



## 2021 OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTER DIRECTORY

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*Alphabetical by Poster Presenters' Last Names*

### **Thank You to Our Session and Poster Presenters**

OTAC expresses its sincere appreciation to the 2021 VIRTUAL Annual Conference & Innovation Expo session and poster presenters for sharing their knowledge with our attendees, and for taking time away from their professional careers and personal lives to prepare for and present at Conference. Their dedication to serving OTAC's mission to provide quality, timely, and cost effective professional development and by supporting OTAC through their personal membership is highly commendable. Please thank our session and poster presenters.

### **Terminology**

*Not all terms may be referenced in the Presenter Directory*

ABA	Applied Behavioral Analysis
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
AHEPP	Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association
AOTF	American Occupational Therapy Foundation
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
BCET	Board-Certified Educational Therapist
CA-LEND	California Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
CBOT	California Board of Occupational Therapy
CIPN	Chemotherapy-induced Peripheral Neuropathy
CSU	California State University
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
LANA	Lymphology Association of North America
LSVT	Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (Parkinson's disease)
NDT	Neuro-Developmental Treatment
NIDRR	National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NMES	Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation
ORFR	Occupational Resilience Frame of Reference
OTAC	Occupational Therapy Association of California
OTD	Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
OTFP	Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice

## 2021 OTAC Annual Conference Presenter Directory

OTSNA	Occupational Therapy Spiritual Narrative Assessment
RSD	Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
SCERTS	Social Communication/Emotional Regulation/Transactional Support
SIPT	Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests
UCEDD	University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
WISC-IV	Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition
WRAP	Wellness Recovery Action Plan

### Session Presenters (Alphabetical by last name)



**Michele Alaniz, OTR/L, BCP, SIPT certified**, is the director of Casa Colina's Children's Services Center. She is an occupational therapy practitioner with over 20 years of experience, specializing in working with children and young adults with autism. She has published her work in Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders and the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Alaniz invests heavily in knowledge distribution and has presented her work across the United States and internationally.

**SESSION 101 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



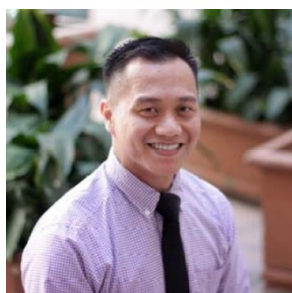
**Lauren Atha, OTS**, is an occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University in Irvine California. She completed a bachelor's in kinesiology at California State Long Beach. She worked at Goodwill Fitness Center, which is a gym for people with physical disabilities. Here she helped people regain strength, mobility, balance, and much more. As an OT she hopes to help individuals regain meaningful occupations back into their life.

**SESSION 85 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Allison Baker, MS, OTR/L**, is the regional director for Goodfellow Occupational Therapy and continues to provide OT services to students across the region. Baker values investing in the future by promoting access to education for all children and to support the adults and institutions in their lives through quality, researched based, therapeutic intervention tailored to the ever-changing needs of their community.

**SESSION 81 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Jacob Baquir, MHA, OTR/L, CBIS, CSRS**, is an OT clinical specialist in the Inpatient Neuro/Stroke Service and Medical Surgical Services at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. His expertise includes physical rehabilitation related to neurological conditions, upper extremity interventions, and acute care services. He has presented in various conferences, professional education symposiums, organizational and service level educational series. Recently, Baquir was involved in the development of the COVID-19 care team and was engaged in the establishment of the COVID-19 Care pathway including clinical guidelines to rehabilitation.

**SESSION 103 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Jennifer Bashar, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS**, is an OT clinical instructor for the inpatient pediatric, spinal cord injury, and adult brain injury services at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. She has over 23 years of experience providing occupational therapy services to individuals with physical disabilities across the lifespan and across the continuum of care. Bashar has lectured locally and nationally on topics related to occupational therapy for individuals with spinal cord injury and has co-authored the chapter on spinal cord injury for Pedretti's Occupational Therapy textbook (8th ed.). She works as a research assistant at the Rancho Research Institute evaluating and recruiting patients for the Southern California SCI Model Systems project. Since March 2020 she has led program development, staff education and training, and coordination/provision of direct patient care for individuals recovering from severe cases of COVID-19.

**SESSION 24 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 64 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Monica Becerill, MA, OTR/L**, received a graduate degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1996. She has been working at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center as an occupational therapy practitioner since 1993. Becerill is currently working in outpatient occupational therapy in both the general and lifestyle programs and has had experience working on a number of services treating a variety of patients with various physical, behavioral, and cognitive challenges. Her areas of expertise in occupational therapy include rheumatological conditions, splinting, spinal cord injury, pressure ulcer management and diabetes.

**SESSION 86 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM**, is a professor and founding program director of the developing Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at Keck Graduate Institute (KGI). Prior to working at KGI she served as a professor and curriculum coordinator of occupational therapy at West Coast University and was an associate professor at Loma Linda University. She has a PhD in occupational science from the University of Southern California, where her dissertation focused on women's experience of spirituality in everyday life. She created the Occupational Therapy Spiritual Narrative Assessment (OTSNA) tool. Billock has taught occupational therapy for 23 years in a broad range of subject areas including neuroscience, lifestyle medicine, geriatrics, rehabilitation, mental health, wellness, and occupational therapy history and theory. Her clinical background is in inpatient rehabilitation. She is passionate about innovation in occupational therapy and growing the profession's role in prevention and wellness. She recently became a Diplomate of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.

**SESSION 35 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 97 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24** *Withdrawn*



**Margaret (Peg) Bledsoe, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, BPC**, has been involved in various music training in her continuing education journey. She has followed a fascinating path of training and practicing music to incorporate development and treatment principles and psychological human development. Music supports the development of the body for the integration of our sync organs. The methods have helped her develop skills that support interpersonal integration by helping the brain respond to the person's world and supporting people so they can work in their occupation with ease. Bledsoe presents information to create knowledge, understanding, and skills for OTs to have teachers, parents, caregivers, and therapists play music during therapy and academic learning for an individual.

**SESSION 56 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Erwin Borja, OTD, OTR/L**, OTD, OTR/L currently serves as co-chair for the OTAC Student Leadership Committee. Dr. Borja graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from San Jose State University. He received both his Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern California. Dr. Borja completed his clinical residency at Los Angeles City College where he helped develop the college's first occupational therapy service system to support students' academic success and overall well-being through occupational therapy intervention. In addition to his position in OTAC, Erwin serves as an occupational therapist at Corona Regional Medical Center providing clinical services to patients in the acute care setting.

**SESSION 57 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Zipporah Brown, OTD, OTR/L, CNS**, is an assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator whose work has focused on the overall wellness of marginalized populations by overcoming occupational deprivation through engagement. She received a master's in occupational therapy in 2016 and Doctorate of Occupational Therapy in 2018. Brown's doctorate focused on increasing quality of life through occupational engagement for individuals with serious mental illness, transitioning from homelessness; additionally, she worked with college students at USC's Faculty Practice using Lifestyle Redesign® to address psychosocial barriers impacting academic success. Her knowledge and training was demonstrated through program development, implementation, and outcome analysis. Brown served as the principal investigator of a research team in 2019 focused on increasing QOL in an urban community. While at USC, she co-founded and was president of the first DEI organization within the OT department; she continues to advocate as a member of the OTAC Ad Hoc DEI Committee and co-chair of the OTAC Student Leadership Committee.

**SESSION 60 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

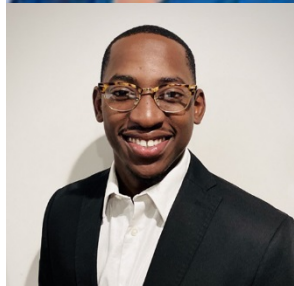
**SESSION 104 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Wendy Brzozowski, COTA/L**, has a BS in business management and healthcare administration. Currently she is the OT account manager of Simucase and provides support to students and faculty, as well as assists in the development of simulations. Brzozowski has been a COTA for 20 years, with a background in skilled nursing, outpatient, hospice, rehab management, and as a clinical instructor in an OTA program.

**SESSION 27 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Joshua Caiquo, MBA, OTS**, earned a master's in business administration in healthcare management and is a candidate for a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy at Stanbridge University. He is certified by the American Heart Association in basic life support and is engaged in a rapid literature review to translate knowledge about dementia and environmental modifications into effective occupational therapy interventions.

**SESSION 25 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Gabriel Carcedo Cravens, OTS**, received a bachelor's degree in gender studies and occupational science as well as a master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. Currently, Cravens is finishing his second level two fieldwork experience at the SOLA Peace Center and is starting his doctoral program in the fall 2021 at the USC Occupational Therapy Education Department and is expected to graduate with an OTD in summer 2022.

**SESSION 65 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Davina Chau, MS, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner at Professional Child Development Associates, which utilizes the DIRFloortime approach. Prior to becoming an occupational therapy practitioner, Chau spent several years providing intervention services to children under the DIRFloortime approach. Regular parent collaboration and supporting clients' relationships with meaningful individuals in their lives continue to be an integral part of her practice serving children with developmental disabilities and their families.

**SESSION 32 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Laurie Chen, OTS**, is a student at Stanbridge University, working towards a master's in occupational therapy. She received a Bachelor of Science in neurobiology, physiology, and behavior from the University of California, Davis. As a first generation Asian American, she is eager to be a bilingual advocate for occupational therapy and serve as a bridge between the two cultures.

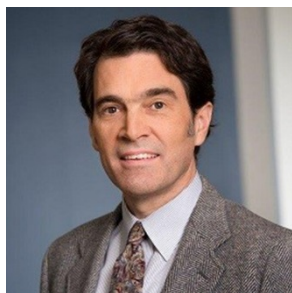
**SESSION 84 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Allison Chu, OTD, OTR/L**, currently serves as associate clinical professor of occupational therapy at the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She teaches a variety of courses, including the Adult Physical Disability Immersion, Occupation-Based Adult Neurorehabilitation, Therapeutic Use of Self, and Communication Skills for Effective Practice. She has over 20 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner and has developed clinical expertise in stroke, neurological conditions, and Lifestyle Redesign®. As an OT at

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Chu was instrumental in developing various programs. Most notably, she designed and implemented “Live Your Best Life,” an occupational therapy intervention informed by Lifestyle Redesign®, to assist stroke survivors with developing healthy habits and routines. Chu pioneered this program at Rancho for which she created modules, recruited patients, and trialed this approach with the stroke population for her doctoral project.

**SESSION 95 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Shaun Conway, OTR**, is a certified occupational therapy practitioner who currently serves as senior director, external and regulatory affairs for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) where he has worked for over 27 years. In this capacity, he is currently responsible for the oversight of organizational functions related to state regulation, international regulatory services, and community outreach.

**SESSION 66 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Laura Cox, OTD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She completed her residency working within the primary care settings of Keck Medicine of USC. As clinical faculty at the USC OT Faculty Practice, Cox provides Lifestyle Redesign® services to patients with chronic conditions, including chronic headaches, chronic pain, mental health diagnoses, diabetes, hypertension, and, since the global pandemic, COVID-19 long-haulers. She provides these services within a primary care clinic where she is collocated with family and internal medicine physicians, offering a multidisciplinary medical center for patients.

**SESSION 34 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Rebecca Crouch, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner with Goodfellow Occupational Therapy. She is currently working as a school-based practitioner in several small school districts in Fresno County. She provides support to students and staff enabling students to better access their curriculum. Crouch is also the director of staff development at Goodfellow. In this position, she is the fieldwork coordinator and is responsible for developing and managing the fieldwork program. She works with the universities, students, and fieldwork educators to support the students and therapists throughout the placement. As the director, Crouch also facilitates the mentorship program to support therapists new to the practice setting. She is currently pursuing her post-professional OTD through the University of St. Augustine for health sciences. She is committed to encouraging and facilitating personal and professional growth in others through support, education, and mentorship. She previously served as an elected member of the OTAC Board of Directors.

**SESSION 81 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Rebecca Cunningham, OTD, OTR/L, MSCS**, received a master's in occupational therapy and clinical doctorate of occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. As a clinical faculty member at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, Cunningham works with clients to improve the self-management of chronic conditions, including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and other functional neurological conditions. She is a member of the USC Multiple Sclerosis multidisciplinary team, serves on the National MS Society Healthcare Provider Council for the southern California chapter, and carries the MS Certified Specialist designation.

**SESSION 36 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Amy Dahlgren, MS, OTR/L**, is a practicing OT specializing in neurological rehabilitation and hand therapy. She has over eight years of experience as an OT working in settings of acute rehabilitation, outpatient brain injury clinic, and skilled nursing. She currently works in outpatient therapy for Kaiser Permanente Southern California region out of Woodland Hills. Dahlgren assists in program development and implementation of the outpatient neurorehabilitation groups for patients who have suffered acquired or traumatic brain injuries. She also works in orthopedic rehabilitation, treating patients who have sustained various upper extremity injuries. Dahlgren volunteers for the OTAC Ad Hoc Committee for DEI, as a member of the Evidence-Based Research Subcommittee, to be a part of this vital and necessary movement to achieve racial equity and justice in America. She has a passion for identifying health disparities in our current healthcare system and advocating for patient rights.

**SESSION 51 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Talent Dang, OTD, OTR/L**, completed a master's and clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California in 2019 and 2020. As a doctoral candidate, she completed her residency in a Neurologic Outpatient Rehabilitation Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Downey, CA beginning her passion in working with the stroke population. As her career progresses, she plans to continue working with the stroke population, advocating for patients' needs, and promoting client centered care. Currently, Dang is an occupational therapy practitioner at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center working in inpatient medical surgical services and orthopedic joint services.

**SESSION 55 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Heather David, PT, MPT, EdD**, received a Master of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Florida in 2003. She received a Doctorate of Education from the University of St. Augustine in December 2015. David works clinically with adults with neurologic diagnoses and is also an International Para Surfing Medical Classifier. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings including acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient neurologic, outpatient orthopedic, and brain injury day treatment. Her clinical emphasis is working with patients affected by neurological, balance, and vestibular disorders. David is a Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist for the American Board of Physical Therapy

Specialties. She is an assistant professor at the San Marcos campus of the University of St. Augustine in the Flex DPT Program.

**SESSION 93 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Jayson Davies, MA, OTR/L**, is the founder of Schoolhouse Education, LLC and the associated OT School House Podcast where he discusses school-based OT topics and interviews other OTs and stakeholders in public education. Since 2012, he has worked in public schools as an OT practitioner and has taken on the opportunity to develop an occupational therapy program within a district both as a function of general and special education. In 2014, Davies earned his Certification in Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT) to better serve his students. He is passionate about school-based OT and strives to help other OTs be confident in their school-based practice to advocacy and the implementation of systems.

**SESSION 11 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Shain Davis, OTD, OTR/L**, has worked with special needs and disabled pediatric populations for over 10 years. After receiving a bachelor's in health promotion and disease prevention studies at the University of Southern California (USC), he began working as a pediatric developmental specialist, serving at risk and/or disabled infants in their homes. Davis returned to USC in 2010 and received masters and doctoral degrees in occupational science. With an emphasis on research, his doctoral work included the manualization of a Lifestyle Redesign® intervention for young adults with diabetes. He was also selected to be a part of AOTA's Emerging Leaders Development Program. After serving for five years as clinical director at an outpatient pediatric clinic in southern California, Davis transitioned to teaching. He is currently teaching full-time at a master's program for occupational therapy. Recent published work includes a chapter in AOTA's 6th edition of *The Occupational Therapy Manager*.

**SESSION 84 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Jessica De Brun, OTD, MOT, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos Campus. She has a wide variety of experience as a practitioner working in pediatric community mental health and trauma intervention centers, domestic violence shelters, substance use and recovery services, local school districts, and regional centers. Her research has focused on early childhood trauma and the maternal-child co-occupational experience, infant and pediatric mental health, trauma-informed care and emerging mental health practice. She has developed and implemented trauma informed mental health programs for children, individuals in substance use and recovery settings, individuals who are experiencing homelessness and for individuals residing in domestic violence shelters. De Brun actively participates in advocacy and research related to positive and adverse childhood events and occupation based intervention program development in community mental health settings. She most received serviced at the OTAC Ad Hoc Committee for Nominations chair.

**SESSION 37 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 96 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Mayson De Ochoa, BS, OTS**, is a MSOT student at Stanbridge University. She graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology - Exercise Science and a Minor in Deaf Studies. Mayson was first introduced to OT by a family friend and started volunteering at a Pediatric Clinic and fell in love with it almost instantly. From learning from the OT, working with the kids and meeting the families, she was able to see the impact OT can have and wanted to be a part of that process. Areas of interest are Pediatrics and School based and Outpatient Rehabilitation.

**SESSION 84 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Celso Delgado, Jr., OTD, OTR/L, BCMH**, is an associate professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. Delgado has provided an occupational perspective and mental health services to adolescents and families in Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs in Los Angeles since 2007. FSP is designed to support populations who have been historically underserved/unserved by services and experience significant emotional, psychological or behavioral needs. He is also an instructor of the Mental Health Practice Immersion course for students in the division's entry-level professional program. Delgado provides remote supervision to occupational therapy students from the division placed at different community mental health sites around Los Angeles County. He is Board Certified in Mental Health by the American Occupation Therapy Association. He was elected and served on the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) Board of Directors from 2014-17. He was a 2017 recipient of OTAC's Vision Award. Since 2011, he has served as a faculty advisor for Troy Camp at USC.

**SESSION 26 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 62 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Hema Desai, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CLE, NTMTC**, is an inpatient speech pathologist at CHOC Children's Hospital, working with infants and children with feeding and swallowing disorders. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at Boston University and Master of Science degree at Emerson College. She has a board certification specialty in swallowing and swallowing disorders (BCS-S) and neonatal touch and massage and is a clinical lactation educator. Desai is a clinical supervisor to graduate students at CHOC, as well as a practitioner on the Multidisciplinary Intensive Feeding Program. She has presented at several ASHA conventions and California state conferences, as well as co-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored a book chapter. Her professional interests are primarily in pediatric feeding and dysphagia, as well as working with infants with congenital heart defects. She has recently become an active member of a CNOC (Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Collaborative) special interest group focusing on research and education on feeding and swallowing challenges in children with congenital heart defects.

**SESSION 91 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT**, is an OT clinical instructor in Outpatient Therapy Services at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. She has over 30 years of experience providing inpatient and outpatient occupational therapy services to individuals with physical disabilities across the lifespan, specializing in burns, arthritis, amputations, and upper extremity rehabilitation. She has lectured locally and nationally on topics related to her areas of expertise, with a passion for integrating occupation-based practice. Deshaies has authored numerous chapters in occupational therapy and hand therapy textbooks. She has been teaching "Principles of Hand Therapy" as adjunct instructor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy for over 20 years. Since the onset of the pandemic, she has been involved in program development, staff education and training, and the provision of direct patient care for individuals recovering from severe cases of COVID-19.

**SESSION 24 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Nora Dixon, MA, OTR/L**, received a bachelor's degree in both exercise science and Spanish from Elmhurst University and a master's in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California. Currently, she is a doctoral resident at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice working mainly with clients in the college student, mental health, and chronic migraine Lifestyle Redesign® programs. During her clinical residency work, Dixon has developed a passion for culturally competent healthcare, gender affirming healthcare, and improving access to mental health services on college campuses.

**SESSION 65 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Heidi Dombish, MS, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, CA. She has over 14 years of experience working with individuals with physical disabilities across the lifespan and across the continuum of care. She is Neuro-IFRAH certified, an NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, and a Therapeutic Yoga Instructor. Dombish has been teaching “Motor Control for Occupation” as an adjunct instructor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy since 2009 and has worked as a research assistant at the Rancho Research Institute since 2012. She is currently the lead occupational therapy practitioner on the COVID-19 inpatient rehabilitation team.

**SESSION 24 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Jennifer Dunlop, MOT, OTR/L**, is passionate about helping kids succeed in school and at home. She loves using a play-based and functional approach to help kids overcome barriers and be more independent. Dunlop graduated with an MOT from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI in 2016. Since then, she’s enjoyed working in many different settings as a travel OT — pediatric clinics, skilled nursing facilities, post-acute rehab centers, long-term care units and home health. Dunlop currently works as a school-based OT at MPUSD helping mild-to-moderately impaired children with autism or ADHD. Most recently, she’s found success providing school-based OT virtually, and she’s dedicated to ensuring her students continue to make progress despite the COVID-19 stay-home orders.

**SESSION 52 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Lindsey Edgell, MA, OTR/L**, graduated from UCSD with a bachelor’s in interdisciplinary computing and the arts and from USC with a master’s in occupational therapy. She is currently completing her clinical doctoral residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she works with clients with chronic headaches and chronic pain as well as with college students. Edgell collaborates with clients to support healthy lifestyle changes and engagement in meaningful occupations with the goal of improving overall quality of life.

**SESSION 63 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Bryant Edwards, OTD, MA, OTR/L, BCP, MPH**, is in a leadership role at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), serving as the manager of occupational therapy. In this role, Edwards supports the efforts of the inter-professional team at CHLA to maintain Magnet Recognition. He also serves on the Occupational Therapy Association of California’s (OTAC) Board of Directors as the current president and has been in a leadership position with OTAC since 2009. He was the 2018 awardee of the OTAC Janice Matsutsuyu Outstanding Service Award.

**SESSION 54 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

**SESSION 70 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**ACTIVITY A, PRESIDENT’S WELCOME – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21**





**Domenique Embrey, OTD, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner with over 30 years' experience. She has worked extensively with children as well as adults. Embrey has worked in schools, preschools, pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care hospital units, as well as private therapy clinics. She has experience in mental health, developmental disabilities, sensory processing difficulties, handwriting, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Down syndrome, and dyslexia. Embrey currently has a private practice and is an OT at the California School for the Deaf Fremont. She is an academic fieldwork coordinator and assistant professor at Samuel Merritt University Occupational Therapy Department.

**SESSION 104 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Allen Espelita, OTD, OTRP, OTR/L (NV), C/NDT, CEAS**, received a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy in 1999 from Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila, Philippines and earned a post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate in April 2019. He has a diverse clinical experience from his 20 years in pediatrics (hospital and school-based), office ergonomics, teaching, and adult outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation. Espelita is Certified in Neurodevelopmental Treatment-Adult (NDT), Certified VitalStim Provider (both adult and pediatric), Certified Ergonomics Assessment Specialist level I, Certified Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Big (LSVT-BIG) and post-professional dysphagia. He is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), World Federation of Occupational Therapist (WFOT), and Nevada Occupational Therapy Association (NOTA).

**SESSION 90 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Shan-Pin Fanchiang, PhD, OTR/L**, is an education coordinator at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Her clinical work focuses on people with movement disorders, traumatic brain injury, and diabetes. She has worked on the scale Empowered-To-Act Consistently (ETAC) for learners to estimate the practical application of newly learned knowledge. She serves as the chair of education, the DHS Endocrinology-Primary Care Workgroup at the Los Angeles County, Department of Health Service. Fanchiang offers a clinical research independent study course for OT graduate students at USC. She is also a faculty member of internal medicine and serves as a thesis chairperson for biomedical sciences at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. She volunteers as the chair of the Evidence-Based Research Subcommittee for the OTAC Ad Hoc DEI Committee.

**SESSION 51 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Nicole Foster** graduated from Cal Poly in 2020 after completing a BS in kinesiology. She offers a rich, poignant, first-hand insight into the impact of computer-related eye fatigue. Foster is passionate about soldier's health and quality of life and has led workshops for military teenagers promoting resilience and stress management. She is currently a second lieutenant in the US Army Reserve, and hopes to pursue her MOT after graduation to become an Army OT.

**SESSION 42 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

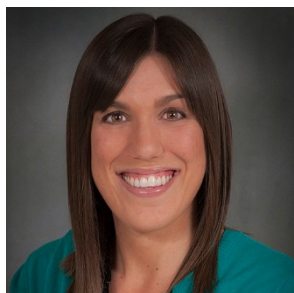




**Stephanie Foster, PhD, OTR/L**, has been a practicing occupational therapy practitioner since 1989. She currently owns and operates Kid's Work, a private practice that specializes in working with families and children with sensory processing disorders. Her passion is to assist families understand self-regulation and to help children function without medication. Foster completed her BS from Tufts University in occupational therapy, and an MS from Boston University in pediatric occupational therapy in 1994. Here she completed a fellowship on the efficacy of OT in the schools and certified on the SIPT. She completed her PhD in prenatal and perinatal psychology from the Chicago School of Psychology (Santa Barbara Graduate Institute) in 2011.

~~SESSION 12 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22~~ *Withdrawn*

**SESSION 42 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Danielle Friberg, OTD, OTR/L**, is the capstone coordinator for the entry level occupational therapy doctorate program at Keck Graduate Institute. Friberg graduated from the University of Utah with a master's in occupational therapy in 2011 and a post-professional clinical Occupational Therapy Doctorate in 2017. She also received a Higher Education Teaching Specialist certificate in 2017 through the University of Utah's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. Her doctoral research focused on the use of family-centered practices in early intervention when addressing the sensory needs of children with autism spectrum disorder. Friberg's practice experience includes early intervention, NICU follow-up, and outpatient pediatrics.

**SESSION 60 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

**SESSION 67 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Joahnes Gatdula, OTD, OTR/L, ITOT**, earned a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy at Emilio Aguinaldo College, Philippines in 1999 and received a post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate at the University of Medical Sciences Arizona in 2019. He is currently working as an MSOT instructor at Stanbridge University and at California Rehabilitation Institute. He has 20 years of varied OT acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, SNF, home health, and SPED clinical experience. He has advanced practice in PAM and certifications in ITOT, FECPW, and ASIA InSTeP.

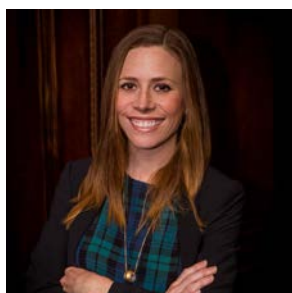
**SESSION 90 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Luella Grangaard, MS, OTR/L, CHT**, graduated from the University of Puget Sound, in Tacoma, WA, with a Master of Science in occupational therapy. She initially work in pediatrics but has been at Eisenhower Health for almost 35 years and over 30 years as manager of the department. She was president of OTAC from 1998 to 2000. During her term, the legislative team worked with AOTA to develop the Occupational Therapy Sunrise Practice document, find a lobbyist, work with a licensure team, negotiated with various stakeholders, testified and eventually had the governor sign the bill into law in September 2000. Prior to that she held various leadership positions in OTAC including Board director, secretary, bylaws committee chair, and served on many committees. Grangaard was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to the first California Board of Occupational Therapy, 2001 to 2007, and served as president of the Board. She was reappointed 2010-2013 and served as president again

in 2013. In addition, she was the California Representative to the AOTA Representative Assembly from 2006-2012. During this time, California submitted a resolution to include PAMs, hands, and dysphagia as part of the ACOTE standards. She also participated in a number of projects for NBCOT including the simulation project for the national exam, practice analysis, and development of the program for continuing education. Grangaard was on faculty for Loma Linda University, teaching the hand therapy course and Advisory Committee for Stanbridge College. She has authored chapters in Pederitti and Coopers Fundamentals of Hand Therapy as well as numerous professional presentations on various topics.

**SESSION 70, SUNDAY KEYNOTE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Lindsay Gullahorn, BA**, brings over a decade of political, legislative, and policy experience to the firm as a lobbyist at Capitol Advocacy. Her expertise and advocacy, both at the legislative and regulatory levels, provide clients with demonstrated results and a comprehensive perspective on a variety of complex issues. Beginning her career at Capitol Advocacy over a decade ago, Gullahorn's longevity has proven invaluable for each client. She brings a deep understanding and historical background of policy issues pertinent to them. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in government at California State University, Sacramento in 2005.

**SESSION 10 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Loriebel Rachel Guloy, OTD, OTR/L, BScOT, OTRP, KTCP**, graduated from Emilio Aguinaldo College Philippines with a BS in occupational therapy and received a post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate at University of Medical Sciences Arizona in 2021. Guloy has been working as an OT for 20 years with pediatrics, acute care, and outpatient rehabilitation. She has been working at Hamad Medical Corporation Doha, Qatar in home healthcare services since 2004. She has OT registration in the Philippines, UK, Qatar, and US, with a certification in KTCP and advanced practice PAM.

**SESSION 90 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Ashley Halle, OTD, OTR/L**, is an associate professor of clinical occupational therapy and the coordinator of primary care residency and services at the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy. Halle currently balances various teaching, administrative, and clinical responsibilities at the USC Chan Division. Halle has worked as an occupational therapy practitioner in the areas of primary care, home, and community health for the past 10 years, and in a variety of settings, including federally qualified health centers, private practice, clients' homes, and within an academic medical center.

**SESSION 34 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Mary Hallway, OTR/L, C/NDT, C-IAYT, Advanced NDTA-OT Instructor,** has over 40 years of experience specializing in pediatrics in medical, educational, community-based, and private practice settings. She is an internationally recognized educator, consultant, and clinician with an expertise in sensory integration and processing, neuro-developmental treatment (NDT) and feeding/swallowing. Hallway is an Advanced NDTA-OT instructor teaching a variety of courses including NDT and blending approaches in pediatrics extensively throughout the United States and internationally. She has published several articles including *Handling with Care* or *Handling Carefully* in parent articles about NDT and has co-authored the book Combining Neuro-Developmental Treatment and Sensory Integration Principles: An Approach to Pediatrics. She recently co-authored/edited an upcoming book, An Evidence-Based Guide to Combining Interventions with Sensory Integration in Pediatric Practice (in press).

**SESSION 54 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Caroline Hardin, OTD, OTR/L,** is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). Dr. Hardin’s area of passion and expertise is in interprofessional pediatric mental health care. At the UCEDD, Dr. Hardin provides occupational therapy assessment, consultation, and intervention for infants, children, and young adults with mental health labels, who often also have a co-occurring developmental disability. She coordinates occupational therapy services within the interdisciplinary School Age Medication Management Clinic and works with clients within CHLA’s Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine. Dr. Hardin conducts OT assessments as part of an interdisciplinary assessment team at the Boone Fetter Clinic at CHLA. She enjoys mentoring Fieldwork Students and OTD Residents at the UCEDD.

**SESSION 60 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Rodney Harris, COTA/L,** had an initial professional endeavor in law enforcement. He spent 10 years working a gang unit, becoming an academy instructor, working on the special weapons team, and being a G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) officer. When the sun set on this career, Harris became an occupational therapy assistant and worked with both pediatrics and geriatrics. He has had the pleasure of working with the autistic and mental health populations. Harris is drawn to working with those who are severely impacted by autism and mental health challenges while advocating for their inclusion and independence. He believes that he has something special to offer both of these populations from a unique life experience background.

**SESSION 94 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Christine Haworth, MA, OTR/L**, earned both a BS and MA in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California (USC). She has over 10 years of clinical experience, primarily in community-based mental health with disenfranchised adolescents, but has also worked in pediatrics and geriatric home health. As an occupational therapy practitioner, Haworth also served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. She is passionate about expanding the role of OT within the criminal justice system and is a member of the Justice-Based Occupational Therapy network. Haworth is also the co-author of a dynamic assessment of occupational performance skills called the Double OT, which has been acquired by a publisher. She and her colleagues are in the process of conducting research on the assessment tool and have presented on it both nationally and internationally. Haworth maintains an ongoing clinical practice at Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP-SF) and serves as a lecturer in the OT department at San Jose State University.

**SESSION 48 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Lauren Heflin, MA, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner with 10 years of experience specializing in pediatrics. She currently works for Monterey-Peninsula Unified School District in the District's early intervention program. Prior to working in early intervention, Heflin worked at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland in their acute and rehabilitation departments. She also has experience working in school-based and outpatient pediatric settings. Heflin is a volunteer leader with OTAC and currently serves on the Board of Directors as the Region 3 Director.

**SESSION 52 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Sherry Hite, MOT, OTR/L**, is the Occupational Therapy Department manager at City of Hope National Medical Center. Her practice is focused exclusively on the oncology setting; she runs one of the country's largest breast cancer recovery programs. Hite serves on the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force for the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and has presented at the state and national level on topics including cancer-related cognitive impairments, comprehensive breast cancer rehabilitation, and addressing sexuality in oncology. Her current clinical and research interests include pre-habilitation in surgical oncology, improving multidisciplinary geriatric oncology care and the use of telemedicine in survivorship care. Hite serves as chair of the OTAC Professional Development and Leadership Committee, which oversees the OTAC Annual Conference.

**SESSION 44 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Antonietta Iannaccone, OTD, OTR/L (NM)**, received an Occupational Therapy Doctorate from the University of Southern California. She has a deep seeded interest in utilizing the human animal bond as a foundation for occupational therapy. Iannaccone developed animal-assisted occupational therapy programming at The Children's Ranch in Los Angeles where she treated children and young adults before moving to New Mexico. She now works at Skyline Therapy Services in Albuquerque treating pediatric clients using hippotherapy.

**SESSION 23 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**





**Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, is professor of clinical practice, Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California. She graduated from the University of Chile with a degree in occupational therapy and holds a Master of Arts in special education from Teachers College, Columbia University and a PhD in occupational science from the University of Southern California. Blanche trained with Dr. Ayres in 1984 and since then has taught extensively around the world. She has authored and co-authored multiple publications in the areas of evaluation and intervention of children with developmental disabilities, play, and occupational science. Blanche is also co-owner and a co-founder of Therapy West, Inc., a treatment facility serving children with developmental disabilities in Southern California. Her research interest is in the identification, evaluation, and treatment of sensory motor disorders and its systematic application to clinical practice. In her multiple roles of professor, international lecturer, and clinician, Blanche crosses the borders between clinical practice and academic research.

**SESSION 54 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Sheila James, OTS**, is a doctoral student at West Coast University Center for Graduate Studies. She dedicated the capstone component of her education to decreasing the gap of health disparities experienced by the LGBTQAI+ population through course curriculum. James is passionate about advocating for healthcare equity for the queer community and educating her colleagues on best practices with the queer community to increase health outcomes. As a lifelong learner, she will focus on queer healthcare and is interested in exploring occupational therapy's place in gender confirmation surgery and community-based OT services for the queer community.

**SESSION 60 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Kayla Johari, OTS**, is a current occupational therapy doctoral resident specializing in pediatric mental health at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). She graduated from USC with a Bachelor of Arts in human biology with a minor in occupational science. She is passionate about mobilizing occupational therapy to advance inclusion and accessibility for all individuals at the societal level. Her clinical interests include promoting a strengths-based approach to social and community participation with neuro-diverse clients and supporting their development of self-agency and self-advocacy.

**SESSION 61 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Maureen (Mo) Johnson, PhD, MS, OT/L, BCPR, C/NDT**, is a graduate of San Jose State University where she received a bachelor's and post professional master's in occupational therapy. Johnson has a PhD in education with a focus on learning, instruction, and innovation. She has worked with a variety of patient populations primarily focused on individuals with neurologic impairments. Johnson has worked at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center as an OT and a neuro educator/clinical specialist and Scripps Memorial Hospital, with a focus on

inpatient rehabilitation, acute care, and outpatient neuro. Additionally, she has worked as an OT in the Peace Corps in Paraguay and routinely works with Children's Hospital in Mexico. Currently, Johnson is core faculty at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences where she teaches anatomy applied to occupation, patient/client care management, and assistive technology. In addition, she is the director of classifications for the US Open of Adaptive Surfing and head of International Classification for Para Surfing working towards getting Para Surfing into the Paralympic Games.

**SESSION 93 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Kelcie Kadowaki, OTD, OTR/L**, received master's and doctorate of occupational therapy degrees from the University of Southern California. Her clinical residency was completed at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she facilitated Lifestyle Redesign® interventions and focused on expanding the visibility and accessibility of occupational therapy services to the college student population. As a clinical faculty member, Kadowaki works with clients within the college student, pain management, weight management and mental health programs, and supervises the occupational therapy consultation program embedded within the USC Student Health network.

**SESSION 87 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Purnima Karia, OTR/L, CDRS**, is a senior occupational therapy practitioner and a certified driving rehabilitation specialist (CDRS) and has a graduate certification in Low Vision Rehabilitation. She graduated from University of Bombay and has been working in the United States since 1991. Karia has a great passion for the rehabilitation of acquired brain injury clients, including strokes, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's, mild cognitive impairment, etc., and achieves success with their community re-integration including driving and promoting Aging in Place. She has developed great awareness with senior mobility issues and low vision challenges resulting from any medical condition and completes driving assessments at Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital in San Pedro and Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach.

**SESSION 92 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Melisa Kaye, EdD, OTR/L**, earned a bachelor's and post-professional Master of Science in occupational therapy at San Jose State University, and a Doctorate of Education with concentrations on learning and instruction and educational technology at the University of San Francisco. Kaye is assistant professor of occupational therapy at San Jose State University in California. Her research interests include multimedia learning, cognition, and enhancing healthcare education with technology. Additional research interests include sensory integration, trauma-informed care, and development of cognitive and perceptual skills. She has practiced pediatric occupational therapy for over 20 years and is the founder and director of Firefly Center: Therapy Services for Children, a clinic in California.

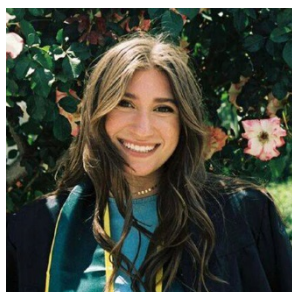
**SESSION 48 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Hiral Khatri, OTD, OTR/L**, is the CEO and Founder of OT Park. OT Park is a center for occupational, sensory, and behavioral therapy services for 0-8 years old kids in the form of virtual, in-person therapy, and chief provider of get-at-your-home activity-box. Dr. Hiral being a creative activity expert, founded OTParkBox that includes age-appropriate and developmentally correct activities for newborns to 3 years old kids, with high-quality materials and hand-made tasks safe for little hands. Dr. Khatri is the author of OTPark's Activity Guide books to help parents to learn various child development activities, know what skills those activities focus on, and include a list of what to use for those activities. Dr. Khatri believes in providing high-quality services for children that focus on the child's overall physical, psychological, and emotional growth.

Dr. Khatri has been awarded as "Top 100 Healthcare Visionaries" for the year 2021 for her constant and tireless efforts in finding innovative care provisions for the community.

**SESSION 100 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Zaina Kholaki, OTS**, is a current second-year occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University in Irvine, California. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Throughout her undergraduate career and after graduation, Kholaki spent her time working in different settings with children and adults with both physical and mental disabilities. She desires to be an occupational therapy practitioner to help individuals of various ages live a meaningful life and engage in the occupations they love.

**SESSION 85 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Heather Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, is the MSOT coordinator at California State University Dominguez Hills where she has been on faculty since 2016. She has more than 29 years of experience in acute rehabilitation and, more recently, acute medical-surgical care. Her program development interests at Keck Hospital included wellness programming to facilitate tolerance of prolonged hospitalization related to pre- and post-organ transplant as well as stem cell transplantation. She also has experience in adult day healthcare for persons living with persistent mental illness as well as home health practice. Kitching completed a clinical doctorate degree at the University of Southern California in 2010 and has experience both in clinical teaching as well as classroom instruction. Her doctoral studies focused on political and cultural applications of occupational therapy and occupational science concepts. She served as assistant director of a 12-week program in the summer of 2004 on an indigenous American reservation in central California. She collaborated with anthropologist and occupational scientist, Gelya Frank, in facilitating a cultural intervention with the Tule River Tribe to meet their own goals of recording their history. Kitching's current interests are in leadership and advocacy within the profession. She has held many elected and appointed positions within the Occupational Therapy Association of California and served as its president for two terms (2016-2020).

**SESSION 17 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 70 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**SESSION 81 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Ashley Ko, OTS**, is an occupational therapy student at West Coast University, Center for Graduate Studies completing her doctoral capstone experience at Speech, Language, and Educational Associates in Culver City, CA. She is conducting research to evaluate the strengths and challenges with telehealth service delivery from the perspective of occupational therapy practitioners working with children with sensory processing impairments. Ko has experience in a variety of pediatric settings working with children with sensory, physical, and cognitive impairments, and other health conditions. She is passionate about working with children of all ages and is looking forward to working as a future pediatric occupational therapy practitioner.

**SESSION 21 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



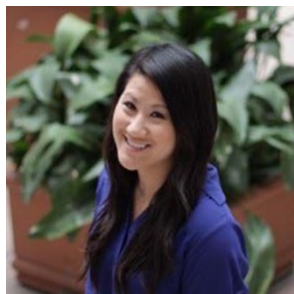
**Jenna Kobara, OTD, OTR/L**, is currently an instructor of clinical occupational therapy at the USC University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) based at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She has experience working with children with developmental delays and physical disabilities in a variety of settings. Kobara has worked with interdisciplinary teams and multicultural populations both locally and internationally. She continues to enjoy her time traveling to Ghana to provide children with occupational therapy services, helping with co-ordination of the annual externship trip for USC students, and lecturing at local universities. Kobara has provided clinical assessment, treatment, and education in Ghana and Togo. She is passionate about and dedicated to providing therapy that is culturally fluid and has been eager to learn more about how cultural barriers impact our relationships with clients as well as with other professionals both abroad and here in our own clinical practices.

**SESSION 22 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Stephanie Kokesh, OTD, OTR/L**, is an academic fieldwork coordinator and instructor for the occupational therapy assistant program at CBD College in Los Angeles. She continues to work in acute care as an occupational therapy practitioner at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Her areas of interest include physical and neurological rehabilitation, sexual health, and fieldwork. Kokesh received her clinical doctorate from Creighton University. She also serves on the OTAC Board of Directors as the Region 2 Director.

**SESSION 106 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Michelle Laforteza, OTD, OTR/L**, attended the University of Southern California, where she received a Master of Arts in occupational therapy in 2012 and clinical doctorate in 2013. She is an occupational therapy practitioner at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center working in outpatient rehabilitation specializing in stroke recovery and adults with neurological conditions. What drives her is her passion focusing on occupation and client centered treatment interventions for her clients with neurological disorders.

**SESSION 55 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**





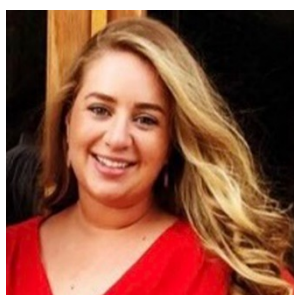
**Denise Lau, MS, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center with 10 years of experience working with individuals with physical disabilities across the continuum of care. She has been integrating the use of UE rehabilitation technology into occupational therapy treatment for the past eight years and has participated in research studies that evaluate the efficacy of robotics.

**SESSION 64 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



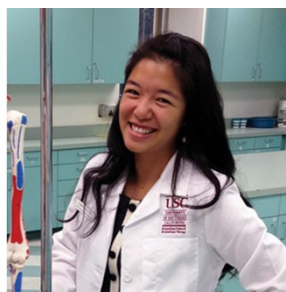
**Maura Lavelle, MS, OTR/L (TX)**, is an occupational therapy practitioner who has worked in adult rehabilitative medicine across various care settings. Her experience includes the use of cutting-edge technologies, robotics, and clinical trials for neurological populations. Lavelle is a Certified Telehealth Facilitator and a peer reviewer for various professional occupational therapy journals. Her research interests include the use of technology platforms for motor and learning outcomes. She earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in human development from Cornell University.

**SESSION 27 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



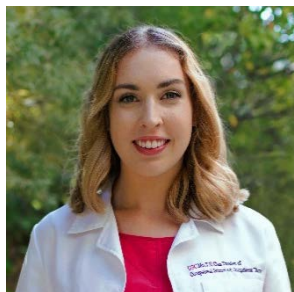
**Elise Leizerovich, OTD, OTR/L**, is the capstone coordinator for the entry-level occupational therapy doctorate program at West Coast University in Los Angeles, CA. She received a master's in occupational therapy from Thomas Jefferson University in 2014 and a post-professional clinical Occupational Therapy Doctorate from University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in 2020. Her doctoral capstone project focused on the development of an occupational therapy case management program for individuals with serious mental illness. While Leizerovich has experience in a variety of OT settings, her primary areas of interest are mental health and school-based OT.

**SESSION 67 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L**, is currently the director of occupational therapy at Exodus Recovery, which provides psychiatric treatment services in hospital-based inpatient and outpatient programs in Los Angeles County. She supervises Level I and Level II students from different universities in order to increase exposure and pique interest in mental health. Leu also co-founded the Greater Los Angeles Mental Health Practice Network, whose goal is to provide education and support mental health occupational therapy practitioners while advocating for occupational therapy's distinct role in mental health practice. Leu is also currently teaching at Stanbridge University and serving as co-chair of the OTAC Practice, Ethics, and Reimbursement Committee.

**SESSION 94 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Carnie Lewis, OTD, OTR/L**, serves as an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California and as co-chair of OTAC's Practice, Ethics and Reimbursement Committee. She completed her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy degree in 2019 at USC with an emphasis on oncological rehabilitation, further advancing occupational therapy's role in multidisciplinary fall prevention, and exploring OT's role in palliative care within the acute care healthcare system. In the past year and a half, Lewis has served on the core team of COVID-19 occupational therapy practitioners at Keck Medicine of USC.

**SESSION 13 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Lauren Lopez, OTD, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapist currently working in adult acute care settings. She completed her doctoral residency with the Occupational Therapy Association of California as the Advocacy Resident, working closely with their lobbying firm, to focus on grassroots and political advocacy. Following residency, Lauren continued on with OTAC to serve as the Advocacy & Government Affairs Chair.

**SESSION 10 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Marissa Marchioni, OTD, OTR/L, CEAS**, received a master's in occupational therapy and Occupational Therapy Doctorate at USC. Her clinical residency was completed at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she focused on ergonomics and development of corporate wellness programming. Marchioni works with clients to implement lifestyle changes and improve the management of a range of chronic conditions including overweight/obesity, diabetes, chronic pain, chronic headache, and behavioral health. She previously worked in health and wellness for 10 years including personal training, teaching Pilates, and leading fitness classes.

**SESSION 16 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 105 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Jacqueline Martin, MA, OTR/L**, graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and minor in occupational science. In August of 2020 she graduated from the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy with a Master of Arts in occupational therapy. She is currently completing her clinical doctoral residency at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in the general outpatient and lifestyle programs, working with patients of varying physical, behavioral, and cognitive challenges. As a resident, Martin is developing and implementing program modules to service adults with mobility-related disorders in managing their weight through lifestyle modifications.

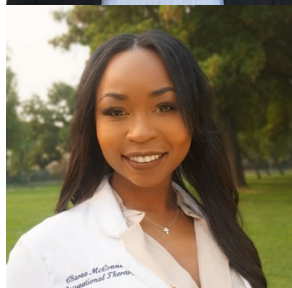
**SESSION 86 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**SESSION 95 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Miranda Martinez, OTS** is an MSOT student at Stanbridge University and received a bachelor's in health science at California Baptist University. Her volunteer experience involved outpatient occupational and physical therapy at Kaiser Permanente, pediatric ASD evaluations, and pediatric outpatient and hippotherapy.

**SESSION 84 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



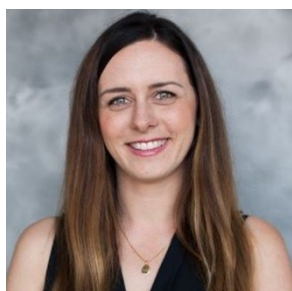
**Charae McConnell, OTR/L**, is a graduate of Samuel Merritt University's first doctoral program and has been practicing as an occupational therapy practitioner for more than a year at an outpatient pediatric clinic. She dedicated the capstone component of her education to exploring the effects of racism and bias on the mental health of people of color, where she developed the Racially-Informed Care treatment model and the Racial Impact Questionnaire. She is serving as first author on the chapter for racism and racial identity in the latest edition of Cara & Macrae's textbook, Psychosocial Occupational Therapy: An Evolving Practice, where her intervention tool and treatment model for addressing race-based stress were featured.

**SESSION 104 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Kristin McConnell, MA, OTR/L**, received a bachelor's in international relations from Tufts University and master's in occupational therapy from USC. She is currently completing her clinical doctoral residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice where she works with clients in the Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, chronic pain and headache programs, and is a member of the USC MCAS and MS interdisciplinary teams. She empowers clients to participate more fully in their daily activities and improve management of chronic symptoms through creating sustainable healthy lifestyle change. As a certified yoga teacher, she is passionate about integrating holistic healing modalities such as yoga, meditation, and mindfulness into her clinical practice.

**SESSION 36 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Erin McIntyre, OTD, MA, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy for the University of St. Augustine Occupational Therapy Program in San Marcos, CA. McIntyre completed BS, MA, and post-professional OTD degrees in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC). Her career has focused on trauma-informed care and working with people labeled with serious mental illness in a range of service settings both nationally and in the United Kingdom. Her primary interest is in working with individuals experiencing psychosis in community based mental health settings and she has conducted research exploring the role of occupational therapy for individuals experiencing hoarding and psychosis. McIntyre currently co-facilitates the AOTA psychosis community of practice, is a founding member of a community of practice for occupational therapy practitioners working in homeless services, and an active member of the California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH) representing OTAC.

**SESSION 37 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 96 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Rochelle McLaughlin, MS, OTR/L, MBSR, RYT**, earned an MS in occupational therapy from SJSU and received a certification to teach Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) from the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Center for Mindfulness. She has completed advanced studies in humanistic psychology and is a certified yoga instructor. She has taught MBSR, MBOT, and neuro-social-psychophysiological perspectives and practices to several hundred participants for the Department of Occupational Therapy and internationally and she regularly leads retreats on integrating mindfulness into healthcare and human services for all age ranges experiencing a broad range of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges.

**SESSION 46 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Jenna Mele, OTD, OTR/L, CCM**, is a certified Care Manager, Memories in the Making Facilitator, and Positive Approach to Care Consultant. She is certified in Car Fit, a program designed by AOTA, AAA, and AARP to support driver safety, and early on in her career was also a Registered Yoga Teacher. She views OTAC's virtual conference as a place to build connection and foster professional collaboration. She engages with international audiences, graduate students, and teaches at a local OTA program. She speaks to stakeholders in the community through assisted living communities, post-acute care centers, and senior centers on topics including dementia, wellness and fall prevention. Mele is committed to providing dignified care for aging people and strives to fill the gaps in care with the "just right" support.

**SESSION 25 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Jaynee Taguchi Meyer, OTD, OTR/L**, is an OT with 36 years' experience in clinical practice and academia. She worked in inpatient acute, inpatient and outpatient rehab, and community-based neurorehabilitation. Her career is dedicated to fieldwork education as a fieldwork educator, fieldwork site coordinator, clinical education consultant for a national skilled nursing therapy provider, researcher, and academic fieldwork coordinator. Meyer's academic work includes graduate level OT teaching, OTD resident mentoring, and academic fieldwork coordination, and teaching and program direction at the OT assistant associate level. She taught courses in adult physical disabilities, assistive technology, activity analysis, and interpersonal communication for healthcare professionals. Meyer presents at local, national, and international conferences. She received the 2002 OTAC Fieldwork Educator Award and has been an AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certificate Program trainer since 2009. She earned a BS in occupational therapy from San Jose State University, and an MA in occupational therapy and OTD from the University of Southern California.

**SESSION 41 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**





**Julie Miller, MOT, OTR/L**, is the clinical director at Professional Child Development Associates, where she specializes in treating children who have feeding challenges and limited diets with a special interest in autism, sensory integration, and social emotional development. She has her advanced practice in Swallowing Assessment, Evaluation, and Intervention from the California Board of Occupational Therapy, and an Advanced Certificate in DIRFloortime® through the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders. Miller is an internationally known speaker, consultant, and published author.

**SESSION 32 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 43 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L**, teaches mental health, clinical reasoning, and qualitative research in the Chan USC Division of OS and OT, utilizing Team-Based Learning and other learner-centered course designs. Her courses incorporate diverse perspectives and critical theories, to support occupational therapy students to become culturally responsive practitioners who embody person centered approaches.

**SESSION 26 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 62 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Miriam Monahan, OTD, OTR/L, CDRS, CDI**, is an occupational therapy practitioner and certified driving rehabilitation specialist. She has over 20 years of experience in driving rehabilitation and is recognized for her clinical and behind-the-wheel evaluation and intervention skills. She is the founder of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Driver Rehabilitation Institute. Monahan is an adjunct professor for University of Florida's Certificate in Driver Rehabilitation Therapy program. She has served as consultant on numerous federal projects and lectures extensively on topics related to driving rehabilitation and community mobility. Monahan has co-authored numerous publications in driving and neurological conditions. She practices driving rehabilitation through Smith OT and Driving in Petaluma, CA.

**SESSION 92 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**SESSION 102 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**Vanessa Montes, MS, OTR/L**

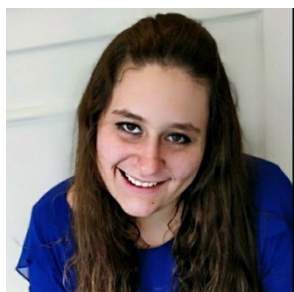
**SESSION 81 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





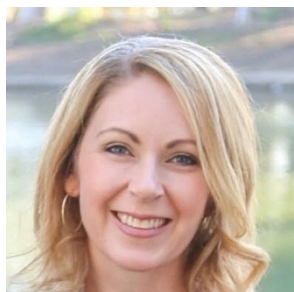
**Beverly Moskowitz, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA**, author of multiple publications, strives to share AOTA best practices, time-saving strategies, and progressive IDEA ideals while 'keeping the fun going.' A creative entrepreneur, determined researcher, and tireless professional, she is also the author of The Size Matters Handwriting Program. Currently used in every state and four continents, its concept-driven approach has proven effective at a .001 level of significance in the largest handwriting study ever done. In 2010, Moskowitz launched Real OT Solutions, Inc. Its mission, as both a service and product business, is to provide consumers--therapists, teachers, parents and kids, with effective, efficient, affordable and fun solutions to school needs. She earned the distinguished alumni award from Temple University and serves on the OT Advisory Boards at both Temple and Salus Universities in Philadelphia. In 2015, she was recognized for her professional contributions and inducted as a Fellow into the American Occupational Therapy Association.

**SESSION 82 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Eanna Munoz-McAdon, OTS**, is a student in the Masters of Occupational Therapy program at Stanbridge University in Irvine, CA. Her professional background includes an internship in prosthetics, working as a DME aid and rehabilitation technician. She obtained a bachelor's in kinesiology at Wayne State University. Munuz-McAdon currently works as an OT hands technician at California Rehab. Her research experience includes implementing community integration in clients who obtained a spinal cord injury.

**SESSION 85 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Rachelle Murphy, OTD, OTR/L** is assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator for the developing OTD program at Keck Graduate Institute in Claremont, CA. Prior to her current role, Murphy was program director of the OTA program at American Career College in Anaheim, CA, and has worked as a pediatric and school-based occupational therapy practitioner since 2010. Murphy obtained a master's degree in occupational therapy from Loma Linda University and a Doctor of Health Science degree from Nova Southeastern University where she electively studied complementary, alternative, and integrative health and their applicability to occupational therapy practice. Murphy has completed a series of mindfulness school educator programs and previously ran school-based classroom mindfulness programs, as well as, after-school yoga and mindfulness programs. She has extensively studied mindfulness, yoga, and their applicability to occupational therapy.

**SESSION 35 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 97 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24** *Withdrawn*

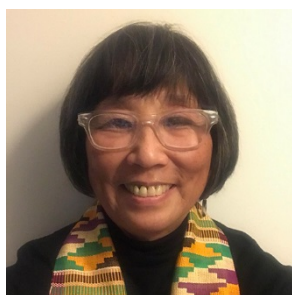


**Pat Nagaishi, PhD, MA, OTR/L (Retired)**, Pat has over 40 years in the profession of occupational therapy serving in roles as a practitioner, consultant, supervisor, director, OT faculty, leader, and member of occupational therapy and related professional organizations. She has worked at several practice settings, e.g., residential ICF-DD (intermediate care facilities-developmental disabilities); Ventura County CCS Medical Therapy Unit (MTU); CA Department of Developmental Services (DDS) South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC; hospital/medical

centers (White Memorial Medical Center, TCS/Mullikin Medical Center); private practice OT clinic (Professional Child Development Associates (PCDA), private preschool for blind children (Blind Children's Center); the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); California State University, Dominguez Hills OT Program; and she recently retired from her position as part of the Preschool Special Education Assessment Team at Pasadena Unified School District after 17 years. She has been a long-time member/volunteer and served 23 years in leadership roles (e.g., committee chair, Vice President, and President) for the Occupational Therapy Association of California. She is currently the President of the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT).

**SESSION 28 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 70 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 (SUNDAY KEYNOTE)**



**Bonnie Nakasuji, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 45 years. She is currently the co-owner of a pediatric private practice clinic, Therapy West, Inc., and pLAY Studio, and adjunct associate professor of occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. Nakasuji previously was an associate part-time faculty and disabilities specialist at Santa Monica College. Her clinical doctoral project focused on education as a means to improve disability awareness in Ghana West Africa and has been the lead coordinator responsible for taking OT students from the University of Southern California (USC) to complete a Level 1 fieldwork or a leadership externship in Ghana every year since 2005. Her international focus on disability awareness education extended to Mali, Cameroon, and Togo, which helped to propel an interest in understanding the cultural barriers and cultural opportunities that impact effective collaboration and learning between professionals of African and Western cultures.

**SESSION 22 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Seaton Ng, MS, OTR/L**, graduated from Jefferson College of Health Sciences in 2016. He has been representing EBS Healthcare both in the San Francisco Bay Area and internationally ever since. He is currently a PhD candidate at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, aiming to utilize a multi-tiered system of support to promote school functions.

**SESSION 51 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Linda Okonsky, MS, OTR/L**, is a regional director of occupational therapy services for EBS Healthcare, Inc. She provides therapist support and mentoring, supervision of OTAs, and assists in the design of trainings for continued competence and best practice strategies for school-based therapists. Okonsky has been practicing OT for more than 19 years working with children in the clinic and school settings. She is an adjunct professor for the OTD program at Widener University.

**SESSION 41 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Jazminne Orozco-Arteaga, OTD, OTR/L**, is an instructor of occupational therapy on the San Marcos campus. She earned her BA, MA, and post-professional OTD at the University of Southern California (USC). Orozco-Arteaga was previously an assistant professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science and Keck School of Medicine of USC. She was appointed faculty at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she was a clinician and clinical supervisor at USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Orozco-Arteaga co-lead interdisciplinary health and wellness program development at CHLA's primary care clinic and has published research on comprehensive behavioral lifestyle interventions focused on inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and mental health needs.

**SESSION 58 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Karen Park, OTD, OTR/L, BCP**, is an assistant professor and doctoral coordinator at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos, CA. She graduated with master's and doctorate degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California, Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and has extensive experience in pediatric practice in a variety of service settings including early intervention, hospital, clinic, and outpatient children's mental health. Prior to joining the faculty at USA, she was a director of academic fieldwork education. Her expertise in fieldwork education focuses on role emerging fieldwork experiences in children's mental health settings; specifically, mentoring OT students in identifying and establishing the role of OT in addressing the occupational needs of underserved children and families with a history of complex trauma. As a second generation, Korean American woman, and child of immigrants, embracing her racial identity in academic spaces has been a journey, but also significantly influences how she shows up as an educator. She is deeply invested in representation in all areas of OT practice including practice, advocacy, academia and leadership.

**SESSION 58 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

~~**SESSION 97 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**~~ *Withdrawn*



**Peter Perez, OTD, OTR, OTRP**, graduated from Cebu Doctors University, Philippines, in 2002 and earned his post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate in University of Medical Sciences Arizona in 2021. Perez started his OT career in Doha, Qatar in 2007. He is currently working as clinical program manager in Qatar Rehabilitation Institute of Hamad Medical Corporation. He has a certification in AMPS, PAM, and JCI on quality improvement and accreditation.

**SESSION 90 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Natalie Perkins, MEd, OTR/L, FIIE**, is the program director and assistant clinical professor for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program at Pacific. She has expertise in scholarship, teaching, and clinical practice. Perkins is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within the field of occupational therapy. She received a BS in occupational therapy and MEd in adult education at Colorado State University, and a doctorate at Boston University. She has published numerous journal articles and presented widely at state and national conferences. Perkins is the founder and owner of TheraPERKS, an evidence-based self-awareness training application. Her research and scholarly pursuits examine self-awareness, therapeutic rapport, emotional intelligence, and the impact on patient health outcomes.

**SESSION 20 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 97 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24** *Withdrawn*



**Kelsey Sena Peterson, OTD, OTR/L, Neuro-IFRAH® Certified**, completed a master's degree and clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. As a doctoral resident at Keck Hospital of USC, she focused on the effect of mild neurocognitive dysfunction on patients' quality of life and improving meaningful participation for those diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Peterson currently serves as a clinical faculty member at Keck Hospital of USC, where she works primarily with patients experiencing neurological dysfunction across the continuum of care as well as with those diagnosed with COVID-19 in the acute care setting.

**SESSION 13 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Aaron Picus, OTD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor at West Coast University in Los Angeles. He has a strong interest on the applied process of organizational change for the everyday practitioner. Based on his own desire to understand how to create change without formal authority and gaps he witnessed in his own education, he created a novel continuing education curriculum that combined evidence within and outside the field of occupational therapy with the tacit knowledge of change agent practitioners. He continues to develop his scholarship related to the lived experience of invisible disability and is currently developing an anti-ableism training for everyday OT practitioners.

**SESSION 30 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS**, is the Program Director of the Professional Program in Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California (USC), and associate professor of clinical occupational therapy. She has been on the faculty since 2008 and is responsible for teaching the Adult Physical Rehabilitation Immersion course, as well as the Kinesiology course. Her primary practice area has been working with adults who have physical disabilities, as well as the older adult population in extended care facilities and skilled nursing facilities. She uses humor and compassion as therapeutic tools to connect with her clients and students alike. Samia considers herself a generalist practitioner with a passion for developing occupation-centered experiences and mentoring our future colleagues in the academic setting. She has served as a co-

adviser to the student occupational therapy association at USC for the last 11 years.

**SESSION 80 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Lindsey Reeves, OTD, OTR/L, CEAS**, works as an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. She completed a master's degree in occupational therapy and doctorate of occupational therapy at USC. Her clinical residency was completed at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she practiced Lifestyle Redesign®. As a clinical faculty member, Reeves works with clients in the chronic pain, chronic headache, college student and ergonomic programs, and is a member of the USC Chronic Pain and Chronic Headache Interdisciplinary Teams. She has presented on her occupational therapy work with chronic pain populations at multiple conferences, including the American Headache Society, USC Pain Symposium, AOTA Mental Health Specialty Conference, OTAC Oncology Symposium, and the International Headache Society Conference. She also facilitates monthly chronic pain and chronic headache support groups and is passionate about promoting occupational therapy's role in chronic pain management.

**SESSION 36 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



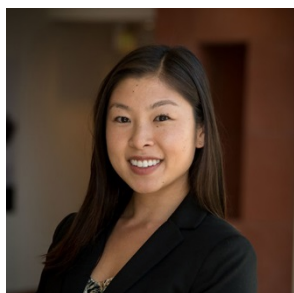
**Adriana Rusch, OTR/L, SCFES, NTMTC, IBCLC**, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 11 years. She has worked in pediatric inpatient and outpatient settings, as well as, NICU settings. She has her advanced practice in feeding and swallowing in California and has also earned a Specialty Certification in Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing from AOTA. In addition, Rusch has certification in Neonatal Touch and Massage and is also an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

**SESSION 91 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Kristin Rutledge, OTS**, is a second-year occupational therapy student at Stanbridge University in Irvine, CA. She completed her undergraduate degree in sociology and child development at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in preparation for a master's degree in occupational therapy. She enjoys working with children and has spent time volunteering and observing various different healthcare settings including acute rehabilitation, outpatient pediatrics, sensory integration specialists, and feeding specialists. She pursued occupational therapy to help individuals sustain independence and participate in occupations they find most meaningful to them to obtain the highest quality of life.

**SESSION 85 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Malia Sako, OTD, OTR/L**, completed a master's and clinical doctorate in occupational therapy at USC. As a clinical faculty member at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, Sako primarily works with clients living with neurological conditions, including chronic pain, chronic headache, post-concussion, and Parkinson's disease, and she serves on the USC interdisciplinary teams for pain management, headache conditions, and movement disorders. Sako is passionate about collaborating with clients to identify strategies to improve chronic

condition self-management so that clients can thrive physically, mentally, and socio-emotionally.

**SESSION 63 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Gayle San Marco, OTR/L, CDRS**, is an occupational therapy practitioner and CDRS with over 28 years of experience in driver rehabilitation. She also coordinates the Driver Preparation Program at Northridge Hospital Medical Center and provides private practice driver rehabilitation services through Independence Adaptive Driver Service. In addition, she has presented extensively on driving and medical conditions to occupational therapy practitioners, physicians, and fellow driver rehabilitation professionals. San Marco was able to work on a collaborative effort with the Occupational Therapy Association of California, San Diego State University's Center for Injury Prevention Policy and Practice, and The Department of Health on a special project entitled "The California Older Driver Initiative," the goal of which was to promote driver safety for our mature driving population.

**SESSION 92 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Emma Schiewe, MA, OTR/L**, graduated from USC with dual bachelor's degrees in human biology and art history and minor in occupational science, and from USC with a master's degree in occupational therapy. She is currently completing her clinical doctoral residency at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she works with clients in our weight management, mental health, ergonomics, college student, diabetes, oncology, and health coaching Lifestyle Redesign® programs. Schiewe works with clients to promote their engagement in their meaningful activities, roles, and routines while improving management of their chronic symptoms. She is passionate about the expansion of occupational therapy's role in supporting the holistic health and wellness of individuals with cancer diagnoses.

**SESSION 16 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA**, has over 40 years of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics (BCP) by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and has advanced practice in Swallowing (SWC) by the California Board of Occupational Therapy. She served as the chair of various AOTA committees and is a professor of occupational therapy at San Jose State University. She has received a regional Jefferson Award for her volunteer service to homeless families, selected as the Honored Lecturer for the California Occupational Therapy Foundation (CFOT) in 2012, awarded the prestigious Outstanding Professor of San Jose State University for 2013-2014, and received the CFOT Humanitarian Award for her pro bono work with homeless families in 2017. Schultz-Krohn is the co-editor of the 6th, 7th, 8th and upcoming 9th Edition of Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction textbook in addition to authoring well over 30 articles and chapters. Schultz-Krohn serves on several the editorial boards and is the chair of the OTAC 2021 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo.

**SESSION 45 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

**SESSION 53 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Erin Schwier, EdD, OTD, OTR/L**, is an associate professor and the academic program director for the Occupational Therapy Programs on the San Marcos campus for the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. She brings more than 15 years of experience working with children with disabilities and their families to her position. She previously worked as a pediatric therapist for multiple school districts and clinics in San Diego County. Schwier also currently works as an occupational therapy practitioner and educational consultant at Sierra School of San Diego, specializing in sensory integration, community integration and the influence and social skills. Schwier is a frequent presenter on topics related to occupational therapy education, pediatric, and mental health practice. She has published articles in professional journals including OT Practice and Disability Journal of Health. She has been a chapter contributor and editor for occupational therapy text books and co-authored *Breaking Bread and Nourishing Connections* (Brooks Publishing, 2005). Schwier's most recent research relates to occupational therapy education and the integration of service learning to support the development of student self-efficacy. She also serves as chair of the OTAC Awards Committee.

**SESSION 33 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Ellen Silverman, OTR/L**, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 1970 (Washington University, St. Louis). She has worked in a variety of settings, mental health (Johns Hopkins), inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation (Mass Rehab), home care (Philadelphia), and for the last 14 years has been doing clinical driving assessments in an outpatient setting. (Cedars Sinai Medical Center). Initially the program included a clinical driving assessment followed by a behind the wheel assessment. However, due to the hospital's liability concerns the protocol evolved to a clinical driving assessment referred out to a Clinical Driving Rehabilitation Specialist when indicated.

**SESSION 92 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**





**Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 40 years. She received a bachelor's degree and post-professional master's degree in occupational therapy from SJSU, and earned a PhD in health sciences from Touro University International. Smith is an associate professor and chair of the Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University where she also acts as a faculty advisor for student research projects. She is also the graduate admissions coordinator and advisor for the Occupational Therapy Program. Smith sits on multiple committees at the university, college, and departmental levels. Smith has written several chapters in well-respected occupational therapy textbooks. She has lectured locally, nationally, and internationally on various topics, but most extensively on occupational therapy's role in dysphagia intervention. She has been an active member of both AOTA and OTAC since the time she was a student, serving on many different committees and in various leadership roles. She is currently the OTAC Board of Directors' vice president. Clinical experience includes working with adults with neurological disorders in a variety of practice settings and with children 0-3 years old in early intervention home care.

**SESSION 45 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

**SESSION 53 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



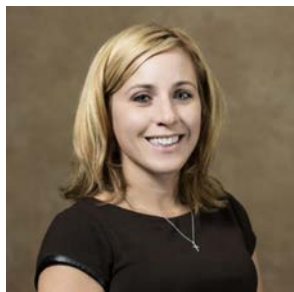
**Jennifer Hendrick Snyder, MHA**, a partner at Capitol Advocacy, brings over 25 years of policy development, community relations, and advocacy experience to the firm. She is considered one of California's top lobbyists in the health care arena and has been instrumental in negotiating key rate and policy changes in the Medi-Cal program. Her keen understanding of California's complex health care issues, and extensive background working for several health care organizations, has provided clients with great success in both the Legislature and Executive Branch. Snyder also works closely with clients to navigate the Department of Health Care Services and Department of Public Health. Her extensive experience working for a diverse group of health care organizations and associations has led her to become an industry expert on issues related to long-term care, social and health care services. Snyder has a degree in political science from California State University, Chico and a Masters in Health Administration from the University of San Francisco.

**SESSION 10 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Jaime Spencer, OTR/L**, has a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from Utica College and a master's degree in special education from Adelphi University. Spencer has been a Long Island school-based OT for 20 years and currently works in a public school setting with children ranging from Kindergarten to 12th grade. She is a passionate OT advocate leading the movement toward change for school occupational therapists seeking equal treatment for fair working conditions, caseloads, and status.

**SESSION 11 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Alyson D'Ambrosio Stover, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. She obtained her juris doctorate in law with a post-graduate certificate in health law from the University of Pittsburgh in 2011. Her areas of practice expertise include pediatrics, trauma-informed occupational therapy and holistic approaches to substance use disorder. Stover is AOTA Board Certified in Pediatrics. She owns a private outpatient pediatric practice and co-founded a non-profit organization that uses occupation to address community, societal, and population needs. Her work focuses on increasing access to care for underserved and underrepresented populations within her rural community. Stover's interests include using occupational therapy as a powerful driving-force for larger health care change, advancing occupational therapy's national and global relevance, and occupational therapy's role as a leader in policy development and implementation.

**SESSION 40 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**

**SESSION 68 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Morgan Sumner, OTS**, was inducted into Pi Theta Epsilon for academic excellence and she is a member of Stanbridge University's Student Occupational Therapy Association. She has 10 years of experience working with people in the service industry and looks forward to taking that experience into healthcare settings. She sees OTAC as a place to share the knowledge she gained while engaged with a rapid literature review. She hopes to make a difference in the quality of care occupational therapists provide for people living with dementia.

**SESSION 25 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Lisa Test, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, is the coordinating therapist for the OT and PT Program at Los Angeles Unified School District. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in ergonomics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and master's and Clinical Doctorate degrees in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science from USC. As a the coordinating therapist she provides clinical oversight for over 240 occupational therapists and physical therapists, which provide services to over 7,000 students. In addition the District has 21 District therapy rooms and provides OT using a sensory integration approach to over 370 students. She has over 25 years of experience in the schools and in addition received advance training at UCLA Tarjan Center in developmental disabilities and advanced training in sensory integration at the Ayres Clinic. She has coauthored the "Guidelines for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in the CA Public Schools." She has presented both nationally and internationally on application of sensory integration in the schools, clinical reasoning, and assessment and intervention of children with diverse needs. She serves on the OTAC Practice, Ethics, and Reimbursement Committee and co-chairs the School-Based Practice subcommittee.

**SESSION 54 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Justin Tran, MA, OTR/L**, is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a master's and doctorate degree in occupational therapy. His doctorate residency was completed at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he conducted a one-year quality improvement study exploring standardized cognitive assessments to examine the relationship between cognition, function, and readmissions to guide future intervention and research in acute oncology.

**SESSION 44 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Samantha Valasek, OTD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy for the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She currently practices at the USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, where she specializes in Lifestyle Redesign® and works with clients to improve their self-management of a variety of chronic conditions, including depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, addiction, obesity, diabetes, and chronic headaches. She is also involved in the expansion of OT's role in primary care settings. Valasek graduated from USC with a master's and doctorate of occupational therapy. She is on Technical Standards Committee for the Keck Medical School to ensure medical students meet graduation requirements and receive appropriate accommodations in classroom and clinical settings.

**SESSION 87 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**SESSION 105 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Sarah Walsh, MOT, OTR/L**, is the occupational therapy learning and simulation developer at Simucase. She is an occupational therapy practitioner with experience in adult rehabilitation and community mental health practice. Most recently, she was faculty and academic fieldwork coordinator in a Master of Occupational Therapy program. She has served as the president of the Gateway Occupational Therapy Education Council and has volunteered for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Walsh earned a master's degree in occupational therapy and a bachelor's degree in occupational science from Saint Louis University.

**SESSION 27 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Eileen Wang, MA, OTR/L, CSRS**, is currently the assistant program director and academic fieldwork coordinator for the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at Stanbridge University and has been with the program since its inception in 2013. Wang's academic career has been dedicated to fieldwork education and program development. She has been an occupational therapy practitioner providing rehabilitation services to adults with physical disabilities in acute rehab, community-based practice and skilled nursing facilities where she continues to expand on her clinical passions in neuro rehabilitation. Wang earned a BS in management science at the University of California, San Diego and received her MA in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. Wang is currently pursuing a post-professional OTD with the University of Utah.

**SESSION 41 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**





**Karin Warner, MOT OTR/L**, received a Masters in Occupational Therapy from Samuel Merritt University. She has 24 years of experience as a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner. During this full career, she has worked in a variety of settings that helped her develop into a well-rounded, insightful, and knowledgeable practitioner. She worked in the public and charter schools, at Children's Hospital, in early development, home health, and private practice. Warner has instructed seminars nationally for Cross Country Education on the subjects of handwriting, ocular motor skills, and sensory processing. She was invited to speak at OTAC's Spring Symposium and California's Regional Vision Therapists Forum. She was also published in Behavioral Aspects of Visual Care.

**SESSION 31 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Chelsea Welch, MSOP, CO**, enjoys building relationships for Naked Prosthetics with contacts in the Southwestern United States. A certified orthotist, she earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from San Diego State University and a master's in orthotics and prosthetics from Loma Linda University. Welch has a passion for education and patient care, making her a perfect addition to the Naked Prosthetics Educational Outreach team.

**SESSION 14 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Jamie Wilcox, OTD, OTR/L**, works as an occupational therapy practitioner and lead clinician at Keck Medical Center of USC. She specializes in pulmonary, organ transplant, and critical care rehabilitation. Her academic and clinical interests include occupational therapy interventions for patients living with acute and chronic lung diseases; post-intensive care syndrome; and early rehabilitation/mobilization for patients with severe critical illness. Since March 2020, Wilcox has been on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic caring for patients during and after hospitalization for acute COVID-19-related illness. In addition to her clinical duties, Wilcox teaches in the AOTA-sponsored OT Fellowship Program at Keck Hospital of USC and mentors OTD doctoral residents and fieldwork students. In 2019, she returned to the (virtual) classroom to pursue a Masters of Public Health degree at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

**SESSION 34 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Barbara Williams, MS, OTR/L**, currently serves as the associate director in the External and Regulatory Affairs Department for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®) where she has worked for over seven years. In this capacity, she is responsible for activities related to state regulation, international regulatory services, and community outreach. Previous to employment with NBCOT, Williams served as chair and program director for an Occupational Therapy Program.

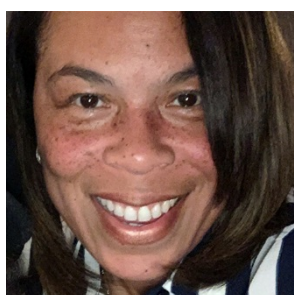
**SESSION 66 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**





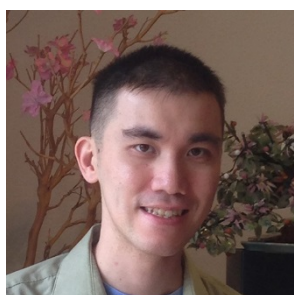
**Chuck Willmarth, CAE**, is vice president for health policy and state affairs at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). He has over 25 years of experience managing state legislative and regulatory issues including more than 20 years with AOTA. AOTA's State Affairs Group advances the Association's public policy goals and objectives at the state level. He works closely with state occupational therapy associations on a variety of state issues including state regulation of occupational therapy, scope of practice, and payment policy issues such as workers' compensation and Medicaid. Willmarth is leading AOTA's advocacy work on the implementation of health care reform at the state and federal levels with a focus on coverage for OT services by insurance plans on the small group and individual markets. Before health care reform, he led AOTA's advocacy efforts with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid as AOTA's director of reimbursement and regulatory policy for five years.

**SESSION 10 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Rhonda Windham, OTD, OTR/L**, currently works with at-risk, economically disadvantaged youth in a community-based mental health setting in Los Angeles County. Windham completed both her master's and doctorate degrees in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California. Windham is currently the occupational therapy doctoral coordinator at Special Service for Groups (SSG, a Mental Health Clinic in Torrance California) - Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP), USC. She is committed to promoting the benefits of occupational therapy and incorporating healthy habits, routines in daily living to enhance quality of life, and occupational therapy practice addressing DEI. She volunteers as a member of the OTAC Evidence-Based Research Subcommittee for the OTAC Ad Hoc DEI Committee.

**SESSION 51 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Bill Wong, OTD, OTR/L**, has been an occupational therapy practitioner since 2012. He has been practicing in skilled nursing facilities since 2014. Wong is also a faculty at Stanbridge University. He is also currently serving as a member of AOTA's Volunteer Leadership Development Committee and will serve as the coordinator for AOTA's Community of Leaders. His specialties in OT are in autism, leadership, social media, and TEDx.

**SESSION 15 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**



**Mariko Yamazaki-Sanchez, OTD, OTR/L**, is head of occupational therapy and interdisciplinary feeding programs at Professional Child Development Associates, which utilizes the DIRFloortime approach to support children and families. Yamazaki-Sanchez recently lived in Okinawa, Japan for 2.5 years, contracting with the US Naval Hospital's Educational and Developmental Intervention Services to provide assessment and treatment for children of active duty service members and civilians living overseas. She visits Ghana regularly as co-coordinator for USC's OT leadership externship program and guest lecturer at local universities. She has provided clinical assessment, treatment, and education in Ghana, Togo, Okinawa, and Vietnam. Yamazaki-Sanchez has a passion for exploring cultural dynamics, international work, and disability rights. She values the way occupational therapy promotes sustainable and

meaningful collaboration, learning through service to others, and reflection on the ways our unique culture and life experience shape the lens through which each of us view the world.

**SESSION 22 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

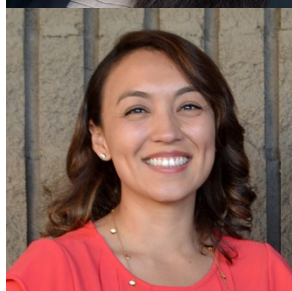
**SESSION 32 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 43 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Negin Zare, PT, DPT, MOT, OTR/L**

**SESSION 83 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**



**Elizabeth Zepeda, OTD, OTR/L**, serves as an occupational therapy practitioner at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), where she provides field-based occupational therapy services to children, adolescents, and young adults served within the Child and Transitional-Age Youth (TAY) Full-Service Partnership (FSP) Program. The UCEDD’s Child and TAY FSP program is an intensive, community-based mental health program dedicated to supporting children, adolescents, young adults, and families with high mental health and daily living support needs utilizing a “whatever it takes” approach to help them move toward recovery and wellness.

**SESSION 62 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Amy Zhao, OTD, OTR/L**, is a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner in Los Angeles, CA. She is passionate about occupational justice and pediatric mental health. Her doctoral capstone project was focused on using gardening through a virtual platform in order to support self-regulation for children with behavioral challenges. She currently works in early intervention.

**SESSION 51 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23**



**Baily Zubel, OTD, OTR/L**, is an occupational therapy practitioner and serves as the OT program director at Speech, Language and Educational Associates. She obtained both her master’s and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Zubel’s doctoral research focused on intentional communication and relationships within the pediatric setting, pediatric mental health, and scholarship of practice propelling theory, research, and practice. She is certified in Interactive Metronome, Early Identification through AOTA’s badge program and completed the Sensory Integration Continuing Education (CE) Certificate Program.

**SESSION 17 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**SESSION 21 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**Poster Presenters** (Alphabetical by last name)

Dominic Adanalian, BS  
Deena Alhusseini, OTS  
Patricia Arabaca, OTS  
Bianca Badham, BA  
Jacob Baquir, MHA, OTR/L, CBIS, CSRS, PAM  
Pamela Baracerros, OTS  
Grace Baranek, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Melanie Barillas, OTS  
Kirsten Bas, OTS  
Jennifer Bashar, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS  
Alexandra Baumgartner, OTS  
Leia Bautista-Pedlow, OTS  
Amy Belk, OTS  
Reichelle Bella, OTS  
Dezarina Bernales, OTS  
Carina Bernier, BA  
Jemma Bolaoen, OTS  
Bose Bustamante, OTS  
Ana Cabalquinto, OTS  
Sabrina Anne Cezar, OTS  
Charis Chan, OTS  
Megan C. Chang, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Cindy Cheung, BS  
Lisa Choromanski, OTD, OTR/L  
Dariana Chow, BS  
McKenzie Collins, OTS  
Esme Cortez, OTS  
Raina Curran, OTS  
Lynette DeFrancia, MA, OTR/L  
Eleni Dimopoulos, OTS  
Nora Dixon, MA, OTR/L  
Carmela Dizon, OTS  
Mia Do, OTS  
Dustin Douros, OTS  
Emilee Eckhart, OTS  
Ashley Ellsworth, OTS  
Christen Engel, OTS  
Malia Ertel, OTS  
Jeremy Firstenberg, OTS  
Sarah Fried, BA  
Molly Fuller, OTS  
Ina Gomez, MA, OTR/L, PAM  
Margaret Goodfellow, OTS  
Megan Griffith, OTS  
Anthony Guan, OTS  
Amber Guirola, COTA/L  
Sienna Guzman, OTS  
Sophia Hagen, OTS  
Eyouel Hailu, OTR/L  
Jessica Hanley, OTS

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Audra Huerta, OTD, OTR/L  
Lana Rae Ignacio, OTS  
Cindy Jaeger, OTR  
Tracy Jalaba, OTD, OTR/L  
Christian Jiao, OTS  
Maureen (Mo) Johnson, PhD, MS, OT/L, BCPR, C/NDT  
Nicole Johnson, BA  
Ashley Jones, OTS  
Emily Jones, OTS  
Lynn Kaneshiro, MS, OTR/L  
Andrew Kesselring, OTR/L  
Jennifer Kim, OTS  
Nicole Lai, OTS  
Suzanne Lai, OTD, OTR/L  
Jenna Lazo, OTS  
Ada Le, OTS  
Alice Lee, OTS  
Ingrid Leu, OTD, OTR/L  
Jihyun Lim, OTS  
Jonathan Loo, CTRS, RTC  
Ashley Lorton, OTS  
Sivan Louria, OTS  
Josh Manio, OTS  
Shanna Massachi, OTS  
Cassidy McCurdy, OTS  
Julia McMahon, OTS  
Natasha Menard, OTD  
Abigail Meshke, OTR/L, OTD, PAM, CSRS  
Zachary Michaels, OTS  
Yuko Mori, OTR/L  
Justin Navarro, OTS  
Christine Nguyen, COTA/L  
Jenny Nguyen, OTS  
Juliet O'Brien, OTS  
Cynthia Orocio-Ruiz, OTS  
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Sonia Patino, OTS  
Mary Grace Perez, OTS  
Elizabeth Phelps, MA  
Robert Piacentini, OTS  
Lauren Rally, OTS  
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Melanie Ramirez, OTS  
Rachel Reyes, OTS  
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Mai Santiago, OTS  
Sarah Schirle, OTS  
Alana Schoenhals, OTS  
Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA  
Gabriella Sehwan, OTS  
Lisa Semro, MA, OTR/L  
Vikas Sharma, OTD, OTR/L  
Sarah Siddiqui, OTS  
Elizabeth Sims, BA  
Alana Skellen, OTS  
Alix Sleight, PhD, OTD, MPH, OTR/L  
Gigi Smith, PhD, OTR/L  
Elaheh Sobhani, OTD, OTR/L, HTC, PAMS  
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Lucy Thach, OTS  
Rachel Thompson, OTS  
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Nina Wakayama, MA, OTR/L  
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Debbie Wang, MA, OTR/L, PAM  
Mele Weaver, OTS  
Edna Dulce Weller, COTA/L  
Lisa Worsham, OTS  
Julia Zasso, OTS