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Friday Early Morning Concurrent Sessions (1.5 hours)

F01 - Crafting Connections: Promoting Occupational Therapy in a Homeless Medical Respite Center

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101A

Presenter(s): Margaret (Peggy) Grill, OTD, OTR/L; Madelyn Boylan, OTS; Frances Mangner, OTS; Emile Marlowe, OTS; Alexis Mazariegos, OTS; Rosemary Shabu, OTS

Content Areas: Home & Community Health; Mental Health

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

Course Description: Occupational therapy has a vital role in supporting the mental health and social participation needs of people experiencing homelessness (PEH). This presentation highlights an innovative four-week pilot program at BEDS Plus, a medical respite shelter, where non-OT professionals were trained to lead occupation-based groups. Findings suggest consultative OT models may expand the profession's reach and enhance quality of life in medically focused community settings.

F02 - What Mutual Aid Can Teach Us: Reimagining Community-Based Student Education

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Maria Veronica Llerena, OTD, OTR/L; Tatiana Rechter, OTS; Karla Hernandez, OTS; Melissa Urzua, OTS

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This workshop explores the development, implementation, and outcomes of a 10-week interprofessional OT and SLP internship embedded within a cooperative of migrant families in Chicago. Participants will examine how mutual aid, grassroots community partnerships, reflective practice, and strengths-based frameworks shaped student learning and participation in a nontraditional, community-based practice setting and enhanced their understanding of the lived realities of migrant families.

F03 - Breaking Barriers: Enhancing Quality of Life through Early Pelvic Floor Intervention in Neurologic Rehab

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Bethany Keuter, MS, OTR/L; Jessica McDoniel, MS, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; General

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: Pelvic floor dysfunction is common yet overlooked in neurologic rehab. This session equips OTs with practical strategies to better understand and manage PFD, improving continence, function, and quality of life through early, occupation-based care.

F04 - Empowering Student Employees of Post-Secondary Transition Programs: The Impact of Occupational Therapy Student-Facilitated Collaborative Learning Sessions

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Marie-Claude Touchette, DHSc, MHS, OTR/L, ACUE; Graziella Iliescu, OTS; Zoey Immordino, OTS; Kelly McCloughan, OTS; Nicole Romano, OTS; Zachary Secor, OTS; Grace Stumme, OTS

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; General

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

Course Description: The transition from adolescence to young adulthood can present significant challenges for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, particularly in areas such as independent living, social participation, and education or employment. This presentation aims to explore the facilitators and barriers to successful post-secondary transition programs, and the design and

impact of OT student-led collaborative learning sessions on student mentors employed within the program.

F05 - Unlocking Connection: Occupational Therapy's Role in Promoting Socialization in Neurodiverse Children

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 105

Presenter(s): Claudia Cirrincione, OTD, OTR/L

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

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This short course examines societal trends for social connection relative to neurodiverse children and describes a community approach to addressing social connection and participation among children with social or behavioral difficulties for positive outcomes.

F06 - Managing the Work: Project Management Tools for Program Development, Capstones, and Clinical Initiatives in Occupational Therapy

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 111

Presenter(s): Amanda Mack, OTD, OTR/L, CLC

Content Areas: Administration & Management; Academic Education / Fieldwork

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

Course Description: Occupational therapy practitioners are often asked to lead programs, quality improvement, capstones, research, and advocacy, but are rarely trained to manage them. This interactive session translates a few foundational project management tools, including scope, work breakdown structure, phases, and stage gates, for OT work and shows how they carry a project from idea to completion. Participants will apply a concept to a project of their own and leave with new skills in project management.

Friday Late Morning Concurrent Sessions (1.5 hours)

F07 - Clinical Management and Patient Education of the Neurogenic Bowel & Bladder in the Spinal Cord Injury/Disease Population

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101A

Presenter(s): Meghan Reilly, OTR/L; Alyssa Koloske, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; General

Target Audience: Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: This presentation reviews neurogenic bowel and bladder dysfunction in individuals with SCI/D, including clinical presentations, functional implications and occupation-based management strategies. Case studies will distinguish between various presentations and interventions. Emphasis is placed on OT's role in promoting independence, establishing routines, adapting environments and providing patient/caregiver education to support self-management, participation and community reintegration.

F08 - The "Why" Behind the "What": Teaching Professional Reasoning in Occupational Therapy Fieldwork

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Piper Hansen, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR; Ryan Thomure, OTD, OTR/L, LCSW; Lisa Shuskus, OTD, MS, OTR/L; Hillary Napier, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Academic Education / Fieldwork

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: This course explores challenges fieldwork students face in applying professional reasoning. During this course, we will review common types of professional reasoning, evidence-based strategies educators can use to support

development in students and provide participants opportunities to apply this knowledge to case examples.

F09 - NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Catherine Killian, OTD, MEd., OTR/L

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; General

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: 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 certificants. This presentation will allow you to be better informed about the various aspects of the national certification exam experience.

F10 - Where Do I Start? Bridging the Theory-to-Practice Gap with a Multi-Model Approach

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 105

Presenter(s): Jarrett Wolske, OTD, OTR/L; Gail Fisher, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Content Areas: General; Academic Education / Fieldwork

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

Course Description: Occupational therapy students and practitioners are taught multiple theories and practice models but may struggle to translate them into coherent therapeutic reasoning in practice. This interactive workshop introduces a multi-model approach designed for real-world applications in occupational therapy practice and education. Participants will engage in didactic and experiential learning activities to leave with strategies to bridge the theory-to-practice gap and support their professional roles.

F11 - Understanding Legislative & Regulatory Affairs that Impact Occupational Therapy in Illinois: From Bills to Laws to Rules & Beyond

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Nancy Richman, OTR/L,FAOTA; Pooja A. Patel, DrOT,OTR/L,Bcg,CDP; Brian Wojcicki, Lobbyist for ILOTA

Content Areas: General; Administration & Management

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

Course Description: Practice at the top of your license! Understand how legislation and regulatory affairs impact how OTPs provide and get reimbursed for services in IL. Understand the importance of advocacy and the impact it can have on your career and your clients. Learn how we decide on our efforts, determine our legislative initiatives, and how you can influence policy and drive meaningful change and growth for the profession and for the recipients of OT services.

F12 - Beyond Flexibility: Understanding and Treating Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome in Occupational Therapy Practice

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 111

Presenter(s): Susan McKay, OTR/L, CLT, OTD

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; General

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

Course Description: This course equips occupational therapists at all levels with evidence-informed knowledge and clinical strategies to evaluate and treat clients with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (hEDS). Through lecture, case-based learning, and guided discussion, participants will explore multisystem manifestations, OT-specific interventions, and trauma-informed care approaches to improve functional outcomes and quality of life for this underserved population.

Friday Keynote Presentation, Annual Business Session & Awards Ceremony

Keynote - Courage Is Collective: Reimagining Occupational Therapy Through Building Community, Connection, and Shared Ownership to Drive Change

Time: 1:00 – 2:00pm

Location: 101 A/B/C

Presenter: Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

ILOTA Annual Business Session – Vote on Proposed New Bylaws – Members Only

Time: 2:00 – 2:30pm

Location: 101 A/B/C

Description: All attending ILOTA practitioner and student members are requested to attend this brief members-only Annual Business Session to discuss and vote on proposed new ILOTA Bylaws. Details will be provided to all members in advance.

ILOTA Awards Ceremony

Time: 2:30 – 3:00pm

Location: 101 A/B/C

Friday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions & Conversations that Matter (1 hour)

F13 – Conversations that Matter

Time: 3:15pm-4:15pm

Location: 101A

Course Description: Conversations That Matter brings together OT and OTA practitioners, students, educators, researchers, and leaders to strengthen intra-professional collaboration across occupational therapy. Through facilitated small-group discussions, participants will share experiences, resources, and perspectives, build connections across roles and practice settings, and identify opportunities to advance occupational therapy education, research, and practice together.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Education
 - Administration & Management
 - Adult Rehabilitation (Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic & Upper Extremity)
 - Assistive Technology
 - Gerontology & Community Health (Home & Community, Aging)
 - Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)
 - Mental Health
 - Pediatrics & Developmental Disabilities (Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration & Processing)
- Come ready to share your perspective, learn from others, and contribute to the conversation about what comes next for our profession.

F14 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

F14a - Beyond Clinical Skillset: Implementation of Professional Development Curriculum Into Fieldwork Education to Increase Student Job Readiness Skills

Time: 3:15-3:45pm

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Faith Brown, OTD, OTR/L; Elnaz Alimi, PhD, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; General

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This session explores a clinical case study of fieldwork educators' incorporation of professional development and soft skill training into level II fieldwork curriculum in an acute mental health setting. Students developed job readiness, interviewing, team leadership, and problem-solving skills upon

completion of the 12-week curriculum. The presentation offers strategies to implement professional development training across fieldwork settings.

F14b - An Occupational Therapist's Role within an Interdisciplinary Team for Burn Patients in Inpatient Rehab

Time: 3:45-4:15pm

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Olivia Condon, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Mental Health

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

Course Description: This presentation explores the occupational therapist's role in interdisciplinary adult burn rehabilitation in the inpatient setting. Through case studies, attendees will examine OT interventions including ADL retraining, skin and scar management, positioning, splinting, and functional recovery. The session also highlights collaboration with psychology, nursing, prosthetics/orthotics, recreational therapy, PT, and SLP to support patients' return to meaningful occupations.

F15 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

F15a - Efficacy of Occupational Therapy Services for Individuals with Significant Mental Health Conditions Living in the Community

Time: 3:15-3:45pm

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Lisa Mahaffey, PHD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Jose Lara, OTD

Contributing Author(s): Jamie Angell, OTR/L, QMHP; Camille Hurta; Caleigh Huber; Laina Runyon

Content Areas: Mental Health; Home & Community Health

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: Research that considers the impact of client-centered services for individuals with mental health conditions is limited in occupational therapy. This presentation highlights a study designed to determine whether client-centered OT interventions improve quality of life (QOL), decrease perceived disability, enhance the sense of personal causation, and increase the ability to meet

task expectations for individuals with mental health conditions who are transitioning to community living.

F15b - Nervous System Regulation Toolbox: Developing Inpatient Support for Wellness

Time: 3:45-4:15pm

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Haley Feller, OTD, OTR/L; Bobbi Pollard, LCSW

Content Areas: Mental Health; Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: Traumatic injuries have a painful, complex recovery often leading to long hospital stays. Currently, acute pain associated with such injuries is managed through pharmacological methods; however, a rise in literature demonstrates the importance of non-pharmacological pain strategies in healing the entire person, not just the injury. This session aims to educate on techniques to engage the parasympathetic nervous system to empower individuals to improve their wellness during their hospital stay.

F16 – Platform Presentations *(includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session)*

F16a - Occupational Therapy Transformation: Establishing a Clinical Pathway for Acute Care Occupational Therapy

Time: 3:15-3:45pm

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Tara Wilde, OTR/L; Jackie Dusing, DHSc, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Administration & Management

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This course will share primary initiatives for effective utilization and best practices of occupational therapy through development of a

clinical pathway within acute care. Successful change management processes will be examined within a multi-site healthcare system.

F16b - Beyond Course Silos: Using Immersion Labs to Integrate Learning Across a Hybrid OTD Curriculum

Time: 3:45-4:15pm

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Paula Costello, OTD, OTR/L; Trevor St. Clair, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Kristin Haas, OTD, OTR/L; Asfia Mohammed, EdD, OTR/L; Jaime Garafalo, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; General

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This session describes how stand-alone, credit bearing immersive lab courses in a hybrid OTD program integrate prior coursework through reflection, simulation, service, wellness, and mastery-based checkouts.

F17 – Platform Presentations *(includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session)*

F17a - Care Partner Perspectives of the Transition Process from School-Based Services to Adulthood for Young Adults with Severe Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Time: 3:15-3:45pm

Location: 105

Presenter(s): Samantha Rietveld, DrOT, MOT, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Frank Czuba, DrOT, OTR/L; Caren Schranz, DrOT, MS, OTR/L

Content Areas: Developmental Disabilities; Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This study explores care partner perspectives of the transition process from school-based services to adulthood for young adults with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities. Findings highlight barriers, facilitators, emotional experiences, and the role of occupational therapy in transition planning. Implications for occupational therapy practice and family-centered support will be discussed.

F17b - Empowering Hispanic caregivers of autistic children to advocate for school-based and community supports

Time: 3:45-4:15pm

Location: 105

Presenter(s): Christina Rojas, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Lori Bernardi, OTD, MOT, OTR/L

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

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This community education program was developed for Hispanic caregivers of autistic children, reviewing the referral and evaluation process, school and community supports, and clarifying the scope of practice of school-based compared to clinical services. The presentation includes the current gaps in support for this population, methodology, and data from this research.

Participants will leave with strategies that OTP in EI, schools, or community practice can implement in their own practice.

F18 – Platform Presentations *(includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session)*

**F18a - Empowering occupational identity construction through children's literature:
Creating a hospital disability library**

Time: 3:15-3:45pm

Location: 111

Presenter(s): Kevin Durney, OTD; Allison Antman, OTD, OTR/L

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

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

Course Description: This presentation explores the development of a Disability Library within pediatric rehabilitation at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Grounded in occupational identity theory and strength-based disability representation, the session will examine how children's literature can influence perceptions of disability, belonging, and competence. Participants will learn practical strategies for evaluating books and implementing similar initiatives in clinical and community settings.

F18b - Care Compass for Kids: An evidence-based guide to treating Pediatric Medical Traumatic Stress in the outpatient occupational therapy setting

Time: 3:45-4:15pm

Location: 111

Presenter(s): Anne Grabow, MSOT, OTR/L, DOT (Expected Degree Conferral 8/1/2026)

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

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: Pediatric Medical Traumatic Stress (PMTS) disrupts occupational participation. Resources guiding OT practitioners treating PMTS in the outpatient setting are limited. Thus, the Care Compass for Kids digital tool was created to provide that guidance.

Friday Afternoon - Meet the Presidents – AOTA and ILOTA

Time: 4:15pm

Location: 101 A

Description: Join us for an informal dialogue with AOTA President, Arameh Anvarizadeh, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA, and ILOTA President, Laura Mraz, OTD, OTR/L. Bring your questions and insights to this open discussion forum to hear from our leaders and engage with other attendees. Grab a drink from the adjacent networking reception and join in!

Friday Afternoon Poster Session (1.25 hours)

Time: 4:15pm – 5:30pm

Location: 161 A/B

Description: See “Poster Listings” document

Saturday Early Morning Concurrent Sessions (1.5 hours)

S01 - Integrating 3D Printing into OT Curricula: Strategies for Educators and Clinicians

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101A

Presenter(s): Abigail Thomas, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Abigail Thomas

Content Areas: Assistive Technology; Academic Education / Fieldwork

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation aims to provide practitioners an overview of strategies and techniques to embed 3D printing content within Occupational Therapy (OT) curricula. Participants will engage in simulated learning activities such as locating and building 3D models in 2 different CAD softwares that can be implemented in various formats of content delivery.

S02 - Building the Faculty Culture First Shared Instructional Design in a New Hybrid OTD Program

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Paula Costello, OTD, OTR/L; Trevor St. Clair, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Kristin Haas, OTD, OTR/L; Asfia Mohammed, EdD, OTR/L; Jaime Garafalo, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; General

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This session shares strategies used in a new hybrid OTD program to build faculty culture through shared instructional design, faculty retreats, routine connection, and reflective practice.

S03 - Sensory Smart ARFID: A 12-Week Occupational Therapy Program for Adolescents with Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Andrea Jennings, OTR/L; Alexandra Wasko, OTD, OTR/L

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

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

Course Description: Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) is a complex eating disorder with sensory involvement. OTs are often called to the

treatment team, but may feel stumped on best practices for this population. This session presents a 12 week outpatient program for adolescents and children that targets sensory processing, family routines, and supportive participation in eating. Participants will leave with evidence-based strategies to immediately integrate into feeding therapy practice.

S04 - Prevention, Recovery, and Reintegration: Occupational Therapy in Burn and Trauma Care

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 265

Presenter(s): Katie Coakley, PhD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; General

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

Course Description: This presentation will discuss the role of occupational therapy across the continuum of burn and trauma care from prevention, to recovery, to community reintegration. The presentation will provide background information on prevalence and causes of burn and trauma injuries, evidence based practices, and practical applications practitioners can incorporate into their daily practice, whether they work in a school setting, acute care, rehabilitation, or the community.

S05 - Legislative Town Hall: 2026 in Review & Lessons Learned for 2027

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Pooja Patel, DrOT, OTR/L, BCG, CDP; Brian Wojcicki; Nancy Richman, OTR/L, FAOTA

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

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

Course Description: This legislative town hall aims to provide the ILOTA membership with a thorough overview of our legislative priorities and efforts in 2026, lessons learned along the way, and what's next in 2027.

S06 - Returning Home: A Pilot Occupational Therapy Program Supporting Housing Transitions Among Older Adults Exiting Homelessness

Time: 8:30-10:00am

Location: 266

Presenter(s): Laura Vanpuymbrouck, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Patrycja Budzyk, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Productive Aging; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation will provide an overview of an innovative program for delivering OT services to older adults who have recently transitioned from homelessness into stable housing. An overview of the pilot program features, processes, and outcomes will be presented.

Saturday Late Morning Concurrent Sessions (1.5 hours)

S07 - Burnout is not just an individual concern: An interactive occupational therapy workshop on systems, capacity, and sustainable participation

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101A

Presenter(s): Lindsay Jones, OTD, MS, OTR/L, CLT

Content Areas: Administration & Management; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

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

Course Description: Burnout is not solely an individual resilience concern. This interactive occupational therapy workshop explores how occupational demands, environmental conditions, routines, roles, capacity, and systems-level pressures shape participation. Through reflection, visual mapping, and case-based discussion, participants will identify patterns of overload and develop practical strategies to support more sustainable participation.

S08 - Enriching Occupational Therapy Education Through Improvisation

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Kate Barrett, OTD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA; Rob Adler, BFA

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Target Audience: Student, Entry-level

Course Description: This presentation demonstrates how Spolin games strengthen OT students' adaptability, empathy, observation, and trust. Rooted in Chicago's Hull House legacy, these improvisational methods help students navigate uncertainty, communicate clearly, and engage more confidently in dynamic therapeutic interactions.

S09 - The Hidden Curriculum of Access in Postsecondary Transition

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Jarrett Wolske, OTD, OTR/L; Naina Richards, Ed.D

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

Target Audience: Intermediate-level, Advanced-level

Course Description: Students transitioning to postsecondary education encounter a hidden curriculum of disability access beyond formal accommodations. This

presentation examines how tacit knowledge shapes participation in higher education. Drawing on disability services and emerging occupational therapy practice in postsecondary settings, we explore barriers to access and implications for practitioners.

S10 - Understanding Visual Function and Processing within Disorders of Consciousness

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Emily Harstad, OTR/L; Shreena Shah, OTD, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Ramey Abudayyeh, CCC-SLP

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Assistive Technology

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation will review the basics of understanding disordered consciousness following severe brain injury, how we are assessing patients' ability to utilize their vision, and review results of a project utilizing eye gaze

devices to quantify purposeful eye movements in patients with disordered consciousness.

S11 - Work Smarter, Not Harder: Practical Artificial Intelligence Strategies for Implementing Universal Design for Learning in Occupational Therapy Practice

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 265

Presenter(s): Nicole Kiedysz, OTD; Evguenia Popova, PhD, OTR/L

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

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: Participants will explore practical strategies for using artificial intelligence to support Universal Design for Learning in occupational therapy practice, promoting accessibility, engagement, and client-centered care.

S12 - Managing Post-Exertional Malaise in ME/CFS and Long COVID: The Role of Occupational Therapy

Time: 10:15-11:45am

Location: 266

Presenter(s): Amy Mooney, MS OTR/L

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

Target Audience: Entry-level

Course Description: Students transitioning to postsecondary education encounter a hidden curriculum of disability access beyond formal accommodations. This presentation examines how tacit knowledge shapes participation in higher education. Drawing on disability services and emerging occupational therapy practice in postsecondary settings, we explore barriers to access and implications for practitioners.

Percussion Presentation by Kingpins Drumline – Crystal Lake Strikers

Time: 12:30 – 1:00pm

Location: 101 A/B/C

Description: The Kingpins Drumline is a percussion group of special needs performers with varying abilities, expanding the excitement of drumming to all. They provide opportunities for individuals with special needs to learn basic drumming skills, teamwork, and to perform within a group and gain a greater appreciation of music by playing drums with recorded music. This program is affiliated with the Crystal Lake Strikers.

Saturday Plenary Panel Presentation (1 hour)

Plenary - Beyond the Known Path: Crafting New Possibilities for OT Practice

Time: 1:00 – 2:00pm

Location: 101 A/B/C

Panel Presenters: Francisco Lasta, OTR/L, Assoc. AIA; Mary Lee, COTA/L, ABDA, ATP

Session Description: Occupational therapy is a profession built to branch. In this conversational plenary session, occupational therapy practitioners Mary Lee and Francisco Lasta will share how they moved beyond known career paths to shape their roles around gaps they identified, opportunities they recognized, and change they wanted to create. Their journeys demonstrate how occupational therapy practitioners and students can apply the profession's distinct perspective in emerging and evolving areas of practice.

Through stories from their careers, Mary and Francisco will explore what motivated them to pursue these paths, how their work remains grounded in their occupations, and which tools from their backgrounds helped them turn ideas into action. They will discuss the facilitators and challenges they encountered, lessons learned along the way, and the evolving influence of AI on their work. Their conversation will also bring together perspectives, offering an example of how intra-professional exchange can broaden our thinking about leadership, innovation, and the future of the profession.

Rather than presenting a single roadmap, the session invites occupational therapy practitioners and students to look beyond established roles and consider what they might create when their skills, interests, and an unmet need intersect. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for recognizing opportunities, influencing change, and crafting their own possibilities within and beyond traditional occupational therapy practice.

Saturday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions & Conversations that Matter (1 hour)

S13 – Conversations that Matter

Time: 2:15pm-3:15pm

Location: 101A

Course Description: Conversations That Matter brings together OT and OTA practitioners, students, educators, researchers, and leaders to strengthen intra-professional collaboration across occupational therapy. Through facilitated small-group discussions, participants will share experiences, resources, and perspectives, build connections across roles and practice settings, and identify opportunities to advance occupational therapy education, research, and practice together.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Education
 - Administration & Management
 - Adult Rehabilitation (Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic & Upper Extremity)
 - Assistive Technology
 - Gerontology & Community Health (Home & Community, Aging)
 - Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)
 - Mental Health
 - Pediatrics & Developmental Disabilities (Early Intervention, School-Based Practice, Sensory Integration & Processing)
- Come ready to share your perspective, learn from others, and contribute to the conversation about what comes next for our profession.

S14 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

S14a - "We Never Learned This!": OT-Led Interdisciplinary Education to Improve Medication Management Interventions in the Inpatient Mental Health Setting

Time: 2:15-2:45pm

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Faith Brown, OTD, OTR/L; Shaina Medjes; Erika Quesinberry, PharmD

Content Areas: Mental Health; Academic Education / Fieldwork

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This session uses a case study of an inpatient psychiatric unit to explore innovative ways that occupational therapy can lead collaboration with clinical pharmacy to improve assessment and interventions related to medication management. Occupational therapists possess expertise in group dynamics and activity grading that can be taught to interdisciplinary members of the treatment team to guide occupation-based intervention planning.

S14b - Occupational Therapy's Role in Fostering Psychological Safety to Improve Workplace Belongingness, Team Collaboration, and Organizational Outcomes

Time: 2:45-3:15pm

Location: 101B

Presenter(s): Elnaz Alimi, Ph.D., OTD., OTR/L; Faith Brown, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Mental Health; Administration & Management

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: Psychological safety is increasingly recognized as a critical factor influencing employee well-being, teamwork, and organizational effectiveness. Occupational therapists (OTs) possess unique expertise in participation, environmental fit, communication, and inclusion that support psychologically safe workplaces. This presentation explores strategies OTs can use to promote a sense of belonging, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and improve workplace outcomes across a variety of settings.

S15 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

S15a - Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance in Adult Outpatient Rehab: Implementation, Outcomes and Opportunities

Time: 2:15-2:45pm

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Mary Fosco, OTR/L

Contributing Author(s): Jessica Edelstein, OTR/L, PhD

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; General

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: Explore the key barriers and facilitators influencing the use of Cognitive Orientation to daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) in outpatient settings. This session will highlight practical, evidence-informed strategies to overcome challenges and support successful implementation of CO-OP. Attendees will leave with actionable approaches to increase confidence and integration of CO-OP into clinical practice.

S15b - Occupational Therapy's Role in Supporting Patient's with Functional Vision Loss

Time: 2:45-3:15pm

Location: 101C

Presenter(s): Haleigh Nierman, OTR/L

Content Areas: Physical Disabilities - including: Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic; Mental Health

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: Occupational therapists may encounter functional vision loss associated with Functional Neurological Disorder (FND), yet guidance on assessment and intervention remains limited. This presentation provides practical, occupation-focused strategies for evaluating functional vision concerns, supporting participation in school and daily routines, collaborating with eye care and mental health professionals, and educating families to improve carryover across therapy, home, and school settings.

S16 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

S16a - Where Does AI Literacy Fit? Integrating AI Education into OT Curricula

Time: 2:15-2:45pm

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Pooja Patel, DrOT, OTR/L, BCG, CDP

Content Areas: Academic Education / Fieldwork; Assistive Technology

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

Course Description: This presentation explores where and how AI literacy fits within existing OT curricula and presents an evidence-based approach to embedding AI education across coursework, discussing practical strategies for program-level integration with education leaders.

S16b - Exploring the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Education, Practice, and Research

Time: 2:45-3:15pm

Location: Auditorium

Presenter(s): Evguenia Popova, MSOT, PhD; Nicole Kiedysz, OTD, OTR/L; Araceli Urbina; Cameron Williams; Hannah Huynh; Reese Parchem

Contributing Author(s): Stephanie Keefe; Kendall Kobe; Sonja Schrader; Yuxian Xiong

Content Areas: General; Academic Education / Fieldwork

Target Audience: Entry-level, Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation explores occupational therapy practitioners', students', and faculty perspectives on AI. Findings highlight frequent use for writing, learning, and productivity, alongside concerns about ethics, accuracy, and training needs.

S17 – Platform Presentations (*includes two related presentations, each 20 minutes followed by a 10-minute Q&A session*)

S17a - Building a Sustainable Cross Training Model to Support Mental Health Service Delivery Across Inpatient Care

Time: 2:15-2:45pm

Location: 265

Presenter(s): Stephanie McCammon, MS, OTR/L; Naomi Frisch, OTD, OTR/L

Content Areas: Mental Health; Physical Disabilities - including:
Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedic

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: This presentation illustrates the development and implementation of a cross-training model in a large urban inpatient setting designed to expand mental health practice and strengthen the role of occupational therapy across care settings. The presenters will describe specific components that support training and ongoing supervision of occupational therapy practitioners to meet the diverse mental and physical health needs of patients.

S17b - From Assessment to Action: Crafting an Assessment Battery to Match Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Ideal Work Tasks

Time: 2:45-3:15pm

Location: 265

Presenter(s): Abigail Smith, OTD

Contributing Author(s): Ryan Thomure, OTD, OTR/L; Korrey Kooistra, MPH; Jennifer Summers, OTD, OT/L, FNAP

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

Target Audience: Intermediate-level

Course Description: How can OTs support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (PWIDD) to engage in meaningful work? This presentation introduces a MOHO-grounded skills assessment developed within an employment setting to match PWIDD to ideal job tasks. Results inform individualized strategies for occupational performance and job satisfaction, with implications for OT practice across supported and integrated work environments.

S18b - Sleep in the Digital Age: Trends in Cell Phone Use and Occupational Engagement

Time: 2:15-2:45pm

Location: 266

Presenter(s): Kaitlyn Berntsen, OTAS; Nicole Garcia, OTAS

Contributing Author(s): Courtney Merriss Prange, OTR/L; Henry Sheppard, OTAS

Content Areas: General; Home & Community Health

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

Course Description: This presentation examines the impact of cell phone usage on sleep as an occupation through analysis of current research, survey data, and lifespan trends. Contributing factors, including pre-sleep use, blue light exposure, sleep quality, and REM disruption, will be explored alongside emerging neuroscience evidence on brain function. Implications for occupational balance and performance will be addressed.

Saturday Afternoon Poster Session (1 hour)

Time: 3:15pm – 4:15pm

Location: 161 A/B

Description: See “Poster Listings” document