

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
June 2, 2010

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## **PANEL DISCUSSION: “ADA 20/20: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD ON MOBILITY”**

*Leading Disability Advocates Discuss Current Needs and Future Challenges*

**WHAT:** “**ADA 20/20: Looking Back, Looking Forward on Mobility**,” a panel discussion to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to capture current national thinking as well as future needs surrounding mobility for Americans with physical disabilities. Co-sponsored by **BraunAbility**, the country’s largest manufacturer of wheelchair-accessible minivans and the American Occupational Therapy Association (**AOTA**), which represents approximately 39,000, including occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy students.

Topics will include: importance of mobility to American life, economy and democracy; how universal design can accommodate a diversity of people and abilities; technology and support systems; attitudes toward disability; and future mobility needs and challenges.

**WHO:** A select group of thought leaders including government officials, advocates of the ADA, occupational therapists, physical therapists and leaders of mobility-related companies.

*Keynote:* **Peter Blanck**, a leading authority on disability policy, University Professor and Chairman of the **Burton Blatt Institute** (BBI) at Syracuse University as well as Chairman of **The Global Universal Design Commission**.

*Moderator:* **Nadine Vogel**, an internationally recognized expert on marketing to people with disabilities and their families and supporting them in the workplace.

*Panelists:*

- **Andy Imparato** President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities (**AAPD**), a national non-profit, non-partisan membership organization of people with disabilities, their family members and supporters.
- **Judith Heumann**, an internationally known disability rights advocate who served as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services under President Clinton.
- **Mark Lore**, CEO of **Ride-Away**, a pioneer in the vehicle modification industry.
- Karen C. Smith, OT, CAPS, Practice Associate, AOTA
- Carol Siebert, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, Principal, The Home Remedy, Chapel Hill, NC

**WHERE:** National Press Club  
529 14th Street NW  
Washington, DC

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association** (AOTA) represents the professional interests and concerns of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA’s major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, go to [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org).