

T O T A 2 0 2 5 A N N U A L C O N F E R E N C E

# Shaping the Future of OT

REGISTRATION  
IS LIVE >



November 14 - 15, 2025  
San Marcos, Texas

## Conference Guide

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## Important Deadlines

- OCTOBER 22** Last day to book hotel reservation
- OCTOBER 26** Early Bird Registration ends
- NOVEMBER 1** Handouts and videos *due by 5:00pm*
- NOVEMBER 9** Regular Registration Ends

**NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION**

## The Value of Attending the TOTA Annual Conference: What's In It for You?

- ✓ **You'll join the largest and most dynamic gathering of occupational therapy professionals and students in Texas!**  
Be part of a statewide movement shaping the future of OT.
- ✓ **Reconnect, collaborate, and build your network.**  
Catch up with old friends and make valuable new professional connections.
- ✓ **Level up your skills with cutting-edge education.**  
Gain practical tools, fresh insights, and evidence-based strategies you can use right away.
- ✓ **Stay ahead of the curve.**  
Discover the latest trends, innovations, and techniques transforming the OT field.
- ✓ **Yes, we actually have fun!**  
Enjoy energizing activities, social events, and an atmosphere that celebrates our profession.
- ✓ **Explore a vibrant exhibitor hall.**  
Get hands-on with new products, resources, and services that support your work.
- ✓ **Advance your career.**  
Connect with potential employers and discover exciting new job opportunities.
- ✓ **And of course... grab your must-have OT swag — including the latest OT T-shirt!**  
Because no conference is complete without it.

Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) is the state's professional association of Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, students of Occupational Therapy and retired Occupational Therapy Practitioners. The primary mission of TOTA is to be responsive to the professional development, information needs, and educational requirements of its members; to advance and improve the practice of occupational therapy for the benefit of the consumers; and to anticipate and respond to the organizational, political, economic and social features of the health care delivery system at the local, state and national levels.



# Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors & Exhibitors

## PLATINUM



ST. CATHERINE  
UNIVERSITY



## SILVER



UNIVERSITY of  
ST. AUGUSTINE for  
HEALTH SCIENCES



## TEXAS STAR



HARRISHEALTH



## EXHIBITORS

Active Development Therapies, LLC  
Amenity Health Services  
Baylor Scott & White Institute for Rehabilitation  
Centre for Neuro Skills  
Circle of Care  
Cross Healthcare Management  
Kyle Cubes  
H&T Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, LLC  
Kids Developmental Therapy & Clinic  
MGA Homecare  
Milestone Therapy Services  
NBCOT

Point Quest Group  
Premier Pediatric Therapy  
ProCare Innovations  
Real OT SOLUTIONS  
Sonrisas Therapies  
Strive Health Services  
Texas Health and Human Services  
Texas Occupational Therapy Foundation (TOTF)  
The Stepping Stones Group  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Texas Tech Health Science Center Health Professions  
Viva Pediatric Healthcare

*List current at time of publishing.*

# Exhibitor Floor Plan



**PLATINUM**  
200, 300, 400,  
500, 600, 700

**SILVER**  
401, 402, 403, 501, 502,  
503, 504, 505, 506, 507

**TEXAS STAR**  
201, 202, 203, 204, 205,  
206, 207, 301, 302, 303

**REGISTRATION IS NOW LIVE - REGISTER TODAY!**

## 2025 TOTA Conference Committee

TOTA extends a special **THANK YOU** to all our Conference Committee members who have helped make the 2025 TOTA Conference possible.

With their help and dedication TOTA is able to offer:

**72** live educational sessions

**100+** speakers

**49** live poster sessions

**PLUS** up to 18 hours of on-demand CE contact hours, educational sessions and posters

***THANK YOU to all the conference reviewers. We appreciate you!***  
***We are happy you are joining us at the 2025 TOTA Annual Conference!***

**Judith Joseph**

**Evelyn Harness**

**Kami Lusson**

**Eileen Garza**

**Megan Taylor**

**Paula Cook**

**Theresa Powers**

**Sarah Stevens**

**TOTA Executive Director / Overall Organizer**

**TOTA Conference Committee Chair**

**Exhibit Hall - TOTA Vendor Services Coordinator**

**Whova Conference App Organizer**

**TOTA State Education Committee Chair**

**TOTA Continuing Education Coordinator**

**Check-In and volunteers**

**TOTA Vendor Services Coordinator in training**



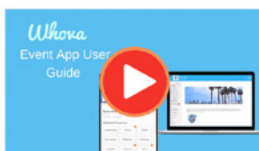
# WHOVA

## User Guide

<https://whova.com/pages/whova-app-user-guide/?source=ems>

Page URL: <https://whova.com/pages/whova-app-user-guide/>

[Copy URL](#)



▶ [Watch the guide video](#) 6 minutes

🔊 Or watch it muted with captions

## Maximize Your Conference Experience

Pre-Recorded sessions  
will be available  
on demand through  
February 14, 2026  
on the whova app.

**THE APP WILL BE PUBLISHED OCT. 31, 2025**

## SIGN IN TO WHOVA

Participating a Session?

- View the agenda and plan your schedule
- Access live stream and the session videos
- Use session Q&A

## USING WHOVA TO NETWORK

- See who is attending the event
- Join discussion on community board
- Start or join a virtual meetup



# Shaping the Future of OT

November 14 - 15, 2025  
San Marcos, Texas



## Conference Schedule Highlights

### Thursday, November 13

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Check-In booth open

### Friday, November 14

7:00 am – 6:00 pm Check-In  
8:00 am – 9:00 am **100-Keynote Address**  
9:15 am – 10:15 am **Poster Sessions I & II**  
9:15 am – 12:30 pm **Educational Sessions**  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open  
10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Poster Sessions III & IV**  
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch in the Exhibit Hall  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **122-1 Research Forum**  
2:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Educational Sessions**  
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm **124-TOTA Advocacy Efforts and Updates**  
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm Awards & Recognition Ceremony  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Student Knowledge Challenge Bowl

### Saturday, November 15

7:00 am – 11:00 am Check-In  
8:00 am – 9:00 am **200-OTA Forum**  
8:00 am – 12:30 pm **Educational Sessions**  
9:15 am – 10:15 am **212-NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm Exhibit Hall Hours  
10:30 am – 11:30 am **217 -Shaping your future: Finding purpose as a Student, Clinician, Leader, & Beyond**  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Student Networking  
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch in the Exhibit Hall  
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm **OT Program Chairs' Meeting TX Chapter NBOTC Meeting**  
2:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Educational Sessions**

On-Demand Posters and Educational Sessions are available from November 14, 2025, to February 13, 2026.  
Note: For the complete program, conference, and session information, please download the conference App (Whova).

# TOTA 2025 Annual Conference Registration

We are continuing with a “cost-based” conference fee. Cost-based pricing means we will review the overall cost of producing or hosting the conference, which includes marketing, printing, food & beverage, technology needs, professional fees, exhibit hall set/up, and many other necessary expenses to host a conference. Essentially, there will be a price for members and a higher price for non-members.

**Students and practitioners will pay the same price.**

Discounts will be available for volunteers, board members, committee members, and presenters, including our students. Early bird registration will remain in place.

This year, we received a record number of excellent submissions for the TOTA conference. To accommodate the increased number of sessions, the conference schedule will run from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM on both days. Please consider this when [booking your hotel](#) accommodations.

- **Registration fees will be increased by \$50 from October 27th – November 9, 2025**
- **Open registration invoices must be paid in full by November 7, 2025, or risk cancellation.**
- **There will be NO onsite registration.**
- **Current Members in Renewal and Former Members - If your membership is currently in renewal or lapsed, renewal is required to receive member pricing.**
- **If you require the use of a power mobility device such as a scooter, email [kami@tota.org](mailto:kami@tota.org)**
- **Secure your hotel reservation today!**

## Save Money by Volunteering

Are you a TOTA Member Volunteer, Session Presenter, or Board Member? (This does not include working at a SOTA or Student Org table). Volunteers include all TOTA committee members, district student reps, TOTA PAC board, and conference volunteers.

There are a limited number of volunteer opportunities; sign up before registering. Volunteer form link - [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

## TOTA 2025 Annual Conference Group Discount Rates

Group discounts will be available for the TOTA 2025 annual conference during early bird registration (September 5th – October 26th) for full conference registration only.

The group discount rate is \$230 per TOTA member registrant and \$339/non-members. The minimum group will be 5 and registration must be for the full conference. Groups must have a dedicated group administration, the administrator’s name and email address will be required and entered on the registration form.

**Group registration is only available during early bird from September 5th - October 26th. - [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)**

## Attending from Another State?

Are you planning to attend the 2025 TOTA Annual Conference from out of state? We want to encourage membership in state OT associations. Out of state attendees can email [info@tota.org](mailto:info@tota.org) with proof of membership to their own state’s OT association and get member pricing for this year’s TOTA conference!

## Friend Of Occupational Therapy (F.O.O.T.) - Guest Pass - Deadline Oct 26, 2025

This guest pass is for spouses, significant others, and other non-OT professionals/students who want to attend the keynote address and/or the awards ceremony and one additional session provided space is available.

### Early Bird Registration - September 5 - October 26, 2025

| Registration Type | Member Price | TOTA Member Volunteers, Session Presenters & Board Members | Non-Member |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Full Conference   | \$250        | \$225 (\$334 non-member)                                   | \$359      |
| Friday Only       | \$140        | discount only applies to full conf.                        | \$249      |
| Saturday Only     | \$140        | discount only applies to full conf.                        | \$249      |

### Regular Registration – October 27 - November 9, 2025

| Registration Type | Member Price | TOTA Member Volunteers, Session Presenters & Board Members | Non-Member |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Full Conference   | \$300        | \$275 (\$384 non-member)                                   | \$409      |
| Friday Only       | \$190        | discount only applies to full conf.                        | \$299      |
| Saturday Only     | \$190        | discount only applies to full conf.                        | \$299      |

**[Secure your hotel reservation today!](#) Reservations must be secured by October 22.**

\*\*\*Conference Cancellations must be received in writing to [membership@tota.org](mailto:membership@tota.org) by October 24, 2025. Cancellations received before the deadline are eligible to receive a full refund of registration fee, less a 10% administrative fee. Cancellations received after the stated deadline will not be eligible for a refund. Refunds will not be available for registrants who are “no-shows.”

# Conference Info

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**Hotel Reservations must be made by Wednesday, October 22, 2025, to secure this block rate.**

**Rate of \$179 per night for single or double occupancy**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos  
Hotel Conference Center**  
1001 E. McCarty Lane  
San Marcos, Texas, 78666

Hotel Reservation Link: <http://bit.ly/3JLN2p9>

**Group Name:** Tx Occupational Therapy Assoc  
**Booking Dates:** To adjust your stay, click edit & update

Conference sessions end at 5:30 pm on Saturday; please consider this when booking your hotel.

### **PARKING:**

\$5 per day for overnight guests.  
\$12 per day for non-hotel guests

### **GENERAL HOTEL INFORMATION**

The hotel suites are located right off Interstate 35, halfway between San Antonio and Austin. Tanger Outlets, San Marcos Outlets, and Texas State University are all within a 10-minute drive. Unwind with a swim in our heated outdoor pool or work out in the fitness center featuring a Peloton® Bike with toe cages. Enjoy free breakfast and a complimentary evening reception.

## DRESS

Business Casual is recommended for all sessions and receptions. Please bring a sweater or jacket as the temperature in the meeting rooms may be cool.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTACT HOURS

The TOTA education sessions and poster presentations are approved for TBOTE contact hours. There are up to 72 educational sessions and 50 poster sessions available to those attending the 2-day conference in person.

Additional CE hours are available on demand. Credit hours will only be awarded to those on-demand educational and poster sessions viewed in their entirety; TOTA does not offer partial credit. Complete info about claiming credits will be provided in the conference App.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

We want to provide the best learning experience for everyone. Should you require any accommodation to fully participate in this conference, please email [kami@tota.com](mailto:kami@tota.com)

## CONFIRMATIONS/REFUNDS

Registration confirmation and payment receipts are emailed to the attendee. All cancellations for courses, workshops, and conferences must be made in writing to the TOTA Executive Office before October 22, 2025; a 10% handling fee will be charged. Refunds will not be issued after October 22, 2025, or for "no-shows." Substitutions are accepted with a written notice provided that the replacement meets the same registration fee criteria. If an additional fee structure applies to the substitute registrant, all additional fees must be paid at the time the substitution is made. Partial refunds will not be granted. Payments for lunch are not refundable. TOTA reserves the right to cancel seminars due to unforeseen/unavoidable circumstances at any time.

TOTA is not responsible for nonrefundable airline and hotel reservations that a participant incurred due to cancellation. All complaints relative to the content, instructor, facilities, and registration procedures are to be directed to the TOTA executive office: 2323 Clear Lake City Blvd. Suite 180-197. Houston. Texas. 77062

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# 2025 Special Events

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER  
15

## TOTA Annual Business Meeting

**6:30 – 8:00 PM CST**  
The TOTA 2025 Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually (time subject to change) and is open and free to Members and Non-Members

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



FRIDAY  
November  
14

## Exhibit Hall Schedule

Friday 11/14 - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm (unopposed lunch 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm)  
Saturday 11/15 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (unopposed lunch 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm)

## Keynote Address

**FRIDAY – 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**  
Erik S. Johnson, OTD, MS, OTR/L  
**Breaking the Mold to Build  
What’s Next: Lessons Learned  
When Compassion and Innovation  
Supersede Intelligence**



As an Army occupational therapist for more than 15 years, Major Erik Johnson was instrumental in the evaluation and care for service members who had sustained devastating physical, cognitive and mental health injuries during combat operations. He was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star Medal for his work with brain injuries while deployed to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2011. Known for his compassion and innovative approaches to treatment, Major Johnson led from the front throughout his military career including positions as the Officer in Charge of OT at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence Brain Injury Center, the chief of OT Amputee Care at Walter Reed National Military Center and the Chief of OT at the Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center. Transitioning from his esteemed military career of two decades, Dr. Johnson now teaches at Tarleton State University in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program where he specializes in assistive technology and universal design. Erik also serves as the Chief Medical Officer for Warfighter Engaged and specializes in the use of technology as a therapeutic medium for rehabilitation.

## Poster Sessions

FRIDAY – 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM  
FRIDAY – 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

## OTA Program Chairs’ Meeting

FRIDAY - 12:45- 1:45

## Awards and Recognition Ceremony

FRIDAY - 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM

## 124 - Texas Occupational Therapy Association State Advocacy Efforts and Updates

FRIDAY – 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

## Student Knowledge Challenge Bowl

FRIDAY – 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

## 200 - Occupational Therapy Assistant Forum

SATURDAY – 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

## Special Meetings

OT PROGRAM CHAIRS MEETING  
SATURDAY - 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

TX CHAPTER NBOTC MEETING  
SATURDAY – 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SATURDAY  
November  
15

↓ **student zone** ↓

## 212 - NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know

SATURDAY – 9:15 PM – 10:15 PM

*Get Exam  
Ready with  
NBCOT!*

## 217- Shaping your future: Finding Purpose as a Student, Clinician, Leadership & Beyond

SATURDAY – 10:30 AM -11:30 AM **Everyone is Welcome!!!**

## Student Network Event

SATURDAY  
11:30 AM –  
12:30 PM

# STUDENT ZONE

## Student Networking Event

GET

READY  
FOR  
SOME  
FUN!

HOSTED BY THE TOTA  
STUDENT REPS

QUESTIONS?

Contact

Maya: [txotstudentrep@tota.org](mailto:txotstudentrep@tota.org)

or Leena: [txotastudentrep@tota.org](mailto:txotastudentrep@tota.org)

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 15

Immediately Following  
Session 217

Take some time  
to get to know  
your fellow  
students from  
across Texas  
with games,  
activities, and  
networking  
opportunities!

Sign-up opens with TOTA Conference registration on September 5th

# Student Knowledge Challenge Bowl

*Sponsored by: Ensign Affiliated-Flagship Therapy*

## Event Details:

- Groups maximum 5 students team up to represent their SOTA organization in an OT quiz bowl.
- Team members must be TOTA members & registered conference attendees.
- Refreshments will be served.
- Checks will be made out to winning SOTA groups:

- 1st Place = \$1000
- 2nd Place = \$500
- 3rd Place = \$250

## When & Where:

- Friday, November 14th from 6:00-7:00pm
- Room: Spring Lake A

Contact [info@tota.org](mailto:info@tota.org) with any questions



## Student Knowledge Challenge Bowl RULES

The rules are going to be rather simple

1. Kahoot app will be the scorekeeper
2. No cell phones
3. The maximum size of the team is 5 members.
4. Encourage your classmates to come cheer for the team.
5. Team members must also be members of TOTA
6. Team members must be registered conference attendees

Note: Team members do not have to be in the same cohort.

# TOTA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# STUDENT ORGANIZATION TABLES



## STOP BY THE SOTA STORES!

STUDENT TABLES WILL BE LOCATED IN THE VERAMENDI BALLROOM FOYER

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Set up begins no earlier than 8:30am

Store Hours: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Set up begins no earlier than 8:30am

Store Hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Abilene Christian University SOTA**

**Baylor University OTD - SOTA**

**Houston Community College SOTA**

**Tarleton State University SOTA**

**Texas Tech University HSC SOTA**

**Texas Woman's University SOTA**

**Texas Woman's University – Dallas - SOTA**

**Texas Woman's University SOTA, PTE & COTAD**

**University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences SOTA**

**University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences of Dallas SOTA**

**University of the Incarnate Word SOTA**

**University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston SOTA**

**University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio SOTA**

**University of Texas Rio Grande Valley SOTA**

NOTE: All participants of the Student Organization Store must be registered for the TOTA Annual Conference

- Please check in with Kami Lusson in the exhibit hall.
- Student tables will be located in the hallway outside the Frisco Ballroom.
- A table will be assigned to your school.
- Each student organization will have a skirted table and 2 chairs.
- Please limit table attendees to 2 at a time.
- No loud talking – you are outside meeting rooms.
- All students working tables must be registered for conference and wear a badge.
- All additional inventory must be stored out of sight under your table.
- Please make plans to remove or secure inventory to at the close of Friday's store hours.

# 2025 Award Recipients

## **Texas OT of the Year**

**Giulianne Krug, PhD, OTR, CLA**

## **Texas OTA of the Year**

**Layman Darnell Miller, COTA, MBA, MEd**

## **OT Academic Educator of the Year**

**Patricia Bowyer, EdD, MS, OTR, FAOTA, SFHEA**

## **OTA Academic Educator of the Year**

**Amy Anderson, COTA, MEd**

## **Roster of Merit Awards**

**Heather Roberts, PhD, OT**

**Claudette Fette, PhD, OTR, FAOTA**

**Dawn Phillips, COTA, CBIS**

## **Distinguished Service Awards**

**Camille Ko, OTD, OTR, CBIS**

**Kami Lusson - TOTA Vendor Services/Continuing Ed Coordinator**

**Cynthia Hoskins, DBH, MOT, OTR, CCTS-I**

**Heather Doreck, OTR**

## **OTR/OTA Collaboration**

**Michelle McCarty, COTA, MA, SP, CAPS, ECHM, CEOLD**

**Melissa Saffron, OTR, MS, CAPS, ECHM, CEOLD**

## **Interdisciplinary Team**

**Tomball ISD Assistive Tech Team**

## **OT Student Leadership Award**

**Annabeth Dorris, OTD Student**

# Educational Sessions

Register for classes early to secure your seat.

SCAN OR CLICK TO  
VIEW AGENDA ONLINE



This year, registration is streamlined for your convenience.  
Simply register and select the special events, meetings,  
and long courses you wish to attend.

You'll build your personalized conference schedule using the  
Whova app. Please note that some sessions may overlap,  
so plan accordingly to make the most of your experience.

**101 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**Guatemala & Dominica Interprofessional  
Service Trips for Self-efficacy Learning**  
*William Sit, OT, PhD, BCPR*  
*Traci Taylor, OTR, OTD*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Academia*

This course includes an overview of the service trip to Guatemala and Dominica. It will inform students, educators, and practitioners about the preparation, traveling experience, and potential benefits of experiential learning opportunities in preparing future professionals for collaborative and patient-centered practice.

**102 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**Treating Complex Arthrogryposis**  
*Lori Thompson, OTR, MOT*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*

This presentation and case study is to educate the entry level Occupational Therapist on the diagnosis and treatment of the child with Arthrogryposis to achieve ADL independence.

**103 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**Waves of Safety: Protecting Children  
with Autism Around Water**  
*Roberta Olivares, OT, BS*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*

People with Autism Spectrum Disorders have a substantially higher risk of death due to suffocation, asphyxiation, and drowning. As clinicians, we must raise awareness and provide information about risks, home safety, and prevention.

**104 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**The Power of Play and Early Mobility  
in a Pediatric ICU**  
*Lexi Frank, OTR, MOT*  
*Renee Fontana PT, DPT, PCS*  
*Ashley Kaspar, MS CCC-SLP*  
*Nidhi Patel MD*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*  
The innovative interdisciplinary team at Dell Children's Medical Center

collaborates with patients and their families to support and improve the patient's ability to engage in ADLs (activities of daily living). In the PICU, we are often the first people to help children move and participate in meaningful play. Our Early Mobility program helps children who have breathing tubes, or other lifesaving interventions, participate in play and engage with their families while in a critical state of recovery.

**105 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**Redefining Therapy Roles:  
Equipping Providers for Excellence  
in End-of-Life Care**  
*Kayla Allen, OTR, OTD, CDP, CSRS*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate,  
Productive Aging*

Does specialized education on the rehabilitative role in end-of-life care enhance healthcare providers' confidence and self-efficacy in delivering effective, patient-centered services to adult and geriatric patients?

**106 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**A Beginner's Guide to Occupational  
Therapy in Fecal and Urinary Ostomy Care**  
*Jessica Wallace, OTR, MOT*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*  
This course provides an entry-level introduction to technical and practical considerations applied across the continuum of care when working with clients who have a fecal or urinary ostomy with an emphasis on OT's emerging role in this practice area.

**107 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**  
**Developing an Adapted Sports Program  
in an Outpatient Clinic for Adults**  
*Heather Rennerfeldt, OTR, MSOT*  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*  
Discover how one OT launched an adaptive sports program in an outpatient clinic, using innovation, collaboration, and community to promote wellness and meaningful occupations beyond the clinic. Learn practical steps for building program success.

**108 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Occupational Therapy's Impact on  
Restoring Quality of Life in the Face  
of Change**  
*Melissa Saffron, OTR, MS, CAPS, ECHM,  
CEOLD*  
*Michelle McCarty, COTA, MA, SP, CAPS,  
ECHM, CEOLD*  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate,  
Health and Wellness*

Life is the ongoing process of growth and change. Occupational adaptation as a process and an outcome for thriving in the face of change involves mentally, emotionally and physically adapting. Adapting is not just about mitigating the impacts of change, but involves a new way of thinking for restoring a sense of control, a new way of feeling for restoring well-being, and a new way of participating for restoring competency. Occupational adaptation is an effective intervention for restoring quality of life and fostering sustainable solutions.

**109 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Neurodiversity Affirming Goal Setting  
in Early Intervention Practice**  
*Tanya Glass, OTR, MOT*  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*

Neurodiversity Affirming Goal Setting in Early Intervention Practice will provide a background education on early intervention practice goal setting standards as well as the rise of neurodiversity affirming practice. We will then explore strategies to create goals and outcomes in the early intervention setting using strength-based, neurodiversity affirming principles. We will explore strategies to better support the individual child and family's needs and goals through a lens of acceptance and support.

REGISTRATION IS LIVE  
REGISTER BEFORE  
OCTOBER 26  
AND SAVE!!!!

# Educational Sessions

Register for classes early to secure your seat.

SCAN OR CLICK TO  
VIEW AGENDA ONLINE



**110 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**It's the 21st Century! Why do we need handwriting? And why is it worthy of OT?**  
**Beverly Moskowitz, OTR/L MS DOT FAOTA**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

Is handwriting still relevant in the 21st century? This short course answers why & how this vital skill is within the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. Learn research & teacher-friendly strategies to embed handwriting across the curriculum.

**111 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Feed the Baby: Holistic, Dyad-Based Approaches to Life's First Co-Occupation**  
**Jessica Peterson, OTR, OTD, IBCLC, PMH-C**  
**Haydee Medrano, OTR, MOT, CBS**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

This session explores OT's role in supporting typical development in infant feeding, including breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, and early cup/straw use for infants with an emphasis on breastfeeding dyads and feeding as a co-occupation.

**112 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Empowering Seniors: How Technology Enhances Safety & Independence**  
**Lynda Jennings, OTR, RAC-CT, CDP**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Productive Aging*

Empowering Seniors: How Technology Enhances Safety & Independence explores the role of occupational therapy in integrating assistive technology to support aging in place. OT practitioners are uniquely qualified to assess functional needs and recommend tools that promote independence, safety, and engagement in daily activities.

**113 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**An Update on Evidence Based Interventions for Arm Recovery Following Stroke**  
**Kathy Killingsworth, OTR, MS, ATP**  
**Catherine Cooper Hay, OTR, PhD**  
**Emily Stevens, OTR, MOT, pOTD, CSRS**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*  
Participants will learn about the current evidence for various upper

extremity interventions to promote recovery after a stroke, discuss their clinical relevance, and explore applicability of their use in daily occupational therapy practice.

**114 Friday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Fine Tune Interventions: Applying Rehabilitation Treatment Specification System**  
**Molly Setliff, OTR, OTD**  
**Sandra Whisner, OTR, PhD**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

This session describes the Rehabilitation Treatment Specification System that can strengthen a practitioner's clinical reasoning by explicating why, how, and in what way an intervention is effective or not. Case vignettes across diverse settings will show the application of this system.

**115 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**More Than Just Observation: Transforming FW1 into Meaningful Learning**  
**Tamara Traber, OTR, OTD, CLVT**  
**Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Academia*

This session will equip fieldwork educators with practical strategies to move beyond passive observation and design engaging, student-centered learning opportunities. Participants will explore how to foster clinical reasoning and professional behaviors early in the student's educational journey, while enhancing their ability to deliver clear, constructive feedback.

**116 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Beyond Forgetfulness: Understanding the Spectrum of Mild Cognitive Impairment**  
**Lisa Skinner, CDP, CDT, CDP**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Productive Aging*

This presentation provides an overview of MCI, including its symptoms, risk factors, diagnosis, and management. Common symptoms include memory loss, language difficulties, and poor judgment. Diagnosis typically involves cognitive testing and medical evaluations to rule out other causes.

**117 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Switch It Up: Occupational Therapy Strategies for Teaching Kids to Use Switches**

**Ashlyn Hudson, OTR, MOT**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Children and Youth*

Learn practical occupational therapy strategies to teach switch use to pediatric clients, from cause-and-effect to functional communication and play. Explore switch types, positioning, and engaging activities to support independence and participation across settings.

**118 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Navigating the School System: Shared Challenges and Unique Perspectives**  
**Jennifer O'Connor, OTR**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Research*

This session offers a unique perspective on navigating the complexities of special education compliance and fostering positive change from the viewpoint of a related service manager outside of the OT profession. This presentation aims to provide valuable insights and practical takeaways for school-based OTs navigating similar transitions and to highlight the power of collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence in driving meaningful improvements for students.

**119 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Occupational Therapy Strategies to Empower Children with Autism, Ages 2-5**  
**Jennifer Sanchez, OTR, OTD**  
**Cynthia Cantu, OTR, OTD**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Children and Youth*

This short course equips occupational therapy practitioners with evidence-based, practical strategies to support young children with autism, ages 2-5. Led by an Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinical Specialist and a pediatric occupational therapist, the course emphasizes developmentally appropriate, play-based, and relationship-centered interventions.

# Educational Sessions

Register for classes early to secure your seat.

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## **120 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

### **Defining the OTP's Role in Evaluation and Implementation of AAC in School**

**Eileen Garza, OTR, PhD, ATP, FAOTA**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) play a crucial role in helping students fully participate in their education, often by recommending assistive technology (AT). While Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices might seem outside OTP's typical scope of practice, their expertise is vital. This information is essential for making effective AAC recommendations that help students communicate and succeed in their daily activities. Join us to explore how OTs contribute to selecting and implementing communication systems that empower students.

## **121 Friday 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

### **Beyond Boundaries: Empowering Aging Populations Through Virtual Reality**

**Kayla Allen, OTR, OTD, CDP, CSRS**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Productive Aging*

This presentation examines the historical development, clinical outcomes, and future potential of VR in OT, with a focus on conditions such as Parkinson's disease, stroke, chronic pain, and dementia. Integrating evidence-based literature and clinical experience in assisted living and memory care, this presentation highlights VR's role in improving motor coordination, cognition, social participation, and behavior.

## **122-6 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Supporting Children with ADHD: Hispanic Parents' Approaches to Homework Routines**

**Abner Hernandez, eOTD Student**  
*Research Forum, Introductory, Children and Youth*

This study examines how Hispanic parents support children with ADHD during homework. Results reveal real-life strategies and barriers, offering guidance for occupational therapists to enhance homework participation and daily routines at home.

## **122-7 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Occupational Impact of Stress Among Graduate Students in Underserved Communities**

**Julie Islas, BS, eOTD Student**  
*Research Forum, Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

Stress can disrupt graduate students' daily functioning and academic success, especially in underserved regions. This study uses survey-based quantitative methods to describe the relationship between perceived stress and occupational performance. Findings will guide occupational therapy-informed strategies to support resilience, wellness, and role balance in higher education settings.

## **122-1 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Suicide Prevention in Occupational Therapy Curriculum: Practitioner Perspectives**

**Kortney Mettlach, eOTD Student**  
**Wen-Pin Chang, OTR, PhD, BCBA, LBA**  
*Research Forum, Intermediate, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This qualitative study explores occupational therapy practitioners' views on suicide prevention education in academic programs. Findings reveal training gaps and suggest strategies for improving the curriculum in promoting mental health and safety.

## **122-2 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Experiences of Adolescents with HIV in Botswana: A Participatory Action Research**

**Tanya Thomas, OTR, PhD**  
*Research Forum, Introductory, Children and Youth*

This qualitative, participatory action research with adolescents living with HIV in Botswana utilized creative methods to explore their occupational experiences, barriers, and solutions and inform future occupational therapy intervention development.

## **122-4 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Outcome Measures in Stroke Self-Management Programs: Implications for OT**

**Shay Navia, eOTD Student**  
*Research Forum, Introductory, Research*

Background: Stroke is a leading cause of death and long-term disability in adults. Stroke self-management programs (SSMPs) are designed to empower stroke survivors with tools and knowledge to promote healthy behaviors after stroke. This scoping review aims to examine the outcome measures most utilized in SSMPs and identify the domains most assessed in SSMPs.

## **122-5 Friday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

### **Exploring Maternal Mental Health in High-Risk Pregnancies**

**Neida Gutierrez, eOTD Student**  
*Research Forum, Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This ongoing study examines the impact of high-risk pregnancy and bed rest on maternal anxiety and depression. Preliminary results show no significant differences between groups, but qualitative insights highlight the need for individualized occupational therapy support to promote mental well-being. The study emphasizes the need for further research with larger, more diverse samples to confirm these trends.

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**RESERVATIONS  
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## 123 Friday 2:00 - 5:30 pm

### **From Therapy to the Driver's Seat: A Hands-On Approach to Driver Readiness**

**Erin Galicki, OTR, CDRS**

**Christine Salinas, OTR, CDRS**

*Long Course (3.5 hours), Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Driving is a critical activity of daily living that supports independence and community participation. Occupational therapists play a crucial role in evaluating and preparing clients for safe driving, particularly those with developmental, neurological, or age-related impairments. This interactive, hands-on session will focus on pre-driving skills necessary to help diverse populations prepare for driver training and on-road evaluations.

## 124 Friday 3:15 - 4:15 pm

### **2025 Texas Occupational Therapy Association State Advocacy Efforts and Updates**

**John Luna, OTR, OTD**

**Judith Joseph, OTR, MA, CDRS, FAOTA**

**Abrianna Pellegrino, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory Matters*

Want to help shape the future of our profession but unsure where to begin? The Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Legislative Team will recap the 89th Texas Legislative Session and share practical strategies for making advocacy part of your everyday practice. This session will provide the latest updates on current TOTA advocacy efforts and equip occupational therapy practitioners, students, and educators with the tools and knowledge to engage effectively in advocacy across Texas and beyond.

## 125 Friday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### **Simulation as Level I Fieldwork: Considerations for Design and Implementation**

**Lacey Spark, OTR, MOT, OTD, EdD**

**Emily Frank Flack, OTR, OTD, PhD, CHSE**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Academia*

Discover how high-fidelity simulation can help shape the future of OT

education. Learn strategies to design and implement immersive, evidence-based experiences that build student competence and align with evolving fieldwork and teaching needs.

## 126 Friday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### **AI in OT Education: Enhancing Learning While Upholding Our Core Values**

**Stephanie Capshaw, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Academia*

Discover how artificial intelligence tools can enhance occupational therapy education through personalized learning, academic support, and ethical integration—empowering educators and students for the future of OT.

## 127 Friday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### **School-Based OT Today: Integrated, Inclusive, and Collaborative**

**Molly Genovese, OTR, MOT**

**Lindsey Lieneck, OTR, MOT**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

This course equips School OTs to deliver integrated services. Topics include integrating meaningful services to students in natural contexts, supporting educational teams via collaborative strategies, and conducting functional evaluations.

## 128 Friday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### **Participation-Based Evaluations for School-Based Occupational Therapists**

**Holly Shafer, OTR, MOT**

**Thelma "Tina" Banks, OTR, MOT**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

This session explores how occupational therapists can conduct meaningful, participation-based evaluations in school settings. Grounded in the ICF framework, IDEA, and the OTPF-4, participants will learn to gather relevant data, use collaborative assessment tools, and develop occupation-centered goals. Real-world strategies will be presented to support functional, strengths-based evaluations that align with best practices and legal mandates.

## 129 Friday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### **Toe-tally Connected: From Toes to Toilets in Pediatric Pelvic Health**

**Caitlin Keller, PT, DPT**

**Melissa Howard, PT, DPT**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

Toileting is one of the most complex functional tasks we ask of kids — and it takes much more than just pelvic floor strength. It requires whole-body coordination. This session explores how foot positioning, pelvic alignment, motor development, and lower body biomechanics impact continence. We'll cover how things like toe gripping, arch collapse, tight hamstrings, or postural instability affect toileting posture, pelvic floor activation, and voiding.

## 130 Friday 3:15 - 4:15 pm

### **OT in a Changing Healthcare Landscape: Community Outreach as an Innovative Model**

**Christine Adair OT, MOT, MBA, FACHE**

**Madeline Underwood, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

As healthcare evolves, OTs at TIRR Memorial Hermann lead inclusive community outreach to support lifelong engagement. This presentation highlights innovative, evidence-based programs that address health needs beyond traditional care settings.

## 131 Friday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

### **Guiding the Transition: Programming to Support Academic Success in OTD Students**

**Shannon Levandowski, OTR, EdD, OTD, MS, EdD, BCP, SCSS**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Academia*

As students transition from undergraduate to graduate-level OT education, many aim to strengthen skills in data analysis, grant writing, literature review, and scholarly dissemination. However, these are often underemphasized early in the curriculum (Fong, 2019). Students arrive with varied academic backgrounds, leading to inconsistent preparedness. The Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) assesses students' perceptions of their learning strategies.

# Educational Sessions

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## 132 Friday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

### Elite Futures: Vocational Rehabilitation and Transition Program for Young Adults

**Emily Kirby, OTR MOT**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

In this session participants will learn about an outpatient intensive occupational therapy program designed to give young adults with disabilities an opportunity to build soft skills and self-advocacy skills to prepare them to be competitive employees in the workforce and maintain employment. Attendees will learn how the program is carried out, the evaluation process, relevant assessments, skills addressed, goal setting, community partners, and areas for growth and future involvement.

## 133 Friday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

### Bridging Body and Mind: OT in Pregnancy and Postpartum Recovery

**Lesley Khan-Farooqi, OTR, OTD, PhD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Health and Wellness*

This short course will cover concepts related to physical and mental wellness during pregnancy and postpartum. A review of anatomical changes and potential therapeutic exercises based on stage of pregnancy and postpartum recovery will be covered. Mental health and strategies to improve mental wellness as it relates to pregnancy and postpartum will also be discussed.

POSTER SESSIONS 302-321 & 350  
FRIDAY 9:15 - 10:15

POSTER SESSIONS 322 - 349  
FRIDAY 10:30 - 12:00

## 302 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### GoMove: Helping Families with Home Programs

**Baylee Allen, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Intermediate, Children and Youth*

Constraint-induced movement therapy (CIMT) is widely recognized as an intense therapy program requiring the cooperation of pediatric patients and their caregivers. This study explores the emotional experiences and perspectives of caregivers of children with cerebral palsy (CP) who completed

a home program after CIMT to identify resources to address their needs. Qualitative interviews were conducted after a six-week home program during post-study data collection.

## 305 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Sensory Integration in Pediatric Dentistry: Enhance Access Reduce Sedation

**Maysen Buchanan, MOT Student**

**Angelina Corzine, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Children and Youth*

This poster highlights the need for early occupational therapy intervention to improve dental care access and reduce sedation reliance in children with disabilities, advocating for OT's vital role in bridging service gaps through sensory and behavioral support.

## 306 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Sensory-Friendly Classrooms: Evidence, Parent Engagement, and Teacher Impact

**Angela Torres eOTD Student**

**Lou Ann Hinz, OTR, PhD**

*Poster, Introductory, Children and Youth School-Based Practice Focus*

Discover how evidence-based sensory-friendly classroom modifications at a non-profit school improved student engagement and teacher well-being, with strategies for both classroom and home use.

## 307 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Trot & Tend: Nature-Based Program for Children with Disabilities in Rural Mexico

**Gabriella Johnson, MS, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Children and Youth*

This project explores the benefits of a community horseback riding and sensory garden program for children with disabilities. This project was designed in collaboration with a nonprofit in rural Mexico. Details of the project, its implementation, and the lived experience of the student are explored.

## 308 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### The Ketogenic Diet in Children with Epilepsy

**Renee Gebert, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Children and Youth*

The ketogenic diet (KD) is a high-fat, low-carbohydrate intervention

increasingly used to manage drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE) in children and adolescents. This rapid review examines KD's effectiveness compared to antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in reducing seizures and improving quality of life. Findings support including KD in treatment plans for DRE adolescents, particularly when paired with OT interventions that promote family-centered care, lifestyle adaptation, and sustainable management strategies.

## 310 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Utilizing Trauma Informed Care to Foster Resilience in Children with Trauma

**Maren Isham, OTR, OTD**

**Kristen McDaniel, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Children and Youth*

Children who have experienced trauma and adversity also tend to display deficits in key developmental areas and occupational performance. By utilizing a trauma informed care approach, occupational therapy practitioners can mitigate these effects and promote resilience in children, fostering resilience and adaptive functioning in the pediatric population.

## 311 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Effectiveness of Trauma-Informed Care in a Pediatric Population

**Caroline Hope, eOTD Student**

**Remington Perry, eOTD Student**

*Children and Youth*

This poster highlights a project in collaboration with a school to meet the needs of teen mothers through a support group. Project goals include self-efficacy, occupational balance, and wellness, which expands the scope and role of OT in the schools.

## 313 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Student Development of Cultural Responsiveness Through International Experience

**Kaleigh Stevens, OTR, OTD**

**Grisel Contreras, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Academia*

The poster presentation examines student perceptions of the effects of an international service-learning project on their knowledge of cultural humility and development of cultural responsiveness.

# Educational Sessions

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## 314 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Documentation Support for Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Educators and Students

**Molly Amlung, OTR, MSOT**

**Charlette Squyres, OTR**

*Poster, Introductory, Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory Matters*

This poster presentation will provide SOAP note competency and collaborative documentation strategies for both occupational therapy (OT) fieldwork educators and OT students. Utilizing a Likert-style questionnaire, a pre-post survey gathered quantitative and qualitative data for SOAP note instruction and assessment between an occupational therapy fieldwork educator and student.

## 315 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Developing Leadership Education in Occupational Therapy

**Ini Adebodun, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Academia*

Leadership in occupational therapy is essential for advancing professional influence and improving client outcomes, yet it remains underemphasized in many educational programs. This study explored the impact of structured leadership education on first-year occupational therapy doctoral students. Using a mixed-methods design, 15 participants completed pre- and post-course surveys and participated in semi-structured interviews.

## 316 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Relationship-Based Feeding in Pediatrics

**eOTD Students: Cali Forrest, Emma Warner, Priscilla Browne, Peyton Dockray**

*Poster, Introductory, Research*

Feeding is essential for growth and development in the pediatric population (Henton, 2018), yet it is not always a simple or enjoyable task for some children. Occupational therapy and other rehabilitative fields address pediatric feeding difficulties through approaches categorized as authoritative, authoritarian, indulging, and uninvolved (Pavlovskaya, 2021). Relationship-based feeding, an authoritative approach, offers families

guided participation, support, and resources to build resilience around feeding challenges (Henton, 2018).

## 317 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Bridging Cultures: Occupational Therapy Advocacy in the Hispanic Community

**Ruby Vargas, OTR, OTD**

**Madelyn Rashford, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Research*

This presentation highlights a community-based OT program that enhances culturally relevant care and health literacy among Hispanic elders, advocating for greater equity and engagement through occupation-based interventions.

## 318 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Teaching Strategies

### Connecting Pharmacology Knowledge to Meaningful Occupation

**Christene Maas, OTR, PhD**

**Mona Bains PhD**

*Poster, Intermediate, Academia*

This poster presents a multimodal approach using case-based learning to enhance clinical reasoning, support real-world application, and improve learner motivation in OT practice. By taking a holistic approach blending pharmacology with clinical reasoning and understanding of disease processes.

## 319 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### A Call for Trauma-Informed Care in the Development of OT Programs and Curricula

**Natalie Pravinkumar, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Academia*

This project aims to enhance OT students' TIC competencies through a class centered on real-world application, using data from a cooking skills program at a human trafficking safe house. A secondary aim is to demonstrate the value of TIC-based programs in improving outcomes for survivors of complex trauma.

## 320 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Exploring Perspectives of an Autism Educational Presentation in Higher Education

**Christene Maas, OTR, PhD**

## Poster, Introductory, Academia

In the higher education setting, autistic students often encounter barriers that affect participation. Current research indicates more education is needed about autism awareness in higher education for both faculty and neurotypical peers to support acceptance (Jenks et al., 2023). This study presents a research design of a basic qualitative study to obtain participant perspectives after an educational presentation on autism.

## 321 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Case Studies; Ethics and Competence

**Kate Barlow, OTR, OTD, IECMH-E, FAOTA, FNAP**

**Margaret Maynard, OTR, OTD**

**Tara Mansour, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Academia*

This current study replicated the study by Mansour & Wong using two newly created pediatric case studies, instead of the adult case study used in the previous study. This presentation will discuss the design process of the research project related to the use of AI in the learning activities, student learning outcomes, and student feedback on their perceptions of the use of AI in clinical practice.

## 322 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

### Fostering Sensory Needs in the Community: A Student-Led Project

**Traci Taylor, OTD, OTR, ACUE**

**Jennifer Garner, OTR, OTD, CAIP, VDT-CT**

*Poster, Intermediate, Children and Youth*

The partnership between the MOT Bridge program and the Fostering Collective is making a meaningful impact on foster children and their families. The sensory space is a resource that provides both play opportunities for children and valuable education for caregivers. The Sensory Experience event provides a unique opportunity for students to offer sensory play and education within a structured environment.

# Educational Sessions

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## **323 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Horticulture: The Relationship Between Nature and Wellness**

**Haley Smith, BS, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Productive Aging*

This capstone develops a horticultural program to enhance the mental health and well-being of seniors in nursing homes. Aging populations face risks of depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, and social isolation, making therapeutic interventions essential. This capstone aims to identify psychological, cognitive, and social factors affecting seniors and explores the benefits of nature-based activities. Using surveys, interviews, and observational analysis, this study gathers data on emotional states, engagement preferences, and barriers to participation.

## **324 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Empowerment Through Assistive Devices for Post Stroke Older Adults & Caregivers**

**Gillian Cole, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

A program for post-stroke adults using mobility aids in long term care, focused on functional mobility, safety, and performance skills, by improving device adherence, reduced abandonment, and empowered individuals through education and training.

## **325 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Routine Redesign to Increase Occupational Performance in the Cancer Population**

**Summer Mazade, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Individuals living with long-term impacts from cancer are a growing population. Routine redesign has a positive impact on participation in daily tasks in the cancer population, leading to more involvement of occupational therapy in cancer rehabilitation.

## **326 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **A Wellness and Social Engagement Program for Post-Lower-Limb Amputees**

**Graciea Gonzalez, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation*

## **Disability and Participation**

A wellness and social engagement program was developed to educate amputees on the potential impacts on mental health, health management, and social participation. A manual guided by occupational therapy principles was reviewed with four participants.

## **327 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Aquatic-Based Exercise for Adults with Lymphedema to Improve Quality of Life**

**Abigail Bancroft, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

The purpose of this capstone was to develop an aquatic-based exercise program for individuals with lymphedema to increase social participation and improve overall quality of life. Increasing the awareness of aquatic therapy for lymphedema can educate individuals and occupational therapists on another treatment option to help manage lymphedema symptoms.

## **328 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Conservative Interventions for Children with Brachial Plexus Birth Injury (BPBI)**

**Paige Koerner, OTD Student**

**Rosie Head, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Interventions examined, listed in order of strength of evidence from weakest to strongest, included mCIMT, electronic biofeedback, KT, CIMT, NMES, plyometric training, MT, and dynamic orthoses and serial casting. This systematic review offers rehabilitation professionals a range of evidence-based treatment options for children with BPBIs.

## **329 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **On the Go Again: A Health Educational Program for Aging Farmers and Ranchers**

**Michaela Blough, eOTD student**

**Martin Rice PhD, OTR, FAOTA**

*Poster, Introductory, Productive Aging*

Farmers and ranchers are susceptible to various injuries, with many injuries being preventable or untreated due to healthcare illiteracy.

Interventions tailored towards this population can promote healthy lifestyle modifications and productivity.

## **330 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Enhancing Quality of Life for People Living with Dementia through Memory Cafés**

**Laura Novak, OTR, BS, OTD**

*Poster, Intermediate, Productive Aging*

For people living with dementia (PLWD) and their caregivers, changes in cognitive abilities often lead to decreased community participation and subsequent social isolation. This isolation can result in secondary issues such as cardiovascular disease, anxiety, and depression. As occupational therapy practitioners, we are equipped to address social engagement by creating meaningful events in accessible spaces.

## **331 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Amptouch: A Device for Upper Extremity Prosthetics Sensation**

**Randall Manning, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Sensory substitution is a method for restoring sensation in upper extremity prosthetics. This presentation explores a novel device created for an artist with digital amputation to restore tactual thermal sensation with audio feedback.

## **332 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Assistive Device Use in Parkinson's: Empowering Lives Through Knowledge**

**Bailey Corley, eOTD Student**

**Kristen McDaniel, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a progressive neurological condition that significantly impacts daily living through motor and functional impairments. Adaptive equipment (AE) supports independence in essential tasks such as dressing, feeding, and writing, yet community-dwelling individuals with PD often lack access to AE education outside of clinical settings. This project, in collaboration with the Houston Area Parkinson Society (HAPS), aimed to bridge this gap through education and resource development.

# Educational Sessions

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**333 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Enhancing Collaboration Through**  
**Interprofessional Acute Care Simulation**  
*Kristen McDaniel, OTR, OTD, MOT, CLT*  
*Ana Rice, OTR, OTD, MOT, CNT*  
*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation*  
*Disability and Participation*

Acute care simulations foster collaborative partnerships among diverse healthcare students, enabling occupational therapy students to develop essential interprofessional competencies through realistic clinical scenarios. These structured experiences teach effective cross-disciplinary communication, mutual respect for each profession's expertise, and shared leadership skills.

**334 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Investing in the Future: A Pediatric OT**  
**Fieldwork Mentorship Program**  
*Leeann Dockall, OTR, OTD*  
*Poster, Intermediate, Work and Industry*

This capstone project aimed to develop a mentorship program to support OT and occupational therapy assistant (OTA) students during fieldwork in the pediatric setting to prepare students to enter the pediatric field. In collaboration with Occupation in Motion, 501(c)(3), the project included a stakeholder needs assessment with OT/OTA students, academic fieldwork coordinators, and professionals in the pediatric OT field.

**335 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Resource Toolkit for Caregivers of**  
**Children with Down Syndrome**  
*Leslie Ayala, eOTD Student*  
*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation*  
*Disability and Participation*

The purpose of the Resource Toolkit is to assist caregivers of children with Down syndrome in navigating transitional periods by drawing on the experiences and recommendations shared by fellow caregivers of children with Down syndrome in the El Paso community. Resource Toolkit aims to advocate for caregivers of children with Down syndrome by offering resources and coping strategies to support and empower caregivers in the community.

**336 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Strength-Based Peer Mentoring**  
**to Empower Independence for Adults**  
**with Autism**  
*Annmarie De La Rosa, eOTD Student*  
*Kaleigh: OTR, OTD*  
*Poster, Introductory, Rehabilitation*  
*Disability and Participation*

This poster presents a strength-based peer mentoring model rooted in occupational therapy to improve ADLs, reduce anxiety, and build self-advocacy in adults with autism, addressing service gaps in post-secondary success.

**337 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Healing Heroes Virtually: Promoting**  
**Occupational Engagement in VA Settings**  
*Renee Samardak, OTR, OTD*  
*Poster, Intermediate, Productive Aging*

This program introduces digital technology skills to enhance occupational engagement, social participation, and overall quality of life. This session will explore the program's development, implementation strategies, and implications for clinical and academic occupational therapy practice focused on older adults and Veteran populations.

**338 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Supporting Maternal and**  
**Caregiver Confidence, Bonding,**  
**and Infant Development**  
*Kelsey Steck, eOTD Student*  
*Poster, Intermediate, Health and Wellness*

The postpartum period is a critical time for mothers and caregivers, marked by significant physical, emotional, and relational transitions. Despite these challenges, caregivers often report gaps in confidence and self-efficacy as they navigate their new roles and establish bonds with their infants.

**339 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Mental Health Service - Learning with**  
**Community Members for Curriculum**  
**Improvement**  
*Jessica Nakos, OTR, PhD*  
*Monica Clark, OTR, OTD, CNS*  
*Poster, Intermediate, Mental Health and*  
*Behavioral Health*

Students led 5-week community groups addressing members' identified

mental health needs. Students gained confidence and skills; community members reported meaningful engagement and increased social participation.

**340 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Bloom Galveston: Promoting**  
**Well-Being Through Community**  
**Gardening for IDD**  
*Emma Mericle eOTD Student*  
*Regan Blankenship, OTR, MS, DHS*  
*Poster, Intermediate, Health and Wellness*

A needs assessment at the Sunshine Center identified a significant gap in community engagement opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The program aimed to enhance occupational performance and encourage meaningful community participation, while emphasizing the internal benefits of compassion and a shared purpose.

**341 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Teacher Training Program for**  
**Administering a Universal Behavior**  
**Screener**  
*Jessica Thames, eOTD Student*  
*Mei-Ling Lin, Ph.D.*  
*Presentation, Format, Poster, Introductory,*  
*Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This project explores how school-based OTs can support universal social-emotional screening within MTSS. It highlights 100% teacher participation and advocates for a workload model, expanding OT roles in early identification and intervention.

**342 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Empowerment Through Understanding:**  
**TIC Training for At-Risk Youth Programs**  
*Wanda Aurini, OTR, OTD*  
*Hope McCarroll OTD, MOT, OTR, BCP*  
*Poster, Introductory, Mental Health and*  
*Behavioral Health*

This project aimed to provide training on Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and strategies for creating a trauma-sensitive environment for volunteers who work with at-risk youth. Results from the pre-post survey demonstrate measurable increases in both knowledge and confidence.

# Educational Sessions

Register for classes early to secure your seat.

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## **343 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Integrating Occupational and Canine-Assisted Therapy to Support Veteran Outcomes**

**Skylar Hager, eOTD student**

*Poster, Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This poster examines how canine-assisted therapy supports veterans' mental health and reintegration by enhancing emotional, social, and functional outcomes, highlighting innovative, evidence-based approaches to expand occupational therapy's roles.

## **344 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Perceived Effectiveness of a Mentorship Program for OTD Students: A Pilot Study**

**Cindi Tionoco, OTR, PhD**

**Taylor Foster, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

Mentorship is important for the success of students' academic and social participation within OTD programs. A qualitative pilot study completed in an OTD course is in response to the question: What is the perceived effectiveness of a mentorship program for students in an OTD program?

## **345 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Movement & Mindfulness: A Virtual Wellness Program for Adults with Disabilities**

**Avery Colclaser, OTR, OTD**

**Camille Ko, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Health and Wellness*

This presentation shares how a virtual wellness program was developed using movement and mindfulness to support adults with physical or traumatic impairments through accessible, evidence-based tools that foster engagement in daily occupations.

## **346 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Capable: Navigating Teen Motherhood with Confidence**

**Hannah Klement, eOTD student**

**Hope McCarroll, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Introductory, Health and Wellness*

Teen moms experience distress and

decreased wellness while transitioning to their new role. Occupational therapy can improve teen mom self-efficacy through education and in partnership with local community organizations.

## **347 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Service Learning Project for Lirios Pediatrics**

**Carol Regli, OTR, OTD**

**Renee Kilbride, OT**

*Poster, Introductory, Health and Wellness*

This Poster Presentation will describe the procedure followed, present the resources developed, the response of the Lirios staff and address possible future opportunities. Austin Community College OTA students participated in a service learning project to learn about the client needs at Lirios Pediatrics, a clinic providing free services to children who do not have health insurance.

## **348 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **An Occupational Therapy Approach to Stroke Education for Hispanic Caregivers**

**Viviana Avila, eOTD student**

*Poster, Intermediate, Health and Wellness*

This project aimed to address the lack of accessible stroke education for caregivers by creating a simple, easy-to-understand pamphlet in Spanish. Many caregivers face language barriers, low health literacy, and limited access to medical information, making post-stroke care more difficult. The pamphlet includes stroke education, risk factors, transfer safety tips, caregiver burnout, at-home activity ideas, and additional resources.

## **349 Friday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

### **Creating Change Leaders: Building School Mental Health Through Tier 1 Supports**

**Samantha Gade eOTD student**

**Lou Ann Hintz, OTR, PhD**

*Poster, Intermediate, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

Empowering school staff as mental health champions, Creating Change Leaders builds capacity for Tier 1 supports in schools, demonstrating how occupational therapy drives sustainable, positive change for all students.

## **350 Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

### **Experiences/Perceptions:**

#### **Male OT/OTA Students and OT/OTA Practitioners in the US**

**Susan Blair, OTD, OTR, BCPR, BCG, CDCS**

**Ricardo Altahif, OTR, OTD, CHT**

*Poster, Introductory, Academia*

This study explores the experiences of male OT/OTA students and practitioners in the U.S. and U.K. Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, survey data were analyzed to examine gender disparities, mentorship access, and professional identity in a predominantly female profession.

## **SATURDAY, NOV. 15**

## **200 Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am**

### **OTA Forum**

**Layman Miller, COTA, MBA, MEd**

**Dulce Paredes, COTA**

**Rachel Perez, COTA**

*Practice Forum, Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

The OTA Forum serves as a session where occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAS) can meet to collaborate and address concerns specific to the OTA practitioner.

## **201 Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am**

### **Power of Parent-child**

#### **Relationships: How Attachment Impacts Occupational Success**

**Madison Rowilson, OTD, OTR/L, IMH-E®**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

Introduction: A scoping review was conducted to explore the correlation between childhood trauma & executive function deficits. Gaps in research led to the updated research question "What relevant research on executive function & complex childhood trauma currently exists?" Method: A systematic search identified 31 studies with eligibility criteria of studies examining trauma's impact on executive function, parent-child relationships, & OT's role.

# Educational Sessions

Register for classes early to secure your seat.

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## **202 Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am**

### **Using AOTA's Official Documents to Advocate for Our Distinct Value**

**Susan Blair OTD, OTR, BCPR, BCG, CDCS**  
**Vicki Thomas, COTA, CDP, ROH**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory Matters*

AOTA's Commission on Practice improves OT practice quality by overseeing official documents to advocate for the profession. Members will share updates, including the revision of the OTPF-4, and lead an interactive discussion to examine key documents.

## **203 Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am**

### **A New Pediatric Assessment: The Childhood Assessment of Self-Care**

**Amy Gibbs, OTR, PhD**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Children and Youth*

The Childhood Assessment of Self-Care (CAS) is a new top-down, child self-report, self-care assessment tool and outcome measure based on the model of human occupation (MOHO). The CAS captures children's perceptions regarding their sense of occupational competence and the importance of self-care. It measures occupational identity and occupational competence in children ages 10 to 15.

## **204 Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 am**

### **The Advanced Practice of Neonatal and Early Intervention Therapy**

**Jane Cranston, OTR, MOT, BCP, CNT, NTMTC**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth*

This short course is designed for occupational therapists new to neonatal and early intervention practice, focusing on care for premature, medically complex, or high-risk infants and their families across NICU and community settings. Participants will gain foundational knowledge in trauma-informed care, neurodevelopmental support, and family-centered strategies.

## **205 Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 am**

### **More Than Poor Handwriting: Dysgraphia Identification and Intervention**

**Holly Shafer, OT, MOT**  
**Thelma "Tina" Banks, OTR, MOT**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Children and Youth*

This course explores developmental dysgraphia and its effects on students, emphasizing the critical role of handwriting in learning, memory, and literacy development. It covers the identification of dysgraphia in school settings, presents evidence-based instructional strategies and interventions, and outlines the roles of school-based occupational therapists in identifying developmental dysgraphia and supporting students as part of an interdisciplinary collaborative team.

## **206 Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 am**

### **Occupational Therapy Strategies to Combat Social Isolation**

**Sally Harris, COTA1; Marc King, PhD2**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Productive Aging*

Occupational therapy is uniquely positioned to address social isolation by promoting meaningful social participation and occupational engagement. Evidence indicates a strong association between occupational dysfunction and increased risk of social isolation, highlighting the need for occupational therapy interventions that target occupational imbalance, alienation, and marginalization.

## **207 Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 am**

### **The Role Of Driver Rehabilitation In Promoting Independence**

**Brandon Higgs, OTR, CDRS**  
**Chris Thompson, OTR, CDRS**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Adaptive driver training empowers individuals with physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities to regain independence through personalized instruction and assistive technologies. Programs led by certified specialists assess and address each driver's unique needs, incorporating tools like hand controls, steering aids, and cognitive strategies to enhance safety and confidence.

## **208 Saturday 8:00 - 9:00 am**

### **Occupational Therapists' Role in Ostomate & Caregiver Health and Wellbeing**

**Zenon Bernard Recent, OTR, OTD**  
**Molly Setliff, OTR, OTD**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Ostomates and caregivers face many challenges that impact daily life. This presentation highlights ostomy care basics and evidence-based OT interventions to promote well-being and advance OT's role in holistic care for this population.

## **209 Saturday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

### **Acknowledging the Professional Identity of the Occupational Therapy Assistant**

**Vicki Thomas, COTA AS, BS1**  
**Natalie Chang Wright, COTA, AS, BS, MBA2**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory Matters*

Utilization of inclusive language is imperative. OTAs encounter situations where terminology used does not reflect their training impacting them from being seen as skilled practitioners. This session addresses the issues and methods to promote advocacy for inclusion of the OTA.

## **210 Saturday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

### **Mindfulness and Self-Kindness in Occupational Therapy**

**Kim Broussard, OTR, OTD, Ph.D.**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Health and Wellness*

In the dynamic and often demanding field of occupational therapy (OT), practitioners are continually exposed to stressors that can lead to burnout, a state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion caused by prolonged stress. The presentation "Mindfulness and Self-Kindness in Occupational Therapists" addresses this critical issue by exploring self-care strategies centered around mindfulness and self-kindness, tailored specifically for OT professionals.

# Educational Sessions

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## **211 Saturday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

### **Getting Published in a Journal**

**Kathlyn Reed, OTR, PhD, FAOTA**

**Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Research**

The purpose of this presentation is to inform potential authors of research projects about available occupational therapy journal titles, the journal subject focus area, and the requirements for author submission as stated in the author guidelines.

## **212 Saturday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

### **NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know**

**Karthik Mani, OTR, OTD, FACOT**

**Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Academia**

During this session, an NBCOT Ambassador will share valuable information about preparing and applying for the national OTR and COTA certification exams. Specific topics include exclusive details about the exams, study tool resources, test day information, data regarding exam questions, and advice from other students and recent certificates. This presentation will allow you to be better informed about the various aspects of the national certification exam experience.

## **213 Saturday 9:15 - 10:15 am check**

### **Shaping the Future of ICU Care One Diary at a Time**

**Ranya Zayid, OTR, OTD**

**Kimberly Godfrey, OTR, MOT**

**Caroline Bourdon, OTR, MOT, BCPR**

**Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation**

The goal of this presentation is to introduce the concept of ICU Diaries and OT's role in implementing this intervention in ICU care. Learn the basics of what an ICU diary is and how it can promote positive outcomes in recovery for those recovering from critical illness.

## **214 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Advocating for Effective Mental Health Promotion, Prevention & Intervention**

**Claudette Fette, OTR, PhD, FAOTA**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health**

Advocacy is listed as an intervention in the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. Occupational therapists across practice areas need to understand mental health interventions that would benefit the people we serve whether we are delivering those or recommending them. This course will review best practices in mental health across a public health model.

## **215 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Fieldwork Foundations:**

#### **Empowering First-Time OT Educators for Student Success**

**Lizett Guevara-Garza, OTR, OTD**

**Claudia Luna, BS, Celina Casas, OTR, OTD**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Academia**

This course equips first-time fieldwork educators with diverse teaching strategies to support Level I & II students. Attendees will learn to adapt to learning styles, foster positive environments, and guide students toward professional success.

## **216 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Strengthening OT Student**

#### **Learning Through Foundations of DIRFloortime® Courses**

**Mei-Ling Lin, OTR, Ph.D**

**Sonia Benzor, OTR, OTD**

**Taylor Ochs, OTR, OTD**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Academia**

This course presents two projects showing how DIRFloortime® training improved OT students' strategy use, clinical reasoning, and reflective practice, supported by a fidelity checklist and a mixed-method study after Level II fieldwork.

## **217 Saturday 10:30 - 11:30 am**

### **Shaping Your Future: Finding Purpose as a Student, Clinician, Leadership & Beyond**

**Justin Cole, OT**

**Jason Stark, OT, MHA, CPC**

**Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Work and Industry**

There is strong support and a continual growing body of evidence that shows that through self-reflection, exploration through clinical experiences, understanding leadership opportunities and staying informed and adaptable, practitioners can

innovate and shape the field of OT while finding personal satisfaction within the profession.

## **218 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Addressing Feeding Challenges in Early Intervention: Seven Key Areas to Explore**

**Tanya Glass, OTR, MOT**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth**

Occupational therapy practitioners working in the early intervention setting are often faced with supporting children and families with a variety of mealtime challenges without having the support and education in place to feel confident and effective in their treatment. This short course will provide attendees a roadmap of key areas to assess and address relative to mealtime challenges and picky eating behaviors within the early intervention setting to support confidence and growth in their skills.

## **219 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Collaborative Care: OT as the Missing Link in Pediatric Pelvic Health**

**Caitlin Keller, PT, DPT**

**Melissa Howard, PT, DPT**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth**

This session will explore how retained reflexes such as Moro, TLR, Spinal Galant, ATNR, and STNR impact postural control, body awareness, and toileting readiness. We'll also examine how sensory dysregulation can disrupt parasympathetic activation, which is essential for healthy elimination.

## **220 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Balance Assessment and Therapy by Occupational Therapists and Assistants**

**Helen S Cohen, OTR, EdD, FAOTA**

**Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Productive Aging**

Care of disorders of the vestibular system is not part of entry level education and is unusual in continuing education. Participants will learn about health problems related to disequilibrium, standard assessment measures, and related functional problems. The session will discuss simple interventions that entry-level therapists and assistants can use, and more complex intervention strategies that intermediate to advanced clinicians can use to provide balance therapy.

# Educational Sessions

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## 221 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Hand in Hand with Osteoarthritis: Empowering Our Clients and Community Members

**Theresa Woodward, OTR, ppOTD-student, CHT**  
**Laura Alexander, OTR, OTD, CLT**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory,  
Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

People may suffer in silence with osteoarthritic thumb pain due to a lack of understanding regarding viable options. Skilled OTPs can empower clients through education, leading to meaningful occupations with Standard Conservative Treatment (SCT).

## 222 Saturday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Upper Extremity Treatment Continuum within Occupation-based Practice Post-stroke

**Vinita Jobes, OT, OTD, C/NDT**  
*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate,  
Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Define Neuro-developmental Therapy (NDT) Upper Extremity Treatment Continuum and examine how current evidence supports the model. Learn strategies to activate the upper extremity in functional tasks with emphasis on occupation-based practice to promote meaningful participation.

## 223 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Clinical Practice Guidelines for Evaluating Concussion-Related Vision Disorders

**Emilie Klingman, OTR, OTD**  
*Short Course, Advanced, Children and Youth*

Vision disorders are common after concussion and can lead to occupational performance deficits. This research created the first clinical practice guidelines for evaluating concussion-related vision disorders based on OT experts' recommendations.

## 224 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Students, Sleep, and Scholarly Success

**Timothy Tu, OTR, MEd, DSc**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Health and Wellness*

Sleep is vital for overall health, quality of life, and safety, yet studies show that college students are at high

risk for poor sleep health. This lack of sufficient sleep has been linked to a variety of negative outcomes, including deficits in attention, depression, and lower academic performance. Sleep duration and quality, particularly over a prolonged period such as the week or month leading up to exams, have been found to correlate with better grades (Okano, et al., 2019).

## 225 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Elevating Documentation: Using the OTPF for Client-Centered, Functional Practice

**Dailen Castillo, OTR, OTD, MBA**  
**Jacqueline Stevenson, OTR, MOT, OTD**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate,  
Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory  
Matters*

Learn to enhance documentation using the OTPF with a client-centered focus, consistent terminology, and clear links between evaluation, intervention, and outcomes—supporting functional goals and compliance to advance OT practice and professional standards.

## 226 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Developmental Monitoring and Screening for Early Identification of Delay

**Kate Barlow, OTR, OTD, IECMH-E, FNAP,  
FAOTA**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*

This presentation will provide an overview of the importance of developmental monitoring and screening all children birth to age five for early identification of delay. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) free Learn the Signs. Act Early. (LTSAE) developmental monitoring program, as well as the free developmental screening tool called the Survey of Well-Being in Young Children (SWYC) will be discussed. Successful implementation strategies will also be reviewed.

## 227 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Effectiveness of a Clinic-Based PCIMT Program on Upper Extremity Function

**Regan Blankenship, DHS**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate,  
Children and Youth*

Pediatric constraint-induced movement therapy (PCIMT) is a promising intervention for children with unilateral hemiparesis, yet its effectiveness in outpatient clinical settings remains underreported. This study examined the outcomes of a three-week intensive clinic-based PCIMT program in 31 children aged 2.5 to 8 years. Standardized assessments—the Pediatric Motor Activity Log (PMAL) and the Melbourne Assessment of Unilateral Upper Limb Function (Melbourne-2)—were administered before and after intervention.

## 228 Saturday 2:00 - 5:30 pm

### Pediatric Feeding Fundamentals: A Crash Course in Clinical Practice for OTs

**Paige Seifert, OTR**  
*Long Course (3.5 hours), Introductory,  
Children and Youth*

Pediatric Feeding Fundamentals: A Crash Course in Clinical Practice for OTs is an introductory course designed to equip occupational therapy practitioners with knowledge and tools to address pediatric feeding challenges. The course explores feeding as a meaningful occupation and examines how performance skills, client factors, and context affect mealtime participation.

## 229 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Work Intervention for Young Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

**Laurie Stelter, OTR, PhD**  
**Cynthia Tiongco, OTR, PhD**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory,  
Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

This course outlines a work-based intervention, grounded in the Cognitive Orientation to daily Performance Model, that assists young adults with intellectual and developmental disability with improved skills for transition to early adulthood roles.

# Educational Sessions

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## 230 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Functional Scapular Mobility: A Novel Clinical Assessment for the Future

**Janine Settle, eOTD Student**

**Miguel Valdez, eOTD Student**

**Juan Perez, eOTD Student**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

This presentation explores the functional importance of scapular motion, reviews current evidence on assessment methods, and introduces a clinically feasible technique for measuring scapular mobility in the transverse plane. The method uses clearly defined anatomical landmarks, requires only a standard goniometer, and has demonstrated strong interrater reliability with good concurrent validity.

## 231 Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

### Osteoarthritis of the Hand - Shaping Our Patient's Future

**Laurie Reddy, OTR, MOT, CHT**

**Rajeshree Jaiswal, OTR, MS, CHT**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Occupational therapists (OTs) play a crucial role in improving the lives of individuals with osteoarthritis (OA), a condition that affects the joints, causing pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility. By utilizing a client-centered, evidence-based approach, we will teach you how to help patients manage their symptoms and optimize their functional abilities, thus "shaping" their future in meaningful ways.

## 232 Saturday 3:15 - 4:15 pm

### Strategies to Integrate Cultural Competence and Professionalism in OT Fieldwork

**Linda Barnett, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Ethics*

Fieldwork provides students with experiential learning experiences to develop essential professional skills. The experience aims to impart values and principles that support ethical conduct and foster professionalism and competence, shaping the future of occupational therapy. Culturally competent practitioners can enhance health outcomes and quality of care and reduce racial and health disparities.

## 233 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Implementing Cash-Based Practice for Innovative OT Service Delivery in Texas

**Celina Hawthorne, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Documentation, Billing, and Regulatory Matters*

Learn to build a thriving cash-pay OT practice in Texas with real-world insights on client-focused services, clear pricing strategies, and safety protocols supported by practical planning resources.

## 234 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Behind the Capstone: Student Insights on Projects, Mentors, and Impact

**Leslye Morris, OTR, OTD**

**Lou Rutigliano, OTR, PhD**

**Supria Sen, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Intermediate, Academia*

This interactive panel features doctoral students sharing firsthand insights into their capstone journey, including developing their project ideas and securing sites and mentors to navigating their experiences and outcomes. Each segment will be moderated by a faculty lead who will offer brief framing remarks and guide discussion with thoughtful prompts for both panelists and the audience.

## 235 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Recognizing the Value of Robust Treatment Activities in Pediatrics

**Justine Faghihfar, OTR, ppOTD**

**Neneitte Tabani, OTR, ppOTD**

**Wendy Tremaine, OTR, PhD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth*

Pediatric occupational therapy (OT) plays a critical role in supporting the developmental needs of children with physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Robust treatment activities, characterized by their structured and adaptable nature are essential in promoting occupational engagement, functional skill acquisition and attainment of developmental milestones.

## 236 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Put Me In Coach! The Art & Science of Guiding Caregivers in Pediatric Therapy

## Jennifer Lawson OTR, MS

### Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth

This training will describe the principles of coaching, the evidence supporting the practice in multiple settings, as well as the importance of child/family routines within this methodology. Particular attention will be placed on practical strategies for utilizing coaching with caregivers of children receiving therapy intervention, including how it can be used effectively in the teletherapy environment. Considerations for documentation will also be addressed.

## 237 Saturday 3:15 - 4:15 pm

### Empowering Survivors: Strategies for Intimate Partner Violence Recovery

**Joe De La Torre III, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

Explore intimate partner violence (IPV) incidence, survivor experience, and occupation-based support group strategies in this workshop, equipping OT practitioners to enhance occupational participation and support for individuals affected by IPV.

## 238 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Maximizing Impact: How Hosting a Capstone Student Can Elevate Your OT Practice

**Stephanie Capshaw, OTR, OTD**

**Leslye Morris, OTR, OTD**

**Laurie Stelter, OTR, PhD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Have big ideas for your practice but lack time or resources? Hosting an entry-level doctoral capstone student may help bring your vision to life—gain support for projects, innovation, or program development while mentoring the next generation.

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND  
THE TOTA VIRTUAL  
BUSINESS MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2025  
6:30 - 8:00 PM CDT

# Educational Sessions

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## 239 Saturday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

### Performing a Wheelchair Seating & Mobility Mat Evaluation

**Patricia Tully, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (2.0 hours), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

A wheelchair seating and mobility mat evaluation for client with a neurologic illness or injury can make the difference between improving a clients function or causing them impairment or inability to perform every day living skills. This session will focus on how to perform a supine and sitting mat evaluation, taking body measurements, interpreting body positions during the mat assessment and their effect on function, and a general discussion related to general wheelchair cushions, backrests, and custom seating equipment.

## 240 Saturday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

### Play, Participation, Community Partnership, Social Inclusion: A Summer Camp

**Darlene Brooks, OTR, Dr.OT**

**Christene Maas, OTR, PhD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Academia*

Faculty from an occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program and a community partner collaborated for students to support a summer camp for children with disabilities. Faculty reflects on the planning, successes, and lessons learned from this service-learning experience. Data collection for OTD student experiences is in the planning phase, with any approved preliminary data to be presented.

## 241 Saturday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

### Crying Over Spilt Milk: Supporting Maternal Mental Health and Breastfeeding

**Jessica Peterson, OTD, OTR, CLC-PMH-C**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This presentation explores the relationship between maternal mental health around breastfeeding as a co-occupation, as well as tools to address occupational performance and integrate client-centered care into practice when addressing this occupation.

## ON DEMAND SESSIONS

Pre-recorded

### 400 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### Supporting the Parents of Transition Aged Autism Students

**Miguel Duran, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Research*

The purpose of the current project is to develop and implement a parent support group for the parents of transition aged youth with the diagnosis of autism with the purpose of providing educational courses on policies and programs relevant to their children, increasing quality of life for families and establishing a precedent for a client centered experience.

### 401 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### The Role of Occupational Therapy in Postnatal Mental Health: Postpartum Program

**Paola Quiroz, eOTD Student**

*Poster, Introductory, Mental Health and Behavioral Health*

This capstone project intends to develop a mental health program addressing hardships experienced by postpartum mothers during the first year and a half after giving birth. This project aims to advocate for the Occupational Therapy profession and its place within maternal mental health. Additionally, this project aims to provide practitioners with tools to use when addressing maternal mental health.

### 402 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### Strategies to Integrate Cultural Competence and Professionalism in OT Fieldwork

**Linda Barnett, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1 hour), Introductory, Ethics*

Fieldwork provides students with experiential learning experiences to develop essential professional skills. The experience aims to impart values and principles that support ethical conduct and foster professionalism and competence, shaping the future of occupational therapy. Culturally competent practitioners can enhance health outcomes and quality of care and reduce racial and health disparities.

### 404 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### Perceived Confidence in Anatomy Education Among Occupational Therapy Students

**Gabriela Perez, OTR, OTD, EdD**

**Nicholas Harrington, eOTD student**

**Dan Calvo, eOTD student**

*Short Course (1 hour), Intermediate, Academia*

This course examines the possibilities of hybrid immersion and blended learning models in anatomy education. We will focus on how these teaching approaches influence students' confidence in their anatomical knowledge, referencing previous studies that indicate higher satisfaction and engagement among students in blended learning settings compared to traditional residential courses.

### 405 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### Using AI Generated Music to Enhance OTD Student Learning and Critical Thinking

**Thelma Ochoa, OTR, OTD, C/NDT**

**Monica Clark, OTR, OTD**

**John Luna, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Introductory, Academia*

Explore how AI-generated music can support OTD students' learning of complex material, enhancing content retention, application, and critical thinking for occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) transitioning into academic teaching roles. Participants will gain practical strategies for integrating AI tools into teaching practice to improve student engagement, creativity, and cognitive performance.

### 407 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

#### A New Workforce: The FW Coordinators' Solution in Supporting the OTP Workforce

**Michelle Atanu, OTR, MOT**

**Leeann Dockall, eOTD Student**

*Practice Forum, Intermediate, Academia*

The literature highlights a direct relationship between the occupational therapy workforce shortage and the decreasing availability of Level II fieldwork placements. As OT and OTA programs expand, the ability to place students in quality pediatric settings has declined due to practitioner attrition and systemic barriers (Turner et al., 2024; Coppard et al., 2021).

# Educational Sessions

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## 408 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### The Role of Occupational Therapy in Comprehensive Lymphedema Management

**Abigail Leslie, OTR, OTD, CLT, PAMs**

*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Advanced, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

Lymphedema is a chronic, progressive condition characterized by the abnormal accumulation of lymphatic fluid, often leading to swelling, discomfort, and significant functional limitations. OTs also provide critical client and caregiver education that supports long-term self-management, risk reduction, and empowerment.

## 409 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Understanding the Role of Capstone Site Mentor and How to Get Involved

**Crystal Smith, OTR, OTD**

**Mica Rutschke, OTR, MSOT, DHA, CLVT**  
**Kaitlyn Cremer, OTR, MOT, OTD, SCLV, CAPS**  
*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Introductory, Academia*

Learn about doctoral capstone mentorship, entry-level capstone expectations, and how to champion project ideas. This session supports professional growth by equipping practitioners to guide future OTs and integrate scholarly work into practice.

## 410 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Fieldwork Education in Occupational Therapy: Educator and Student Supports

**Molly Amlung, OTR, MOT**

*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Intermediate, Academia*

This short course surrounds OT fieldwork education and supportive documents for both Level I and Level II experiences. These documents were part of a post-professional capstone project that will be available by August 2025 on the Texas Occupational Therapy Association website through the Fieldwork Education tab. Topics range from professional behaviors, documentation, weekly goals, problem-solving and clinical reasoning skills, and competency expectations to management strategies for struggling students.

## 411 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Exploring Diverse Occupational Therapy Interventions Across Settings

**Kim Broussard, OTR, OTD, Ph.D.**

**Gabriela Perez, OTR, OTD, EdD**

**Alisa Kollmann, OTR, OTD**

*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Introductory, Rehabilitation Disability and Participation*

This presentation will equip attendees with practical tools to enhance intervention planning and grading across various practice environments. It will reinforce the foundational principles of occupational therapy practice while encouraging innovation and adaptability in clinical approaches.

## 412 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### The Therapy Journey for Children with Chronic or Progressive Conditions

**Jennifer Lawson, OTR, MS**

*Short Course (1.75 - 2.0 hours), Introductory, Children and Youth*

This training will address the unique therapeutic paths that children with chronic or progressive conditions may demonstrate and will offer a lens through which we can view and analyze along the way. We will explore how context and perspective can inform decision making around assessment tool selection and test interpretation, as well as making decisions around medical necessity, dosage, and interventions.

## 413 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Perceived Impact of Simulations on Entry-Level Clinical Competencies

**John Luna, OTR, OTD**

**Roel Garcia, OTR, OTD**

**Criselda Garcia, Ed**

*Short Course (1 hour), Level of Material, Intermediate, Academia*

This presentation examines the perceived impact of simulation-based learning from the perspective of entry-level occupational therapy practitioners. The data will be analyzed across various simulation types, highlighting potential differences in learning outcomes. Attendees will be encouraged to explore implications for practice and consider testable hypotheses regarding the impact of simulation at different stages of the curriculum.

## 414 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Practical Interprofessional Clinical Training for Future OT Health Professionals

**Gretchen Johnson, OTR, OTD, CLT**

**Linda Barnett, OTD, MA, OTR, LSVT BIG®, IMH-E®**  
*Short Course (1 hour), Level of Material, Academia*

The study explored: "What are students' perceptions of their readiness for clinical situations after participating in interprofessional education collaboration?" Nursing and occupational therapy students engaged in simulated orthopedic scenarios, applying classroom learning in a team setting.

## 415 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Pickleball for All: Adaptive Sports Program to Address Well-Being of Children

**Landree Chiles, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Level of Material, Introductory, Children and Youth*

This program focuses on creating an adaptive sports program for the community and offering education on accessibility of local recreation centers and available events. The program provided caregivers with education on the benefits of exercise on overall well-being and strategies to enhance their child's emotional regulation, attention, and social skills for success in daily activities at home and school.

## 416 On-Demand Pre-Recorded ▶

### Suitable Sensory Strategies: Supporting Staff and Caregivers

**Lyndee Chiles, OTR, OTD**

*Poster, Level of Material, Introductory, Children and Youth*

The purpose of this capstone program is to provide comprehensive education and training within a sensory processing program from an occupational therapy perspective to support staff and caregivers of children with special needs while collaborating with a variety of disciplines, including applied behavioral analysts (ABA), social workers, and teachers for successful implementation in an integrated setting.

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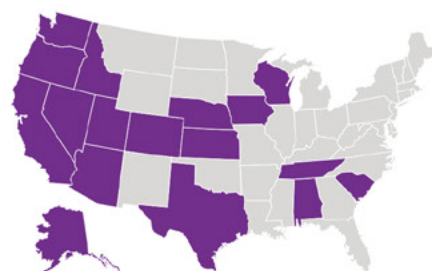
- EMG (Electromyography)
- FEES (Fiberoptic evaluation of swallowing)
- Dry Needling
- Posterior Tibial Nerve Stimulation
- HeartMath
- Specialized cognitive programming on a facility level (Abilities Care Approach)

## Get in touch



Using Ensign as an example, Mark Parkinson points to Leadership as the difference maker for successful providers.

Mark Parkinson  
AHCA/NCAL President & CEO  
*Skilled Nursing News* • October 10, 2022



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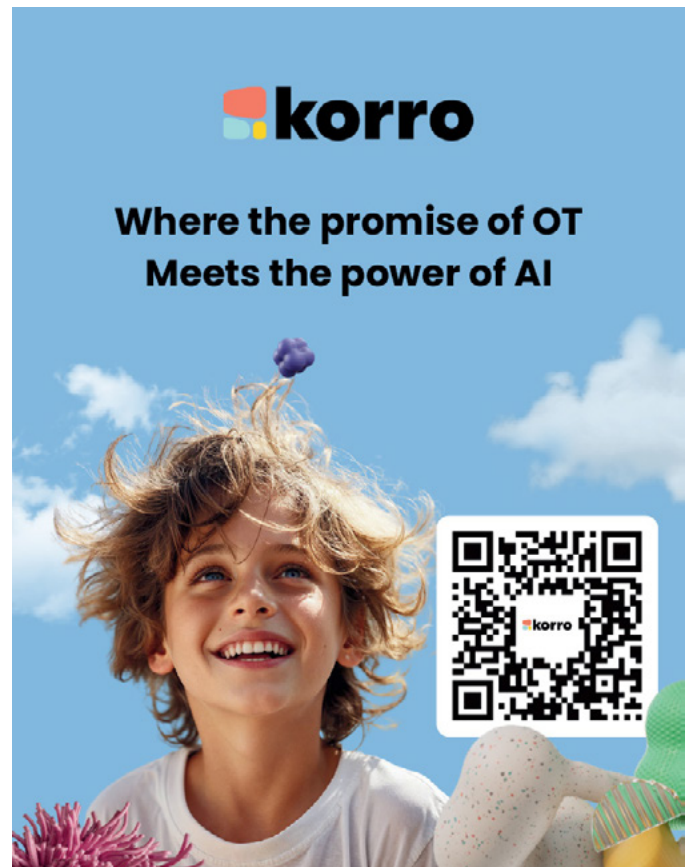
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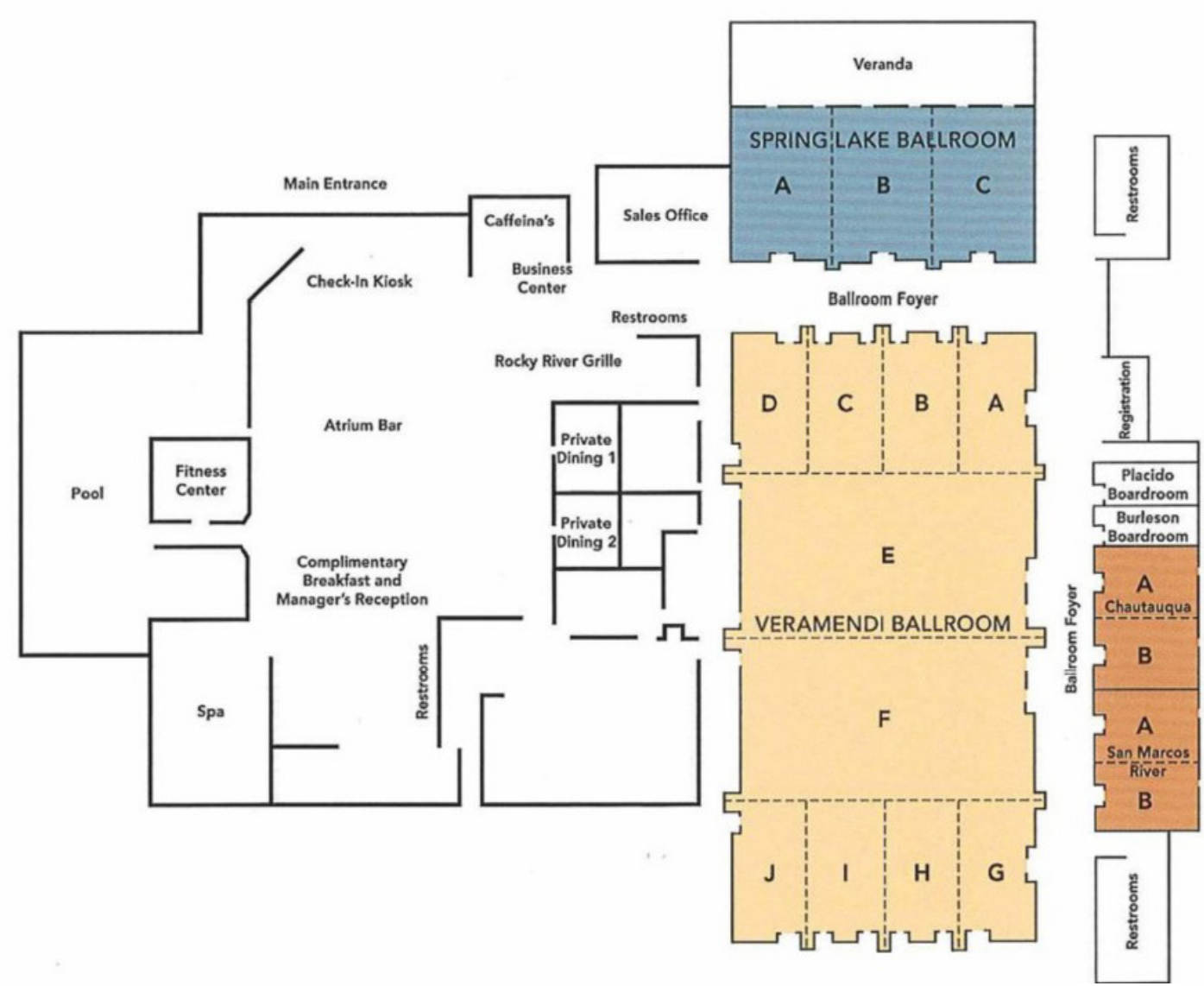
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