



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Occupational Therapy

Fall 2021

O.T. Link

50 years of helping hands

*Milliken Hand Rehabilitation
Center turns 50*





Commencement 2021

Washington University held a series of in-person Commencement ceremonies May 20-21 at the Danforth Campus that followed public health recommendations in regard to COVID-19 safety. Program in Occupational Therapy students attended the School of Medicine's ceremony on Friday, May 21. The Program held a virtual ceremony earlier that day to confer their occupational therapy degrees.

O.T. Link Contents

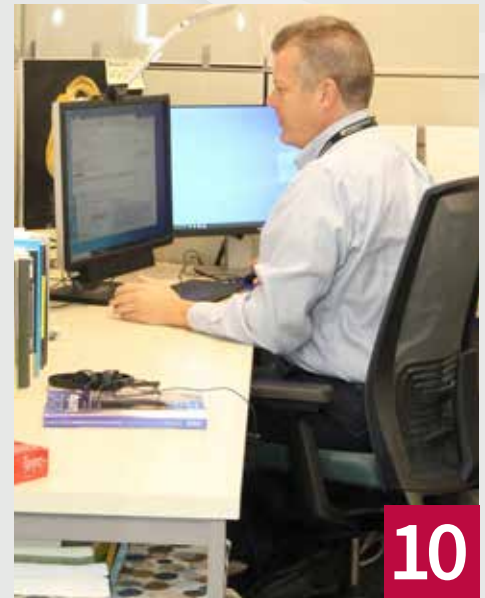
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The Program acquires a new space at 4480 Clayton Avenue for faculty and their laboratories



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Associate Dean and Director of Occupational Therapy, Elias Michael
Professor of Occupational Therapy and Professor of Neurology
Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L

Managing Editor and Designer
Michele Berhorst

Photography
Michele Berhorst
Abigail King
Shivanti Kariyawasam, OTD/S '21
Grace Ong, MSOT/S '22
Elizabeth Taaffe
Sue Tucker, OTD, OTR/L, ATP

Contributors
Michele Berhorst
Megen Devine, MA
Nathaniel Baniqued, OTD/S '23
Ryan Risley, MPM
Stephanie Stemmler

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 **Washington University in St. Louis**
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Occupational Therapy

From the Director



On August 27, the Program in Occupational Therapy welcomed its MSOT '23 and OTD '24 classes into the profession with our annual Convocation Ceremony (page 16). Due to the COVID-19 vaccine developments, we were able to return to in-person learning that complies with social distancing and other safety measures set forth by the university. This issue of OT Link highlights many of the events and activities of the past few months and looks ahead at what is coming up in 2022.

Our cover story celebrates Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center's 50th anniversary this year (page 4). In 1971, Paul Weeks, MD, the new chief of Washington University's Division of Plastic Surgery, was determined to create a comprehensive hand rehabilitation center that would enhance treatments, surgery and therapeutic procedures. He recruited two hand rehabilitation specialists, Patricia Phelps, BSOT, OTR, and Virginia Moyers, BSPT, PT, and opened the John T. Milliken Hand Center. In this article, past and present Milliken employees share their thoughts on how the center has evolved over the years and why they are proud of its legacy and future. It is an honor to have Milliken be a part of the Program as it continues to lead in advancing patient care, research, education and the development of evidence-based therapy for hand rehabilitation and beyond.

As many of you already know, we lost our beloved colleague and friend Regina Abel, PhD, on June 15 (page 8). Regina herself often said she lived her life "backward" because she raised her family first before pursuing her academic goals at 40. She came to the Program in 1999 as a postdoctoral fellow, spent the next 22 years with us as a staff scientist and joined our faculty in 2017. She also spent those years pursuing her other passion – animal assisted therapy. She was actively involved in numerous animal rescue organizations, and her volunteerism at CHAMP Assistance Dogs allowed her to combine her passion for research and animal assisted therapy. We miss her tremendously as a colleague, instructor, mentor and friend to all in the Program.

This summer, history repeated itself as the Program expanded its footprint (page 10) on the medical campus to provide more contemporary physical spaces that support our research and educational missions more directly. In July, our Research and Education Division faculty and supporting staff moved into 4480 Clayton Ave. Program leadership, administrative staff and OT Services clinical offices (on the second floor) remained in the 4444 Forest Park Ave. location. Teaching spaces in that building will also stay the same, but faculty will also be holding classes in the medical school's various shared teaching and meeting spaces. I am looking forward to seeing how integrating more fully with the medical campus will provide richer, more robust learning experiences for our students.

Each year, the Outstanding Alumni Award (page 12) recognizes an alumna or alumnus of the Program for their individual achievements in or contributions to the field of occupational therapy in research; education; leadership; professional development; community participation; diversity, equity and inclusion; and/or by supporting the Program. We relish the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our alumni and invite you to take part in the process by nominating accomplished graduates of our Program for an award. This past May, we honored two of our alumnae with this honor: Gloria Levin, MA, BSOT '67, and Linda Struckmeyer, PhD, BSOT '82, OTR/L (page 13).

As another year draws to a close, I am proud of all we have accomplished in these challenging times. I am also thankful that our WashU community provides the resources and support the Program needs to thrive and grow as we continue to educate the future leaders in our profession.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa T. Connor".

Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L

Associate Dean and Director of Occupational Therapy

Elias Michael Professor of Occupational Therapy and Professor of Neurology

lconnor@wustl.edu

Faculty Appointments

Adam Cisroe Pearson, OTD, OTR/L, was appointed part-time instructor in occupational therapy on February 15, 2021. His clinical and research interests focus on homelessness, mental health, policy, leadership, leadership development, program development, affordable housing, diversity, equity and inclusion.



Adam Cisroe Pearson

Salma Bachelani, OTD, OTR/L, was appointed instructor in occupational therapy and pediatrics on April 1, 2021. Her clinical and research interests focus on improving occupational participation for children, youth and families impacted by disabilities, in particular, facilitating development of life skills in children with developmental disabilities and learning differences.



Salma Bachelani

Catherine Hoyt, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, was appointed instructor in occupational therapy, neurology and pediatrics on April 1, 2021. Her research focuses on identifying methods to screen children with sickle cell disease for developmental delays and developing a referral program to early intervention so that more children can be referred to, and take advantage of, beneficial therapeutic interventions during critical years of neural development.



Catherine Hoyt

Stacy West-Bruce, OTD, MSW, OTR/L was appointed instructor in occupational therapy and medicine on May 15, 2021. She is interested in research and interventions aimed at supporting healthy and supportive aging-in-place



Stacy West-Bruce

strategies for older adults and occupational access based on factors such as race, socioeconomic status and location. She is also interested in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives as they relate to occupational therapy education and practice spaces.

Binyam Nardos, PhD, was appointed instructor in occupational therapy and neurology on July 19, 2021. His research interests focus on investigating the brain-basis of “cognitive learning, or re-learning,” to work toward the ambitious goal of identifying a “brain signature” of successful cognitive learning approaches to benefit the field of stroke rehabilitation.



Binyam Nardos

Jaclyn Schwartz, PhD, OTR/L, was appointed assistant professor of occupational therapy and neurology on August 16, 2021. Her research focuses on enhancing medical adherence in people with disabilities so that they may experience better well-being and quality of life. Schwartz aims to understand the mechanisms of medication adherence in people with disabilities and to develop and test practical clinical and technological strategies to improve medication adherence after disability.



Jaclyn Schwartz

West-Bruce appointment

Stacy West-Bruce, OTD, MSW, OTR/L, was appointed to the Home & Community Health Special Interest Section (HCHSIS) Standing Committee of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The HCHSIS Standing Committee provides resources and support for occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and students whose practice environment is the home and community. West-Bruce started her three-year term July 1.

Awards

Jeanenne Dallas, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA, received the 2021 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Retired Educator’s Commendation. This commendation acknowledges exceptional leadership by retired occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educators who have demonstrated commitment to the advancement of occupational therapy education. Dallas retired as faculty on Dec. 31, 2020, after 24 years of service.

Emily Somerville, OTD, OTR/L, received the Alene and Meyer Kopolow Award for Geriatrics, Psychiatry and Neurology during the Friedman Lecture & Awards virtual ceremony on April 14. The Kopolow Award recognizes stellar contributions to the care of older adults by a resident, post-residency fellow or junior faculty member in neurology, psychiatry, medicine or related disciplines.

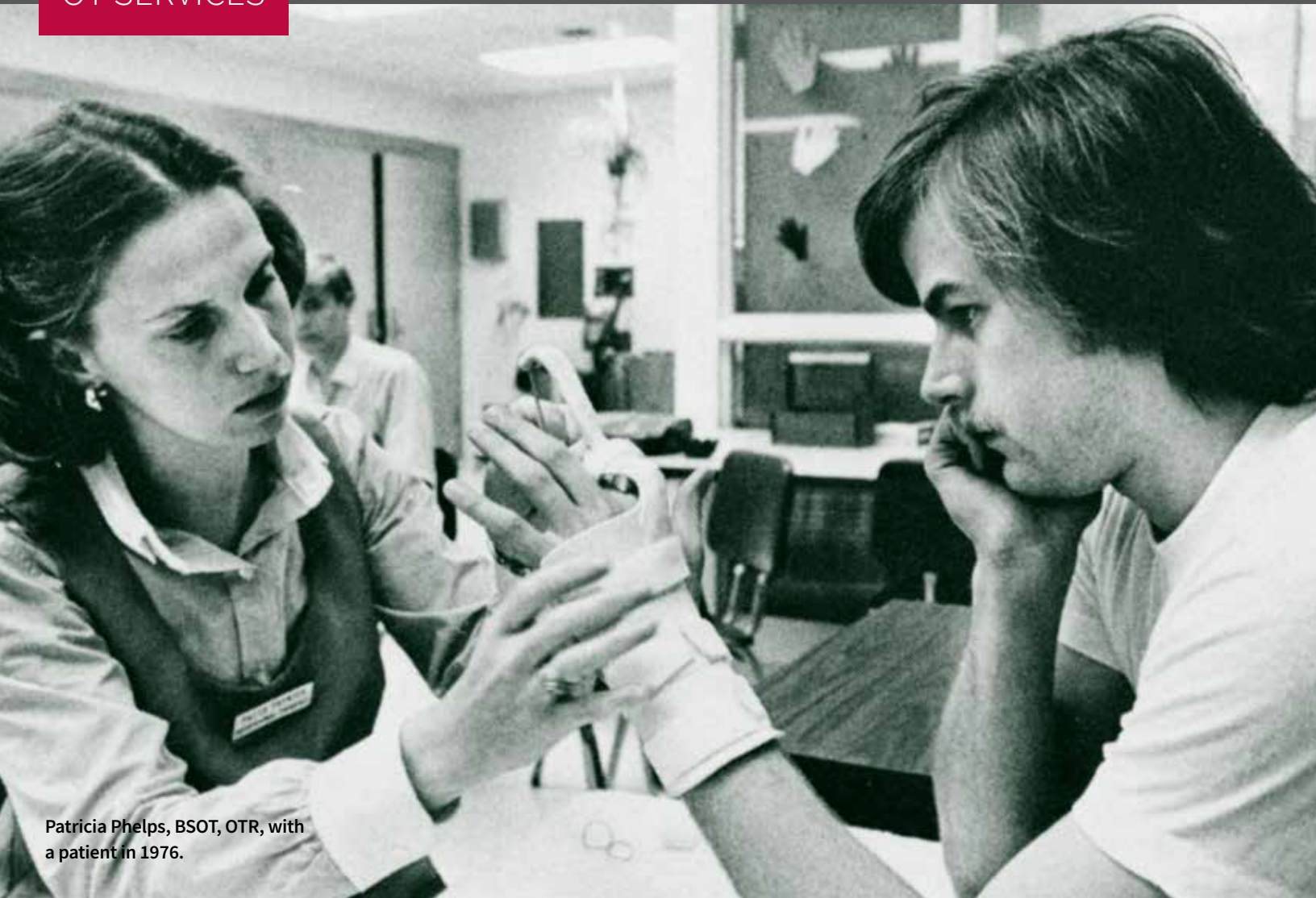
Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L, received the 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award virtually from the Graduate Student Senate on May 19. She was nominated by Catherine Hoyt, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, who was mentored by Connor as a PhD student and as postdoctoral research associate. Hoyt wrote in her nomination: “I can say that Lisa’s attentive and considerate mentorship is unparalleled, and we are so lucky to have her back as part of the Washington University community.”

Tiffany Rader, MPH, received the 2021 Outstanding Staff Award from the Graduate Student Senate on May 19. The award honors staff members whose dedication and commitment to excellence in graduate training have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students at Washington University.

Want more Program news?

Stay up to date on the latest Program news by visiting our website at ot.wustl.edu or connecting with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.





Patricia Phelps, BSOT, OTR, with a patient in 1976.

50 years of helping hands

By Stephanie Stemmler

Milliken Hand
Rehabilitation Center
celebrates 50 years:
1971-2021

The year was 1971. Three years before the creation of the American Society of Hand Therapists, a major development was taking place in St. Louis that would showcase the value and power of collaborative clinical practice and research among physicians, occupational therapists and physical therapists dedicated to hand surgery and rehabilitation.

Paul Weeks, MD, the new chief of Washington University's Division of Plastic Surgery, was determined to create a comprehensive hand rehabilitation center that would enhance treatments, surgery and therapeutic procedures. Weeks, a prominent hand surgeon, recruited two hand rehabilitation specialists, Patricia Phelps, BSOT, OTR, and Virginia Moyers, BSPT, PT, and opened the doors to what was then called the John T. Milliken Hand Center.

It was the first center of its kind in the Midwest, and only the third comprehensive hand center established in the United States. When it got under way in the Irene Walter Johnson (IWJ) Rehabilitation Institute, it was a time when innovative minds realized the value of multidisciplinary approaches to enhance patient outcomes. It also was a time when the University promoted patient care as well as education and research in rehabilitation services. By 1980, hand rehabilitation was noted as part of the School of Medicine's coursework at the IWJ Institute and in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Jewish Hospital.

In 1972, Paul Manske, MD, an orthopedic surgeon, joined the faculty at Washington University. He rose through the ranks, becoming chairman of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1983. He took note of the Milliken Center in the Division of Plastic Surgery.

"He was a well-known hand surgeon, and he wanted his own therapists," recalled Pat Barton Slama, BSOT, OTR. "Marlene Coe, OTR, and then Debbie Beaulieu Goldblum, OTR, started with him, and I joined the group when Marlene moved to Germany. At that time, we were working with patients at IWJ, or in basically what I'd call a closet in the orthopedic office."

"That small room was our charting area and treatment space," recalls Cheryl Caldwell, DPT, PT, the first physical therapist in what became known as the Orthopedic Center for Upper Extremity Rehabilitation (OCUER). "OCUER was ahead of its time related to the inclusion and importance of the whole upper extremity. Dr. Manske did a great job of encouraging interactions in various ways between the orthopedic residents and the occupational therapy (OT)/physical therapy (PT) hand team. We participated in article reviews and in-service meetings with the orthopedic residents, and we worked directly with them and Dr. Manske to develop

the guidelines and protocols used for the management of upper extremity orthopedic conditions."

There were multiple challenges to the start-up of the two hand rehabilitation centers. Slama remembers the hard work to define everyone's individual role within the center as well as efforts to develop protocols, find appropriate space in which to provide quality care, and understand both insurance and workers' compensation regulations. Still, she says, the early days were exhilarating. "We had FUN," she notes with a laugh. "We worked hard to better ourselves and really, really enjoyed the job, even when we worked way past 5 p.m.!"

Its therapists were among the first to become certified when the American Society of Hand Therapists offered the first certification exams in 1991. "There was a great atmosphere of learning and many opportunities, along with support, to do whatever you wanted to do to advance the profession," says Caldwell, who served as Coordinator of OCUER from 1987 to 1992.

The John T. Milliken Hand Center, established in 1971, was named in honor of the grandfather of Thomas M. Moore, president of Milliken Publishing in St. Louis, who was one of two individuals who generously funded the establishment of the Center. The other major donor was James Lee Johnson.



John T. Milliken



"The teaching of rehabilitation is conducted by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in collaboration with various specialty services ... Opportunity is made available for special emphasis on the rehabilitation of hand injuries."

— Washington University School of Medicine Bulletin, 1980-1981

Left: Lorna Kahn, BSPT, CHT, performs shoulder stabilization exercises on a patient with an accessory nerve injury.

Right: Stacy Baker, MOT, OTR/L, CHT, teaches range of motion to a patient and discusses functional limitations.



Then came the advent of mergers and acquisitions in health care. In St. Louis, Barnes Hospital and The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis merged to form Barnes-Jewish Hospital in the early 1990s. The combined hospital then joined with nearby Christian Health Services to form BJC Health System (now BJC HealthCare), the nation's first health-care system that integrated academic and community-based hospitals together. Within the complexities of combining services and programs, the two distinct hand rehabilitation centers in plastic surgery and orthopedic surgery came together to form the Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center.

“Our team was busy as, in addition to our clinics, we handled occasional coverage for inpatients needing post-op orthoses,” recalls Lorna Kahn, BSPT, PT, CHT, who started at OCUER in 1987 and remains on the Milliken staff today. “We also covered the resident clinic, and we had a ‘splint cart’ that we would wheel over to the Wohl clinic to treat patients. I remember

when orthopedic surgery renovated their space in the mid-1990s and our treatment space was eliminated for a while. We set up clinic in an old wheelchair closet behind the therapist desks in the inpatient neurology department at Barnes.”

Kahn says that the affiliation with Washington University as well as the caliber of therapists who joined the Center have contributed to a long-standing national reputation. She says, “Early on, therapists such as Gail Groth were publishing important work and speaking on a national level.”

Tim Pemberton, MSOT, OTR/L, agrees. As one of the more recent occupational therapists at Milliken, Pemberton recognizes the strong emphasis that leaders placed on advancing care practices. “We are a highly research-minded team with a foundation grounded in strong evidence-based clinical practices,” he says. “I think this makes us a leader in providing high-quality care proven to maximize patient outcomes and satisfaction.”

“I wonder if (the founders) even know the impact of their decisions and what it would create 50 years later.”

—Stacy Baker, MOT, OTR/L, CHT

Milliken leaves, then returns to Washington University

As BJC HealthCare consolidated and moved services, it established a partnership with HealthSouth, a leader in rehabilitation services. The Milliken Center then became part of BJC/HealthSouth outpatient services available at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis for several years. In 2016, however, recognizing the strengths of Milliken's therapeutic programs as well as its contributions to advancing research and in educating the next generation of hand therapists, the Washington University Program in Occupational Therapy took over operations and staffing of Milliken as part of the Program's Community Practice.

At the time, Pat Nellis, OTD, OTR/L, director of the Division of Clinical Operations, noted, “Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center has been a core of excellence since it began. Having the clinic back in Washington University space allows us not only to continue to pursue excellent care, but also to engage in research related to hands/upper extremity rehabilitation that helps our physicians improve their overall care and for our therapists to really focus in on efficiencies for the best possible functional outcomes. Together, these efforts work to decrease the cost of care. Since Milliken is well-represented in the world of rehabilitation on a national and international level, they've consistently

shared their knowledge with others to help improve health care on a broader scale.”

Today, the Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center has locations in West St. Louis County and on the main campus of Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Many of its current therapists trained at Washington University. “My first experience here was as a student 13 years ago. After my first rotation, I knew I needed to either work here or find a place that would support my thirst for knowledge,” says Stacy Baker, MOT, OTR/L, CHT. “They opened my eyes to what makes a job a passion. Here, we are a team, and our voice is extremely valued by our physicians.”

Luu Wong, OTR/L, CHT, joined the team at Milliken two years ago. “I remember the impression made upon me when Stacy Baker told me a story about her dad and his visit to a physician regarding his hands. He informed his physician that his daughter worked at Milliken and shared her thoughts about his hands. The physician replied that he should listen to his daughter, ‘especially when she works at Milliken.’ This story, to me, reflects the skill set and knowledge that our staff has and the respect that has been earned through the years.”

Looking ahead to the next 50 years, the Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center continues to lead — in advancements in patient care, research and the development of evidence-based therapies, and education.

“Milliken remains on the cutting edge of hand therapy services because their therapists are committed to providing innovative care to their patients. In the past five years, their practice has expanded to include breast cancer and lymphedema services to optimize function and recovery for pre- and post-operative patients,” says Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L, associate dean and director of occupational therapy. “As one of our fieldwork sites, Milliken therapists train our students on the latest evidence-based therapies and provide skilled mentorship in emerging areas of occupational therapy practice.”

Adds Caldwell, “I think we all have a drive to learn and be the best we can be. Here, the structures and culture support those goals.”

Top: Luu Wong, BSOT, OTR/L, CHT, is softening a patient's scar tissue with the use of a hand-held massager.

Right: Tim Pemberton, MSOT, OTR/L, provides passive range of motion to assist with increasing function of a stiff hand.

Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center

Advanced services for better outcomes

- Arthritis of the hand and wrist
- Brachial plexus injuries: affecting nerves in the shoulder, elbow, forearm, wrist and fingers
- Breast cancer services
- Congenital hand and upper extremity differences
- Dupuytren's contracture
- Fractures/crush injuries
- Lymphedema services
- Nerve compression syndromes/peripheral nerve injuries
- Sports-related injuries of the elbow, hand or wrist
- Tendon lacerations
- Tendonitis
- Work-related injuries and conditions

Pre- and post-operation services

Milliken therapists are able to work with injuries that require an operation as well as those that don't. They provide therapy techniques and services to help optimize your function.



Learn more about the Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center at otservices.wustl.edu/milliken

Watch our 50th anniversary videos at otservices.wustl.edu/meetmilliken



Remembering Dr. Regina Abel

Reflecting on her career and the many ways she impacted the Program and the community

By Michele Berhorst

On August 20, the Program in Occupational Therapy held a memorial service in honor of Regina Abel, PhD, 70, who died June 15 in St. Louis following a heart attack. She joined the Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University in 1999 as a postdoctoral fellow in the Developmental Neuropsychobiology Laboratory led by C. Robert Almli, PhD. For the next 22 years, Abel became a beloved colleague, instructor, mentor and friend to all in the Program.

Academic aspirations

Abel grew up on a farm in Bolivar, Mo. She married young and had three children – Travis, Bryan and Sheila. Abel then became a single mom and worked a series of jobs to support her family, including managing a local Wal-Mart. "She sold window treatments. She sold paint. She knew how to fix almost anything.

I was always in awe of the depth and breadth of her knowledge about things small and large. She could have easily run the whole store, but the men were in charge during that time. She dealt with the glass ceiling with dry humor," Allison King, PhD, MD, shares.

After raising her children, it was time for Abel to pursue her academic goals. At 40, she graduated magna cum laude from Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Abel then earned her doctorate in developmental psychobiology at Indiana University in 2000. Her studies in prenatal and early postnatal development led to her postdoctoral fellowship with Almli and a move to St. Louis. She was hired and eventually became a staff scientist in his lab. After Almli's retirement in 2007, Abel soon landed another job in the Program with King.

"The first time Regina came to talk to me, we immediately bonded. I wasn't exactly sure what her scientific experience was at that point, but she had good judgment, a great sense of humor and similar interests. Shortly thereafter, I asked her to join my Child Health and Education Laboratory," King recalls.

For the next 13 years, King and Abel worked on improving educational and functional outcomes for children with sickle cell disease or with brain tumors. They wrote grants, worked on papers and mentored students on their research projects. "We worked hand in glove. Along the way, I was lucky to know Regina as a person, and we became close friends," King says.

Abel would often say she "lived her life backward" because she raised her family first before entering academia. It gave her a unique perspective on life, one she



Allison King, MD, PhD (left), and Regina Abel, PhD, worked together for 13 years in King's Child Health and Education Laboratory.

MICHELE BERHORST

Clockwise from left: Abel hoods Kylie Fisher, OTD '17, at Commencement. Abel and therapy dog Alora following a CHAMP presentation in the Assistive Technology class in 2017. Abel teaches therapy dog Wally how to skateboard in a CHAMP tricks class in 2015.



often shared with students. Her wit and wisdom helped them through uncertain or stressful times. Becoming faculty in 2017 and sharing her love of learning held special meaning for Abel. "Regina loved teaching. I never once heard her complain about it. Regina was a glass-half-full person. She loved interacting with our students. She was always patient and happy to support them in any way she could," King says. "She truly loved her job."

Animal assisted therapy

In her free time, Abel pursued her other passion – animal assisted therapy. Working with local organization Canine Helpers Allow More Possibilities (CHAMP) Assistance Dogs, she certified five of her dogs over the years to be therapy dogs. Her evenings and weekends were often spent visiting local hospitals, rehabilitation centers and other community settings. She met Suzanne Bell, MS, CTRS, at the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis during one of her visits. Bell saw the special connection Abel and her therapy dog Kela made with patients.

"We had a patient who was experiencing the effects of a neurological condition that mirrored locked-in syndrome. She was learning to communicate with eye gaze and blinks using a cardboard poster with three lines of letters of the alphabet. I remember picking up the board one night and asking her, 'Is there anything else you need?' Using her eye gaze, she carefully spelled out K-E-L-A," Bell says. "I then discussed with her therapy team if we could ask Regina to consider visiting during the week when our patient had scheduled therapies. Of course, Regina about jumped through the phone with an exuberant, 'Yes, we'll be there!' For months, she and Kela came to work with our therapy team to improve this young woman's abilities and quality of life. This was the beginning of animal assisted therapy with our rehab therapy team; all of our therapists could sign up for times to work with any of their patients and a therapy dog team during planned

respective therapy visits. Regina really impacted so many people with her passion and compassion for people and for dogs."

Inevitably, Abel's research interests expanded to animal assisted therapy. Nola Ewers, director of CHAMP's assistance dog program, recalls how Abel's interest in the human-animal connection benefited the organization and the community while providing scholarly experiences for students. "Regina designed, supervised and/or participated directly in and recruited occupational therapy student assistants for several research projects involving CHAMP service or therapy dogs. These included a student stress study, a study of men experiencing mental illness and homelessness, and a study of deaf/hard of hearing children reading to a dog instead of a person, to name a few," Ewers says.

However, it was Abel's study on the effects of service dog training on female offenders at a women's correctional facility in Vandalia, Mo., that left a lasting impression on Ewers and the organization.

"I would travel with Regina quarterly to talk with the women in the program. She treated everyone with the utmost respect. She never assumed to know anything about them or their experiences and listened to what they told her," Ewers says. "It was Regina who made it possible for CHAMP to receive a three-year grant for the program. She provided the data that measured the positive outcomes training the dogs had for the women. Several of her students contributed by conducting assessments for their research projects. Regina would light up with joy when she would talk about her students presenting their findings or publishing a paper. Her pride was palpable."



A legacy of kindness

Colleagues, friends and students openly shared their thoughts about Abel during her memorial service. They recalled funny stories, lighthearted moments and how she touched their lives. Abel was always there when people needed her – a student dealing with a personal loss, a colleague seeking advice, an organization seeking volunteers, a rescue group needing to transport dogs across states lines, and countless other ways she was "on-call" for others. Abel lived her life unabashedly herself and, in doing so, inspired those around her to do the same.

"Regina was the kindest soul around. She collected a tremendous group of people around her with like interests and caring hearts and attitudes. She had an interesting view of the world and was passionate about so much," says Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L, associate dean and director of occupational therapy. "She was full of witticisms and saw the world through a lighthearted lens even though she had her fair share of difficult times. We will miss her immensely both as a person who was beloved by all and as a valuable member of our team."

Space for the Second Century

By Michele Berhorst

Jessica Romeo, course coordinator, in the new space at 4480 Clayton Ave.

In 1995, the Program in Occupational Therapy had outgrown its home at 4567 Scott Ave., where it had resided for 66 years. Its research, education and clinical care expanded, so it was time to find a new home with room to grow.

So faculty and staff packed up files, computers, office supplies, equipment and furniture and moved to 4444 Forest Park Ave. Since then, the Program more than tripled its footprint in occupying space that housed the computing facilities and training classrooms for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Fast-forward 25 years, and the Program once again had outgrown its space. "When I took on the responsibility of directing the Program in 2019, I heard loudly and clearly from faculty and staff the need for more contemporary physical spaces to support our research and education missions more directly," says Lisa Tabor Connor, PhD, MSOT, OTR/L. "Also, our students needed to be more integrated with the central services of the School of Medicine's campus, which continues to expand as well."

Program leadership worked collaboratively with Elizabeth Kohl, AIA, FMP, director of architectural planning, and Melissa Hopkins, FMP, SFP, associate vice chancellor and associate dean of facilities operations, to find a new space to meet the current and future needs of the Program. After more than a year of

discussions, negotiations and planning, a solution emerged that would provide the space needed for the Program to thrive and grow for decades to come.

"Space at the 4480 Clayton Ave. building was a perfect fit for the Program's needs. The 62,000-square-foot building renovated in 2018 is located on Clayton Avenue and S. Taylor Avenue. The 14,400-square-foot first-floor suite has easy access from the street. The open floor plan has 73 workstations with natural light, new furniture and 10 private offices. In addition, the three conference rooms are fully equipped with audiovisual technology including cameras, ceiling microphones, screens, computers and more," explains Kohl.

In July 2021, our Research and Education Division faculty and supporting staff moved into 4480 Clayton Ave., allowing them to integrate into the campus core and use other campus support and educational spaces, further expanding the Program's resource footprint. Several, but not all, research laboratories also moved into the new space. Program leadership, administrative staff and OT Services clinical offices (on the second floor)

remained in the 4444 Forest Park Ave. location. Teaching spaces in that building will also stay the same, but faculty will also be holding classes in the medical school's various shared teaching and meeting spaces. Rudo Gray, FMP, associate director of education services and technology, explains.

"There are several newly renovated teaching spaces that are now available for curricular needs. Resources include an 80-person computer training room with standard audiovisual equipment in McDonnell Sciences that can be set up as a traditional classroom or a lab setting. In addition, the Cori and Erlanger team-based classrooms support new teaching pedagogy and have state-of-the-art interactive audiovisual systems," Gray says. "The Becker Library and campus common areas were also recently renovated to provide several options for student study

spaces including open group study, smaller private group study, individual study, a quiet lounge and numerous sitting spaces."

Now that the move is complete and the 2021 fall semester is underway, faculty and students can have more innovative and interactive educational experiences in the new spaces. "The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all acutely aware of the role technology, and remote learning, has in our curriculum. Conversely, not being able to conduct fully in-person learning for an entire year has given us a new perspective on the group and experiential learning activities that cannot be replicated in a virtual setting," Connor says. "Moving to 4480 and becoming more integrated with the world-class medical center we are located within will only provide richer, more robust learning experiences for our students moving forward."



1



2



3



4

1. Catherine Hoyt, PhD, OTD, OTR/L (left), and Maribeth Clifton, OTD, OTR/L (right) in Hoyt's Growth and Occupational Well-being of Youth Laboratory. 2. Abby King, administrator of department operations, helped coordinate the move. 3. Members of the Child Education and Health Laboratory Elizabeth Taaffe (left), Mana Yacim (middle) and Lauren Bell (right) unpack items in their new space. 4. Steve Taff, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, FNAP, at one of the workstations.

2022 Outstanding Alumni Award nominations open

The Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes alumni of the Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine for their individual achievements in or contributions to the field of occupational therapy in research, education, leadership, professional development, community participation and/or by supporting the Program.

Eligibility

- The nominee must be a graduate of the Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine.
- Potential nominees who are associated with Washington University, its governing board, the State government, or State regulatory boards or agencies can be nominated only after they no longer hold their respective positions.
- Self-nominations will be considered.
- The award is to be presented only one time to an individual. Therefore, all previous recipients are ineligible for subsequent consideration.
- All nominees must be living at the time of nomination.
- Nominee must be able to attend OT Scholarship Day on April 29, 2022.

Selection Criteria

Qualified nominees for the **Outstanding Alumni Award** should possess the following attributes:

- **Professional Achievement:** Nominees have attained prominence in their occupational therapy career through

research, education and/or clinical practice.

- **Community Participation:** Nominees have demonstrated a commitment and dedication to community participation in regard to accessibility, mobility, policy and/or advocacy.
- **Integrity and Character:** Nominees must have the highest standard of personal integrity and character.
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Nominees have demonstrated a commitment and dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- **Sustained Supporter:** Nominees must have supported the Program financially and/or through service.

Nomination Materials

Materials to submit with nomination include:

1. A biographical sketch, resume or CV summarizing the nominee's achievements.

If your nominee does not have this available, please include

(i) a summary of positions and employment, leadership roles, accomplishments, previous awards and publications, and (ii) a short narrative about the person and their attributes that make them eligible for the award (see Selection Criteria).

Additional supportive documents (i.e., at least one letter of recommendation from a colleague, patient/client, students and/or community member).

Nomination Process

Nominations will be accepted September 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 and can be made online at ot.wustl.edu/OTalumniaward.

If the nominee is selected by the committee, he or she must be in attendance at OT Scholarship Day on April 29, 2022, in St. Louis, Mo., to accept the award.

If you have any questions about the nomination or selection process, please contact Michele Berhorst at (314) 286-1606 or berhorstm@wustl.edu.

Alumni news

Class of 1984 alumnus Craig Velozo, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, delivered the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture, the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA's) highest academic award, on April 6, 2021. The award honors a member of the AOTA who has creatively contributed to the development of the body of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and/or clinical practice. His lecture was titled "Using Measurement to Highlight OT's Distinct Value."



Craig Velozo

Velozo is a professor and the director of the Division of Occupational Therapy in the College of Health Professions at the

Medical University of Southern Carolina. His expertise is in the application of Rauch measurement and item response theory in developing patient/therapist reported outcomes. In his lecture, Velozo described the measurement paradigm shift needed to collect individual client data that supports occupational therapy's distinct value as a critical component of rehabilitation. The lecture was given during AOTA's INSPIRE, a virtual event held throughout April.

Class of 2019 alumna and current PhD student Audrey Keleman, MSOT, was selected as a 2021 TLI Translational Sciences Postdoctoral Program (TSPP) trainee. The objective of the TSPP at Washington University is to demystify the processes of commercialization of new technology/

translational discoveries by learning how to move projects to the next stage of commercialization and how to establish value-creating milestones, costs and timelines.



Audrey Keleman

The TLI Program, which is through the Clinical Research Training Center, provides career development for medical and allied healthcare students through didactic coursework, mentored training, work-in-progress research discussions, journal clubs, and conferences. Keleman will be in the program two years, which runs concurrently with her doctoral degree program.

2021 Outstanding Alumni Awardees

We are pleased to announce the 2021 honorees of the Program in Occupational Therapy's Outstanding Alumni Award. The awards recognize alumni for their individual achievements in or contributions to the field of occupational therapy in research, education, leadership, professional development, community participation and/or by supporting the Program. The awards were presented virtually at the 13th Annual OT Scholarship Day on April 30.

Gloria Levin, MA, BSOT '67

Gloria Levin, Class of 1967, worked as a pediatric occupational therapist for more than 50 years in a variety of settings and through her community-based private practice. She is recognized for her trailblazing professional career, personal integrity, advocacy for children and their families, and her sustained support of the Program in Occupational Therapy.



Gloria Levin

Levin's passion for helping others began at an early age when she cared for people with dementia in the occupational therapy department of a long-term care facility. The experience led her to earn a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from Washington University in 1967 and a master's degree in social sciences from the University of Chicago in 1974. For the next decade, she worked in hospital settings and as a private consultant and staff therapist in school districts. After seeing the issues children faced outside of the scope of school system services and inspired to fill that gap for children and their families, Levin became one of the first occupational therapists to start their own private practice in 1985.

For more than 30 years, Levin helped each child in her care become a competent, secure and well-balanced individual who could function and thrive to the best of their abilities. Later in her career, she worked with young adults facing similar challenges that were not addressed through earlier intervention so they could become independent adults.

Levin has volunteered and participated in her local and professional communities her entire life. She served in leadership roles for community-based organizations and boards including the League of Women Voters and her local synagogue in Chicago. She has presented numerous lectures and seminars to professionals and parents on occupational therapy utilizing

a sensory integrative framework. Levin's professional affiliations include the International Dyslexia Association, the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, and the Learning Disabilities Association. She is an active member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association.

Levin has given generously to the Program in Occupational Therapy over the years, both as a donor and as an alumni ambassador. Through her support, Levin wants to make educational experiences available to future occupational therapy students and encourage them to pursue impactful careers of their own. Levin is the niece of an occupational therapist and is very proud of her daughter and her niece, who are practicing occupational therapists.

For her pioneering leadership in the occupational therapy profession, dedication to her community and support of our Program and students, we are pleased to present the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award to Gloria Levin.

Linda Struckmeyer, PhD, BSOT '82, OTR/L

Dr. Linda Struckmeyer is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Florida. She earned a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from Washington University in 1982 and master's and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy from Texas Women's University in 2004 and 2016. Dr. Struckmeyer has more than 30 years of clinical experience. Throughout her



Linda Struckmeyer

career, she has worked in home health care, school districts, Head Start, skilled nursing facilities, acute care, psychology and assistive technology. Dr. Struckmeyer currently serves as capstone coordinator for the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree. Her research is primarily in the area of aging in place and home modifications.

As a student in the Program, Dr. Struckmeyer served as president of the Washington University Student Occupational Therapy Association and carried the leadership skills she gained to be the faculty advisor for the University of Florida Student Occupational Therapy Association as well as leadership in the Florida Occupational Therapy Association and service on national occupational therapy committees. She credits many of the opportunities she had at Washington University for guiding her into academic education, research and the leadership roles in which she currently engages.

In addition to her work, Dr. Struckmeyer enjoys serving and giving back in her community. She supervises students at the Occupational Therapy Equal Access Clinic, volunteers with Rebuilding Together, teaches Sunday school at her church and has completed several international mission trips. On a state level, Dr. Struckmeyer serves as chair of the Florida Occupational Therapy Education Consortium. Her occupations include going to the beach, reading

and quilting. She looks forward to adding spending time with her new granddaughter.

For dedicating her career to educational, leadership and community initiatives in the occupational therapy profession and beyond, we are pleased to present the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award to Linda Struckmeyer.

Faculty positions

The Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is ranked as a top-three occupational therapy program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Located in the heart of the Midwest, the Program offers the finest in occupational therapy education and evidence-based patient care, all built upon a strong foundation of innovative research. Faculty and staff maintain a focus on advancing human health by enhancing people's participation in everyday life activities and work together to bridge biomedical and sociocultural health at the person, community and population levels. The Program shares the University's commitment to equal access, consistent with its academic mission and standards, and strives to achieve excellence through the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion. We value a structure and culture that support all members of our community.

Home to one of the top medical schools in the nation, Washington University is also ranked among the best places to work in St. Louis. Employees at the School of Medicine reflect the diversity of the surrounding community and enjoy an inclusive work environment that encourages independence, boldness and originality of thought. Washington University recognizes the value in each individual, and great emphasis is put on hiring, training and retention of its diverse workforce.

The Program is committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the advancement of inclusive excellence. Candidates who can contribute to these goals are encouraged to apply and to identify their strengths and/or experiences in these areas in both their application materials and during the interview process.

Director of Post-Professional Education Education Division

The Director of Post-Professional Education is the person responsible for developing, leading, teaching in, and managing a hybrid educational program targeted toward practicing occupational therapists and educators who are seeking to advance their education and obtain certificates of advanced study or an OTD degree.

The responsibilities of the Director of Post-Professional Education are grouped into two phases. Phase 1 is the Program Development Phase lasting approximately 12-18 months, and Phase 2 is the Program Implementation and Operation Phase, which may overlap with Phase 1. During the Program Development Phase, this person will report jointly to the Associate Dean of the Program in Occupational Therapy and the Director of the Division of Professional Education. During the Program Implementation and Operation Phase, the Director of Post-Professional Education will report to the Director, Division of Professional Education.

Successful candidates will be expected to commit to the development of a multicultural, inclusive environment within the program and the University. We seek greater diversity among our faculty to create an academic community that is rich with cultural, ethnic, social and intellectual diversity.

Qualified candidates must apply at <https://facultyopportunities.wustl.edu/Posting/Detail/1010602>

Investigator-Track Faculty Research Division

We are seeking to build our stellar research, education and clinical missions. We invite applications for a 12-month faculty position at the assistant, associate or full professor level in the Program's Research Division on the School of Medicine's investigator track. We seek innovative researchers who can contribute to the discovery, dissemination and implementation of evidence in the broad field of rehabilitation and participation science.

The purpose of the current search is to review potential candidates with long-term planning of our faculty needs in mind. Successful candidates will be expected to establish robust, extramurally funded research and educational programs that engage the broad range of research and clinical programs at Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Qualified candidates must have a PhD or equivalent degree and postdoctoral training or two years minimum of relevant research experience. Research excellence is demonstrated by publications, extramural funding and the desire and potential to participate in nationally/internationally recognized research. We will consider potential candidates at any stage of their academic training. Occupational therapy licensure is preferred but not required.

Qualified candidates must apply at <https://facultyopportunities.wustl.edu/Posting/Detail/1010528>



Washington University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, genetic information, disability, or protected veteran status.

Future leader

Nathaniel Baniqued, OTD/S '23

Hometown: Waipahu, HI

Undergraduate degree: BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Puget Sound

Leadership: WU-COTAD Chapter President; Washington University's Equity and Inclusion Council – Medical School Student Representative; Peer Mentor; Cares of WA Ticket-to-Work Point of Contact, Program Training Developer and Staff Mentor

What are your meaningful occupations?

I alternate between reading sci-fi/fantasy books, learning and composing music on piano, playing video games and working out. I also enjoy talking with my family across the Pacific and kicking back with my cat and my partner.

What is your definition of occupational therapy?

Occupational therapy (OT) is appreciating the totality of an individual, community or organization. With our holistic training, we understand clients are more than just the sum of their parts and that extrinsic factors like environments, policies and available supports impact their ability to achieve and sustain wellness. We not only co-create their bridges, we also walk alongside them so they can reengage in their meaningful occupations.

Why did you choose the OTD degree?

These are the three tenets that I based my decision on when choosing this degree: leadership development, program management and education. Additionally, coming from a family business, I find immense satisfaction in developing and implementing systems. Thus, by pursuing this degree, I am presented with the opportunity to engage in research and complete a capstone project that further develops these skills.

What are your career goals?

One goal is to open my own practice that seeks to serve transition-aged adults as they navigate their shift from childhood to adulthood. Another is serving on the board of directors for a nonprofit organization in Hawaii that assists marginalized individuals interested in pursuing higher education.

What WashU experience so far stands out to you?

My experience at the Milliken Hand Rehabilitation Center in West County, which was set up by my mentor, Dr. Vicki Kasktuas, has shown me how occupational therapists collaborate with other medical professionals to provide the best care possible. It has also exhibited what effective interprofessional collaboration looks like and will influence how I carry out my future practice.

Anything else you'd like us know?

I want to acknowledge my parents back home in Hawaii. They have achieved what many immigrants hope to achieve when moving countries. That is, my parents have established the foundation that my siblings and I can continue to build upon for future generations. It is through them that I have learned what it means to be persistent yet compassionate, willful yet patient and bold yet humble. They are the ones who inspire me most.



Convocation 2021



Members of the OTD '24 and MSOT '23 classes attended the ceremony.

On August 27, the Program in Occupational Therapy held its annual Student Convocation to formally welcome new students to the Program and recognize the initiation of their journey toward a health-care career. The ceremony featured remarks from Program faculty, peers and a client who benefited from occupational therapy services. Pins were conferred immediately after the ceremony, and students were able to share via social media what their OT pins meant to them.



Stacy West-Bruce, OTD, MSW, OTR/L, was the master of ceremonies.



Lauren Murphy (left), traumatic brain injury survivor, shared her story with assistance from her mother, Colleen Murphy (right).



WUSOTA president Erick Klein, MSOT/S '22 (at podium), led students in reciting the Occupational Therapy Student Pledge.



Students shared what their OT pin represents to them after the ceremony.



The Tucker Tracker

Faculty member and assistant coach of Team USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) Sue Tucker, OTD, OTR/L, ATP (right), provided real-time updates on the Program's social media during the Summer Paralympic Games in Tokyo in August. "The Tucker Tracker" documented Team USAWR's journey from their final training in Birmingham, Ala., to their silver medal win on Aug. 29 after losing to Great Britain 49-54. Tucker took a selfie with Jim Murdoch, ATC (left), athletic trainer, and Mandy Goff (middle), high performance manager, following that game.

Washington University School of Medicine
Program in Occupational Therapy
MSC 8505-66-1
4444 Forest Park Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63108-2212

 Washington
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Occupational Therapy



Tweets we love
@WUSTLOT

Grab bars, shower seating and slip-resistant surfaces in the bathroom are just a few of the modifications a community-based program used to reduce in-home falls for older adults by nearly 40%, according to a new #WashUMed study: <https://bit.ly/3CCnPVj>
– @WUSTLmed • Aug 31, 2021

Upcoming events

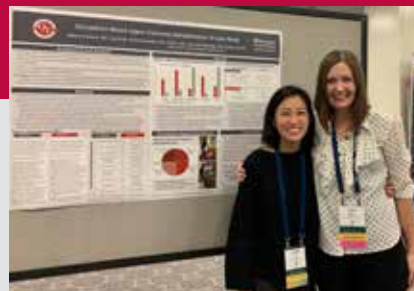


March 31-April 3, 2022

**AOTA Inspire | Annual
Conference & Expo**

San Antonio, TX

*You are invited to the Program in Occupational
Therapy Alumni Reception.*



April 29, 2022

OT Scholarship Day

Graduating students share their
work through both oral and
poster presentations.



May 20, 2022

Commencement

Our 2022 Commencement
Ceremony will be held in
Graham Chapel at 1:00 p.m.
CST on May 20, 2022.

The Program in Occupational Therapy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.