bachelor's degree is in both psychology and theatre. She feels that OT allows her to combine both her creativity from her arts background and her interests in psychology. She enjoys incorporating interventions around interoceptive awareness, time management, body doubling, and DBT into client-centered care.

Marie Curtis, MS, OTR/L, SCLV is an occupational therapist working for UNC Health. She has a Masters of Occupational Therapy from Towson University and specialty certification in Low Vision from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Marie works in the COVID Recovery Clinic at UNC Health. She has done numerous presentations across the nation about the role of OT in treating Long COVID. Marie has also completed Allied Team Training for Parkinson's and works in the Parkinson's Disease Clinic at UNC.

Miranda Donnelly, PhD, OTR/L is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University. Her research examines the intersection of technology, health, and occupation as it influences the development and implementation of innovative neurorehabilitation interventions.

Shelby Dechert, OTS is a masters-level occupational therapy student at Towson University located in Towson, MD. Through her educational experiences, she discovered a passion for working with military members and veterans. She believes that an OT perspective can not only increase function for this population but also build relationships through discussion and community building.



Meet our Presenters

Theofanis Dourmpois is a psychologist specializing in systemic therapy. He holds a master's degree in HR Management and provides psychotherapy and counseling services, focusing on improving human relationships and professional development. He has extensive experience in supporting individuals and groups.

Graciela Echeverria is a graduate student from Towson University's Occupational Therapy Masters program set to graduate in December 2024. She finished her first fieldwork II placement at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, MD, and is now at Ivymount School in Potomac, MD. Her passion is working with children but she is open-minded to going where her experiences will lead her!

Kate Eglseder ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA is an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University, located in Towson, MD. Dr. Eglseder has 29 years of experience in physical rehabilitation, and her research includes student achievement, sexuality and disability, as well as educational needs of the healthcare provider.

Emily Felipe, MS, OTR/L is Scientific & Research Programs Coordinator at AOTF. She assists with the development, administrative management, and reporting of the organization's research, grants, and educational initiatives. Prior to joining the AOTF, she worked as an Occupational Therapist in the school-based and outpatient pediatrics. She is an alumna from Towson University's occupational therapy program.

Melissa Flanders, M.S., OTR/L currently practices at the Retreat at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore, MD. With more than 20 years of experience in psychiatric rehabilitation, she has developed programs for inpatient, residential, and community behavioral health settings. Melissa has specialized training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and treating trauma and dissociative disorders. She is passionate about optimizing each client's participation in meaningful roles and occupations.

Katherine Frampton MS, OTR/L has over 15 years of experience in acute care. She serves as the Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Program Coordinator for UMMC. Katherine provides training to all patient care services. She is an active member of the ASPHP, AOTA, and she serves on the MOTA executive board.



Meet our Presenters

Satvika Garg, PhD, OTR/L is the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at AOTF. Prior to joining the AOTF, she worked as an Occupational Therapist/Research Collaborator at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC and as an Adjunct Faculty at NYU. Dr. Garg obtained her PhD in OT from NYU and received her MS in OT from Tufts University, MA.

Teri Gilley, DHSc, OTR/L, BCP, CTP is an academic clinical associate professor at Emory & Henry University School of Health Sciences located in Marion, Virginia.

Courtney Gorsuch, DrOTS, Saint Joseph's University is an occupational therapy student at Saint Joseph's University, located in Philadelphia, PA. She demonstrates passion for enhancing the lives of individuals through assistive technology (AT). As a co-investigator in this study, Courtney has gained valuable experience in conducting research and implementing interventions to improve customer satisfaction with bathroom AT.

Teresa M. Green, PhD, OTR/L is an Assistant Professor at Towson University. Teresa has 15 years of experience as an occupational therapist in adult physical rehabilitation. Her passion and expertise are working with individuals with neurological conditions. Her research is primarily focused on interventions to address upper extremity hemiparesis following a stroke.

Brooke Hare, OTD recently graduated from the Entry Level Doctorate Program at Towson University. She completed her capstone project at a pediatric private practice in Maryland, where she worked with various diagnoses. She is currently interested in pursuing a career in pediatric occupational therapy.

Kate Heyman, OTD, MS, OTR/L is an acute care therapist at UMMC, serving as the Senior Clinical Educator. She earned her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy in 2021. Kate is a Clinical Fieldwork Coordinator. She has presented at the AOTA Education Summit and published in the Journal of Acute Care Occupational Therapy.



Meet our Presenters

Lauren Hong OTR/L has practiced as a psychiatric occupational therapist at two University of Maryland Medical System facilities since 2022. She completed level II fieldwork placements at a Sheppard Pratt outpatient clinic and Howard County Office on Aging's Community Living Program.

Courtney Heidle, OTR/L, MSOT, CPAM graduated with her Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2020. She has since been working as an occupational therapist at the University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute on the inpatient stroke unit and the traumatic brain injury unit.

Jenna Heffron, PhD, OTR/L, ADAC is an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University. As a founding member of the Occupational Therapy and Disability Studies Network, Dr. Heffron uses critically-oriented and participatory approaches to disability research to work toward improving access and inclusion in the profession.

Daniel Hollern, MS, OTR/L is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Towson University and is the Occupational Therapy Center Director for the Institute for Well-Being. Dan has been a practicing clinician for 16 years at the University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute, with expertise in Spinal Cord Injury Rehab, Neurological Conditions, and Orthopedics.

Ariana Jacobs, OTS is a Master of Occupational Therapy student at Towson University located in Towson, MD. She believes that simulations with standardized patients help increase students' confidence giving them an opportunity to practice their skills in a realistic environment. She feels that her experience with standardized patient simulations helped to prepare her for work in the clinic and her level II fieldwork placement.

Amanda Jozkowski, PhD, OTR/L, is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University. Her teaching has long been influenced by advances in technology as an early adopter of hybrid/flipped classroom models, online learning, open educational resources, assistive technology, and most recently generative AI applications for learning.



Meet our Presenters

Khalilah R. Johnson, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA is an Assistant Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research sits at the intersections of intellectual and developmental disabilities, anti-racism, and health equity.

Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT has extensive experience practicing in inpatient and geriatric rehabilitation settings. She completed a PhD in social work to examine how social services can optimize the independence of community-dwelling older adults. Her research aims to implement evidence-based practices that are designed to reduce the need for more advanced and costly services.

Hannah Krich, OTD recently graduated from Emory & Henry University School of Health Sciences located in Marion, VA. She completed her capstone project at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore City, where she worked to promote a new role for occupational therapy in the assertive community treatment team. Hannah is passionate about how mental health and OT play a role in today's healthcare system

Ashley Lankford, ScD, OTR/L 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. Prior to joining the Towson faculty, Ashley worked as a Maryland school-based occupational therapist for 9 years.

Sonia Lawson PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA has served as the MOTA VP for Advocacy for 7 years, addressing issues facing OT in Maryland. She has participated in state workgroups and met with key stakeholders to ensure OT voices are heard. She has been the program director for the entry-level OTD program at Towson University since its launch in 2019. Before this, she served as the MS program director. Her graduate degrees are in curriculum development and educational psychology.



Meet our Presenters

Ivelisse Lazzarini, OTD, EdD is the Director of Notre Dame of Maryland University OTD program. She holds a BSOT from Temple University, and OTD from Creighton University, a Master Certificate in Human Dynamics Systems and Complexity Sciences from the University Residential Center of Bertinoro, Italy and an EdD from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Mara Levy MSOT, OTR/L, CLT-LANA, SEP (they/them) is the owner of Rainbow Spring Wellness located in Silver Spring, MD. They combine somatic therapy and lymphatic massage to bring body-based healing care to the whole person. Mara has been an occupational therapist since 2005, practicing as a certified lymphatic therapist since 2013, and they are somatic experiencing practitioner.

Lawrence Liff is the Chief Development Officer at American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF), a role he has been in for 7 years. As CDO, Lawrence grew the community of donors and volunteers engaged with AOTF to support the vital and unique mission of the Foundation, spearheaded new partnerships, and expanded opportunities to enhance OT research.

Julie Malloy, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, PMP, CPHQ, FNAP is an Occupational Therapist and Vice President of Practice for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). In this role, she works to further the role of evidence and quality in the profession. She advocates for occupational therapy in the national healthcare discussion.

Joseph Matthews, OTS is a masters-level occupational therapy student at Towson University located in Towson, MD. Before becoming a student, he served six years in the United States Air Force. Since he ended his service in the USAF, he has sought out opportunities to support fellow veterans through his new role as an OT student at TU.

Daniel Martin, D.Sc., OTR/L completed his D.Sc. in Health Science at the University of St. Augustine and MS in OT at Towson University. Daniel is an assistant professor at Shenandoah University, located in Winchester VA. He serves as OTD Program Chair of Research Affairs and as Doctoral Capstone Coordinator at SU. His professional service also includes chairman of the Maryland Board of OT Practice.



Meet our Presenters

Amy Mae Miller, OTD started her career as a title-one teacher. She saw first-hand the effects of ACEs and poverty on children's mental health. This observation led her to work as a public-school teacher for half a decade before returning to complete her TIC-certification and OTD at Towson University.

Gabrielle Miller, OTD is a first year entry-level doctorate student at Notre Dame of Maryland University located in Baltimore, MD. Her poster presentation is on the role of occupational therapists in sustainable healthcare practices.

Jennifer Milsovic OTR/L is an occupational therapist with over 20 years of experience in neurological rehabilitation, MCI/dementia management, and driving rehabilitation. Jennifer has developed OT-specific and multidisciplinary programs, provided clinical education, presented at local and national events and conferences, consulted for senior living organizations, and worked in product development.

Ami Mori, OTR, OTR/L, is an entry-level occupational therapist working in inpatient rehabilitation. She enjoys collaboration and values individualized care. She strives to provide education to her peers and herself with projects and continued research. She considers herself a life-long learner and is excited for more opportunities to expand clinical knowledge to enhance patient care.

Kiera Murphy, OTR/L has practiced as a psychiatric occupational therapist since 2023 at Baltimore Washington Medical Center and Howard County General Hospital. She completed her level II fieldwork placements in inpatient psychiatry at Baltimore Washington Medical Center and in outpatient neurology at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Michael Paddy serves as one of MOTA's lobbyists with Policy Partners and has years of experience with health care policy in Maryland.



Meet our Presenters

Lori Patria is the current MOTA president and official liaison in conducting business with AOTA. Lori is the director of University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute for acute inpatient rehabilitation.

Myrto Patagia Bakaraki is an Occupational Therapist and a PhD candidate specializing in Neurorehabilitation and Neuroscience at the Medical School. She demonstrates exceptional leadership by spearheading Erasmus+ initiatives both within and beyond Europe. She holds volunteering in high regard, considering it a fundamental component of her identity.

Kathryn Peck, MOT, OTR/L is a senior outpatient occupational therapist with over 16 years of experience. She specializes in the treatment of persons with SCI and orthopedic injuries. She is also a member of the AT team at UMROI.

Derek Piggott, MOT, OTR/L 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 (inpatient and community). He serves as a fieldwork educator at the Institute for Well-Being in the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism.

Sarah Quirk, COTA/L, has 26 years of experience as an occupational therapy assistant. Since 2007, Sarah has worked for Baltimore County Public Schools. She has collaborated and facilitated the supervision of OT and OTA students from local colleges for school-based fieldwork placement. Sarah will share her experience and perceptions of the changing field of education and occupational therapy. Through humor and facilitated discussion, Sarah will show how to promote integrating occupational therapy in the classroom.

Terri Reichley Dennehy, D.Ed., OTR/L joined the Elizabethtown faculty in 2013. She has over 25 years of clinical experience and has worked in the areas of regional trauma, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, community practice, home health, and long-term care. Her specializations include adult neurology, low vision, and education.



Meet our Presenters

Marlene Riley, OTR/L is a solo entrepreneur with a mobile occupational therapy practice and a former clinical associate professor at Towson University. She received the Emerging and Innovative Practice Award from AOTA (2017). She is a trustee for MOTA and a Baltimore County Department of Aging commissioner.

Nicole D. Rosenbaum OTD, OTR/L, CPAM has three years experience as an acute and critical care OT. Starting her career as the 2021-2022 Acute Care Occupational Therapy Fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital, she now serves on the neuroscience team, assists with various research projects, and has presented at several conferences.

Katie Ryzhikov, M.S.,OTR/L HTR is an experienced occupational therapist and registered horticultural therapist who owns and operates Blossom Therapeutic Services located in Davidsonville, MD. After a varied career in pediatric, adult, and mental health settings, she now specializes in integrating therapeutic gardening into her clinical practice to enhance well-being across the lifespan.

Abe Saffer, MBM has over 15 years experience in working for Congress and the Maryland General Assembly. A lobbyist for AOTA, he is an expert on education and workforce policy. He received his Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University and his Master's in Political Management from The George Washington University.

Tess Sammut, OTS is a Master of Occupational Therapy student at Towson University located in Towson, MD. Throughout her education at Towson University, Tess feels she has benefited greatly from hands-on practice and clinical education. She believes that simulations in realistic environments have prepared her for her inpatient rehabilitation Level II fieldwork.

Autumn Servera, OTD, OTR/L is an alumna of Shenandoah University and is currently an assistant professor in the OTD program at her alma mater. Her clinical background is primarily in pediatrics, with more than a decade practicing in the hospital-based setting. Her passions include teaching and clinical practice with the pediatric neurological population.



Meet our Presenters

Kanan Shah, OTR/L works for Montgomery County Public Schools. She is also a tutor for individuals with dyslexia. She has a private practice through which she provides Orton Gillingham tutoring during after school hours for children with reading and writing difficulties.

Antoinette Shaw OTR, OTD has been an occupational therapist for over 30 years, working in various clinical settings, including acute care, home care, and long-term care. She is the program director for the OTA program at the Community College of Baltimore County. She currently serves on the AOTF Board of Trustees and the Scholarship Committee.

Rae Ann Smith MEd, OTD, OTR/L has a BS in Social Work, a BS in Occupational Therapy, a Master's in Education, and a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She is an associate professor in Bay Path University's PPOTD program. She serves on the Board of NBCOT and the MD Board of OT Practice.

Theresa M. Smith, PhD, OTR, CLVT, has been teaching occupational therapy for 24 years at the master, doctorate, post doctorate, and PhD level. She obtained grant funding and published results of studies on low vision rehabilitation and cognitive rehabilitation for breast cancer survivors. She continues to research interventions for persons with visual impairments and for breast cancer survivors.

Liz Spinks, OTR/L, has a special interest in working with neurodivergent individuals. She is on the Board of Directors for Taking the Lead, Inc., a non-profit organization providing hippotherapy to individuals with disabilities and/or unique needs. Finding a way to incorporate OT with animals was a dream come true!

Amanda Summers, MS, OTR/L, ATP has 13 years of experience as an occupational therapist treating persons with SCI and orthopedic injuries in the outpatient setting. She specializes in assistive technology and has been an ATP since 2017. She currently serves as the lead therapist on the UMROI AT team.

Angela Tabak, OTS, BS, BFA is a student in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at Towson University. As Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Jozkowski funded by a FACET Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant, Angela played a major role in the development and initial refinement of the AI Learning Path materials.



Meet our Presenters

Linh Tran Pham is a masters-level occupational therapy student at Towson University located in Towson, MD. While advocating for the various OT services, she recognized the stigma around non-pharmacological pain management strategies within the military culture. She believes that all military personnel deserve the opportunity to utilize pain management strategies without associated stigma.

Nancy Velasquez-Chavez COTA/L has practiced as a psychiatric occupational therapy assistant since 2023 at Baltimore Washington Medical Center. She completed level II fieldwork placements at the adult day program at the CHEER Georgetown Center and Laurel School District located in Delaware.

Leanna Washington, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM is an occupational therapist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and treats across multiple service lines in acute and critical care settings including surgical, medicine, cardiovascular, oncological, and neurological services. Leanna is a proud graduate of Towson's OTD program and has recently completed an Acute Care Fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

Michelle Weikle, MS, OTR/L graduated from Towson University's master level occupational therapy program in 2011. Since 2011, she has worked at Anne Arundel Medical Center where she has been the primary ICU OT for the past 11 years. Michelle pioneered an early activity and mobility program. Michelle also has extensive experience as a clinical supervisor for level I and level II fieldwork students.

Shannon White, MA, COTA/L, CAPM, ROH is a Program Manager in the Practice Department at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). She has experience as an occupational therapy assistant in the following settings: academia, school-based pediatrics, outpatient pediatrics, inpatient rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities, and acute care.



Meet our Presenters

Shuling Wu, PhD candidate, MSOTR/L, MS Acu is an occupational therapist, gentrification scholar, and chronic pain scholar working to support community health through urban planning. She is obtaining her PhD in Physical Cultural Studies at University of Maryland. Shuling's work is informed by her interdisciplinary background in occupational therapy, acupuncture, nutritional coaching, and public health.

Jenna Yeager, PhD, OTR/L is an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science at Towson University. Her clinical background is in mental health practice and research interests include the health and well-being of student veterans.

Lauren Zahner, MS, OTR/L is a professor in Towson University's Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science and specializes in adult neurological rehabilitation. She works in the WISH program with adults who have neurological impairments. Lauren has been an OT for 12 years in various settings: acute inpatient rehabilitation, school-based pediatrics, acute care, and outpatient therapy.



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