



American
Occupational Therapy
Association



AOTA Specialty Conference:

Adult Rehabilitation

Program Guide

Mark Your Calendars for 2024–2025 AOTA Events!

AOTA educational and career development events help
you boost your practice and career.

AOTA Specialty Conference: Mental Health

Oak Brook, Illinois
October 25–26, 2024
(Pre-conference sessions October 24)

2024 AOTA Education Summit

Charlotte, NC
November 8–9, 2024
(Pre-conference sessions on November 7)

AOTA Specialty Conference: Children & Youth

Seattle, Washington
December 13–14, 2024
(Pre-conference sessions December 12)

AOTA INSPIRE | 2025 Annual Conference & Expo

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 3–5, 2025



Thursday, September 12

Workshops

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Vanda North & South

Workshop 1

Strengthening Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Role in Post-Acute Care Environments Through Purposeful Activities

Sabrena McCarley, OTR/L, FAOTA, Transitional Care Management, Santa Ana, CA; Linda Riccio, OT/L, Transitional Care Management, Marion, IN

The session will concentrate on techniques for occupational therapy practitioners in post-acute care to enhance our roles through purposeful activities, and underscore our contributions within the IDT in achieving optimal patient outcomes.

3:00 pm–5:00 pm

Calypso

Workshop 2

Addressing Functional Cognition in Acute, Inpatient, and Subacute Rehabilitation Settings: The Value of the Occupational Therapy Practitioner

Jenna Nguyen, MS, OTR/L, BCPR, CSRS, CDP, Encompass Health, York, PA

This workshop will focus on functional cognitive approaches, assessments, and intervention ideas to support evaluation and treatment of impaired cognition within the context of participation in occupations to support positive discharge outcomes.

Friday, September 13

Keynote

8:00 am–8:45 am

Orchid Ballroom West

Occupational Therapy's Role in Hospital-Acquired Delirium: Guidance for Interventions and Case Study Examples

Virginia Sullivan, OTD, OTR/L; Marley Kalata OTD, OTR/L, both of Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

This lecture highlights the role of occupational therapy in delirium management, including assessments, interventions, and a comprehensive workflow for acute care. Case studies will illustrate practical application and guidance for navigating complex scenarios.

Concurrent Sessions

9:00 am–10:00 am

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 101

Documenting Functional Cognition to Reflect Occupational Therapy's Unique Role in Treatment and Assessment

Elizabeth Cardell, PhD, OTR/L, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Contributing Authors: Shalyn Hample, OTR/L; Neil Scott, MOT, OTR/L; Kristen French, OTR/L

Documenting occupational therapy's unique contributions to the assessment and treatment of patients with functional cognition deficits differentiates our role from other disciplines. Examples from an EMR modification project will be offered.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 102

Applying the Phases of the Emergency Management Cycle to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility: How Ready are you to Fill That Gap?

Mary Schmitz, OTD, OT/L, Mohave Valley Elementary School District #16, Lorain, OH

Occupational therapy practitioners employed in the acute rehabilitation setting are charged with preparing clients and their caregivers for safe and maximal independent community re-entry, but how often do they include emergencies and disasters?

10:15 am–11:15 am

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 103

Utilization of Performance-Based Functional Cognitive Assessments to Support the Occupational Therapy Process in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

Jenna Nguyen, MS, OTR/L, BCPR, CSRS, CDP, Encompass Health, York, PA

This session will provide education and resources to incorporate performance-based measures of functional cognition to inform evaluation, intervention, and discharge plans, and support professional development and intraprofessional collaboration.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 104

Addressing Seating and Positioning Needs of Geriatric Residents in Skilled Nursing Facilities Using Manual Wheelchairs and Accessories

Gunjan Dhawan, Caton Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility, New York, NY

Attendees will gain an understanding of the need, assessment, and interventions for addressing the ongoing manual wheelchair seating and positioning needs of short- and long-term-care residents.

AOTA Specialty Conference: Adult Rehabilitation

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 105

From Bedside to Discharge— Addressing Cognition in Acute Care

Hannah Oldenburg, EdD, OTR/L, BCPR,
University of Minnesota, Rochester, MN
Contributing Author: Tamra Trenary, OTD,
OTR/L; Payton Friend, OTD, OTR/L

This session will share current findings and trends of standardized cognitive tool use among Level 1 trauma centers as well as a structured approach to foster cognitive evaluation processes across various populations occupational therapy serves in acute care.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 106

Utilizing High-Intensity Occupation Training in Inpatient Rehabilitation for Neurological Populations

Elaine Brown-Porter, OTR/L, CSRS, ATP;
Megan Essman, OTR/L, both of Medstar
National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington,
DC

High-intensity training has roots in physical therapy research and has been shown to benefit outcomes and length of stay. This course will empower occupational therapy practitioners to expand their knowledge of high-intensity training and how to utilize this approach while facilitating occupation-based tasks.

1:45 pm–2:45 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 107

Hidden Cognitive Decline: The Link Between Chronic Metabolic Conditions and Cognitive Function in Occupational Therapy

Michelle McCann, OTD, OTR/L, C/
NDT, CBIS, PPSC, Duquesne University,

Sewickley, PA

Chronic diseases associated with metabolic conditions such as diabetes and obesity can directly correlate to impairments in cognitive functioning and lead to poorer outcomes in chronically ill adults. Occupational therapy is essential in identifying these declines early.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 108

Occupational Therapy Transformation: Establishing a Clinical Pathway for Acute Care Occupational Therapy

Tara Wilde, OTR/L; Jackie Dusing, OTR/L,
both of Advocate Aurora Health, Downer's
Grove, IL

This session will share primary initiatives for effective utilization and best practices of occupational therapy through development of a clinical pathway. Successful change management processes will be examined within a multi-site health care system.

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 109

Scoping Review of Promoting Occupational Participation in Post-Concussion or Mild TBI Patients

Joahnes Gatdula, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM,
ITOT, CNS, Veterans Affairs Greater Los
Angeles Health Care, Los Angeles, CA

This scoping review will analyze the prevalence and occupational disruption symptoms of patients with post-concussion or mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) in promoting occupational participation using occupational therapy evidence-based practice assessments and interventions.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 110

From Concept to Creation: 3D Printing in Occupational Therapy Practice

Lucy Nhan Hosoda, University of Southern
California, Los Angeles, CA; Marisa
Hernandez

Utilizing 3D printing in occupational therapy practice offers numerous benefits including customization, cost-effectiveness, patient engagement, improved functionality, collaboration opportunities, and environmental sustainability.

Poster Session

4:15 pm–5:15 pm

Grand Foyer

Poster 101

Group Task Specific Training for Stroke Survivors

Taylor Drost, OTD, OTR/L, Aurora St. Luke's
Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI

Contributing Authors: Rose Tilton, OTD,
OTR/L; Christine O'Neill, OTD, MHMS,
OTR/L; Samuel Nemanich, PhD

A group task specific training (TST) program for stroke survivors in ongoing recovery elicited positive motor and quality of life outcomes, which highlights the feasibility of providing optimal dosage of TST using group training to improve overall function.

Poster 103

Sex: The Forgotten Occupation: A Continuing Education Course

Dellis Jones, OTD, OTR/L, Bay Path
University, Longmeadow, MA; Rae Ann
Smith, OTD, OTR/L, Bay Path University,
Phoenix, MD

A continuing education course was developed to empower occupational therapy professionals with knowledge and confidence to address sexual health, a vital yet often overlooked area. The results support the need for this type of education.

Poster 105

Shoulder Pain & Spinal Cord Injury: Causes, Recommendations, and Interventions

Joelly Lobato de Faria, MS, OTR/L, Barrows Neurological Institute, Phoenix, AZ; Andrea Fleischman

This is a comprehensive summary of anatomical considerations, evidence supported causes, and therapeutic interventions and recommendations for the prevention and treatment of shoulder pain for persons with spinal cord injury.

Poster 107

An Inter-Professional Trauma-Informed Care Program for Underrepresented Communities: Creation, Design, and Outcomes

Patricia Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Columbia University, New York, NY

Contributing Authors: Phyllis Simon, OTD, OTR/L, FNAP; Monica Manfredonia

The creation, design, and outcomes of a grant-funded inter-professional trauma-informed care program for underrepresented communities will be presented to direct occupational therapy practitioners in how to incorporate these principles into their practice.

Poster 108

Housing Insecure Women's Needs During COVID-19 and Experiences of Their Occupational Therapists

Patricia Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Columbia University, New York, NY

Contributing Authors: Cori Lynn Campbell; Sophea Clarke; Simone D'Antuono; Joseina De Leon; Nisha Iyer; Nicole Pennella; Razan Hamed, PhD, OTR/L

This poster describes a qualitative study of occupational therapy practitioners' experiences, roles, and intervention approaches while working with homeless women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Poster 109

Shoulder Pain Solutions: Occupational Therapy Interventions

Lucy Nhan Hosoda, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

This poster highlights the importance of addressing post-stroke shoulder pain, offering evidence-based strategies like electrical stimulation, taping, positioning aids, exercises, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Poster 111

Under Pressure: Occupational Therapy's Role in Pressure Injury Management and Prevention in Adult Rehabilitation

Alicia Colossi, BS; Michelle McCann, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CBIS, PPSC, both of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Occupational therapy's comprehensive role in pressure injury management will be discussed in conjunction with developing interprofessional assessment pathways for pressure injury prevention in adult rehabilitation.

Special Event

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

AOTA Town Hall

Come and have a dialogue with AOTA's Executive Director Katie Jordan, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA. AOTA wants to hear from you.

Saturday, September 14

Concurrent Sessions

8:00 am–9:00 am

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 201

Elevating Functional Cognition: A Comprehensive Case Management Strategy for Post-Acute Care

Linda Riccio, OT/L, Transitional Care Management, Marion, IN; Sabrena McCarley, OTR/L, FAOTA, Transitional Care Management, Santa Ana, CA

This session will examine how comprehensive case management enhances cognition in post-acute care. Attendees will gain insights into structured frameworks that empower patients for functional improvements, safety, and quality of life.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 202

Empowering Post-Acute Care Practitioners: The Crucial Role of Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Addressing Social Determinants of Health

Salem Sabrena McCarley, OTR/L, FAOTA, Transitional Care Management, Santa Ana, CA

This session will explore social determinants of health and update practitioners in post-acute care on data collection, resources, and best practices for effective evaluations and interventions.

AOTA Specialty Conference: Adult Rehabilitation

Poster Session

9:15 am–10:15 am

Grand Foyer

Poster 202

Occupational Therapy's Role In Prevention of Catheter Acquired Urinary Tract Infections

Steven Bohn, MSOT, OTR/L, CBIS; Geraldine Pagaoa-Cruz, MS, OTR/L, both of Dignity Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Henderson, NV; Maria Concepcion Patag, MS, OTR/L

This poster analyzes occupational therapy's role in preventing catheter acquired urinary tract infections. This analysis aims to enhance the field of occupational therapy by illuminating the importance of client-centered engagement in catheter care.

Poster 205

Recognizing and Responding to Psychological Trauma in Rehabilitation

Patricia Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Columbia University, New York, NY

Techniques for recognizing and responding to signs, symptoms, and resultant behaviors of psychological trauma observed during physical rehabilitation will be presented to maximize participation in rehabilitation, occupation, and society.

Poster 206

Successful Integration of Complementary Health Approaches Into Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation

Patricia Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Columbia University, New York, NY

Contributing Author: Sara Lin

Occupational therapists' personal experience using complementary health approaches and integrative health will be reported to direct others in how to incorporate these effective modalities (e.g., reiki, tai chi, meditation) into their practice.

Poster 207

Fall Prevention Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults in Rural Iowa

Stephanie Bonk, OTD, OTR/L, Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI

Contributing Authors: Mike Mckinnis; Miranda Biermann; Meghan Watry-Christian, PhD, OT/L

This project supports the incorporation of A Matter of Balance program, implementation of loan closets, and education to emergency response teams as a sustainable fall prevention model to be utilized in rural counties.

Poster 208

Using the Cinderella Story to Witness and Improve Outcomes With Post-Exertional Malaise (PEM) Patients

Carrie Niederman, DVM, CNN Courage LLC, Portland, ME

The poster uses the author's medical background, journey with a chronic illness, and the Disney Cinderella story to bring to life the stop-and-start journey patients with PEM are on so they can be seen and more fully understood.

Poster 209

Living in a Physical Therapy World And I am an Occupational Therapist

Samantha Mitchell, MS, OTR/L, CBIS; Samantha McKenna, MS, OTR/L, CB, both of Good Shepherd Penn Partners, Philadelphia, PA

To advocate for occupational therapy as essential to the care continuum, occupational therapy practitioners must be represented within organizations to ensure integrity of the profession. This poster focuses on establishing occupational therapy as a multidisciplinary member of an outpatient clinic.

Poster 210

Arm and Hand Functional Priorities of Individuals With Tetraplegia

Ashley Giffen, ATC, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH; Anne Bryden, PhD, OTR/L, The MetroHealth System, Cleveland, OH; Gina Kubec, OTD, OTR/L, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

A mixed methods approach was utilized to identify specific priority upper extremity occupations to guide future rehabilitation processes and the development of new technologies for individuals with spinal cord injuries, specifically those with tetraplegia.

Poster 211

The Role of Occupational Therapy in Pain Management Following Spinal Cord Injury

Helen Saul; Gina Kubec, OTD, OTR/L, both of Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH; Anne Bryden, PhD, OTR/L, The MetroHealth System, Cleveland, OH; Kim Walsh

Approximately 80% of individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) have pain. This poster reviews the classification of pain following SCI and the role of occupational therapy, including areas for expansion of services.

Concurrent Sessions

10:30 am–11:30 am

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 203

The Cognitive Strategies for Improving Health Outcomes and Managing Risk Post-Stroke (CHAMPS) Program Virtual Pilot and Feasibility Study

Timothy Dionne, PhD, OTR/L; Suzanne Burns, PhD, OTR/L, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Cognitive Strategies for Improving Health Outcomes and Managing Risk Post-Stroke (CHAMPS) addresses executive function deficits by delivering a meta-cognitive strategy training combined with education to address and reduce recurrent stroke risk.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 204

Learning From Lived Experience: Following Content Creators With Disabilities

Samantha McKenna, MS, OTR/L, CBIS; Samantha Mitchell, MS, OTR/L, CB, both of Good Shepherd Penn Partners, Philadelphia, PA

Evidence-based practice is the gold standard for guiding treatment but is largely based on the medical model. With expanding advocacy through social media, the disability community has become an accessible voice to learn from.

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 205

Bringing Evidence-Based Practice to Reality: Everyday Partnerships Between Academic and Clinical Practitioners in Addressing Cognitive Assessment

Michelle McCann, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CBIS, PPSC; Erica Glaneman; Mina Stollberg, all of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Contributing Author: Christine Fryer
Practical connections between clinical sites and academia can improve utilization of evidence-based practice (EBP) cognitive assessment and practice by combining practice strengths of each partner in order to promote effective client-centered care.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 206

Community Reintegration: A Holistic Approach to Neurorehabilitation

Kelsi Vik, OTR/L, Nielsen Rehab Hospital University of Utah, UT; Devyn Langille

Community reintegration in a neurorehabilitation setting is vital for facilitating independence and enhancing quality of life, using a client-centered approach that addresses physical, cognitive, emotional, and environmental factors.

2:15 pm–3:15 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Concurrent 207

A Brain Injury By Any Other Name: Vectors of Cognitive Decline Among General Medicine Populations in Acute Rehabilitation

Sarah Goldberg-o'Neil, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington, DC

This session will provide a review of neuroanatomy relevant to functional cognition. It will feature a discussion of evidence linking common diagnoses with cognitive change, and include recommendations for occupational therapy assessment, treatment, and discharge planning.

Orchid Ballroom East

Concurrent 208

Experiential Learning Activities Within Adult Physical Rehabilitation Didactic Curriculum to Support Clinical Reasoning Skills for Novices

Natalia Noce, OTD, OTR/L, Rutgers School of Health Professions, Newark, NJ; Hareem Noor, Newark, NJ

This session will highlight experiential learning activities that effectively promote clinical reasoning skills within didactic coursework to equip novice thinkers with the skills to navigate the challenging adult physical rehabilitation setting.

Closing

3:30 pm–4:15 pm

Orchid Ballroom West

Functional Cognition in Occupational Therapy: Policy, Practice, and Practical Advocacy

Kim Karr, OTR/L, RAC-CT, CPHQ; Jamar Haggans, MS, OTR/L, both of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Bethesda, MD

Occupational therapy scope of practice includes functional cognition, but payer and employer barriers to inclusion limit practice. Learn how to fight for occupational therapy's seat at the table through participation in quality practice, accurate billing, and advocacy opportunities.

Thank You!

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