

2009 National Student Conclave Program

Friday, November 20

4:00 pm–4:45 pm

Welcome and Keynote Presentation:

Horton Knows Who: Liberating Your Passion for the Centennial Vision

Penelope Moyers Cleveland, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA, President, AOTA, Bethesda, MD

Do you realize that you already have and are now developing key relationships to help you become an outstanding occupational therapy practitioner, potential educator or future scientist, one who facilitates people to "live life to its fullest?" You really already know who can be a part of your career and who can help you unleash your passion for enacting the goals of the profession's Centennial Vision. You can go beyond Horton of Dr. Seuss fame in that you not only hear who, but you know who. These are the strategic relationships that you should never neglect, but learn to foster as a tighter network within and outside of the profession. Liberating your passion means you magnify your potential accomplishments X10 and X20. Your personal "who network" will specifically know your plan and what you need for success in your career and in your contributions to the profession.

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

So You Think You Want to Be a Researcher?

Susan Lin, ScD, OTR/L, AOTA, Bethesda, MD

This session will discuss the career pathways and options of being an occupational therapy scientist. We will discuss possible career paths, requirements, demands, funding, and career goals. If you are considering questions like: "What type of doctoral program is best for me? What is a typical day like for an OT researcher?" then this session is for you!

We Need You in Higher Education: First Steps to a Career in Higher Education

S. Maggie Reitz, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Towson University, Towson, MD

Do you want to positively impact the profession for its next Centennial in 2117? As the Nationwide "graying of the faculty" phenomena reaches occupational therapy, we need to develop educators to replace those who will be retiring. It is important for us to develop the educators of tomorrow, today. It is NOT too early, NOW is the time to start planning for a future career in higher education. In this session, the presenter will discuss strategies for planning for a successful and rewarding career in academia. Topics will include reviewing necessary qualifications, as well as providing tips to balance starting a research line, seeking a mentor, developing teaching skills, contributing to the profession, with "living life to its fullest."

Don't miss these great events!

Conclave Capitol Hill Day

November 20, 2009 • 9:00 am

Students—tell Congress what you think! Sign up now by e-mail at fad@aota.org. Include your name, address, and a confirmation that you are attending the 2009 AOTA/NBCOT National Student Conclave.

Visit www.aota.org/Students/Advocate.aspx.

Students Think They Can Dance A-Thon!

November 21, 2009 • 7:00 pm–10:00 pm

Attend AOT PAC Night! Show us your moves and bring a group of your friends and fellow students with you so you can be part of the friendly "Group Dance Contest." Sign up your group at the door by 7:30 pm, and then get ready to impress your peers!

Visit www.aota.org/conclave.

Saturday, November 21

8:30 am–9:30 am

Realities and Myths of the OTR® Examination

Margaret Bent, PhD, OTR, NBCOT, Gaithersburg, MD

What do you need to know for your initial NBCOT certification? Everything is spelled out in one concise session, from early determination and prescreening to the realities and myths of the examination application and administration. Learn about how the OTR examination templates are constructed, and hear tips on preparing for the exam. The session will include an overview of the format of the examination—including sample multiple choice and simulation test items.



Realities and Myths of the COTA® Examination

Patricia Heeter, MA, OTR, CHT, NBCOT, Gaithersburg, MD

What do you need to know for your initial NBCOT certification? Everything is spelled out in one concise session, from early determination and prescreening to the realities and myths of the examination application and administration. Learn about how the COTA examination templates are constructed, and hear tips on preparing for the exam. The session will include an overview of the format examination—including sample test items.



10:15 am–11:15 am

01: Clinical Session: Work and Industry

Paul Fontana, OTR, FAOTA, Center for Work Rehabilitation, Lafayette, LA

Are you interested in utilizing your evaluation and clinical reasoning skills in a completely different model than the traditional medical model of practice? Come and explore the wide range of practice areas industrial occupational therapy has to offer. This presentation will quickly take the attendees through a treasure trove of practice potentials while covering a variety of areas the OT practitioner might work in as the profession branches out in the industrial market. Business and industrial customers are looking for programs that work, programs that reduce or prevent injuries and programs that provide defensible return to work options for those injured on the job. The OT is uniquely qualified to develop and implement these defensible injury prevention and return to work programs. Areas to be covered include: analyzing jobs and developing quantifiable physical job descriptions; implementing realistic post hire assessments; defensible functional capacity evaluations; the OT as the expert in identifying symptom magnification; work conditioning and work hardening programs; and ergonomic programs and on site OT programs.

02: Clinical Session: Children and Youth

Sandra Schefkind, MS, OTR/L, AOTA, Bethesda, MD; Sarah Burton, MS, OT/L, Prince Georges County Public Schools, Oxon Hill, MD

The AOTA Pediatric Coordinator will review the current AOTA Children and Youth resources and initiatives. The discussion will include strategies for advocacy and collaboration and opportunities to become involved. In addition, an occupational therapy practitioner will provide an overview of early intervention and school based services to youth (birth to 21 years). The discussion will focus on service delivery models, advocacy roles, and practice considerations.



03: How to Land Your First Job—from A to Z

Maureen Freda Peterson, MS, OT/L, FAOTA, AOTA, Bethesda, MD

Feel confident that you have the skills to make a good impression and find a match for your professional interests and needs after attending this interactive session.

The presenter is currently an AOTA Chief Officer who has hired many employees in a variety of settings, and will cover basic job-seeking strategies and interview expectations. This will include how to talk about "hot" but sensitive areas you need to assess such as fit, productivity requirements, supervision, organizational culture, and more. There will also be time to discuss your own questions and concerns as you head out into the job market.



04: Level II Fieldwork: An Exciting Professional Journey

Diane Hunter, MS, OTR/L, CCBC, Catonsville, MD; Jennifer Jackowski, OTR/L, Howard County General Hospital, Columbia, MD; Jan Jaskulski, MS, OTR/L, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Nadine Kwebetchou, Towson University, Towson, MD; Jessica Sobul, COTA/L, FutureCare Rehabilitation Services, Baltimore, MD

Your fieldwork experience is a journey along a continuum of professional development that prepares you for entry level practice/competence. This panel will address, what to expect, how you can prepare, and strategies for success. You will hear from Academic Fieldwork Coordinators, Fieldwork Educators, students (OT & OTA), and a new practitioner.

Each panelist will share her unique perspective on how you can map your journey to become a competent caring practitioner.

11:45 am–12:45 pm

05: Clinical Session: Productive Aging

Michelle Bianchi, OTR/L, CLVT, National Retina Institute, Towson, MD; Wendy Stav, PhD, OTR/L, SCDCM, FAOTA, Towson University, Towson, MD



This session will address why low vision is a growing problem as the demographics shift to people living longer. A practitioner working in low vision will discuss current research on Ring scotomas and explain the function of this device and how it capitalizes an inherent strength of the spared retina. Will address how vision rehabilitation is detective work to understand and make sense of the perceptual changes the individual experiences. The role of the OT is offer hope and lead the person to utilize their remaining vision to its fullest potential! The result is the client becomes empowered and happy with their function in spite of a situation of permanent visual changes. In addition, the growing aging population is increasing the number of older drivers in the U.S. who experience disproportionately high crash, injury, and fatality rates compared to their younger counterparts. The need to support continued driving and facilitate community mobility options is critical to productive aging as driving and community mobility enable engagement in many other community-based occupations. This session also explores the range of roles for occupational therapy practitioners from generalist to specialist to researcher, to support driving and community mobility for optimal occupational engagement and participation.

06: Army Occupational Therapy and Wounded Soldiers

Captain Erik Johnson, MS, OTR/L, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC; SGM Thomas Morrissey, Retired, U.S. Army, Woodstock, IL

This session will provide an overview of what it is to be an Army occupational therapist and how it differs from civilian settings. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the role of OT in the treatment and support of the wounded Soldier and their Family as they prepare to return to duty or to civilian living. Attendees will also get to hear from one of our Wounded Warriors who was shot eight times while deployed to Afghanistan. He will speak on his recovery and the role of occupational therapy throughout the process.

07: Starting Your Own Private Practice/Entrepreneurship

Paul Fontana, OTR, FAOTA, Center for Work Rehabilitation, Lafayette, LA; Anne Long Morris, EdD, OTR/L, SCEM, FAOTA, CAPS, Morris Eldercare Consulting, Springfield, VA

Going into private practice in a work rehabilitation setting can be a wonderful and fulfilling experience. However, it is important that the practitioner go into it with eyes open and a realistic expectation of what the environment is going to bring. Panelist will give insightful examples of areas to consider before deciding if this is a good idea for you, pros and cons on having a physician partner and how to deal with competition, creatively market and sell your services and manage your cash flow. Panelist will also share some pitfalls, horror stories and surviving and thriving under adversity that occur along the way. In addition, the second panelist will review resources and understand the reasons that contributed to successfully undertaking and maintain a consulting practice in home modifications. The types of clients this type of practice can best serve and clarify which funding streams were used to pay for her services will be identified. Special training or certifications in home modifications that have been useful in establishing this specialty practice will be discussed.

08: Clinical Session: Mental Health

Shannon Gorder, MS, OTR/L, Sheppard Pratt, Baltimore, MD

This session will address the evolution of occupational therapy at Sheppard Pratt Health Systems, a world renowned psychiatric treatment facility. The presenter will discuss the role of an occupational therapist within traditional mental health settings to include an eating disorder program. In addition, an emerging area of practice—occupational therapists & sensory modulation dysfunction within mental health practice will be discussed.

2:15 pm–3:00 pm

A Commitment to Leadership

Penelope Moyers Cleveland, EdD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA, AOTA, Bethesda, MD; William Janes, Washington University, St. Louis, MO; Wendy Welch-Gillen, OTR/L, Heartland Willowbrook, Houston, TX

Three AOTA leaders will share their wisdom and stories with participants in this session. Hear from our President as she calls the next generation of leaders to action and learn about the road to leadership taken by a former RA leader. A student leader and member of the Emerging Leaders Development Ad Hoc Committee will share the latest information about this program set to launch this fall.

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

Stand Up, Speak Out: Advocate for Occupational Therapy

Tim Nanof, MSW, AOTA, Bethesda, MD

It is not enough to be a good therapist, maintain your continuing education, and go home after work; professionals must be willing to advocate for their clients, their profession, and themselves. Advocacy can be the difference between a job and a career and the choice is yours. Come learn about advocacy and the importance of having a voice. The session focuses on federal policy-making but provides insight into representing yourself as an occupational therapy professional to consumers, colleagues, and policy-makers alike. Hear about the current issues before Congress and learn how you can make a difference.

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

09: Clinical Session: Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation

Rebecca Martin, OTD, OTR/L, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD; Kimberly Obst, MS, OTR/L, CPAM, ATRIC, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD

Activity-Based Restorative Therapy (ABRT) is a novel therapeutic approach to create meaningful neurological recovery. This approach uses patterned activity and multiple modalities to simulate normal patterns of activation, which encourages neural regeneration and reorganization. While primarily used in spinal cord injury, evidence exists to support ABRT's application in stroke, brain injury, MS, and associated disorders. This session will outline the basic application of ABRT with special emphasis on transitioning the therapy to home, for long-term rehabilitation and enhanced participation. In addition, this presentation will focus on the benefits of aquatic therapy for various populations including spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and various other diagnoses. An overview of current research in the field of aquatics will be reviewed and a description of how ABRT can be tied into aquatics. In conclusion, a discussion on how to become involved in aquatics, how to market ourselves, and what the future may look like for occupational therapy and aquatics.

10: Tools for Transitioning from Student to Entry-Level Practitioner

Michael Berthelette, MSM, OTR/L, Progressus Therapy, Tampa, FL; Felicia Chew, MS, OTR/L, Genesis Rehab Services, Kennett Square, PA; Frank Gainer, MHS, OTR/L, FAOTA, AOTA, Bethesda, MD; Christine Greseth, MS, OTR/L, Univ of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD



Today, there are plenty of jobs to be had. The question is how to identify the best fit for you. And once you have that job, how do you prepare yourself for the transition? Learn about the resources available to help you be successful and strategies you can employ to assure a strong positive connection with your new employer.

11: Introduction to Reimbursement & Documentation for the New Graduate

Monica Robinson, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, HCR ManorCare, Columbus, OH; Jennifer Bogenrief, JD, AOTA, Bethesda, MD

As a new practitioner, navigating the waters of Medicare and Medicaid can be tricky. Learning new payment systems while being a good clinician is challenging, and becomes even more so when you include understanding documentation requirements and proper billing codes, and overall knowledge of reimbursement policies and procedures. This session will give new practitioners resources and strategies that can lead to successful reimbursement. Presenters will put a primary focus on Medicare program requirements.

12: Clinical Session: Health and Wellness

Brent Braveman, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL; Ingrid Kanics, OTR/L, Hattie Larlham, Mantua, OH

Not all occupational therapy clients who want to enter competitive employment are ready and for some returning to paid work may not be a good option. Occupational therapy practitioners may use volunteerism and leisure pursuits as 1) strategies to explore competitive employment with limited risks, and 2) alternative paths to developing active and healthy daily routines. This presentation will use an in depth case to illustrate how occupational therapy practitioners may use occupations associated with volunteer and leisure roles creatively to explore work. In addition, this presentation will take students through the fascinating journey that one occupational therapist has taken from a classroom project to an out-of-the-box career. The trip includes lots of play experiences in the field of universally design to create amazing play spaces for children of all abilities around the country. Work experience includes non-profit settings, museums, and playgrounds to name a few.