

Evidence Exchange

New Research Repository Created by AOTA's Evidence-Based Practice Project

Salvador Bondoc

Marian Arbesman

Deborah Lieberman

he AOTA Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Project is proud to announce the opening of the Evidence Exchange, a central repository for high quality evidence-based literature reviews and related resources. As a shared and central repository, the Evidence Exchange can also serve as a mechanism to avoid duplicating focused-question reviews and to maximize limited resources within the greater occupational therapy community.

AOTA has long recognized that occupational therapy students, together with faculty members, produce high-quality summaries of individual research articles (Critically Appraised Papers, or CAPs) as part of their academic training. In addition, there are many expert occupational therapy practitioners, educators, and researchers with experience in EBP who are well qualified to review CAPs submitted for potential inclusion and provide feedback that makes them suitable for the Evidence Exchange. The Evidence Exchange will serve as a place where these two groups can highlight their talents.

The Evidence Exchange opened with the recruitment of CAP reviewers-individuals willing to make a commitment to the project that reflects their time availability. Criteria for CAP Reviewers include AOTA members with at least 1 year of postgraduation experience as well as experience reading and critically appraising research literature. Reviewers have the important responsibility of providing quality control by reviewing and assessing CAPs. Becoming a CAP reviewer involves (1) completing an online CAP Reviewer Application and (2) participating in an online training

program that provides a PowerPoint tutorial on self-study, gives a guided tour of reviewing a CAP, and takes users through a trial CAP review.

AOTA members can apply to be reviewers four times a year. During the initial application process, 40 individuals applied to be reviewers, and we look forward to others joining the review team.

Following recruitment of CAP reviewers, the application process to submit CAPs began. Those interested in submitting a CAP for review are guided through the process of determining whether an article is appropriate for inclusion on the Evidence Exchange. Resource materials for developing a CAP are provided on the Evidence Exchange site as well. As with the CAP reviewers, CAP submissions are accepted four times a year. It is expected that the first CAPs will be available for download on the Evidence Exchange site in June 2012.

Criteria for selecting an article for appraisal and developing a CAP include:

- The article/study describes an intervention within the scope of occupational therapy practice.
- The article was published in a peerreviewed journal.
- The article is Level I, II, or III evidence.
- The article was published within the past 10 years of submission date.
- The study was published prior to 10 years from submission date but is considered "classic" or "seminal" (e.g., influential impact on the field, frequently cited).
- The article does not duplicate an article currently included in the AOTA Evidence Exchange.

A member of AOTA's volunteer sector, Salvador Bondoc, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CHT, will be administering the Evidence Exchange in conjunction with the project team. His role is to oversee the Evidence Exchange process. Easily accessible through the AOTA EBP section of the AOTA Web site, the Evidence Exchange will be managed using OASIS—the Online Abstract Submission and Invitation System, which is used by AOTA for Annual Conference abstract submissions and management of Conference schedules. Timelines throughout the year for submission of CAPs and application to be a CAP reviewer are available on the Evidence Exchange site. For more information, go to www.aota.org/educate/research/ evidenceexchange.

Please join us in this exciting venture. The mission of the Evidence Exchange is to facilitate stronger linkages among research, education, and practice and to support AOTA's Centennial Vision by facilitating excellence in evidence-supported practice.

If you have questions, please contact Deborah Lieberman dlieberman@ aota.org. ■

Salvador Bondoc, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CHT, is an associate professor of occupational therapy at Quinnipiac University, in Hamden, Connecticut.

Marian Arbesman, PhD, OTR/L, is president of ArbesIdeas, Inc., and an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has served as a consultant with AOTA's Evidence-Based Practice Project since 1999.

Deborah Lieberman, MHSA, OTR/L, FAOTA, is the program director of AOTA's Evidence-Based Practice Project and staff liaison to the Commission on Practice. She can be reached at dlieberman@ aota.org.

OT PRACTICE • FEBRUARY 20, 2012