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Friday Posters
4:30pm – 5:30pm | Room 161 A/B

P01 - Interdisciplinary Dementia Education for Healthcare Students

Presenter(s): Elizabeth Wanka, DrOT, OTR/L; Madison Sullivan, OTS; Marisa Iannotta, OTS; Chloe Hauptfear, OTS

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: When working with dementia clients, a good understanding of the healthcare team and the roles they play within the care is vital. Developing plans that include an interdisciplinary understanding of what the healthcare profession does can have a far better outcome than each discipline working in a silo. Therefore, this evidence-based research study aims to educate those interested in healthcare, specifically those interested in working with dementia clients.

P02 - Exploring Study Strategies for Success on the NBCOT Exam

Presenter(s): Erin Simpson, DrOT, MOT, OTR/L; Jenny Dolas, OTS; Amanda Johnson, OTS; Courtne Tolar, OTS

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; General

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: Occupational therapy graduate students have many factors, internal and external, that affect the preparation process that determines one's success on the NBCOT exam. This poster presentation will share the results of a research study of one Universities MOT students exploring what strategies students use to be successful on the NBCOT exam.

P03 - Addressing Work Participation for Employees with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Hospitality

Presenter(s): Paula Costello, OTD, OTR/L; Kate Moran, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Developmental Disabilities

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This presentation aims to explore the vital role of occupational therapy in fostering inclusive work environments in the hospitality industry for individuals with IDD, as employment opportunities in this sector grow. Discover how addressing environmental factors enhances job performance and engagement through real-world examples, and learn the need for collaboration between OT professionals and the hospitality sector for greater inclusivity and support.

P04 - Empowering Pathways: Self-determination and Community Participation in College Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Presenter(s): Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L; Claudia Mallin; Olivia Neils; Aynsley Parker; Jessica Smith; Sara Weiss

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: We examine 1) the impact of self-determination on post-secondary education success and 2) strategies to promote self-determination, social participation, and community participation for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

P05 - Self-determination within Health Management: Perspectives of Adults with Down Syndrome and their Caregivers

Presenter(s): Kayla Millan, OTD; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This session explores self-determination in health management from the perspective of adults with Down syndrome (DS) and their caregivers, including consideration of health management as a co-occupation between the adults with DS and their parents.

P06 - Perspectives on Chronic Disease and Social Media: A New Era of Self-Management

Presenter(s): Francesca Persiani, OTS; Madeline Davis, OTS; Kelly Hyde, OTS; Samantha Gould, OTS; Arianna Galetta, OTS; Eron Bozec, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS, CDI, DRS

Content Areas: General; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: Individuals managing chronic illnesses have the opportunity to utilize social media as a resource to learn about their health conditions and self-management strategies. This participatory action research study investigated the experiences of individuals using social media to support the self-management of their condition.

P07 - Workplace Accommodations and Advocacy in United States and Internationally for Individuals with Autism to Support an Inclusive Work Environment

Presenter(s): Courtney Merriss Prange, MOT, OTR/L, CTP, CEAS; Hannah Naccarato, OTAS; V. Renee Faustrum, OTAS

Contributing Author(s): Kaitlyn Pepper, OTAS; Ilya Sobolevskiy, OTAS

Content Areas: Home & Community Health; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This poster presentation is comparing accommodations in the workplace nationally and internationally for individuals with autism for an inclusive work environment. The presentation will also focus on ways for an occupational therapy practitioner to advocate, educate, consult and be the seeker of solutions for individuals, groups, and populations with autism in the workplace.

P08 - Effective Interventions for Women Transitioning Out of Prison: A Systematic Review

Presenter(s): Bailey Prado, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Kaylee Doyle, OTS; Emma Schnell, OTS

Content Areas: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: Current literature on reducing recidivism strongly pertains to interventions studied in men leaving the interests of incarcerated women underrepresented. Occupational therapy plays a unique role in education and training in meaningful occupations that would give a distinct perspective to women transitioning out of incarceration and back into the community.

P09 - Examining Occupational Therapy Interventions for LGBTQ+ Youth: A Scoping Review

Presenter(s): Iris Nosek, BA, OTS; Ricardo Ramirez, OTD, OTR/L; Annalise Valente, BS, OTS; Alexandria Guiritan, BS, OTS; Franny Fotopoulos, BS, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Taylor Newmark, OTD

Content Areas: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Pediatrics - includes: Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: Despite there being multiple health disparities affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth, limited scholarship exists regarding occupational therapy practice for this population. This presentation will synthesize existing literature on interventions for LGBTQ+ youth within the scope of occupational therapy.

P10 - Occupational Therapists Perceptions of Task Oriented Training Program: Participation in Meaningful Occupations for Post-CVA Minority Adults

Presenter(s): Maricruz Robles, OTS; Samantha Newtoff, OTS; Bradley Foster, OTS; Eron Bozec, OTD, OTR/L, CSRS, CDI, DRS

Contributing Author(s): Adriana Alvarez, OTS; Madelyn Tepe, OTS

Content Areas: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: This study explores occupational therapists' (OT) perspectives on implementing task-oriented training (TOT) for minority adults with upper extremity deficits post-stroke, highlighting the empowerment, independence, and cultural relevance of TOT in improving motor abilities and participation in meaningful activities. The findings emphasize the need for culturally relevant interventions, demonstrating TOT's effectiveness in promoting recovery and occupational justice for minority populations.

P11 - Improving Graduate Student Well-Being Through Meaningful Occupation

Presenter(s): Erin Epley, OTD, OTR/L; Glory Ameen, MOT Student; Andrea Wiltz, MOT student

Contributing Author(s): Elena Wong Espiritu, PhD

Content Areas: Mental Health; Academic Education / Fieldwork

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: This quantitative study was designed to improve health science graduate student wellness, self-compassion, and occupational balance through delivery of a 6-week online occupation-based wellness intervention (Well-Being through Occupation Participation or WBOP). Intervention activities were rooted in arts and crafts, aligning with the historical foundation of Occupational Therapy (OT) and designed to improve participants' overall quality of life.

P12 - Empowering Chicago's Unhoused: Strategies for Advocacy and Support using an Asset Based Approach

Presenter(s): Jasmine Baron, OTS; Maddie Ofner, OTS; Emma Cain, OTS; Rachel Burke, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Molly Bathje, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA; Hilary Napier, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Mental Health; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: Students applied the Asset Based Community Development model to find resources to support occupational engagement in people who are unhoused or housing insecure

in Chicago, IL. The process revealed resources including shelters, food assistance, access to bathrooms and shower facilities, and advice from people with lived experience. Community members now have access to the resources using a QR code. Discover how this initiative aims to provide an asset-based approach for unhoused individuals.

P13 - Addressing Spirituality Through Gardening: Experiences of Gardeners on the Southside of Chicago

Presenter(s): Stephanie Zuba-Bates, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Kaitlyn Sebastian, MOTS; Amanda Merin, MOTS; Crawley Shanel, MOTS; Mariah Sheperd-Hubbard, MOTS

Contributing Author(s): Krystina Melton, MOT; Jimmy Mendelsohn, MOT; Emily Quirarte-Landa, MOT; Darius Smith, MOTS; Justine Tenebro, MOT

Content Areas: Mental Health; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: This session will explore the occupation of gardening and how it connects people with their history, culture and spirituality. It will include thematic analysis from a qualitative research study on the lived experiences of gardeners living on the Southside of Chicago. It aims to help occupational therapy practitioners better understand the occupation of gardening and how it can be used to increase participation in meaningful occupation to address spirituality in practice.

P14 - Impact of Environment on Medically Complex Children Residing in a Transitional Care Unit: A Quality Improvement Study

Presenter(s): Paula Costello, OTD, OTR/L; Marissa Matimore, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Pediatrics - includes Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration; Pediatrics - includes: Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This session will share the results of a quality improvement project using the Residential Environmental Impact Scale (REIS) in a novel environment, a pediatric transitional care unit (TCU), to understand the impact the environment has on the pediatric residents and recommendations to the organization for improvements. Participants will be able to reflect and apply the elements of the REIS to other residential pediatric care settings.

P15 - Understanding Life After Brain Injury: A Guide for Patient Education

Presenter(s): Kimberly McLaughlin, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Piper Hansen, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR; Eileen Brodecki, MOT, OTR/L; Emily Harstad, OTR/L, BCPR

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation will review the expansive gap that exists between the educational needs of individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the available educational opportunities. Given the lack of evidence, this exploratory project determined priority educational topics to include and considerations for participation. This poster will outline initial outcomes for this pilot TBI educational program from the occupational therapy clinician and patient perspective.

P16 - Paired Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Chronic Stroke: Preliminary Findings of Real-world Feasibility in the Home Environment

Presenter(s): Sarah Zera, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Ruchi Patel, MA, OTR/L; Cecilia Prudente, PhD, PT; Annie Diedrich, PT, DPT, OCS, NCS; Katie Antares, DPT; Navzer Engineer, PhD, MD; Brent Tarver, BSEE

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: Vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) paired with upper extremity (UE) rehabilitation with the Vivistim Paired VNS was FDA approved for chronic ischemic stroke in 2021. Shown to be effective in the clinic in previous studies, this therapy may not be accessible to many patients due to factors such as time, mobility, or geographic constraints. Results of an ongoing exclusively home-based Paired VNS intervention study show feasibility and promise for neurorehabilitation.

Saturday Posters

2:15pm – 3:15pm | Room 161 A/B

P17 - Occupational Therapy Students' Perceptions of Managing Stress on Fieldwork through Occupational Engagement

Presenter(s): Rebecca Kvasnicka, DrOT, MOT, OTR/L; Julyssa Cabrales, OTS; Maiya McArthur, OTS; Rolanda Sturdivant, OTS

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Mental Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: This study explored the perceived effectiveness of occupations chosen by graduate level OT students in maintaining their well-being during level II fieldwork and to increase knowledge about university resources to support students prior to and during level II fieldwork. Findings from the study revealed that students utilized occupations that were somewhat effective in managing stress during level II fieldwork. Students also did not utilize their university/academic program resources.

P18 - Home Buddies: Eat, Sleep, Party, Repeat! Residential Program Pilot for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Presenter(s): Brett Niederer, OTD; Evguenia Popova, PhD, MS, OTR/L

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This session examines the feasibility of an occupation-based program to support occupational participation and engagement in meal preparation, rest/sleep, and self-care of adults with developmental disabilities who live in residential settings.

P19 - Lived Experiences of People with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Across the Lifespan

Presenter(s): Melissa Wen, BS, OTS; Leslie Everhart, BA, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Isabella Rosas, BS, OTS; Jenny Pham, BAS, OTS; Edward Vaquedano, BS, OTS; Susan Magasi, PhD, FACRM; Nancy Vong, OTR/L

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: Few studies exist that focus on the voices and lived experiences of persons with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The impact of ADHD greatly varies and can manifest a variety of symptoms, behaviors, and outcomes. Occupational therapy practitioners need to be able to clearly explain to caregivers what ADHD is and its effects on clients' lives to provide effective recommendations. This project details a systematic review of self-reported experiences of persons with ADHD across their lifespan.

P20 - Exploring the Role of Occupational Therapy in the Delivery of Trauma-Informed Services to Hospital-Based Clients

Presenter(s): Frank Czuba, DrOT, OTR/L; Kaycee Sain, MOT, OTR/L; Bridget Burke, OTS; Morgan Carr, OTS; Daria Lending, OTS

Content Areas: General; Mental Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: Hospitalization can traumatize OT clients and impact overall health outcomes, occupational performance and lead to increased hospital readmission. This poster presentation will share the results of a research study of hospital-based occupational therapists exploring their level of understanding and perceived importance of trauma-informed principles and the benefits of incorporating screening questions and strategies to support best-practice OT services in hospital-based settings.

P21 - Exploring the Necessity for a Community-Based Driver Rehabilitation Program within the Chicago Southland Area: The Physician's Perspective

Presenter(s): Luther King, DrOT, OTR/L, CDRS; Jessica Jones, OTS; Abdul Murrar, OTS; Destiny Pointer, OTS

Content Areas: General; Home and Community Health

Target Audience: All levels

Course Description: The purpose of the study was to assess physicians' knowledge and understanding of driver rehabilitation programs and their perceived benefits. The study aims to identify potential barriers and facilitators to physician referrals for driver rehabilitation services for medically at-risk drivers.

P22 - Returning home health (ReHH): Exploratory pilot project on providing housing support through occupational therapy

Presenter(s): Hayley Greiner, OTD

Contributing Author(s): Laura VanPuymbrouk, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Content Areas: Home & Community Health; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: ReHH's purpose was to explore the feasibility of providing home health occupational therapy services to individuals who are transitioning out of homelessness. There is an abrupt occupational change that occurs in the transition to developing a housed identity. Ultimately, ReHH served as a catalyst for further discussion on the need for expansion of home health services, occupational therapy's role in this emerging area of practice, and advocacy regarding access to home health services.

P23 - Habit Training and Routine Formation Occupational Therapy Interventions Following Vaginoplasty

Presenter(s): Claire Kaczanowski, OTS; Madeline Koncilja, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Adam Steuer, DHSc, OTR, CLT

Content Areas: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; General

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: Vaginoplasty is an increasingly common surgery in the United States. OTPs are uniquely equipped to provide interventions related to habit training which can help these patients develop and maintain routines in accordance with their postoperative dilation schedule to achieve the best postoperative recovery outcomes and promote holistic wellbeing for the transgender and gender non-conforming population.

P24 - Aspects of Pelvic Floor Therapy Influencing Quality of Life for Individuals Who Have Experienced Pelvic Floor Dysfunction

Presenter(s): Jenna Beardsley, OTS; Hannah Tegtmeyer, OTS; Sara Kulton, OTS; Bethany Keith, OTS; Kayla McLain, OTS; Kayla Quinlan, OTS; Allison Richardson, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: This qualitative study explores the perspectives of individuals with pelvic floor dysfunction (PFD) and the influence of pelvic floor therapy on their quality of life. Utilizing photovoice methodology, participants shared photos representing their answers to the research question during semi-structured interviews. Themes that emerged suggest that pelvic floor therapy enhances life satisfaction, promotes occupational justice, and improves the quality of life for individuals experiencing PFD.

P25 - OT Perspectives of Spirituality for Clients Who Have Experienced Trauma

Presenter(s): Allison Richardson, OTR/L OTD; Angela Flisk, OTS; Alissa Millar, OTS; Kamryn Hensley, OTS; Cassandra Miller, OTS; Migle Skindaraite, OTS

Content Areas: Mental Health; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: This qualitative study utilized photovoice methodology to understand the perspectives of occupational therapists implementing spiritual interventions with clients who have experienced trauma and the impact on occupational participation. Themes created through thematic analysis reveal internal and external aspects of spirituality interventions and how they facilitate occupational participation for clients who have experienced trauma.

P26 - Building a Community of Wellness: Feasibility and Benefits of a Mindfulness Program for Staff at an Urban Zoo

Presenter(s): Olivia Lachowicz, OTD; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Mental Health; General

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: Burnout is prevalent in healthcare, education, and animal care. Occupational therapy practitioners can use mindfulness to address burnout. We present findings from an occupation- and mindfulness-based wellness program for staff at an urban zoo.

P27 - Ready, Set, Go! Using anticipatory play to facilitate the development of executive function and joint attention in early childhood

Presenter(s): Yu Zhao, OTR/L; Beckett Shea-Shumsky, OTR/L

Content Areas: Pediatrics - includes Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration; Developmental Disabilities

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: In this presentation, the authors review evidence supporting the use of anticipatory play' simple play activities intended to create a sense of anticipation to aid the early development of executive function and joint attention skills in young children across various pediatric settings. Additionally, they provide practical examples of incorporating anticipatory play into treatment sessions and everyday family play routines, enhancing its generalizability across different environments.

P28 - A New Sensory Integration Assessment: Evaluation in Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI)

Presenter(s): Erin Sweeney, OTS; Lauren Stone Kelly, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Pediatrics - includes Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration; General

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This poster presentation summarizes findings from multiple studies on a new sensory integration assessment, the Evaluation in Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI). The presentation aims to educate practitioners on how the assessment can be used in practice. The presentation will identify psychometric properties of the vestibular and proprioceptive tests, the tactile perception tests, and the praxis tests in the EASI.

P29 - Whole Body Vibration and Exercise for Contractures and Bone Health in Individuals with Cerebral Palsy

Presenter(s): Jocelyn Tam, BS, OTS; Andreea Guler, BS, OTS; Madz Linatoc, BS, OTS; Rachel Paul, BA, OTS; Malynn Tu, BA, OTS; Jocelyn Tam, BS, OTS

Contributing Author(s): Susan Magasi, PhD, FACRM; Laura Rampey, OTR/L, EdM

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Student

Course Description: Join us in discussing evidence-based interventions in occupational therapy for individuals with cerebral palsy (CP) at risk for low bone density and joint contractures. We'll explore prevalence, evaluate interventions like whole-body vibration therapy and exercises, and discuss implications for future research. This presentation enhances understanding and approach to managing CP-related musculoskeletal challenges.

P30 - New & Current Non-invasive Occupational Therapy Interventions in Post Stroke Rehabilitation

Presenter(s): Cynthia Carr, DrOT, MS, OTR/L; Genevieve Marion, MOTS; Jaclyn Robbins, MOTS; Gema Solis, MOTS

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: Occupational therapy practitioners utilize neurorehabilitation intervention approaches and techniques to treat the varying sequelae patients are left with following a stroke to regain prior occupations. This research poster explores a study conducted to inquire from

OTPs what current and new interventions are being utilized by occupational therapists in the United States to treat the impacts of stroke. The barriers and enhancers that exists for evidence-based practice in stroke recovery is also explored.

P31 - Use of Prism Lens for Functional Mobility Across the Life Span

Presenter(s): Sarah Backer, OTS; Lauren Stone Kelly, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Specialties - including: Administration & Management, Assistive Technology, Other

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: Use of prism lenses in OT vision related therapy is a unique area of practice. This poster will describe the role of vision and its impact on body awareness and safe navigation within individuals' environments and consider occupational therapy practitioners' role in improving functional mobility through the intervention of prism lenses.

P32 - Supporting Aging In Place for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

Presenter(s): Lindsey Heiss, OTS

Content Areas: Productive Aging; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This poster presentation encompasses the results of a literature review aimed at answering the question: "How can OTs support adults with IDD in maintaining their functional independence while aging in place?" Occupational therapy practitioners have an important role in helping this population age in place through environmental modifications, family planning and advocacy and promoting engagement in occupations.