



"Advancing Occupational Therapy, Empowering Practitioners, Enhancing Lives Across Texas."



TOTA 2025 Call for Proposals is Open March 1 - May 31, 2025

The Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) is now accepting proposals for the 2025 Annual Conference. Proposals may be submitted by occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and occupational therapy students (Note: student submissions must include a faculty or clinician co-author). Proposals from related professions are also welcome. We are using the platform "Oxford Abstracts". Proposals may be submitted now through May 31 11:59 PM .

[Download complete instructions and Information](#)



Nominations for the 2025 TOTA Awards

Opened on March 1 and close on April 30

The Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes our colleagues' contributions to our profession. Honoring each other is a valuable part of our professional duty. The award categories have been expanded to include more opportunities to recognize our occupational therapy assistants.

Click the link below to view the category definitions

<https://www.tota.org/award-categories>

Occupational therapy practitioners and students must be current TOTA members at the time of nomination and throughout the selection process to be considered for association awards. Self-nomination is not allowed.

2025 Awards & Recognition Committee

Gloria Jeffrey, OTR - Co Chair

Submit A Nomination

Carol Regli, OTR, OTD - Co Chair
Angela Duell, OTR, OTD
Amanda Elsner, OTR, OTD
Thelma Ochoa, OTR, OTD
Melinda Underwood, OTR, OTD
Valerie Vasquez, OTR



The banner features the OTBE logo (Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment) with a bee, the TOTA Mental Health logo, and a stylized illustration of a woman with a floral-patterned headscarf. The text on the banner reads: "Maternal Mental Wellness Symposium", "May 17, 2025", "10:00 AM - 2:30 PM CST", and "FREE to all Texas occupational therapy practitioners and students". A note at the bottom left says "Pending TOTA approval for 3.5 CE/Contact Hours".

OTBE/TOTA Virtual Maternal Mental Wellness Symposium

The Occupational Therapy Benevolence Endowment (OTBE), in collaboration with the Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA), is pleased to present a Virtual Maternal Mental Wellness Symposium. The symposium aims to bring awareness and education about this emerging area of practice. The symposium will address the needs of occupational therapy practitioners and their clients as new mothers.

Now TOTA approved for 3.5 CE/Contact hours

Click [here to enroll](#) in this free event

[AOTA Fellowships in Texas](#)

New graduates and early career Occupational Therapy Practitioners are you interested in learning about Fellowships? There are six AOTA Fellowship opportunities in Texas. You can visit the TOTA Learning Management System to learn more. Recorded presentations by Baylor Scott & White - Rehabilitation and Houston Methodist -Acute Care [Click Here to enroll](#)



Presents the 2025 Bubba Klostermann Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

All Lectures will occur virtually from 12:00 PM - 1:00 P.M CST

Lecture 1: Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics but Make it OT! - Thursday, February 20th

Now available on demand in the TOTA LMS

Lecture 2: DIR Floortime - Everywhere with Everyone! - Thursday, March 20th

Lecture 3: The Integrated School OT – Supporting Students through Collaboration - Thursday, April 17th

OT Research and Capstone Surveys

Evidence based practice is vital to growing and sustaining our profession. This page provides TOTA members an opportunity to gather participants for their research. By participating in research surveys, you are helping to support ongoing efforts to further our profession.

Posted Surveys:

- Research Subject: Experiences and Perceptions of Male OT Students and Early Career OT Practitioners in the US and UK - close date 4/30/2025
- Research Subject: Assessing the current needs and barriers in pediatric fieldwork placements -close date 3/31/2025

To access surveys visit <https://www.tota.org/research>



Registration for this unique bi-annual conference is open.

This conference is for OT and PT school-based practitioners serving in Texas public schools. Content supports developing practitioner knowledge base regarding service delivery for all struggling learners. Planned sessions will alert attendees to the latest developments in education policy, research and evidence-based practice.

[Please visit the website for details.](#)

****AOTA Advocacy Alerts and Updates***

Challenges with TRICARE West

AOTA has been informed of several issues affecting [providers' billing services to TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#), the new contractor for TRICARE West as of January 1. These issues include non-payment of claims, difficulties with authorizations, credentialing issues, and challenges with customer service. AOTA needs additional information to advocate for affected providers with TRICARE.

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) affected by the challenges associated with TriWest are encouraged to email AOTA at Regulatory@aota.org. Please include as many pertinent details as possible in your correspondence, ensuring that no protected health information (PHI) is disclosed. Please note that because these issues are so widespread, we are unable to assist individual practitioners but we may contact you for clarification or additional details.

<https://www.aota.org/advocacy/advocacy-news/2025/challenges-with-tricare-west>

Texas Bragging Rights

We love bragging on the accomplishments of our members. 🤠



Congrats TOTA members,
we are proud of your
accomplishments!



**Anna Haertling Clearman, OTR, MOT,
CLT** (Gulf Coast East District)
New AOTPAC Board for Region IV: Iowa,
Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,
Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South
Dakota, **Texas**, Wisconsin



Dahlia Castillo, OTR, OTD
(Alamo South District)
Elected AOTA - Diversity,
Equity, Justice, Access &
Belonging (DEIJAB)
Chairperson - for a 2-year
term

Upcoming Events!

[Financial Freedom for OTs: Strategies to Thrive Without Burnout](#)

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM CST

[DIR-Floortime: All the Time with Everyone](#)

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST

[Retire or Expire: What to do with your TBOTE License](#)

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM CST

[OTBE/TOTA Maternal Mental Wellness Symposium](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM CST

[Texas Society for Hand Therapy Annual Conference](#)

Friday, June 06, 2025 8:00 AM to Sunday, June 08, 2025, 5:00 PM CST

[TOTA 2025 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY & PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICE DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS: Policy, Research, and Best Practices](#)

Friday, June 13, 2025, 8:00 AM to Saturday, June 14, 2025, 12:30 PM CST

TOTA District Sponsored CE Events

Most courses are FREE to current TOTA members! Not a member? By becoming a member, you would be supporting your state association and enjoying cost savings while earning CEUs! Just complete a [membership application](#) before registering for a course.

Non-Member OT/OTA (1 to 1.5 CEU/2 CEUs) \$20/\$30
Non-Member Student (1 to 1.5 CEU/2 CEUs) \$10/\$15



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