AOTA Volunteer Leadership Development Committee

Chairperson, Deborah Hinerfeld, MS, OTR/L
Abigail Brayton-Chang, MS, OTR/L
Joan Ziegler Debacker, MS, OTR/L
Tara Frank, BS, COTA/L
Annmarie Huldo, MA, OTR/L
Karen Skees, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA
Susan B. Tucker, MPH, OTR/L

AOTF Awards of Recognition Committee

Chairperson, Krouk Maitra, PhD, OTR/L
Mary Ellen Bunin, PhD, OTR/L, ATP/SM
Ruth Ann Watkins, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA
Welcome
Virginia Stoffel, PhD, OT, BCMH, FAOTA
President, AOTA
Diana L. Ramsay, MPP, OTR, FAOTA
President, AOTF

Program
Saturday, April 5, 2014
Order of presentation varies from order of listing.

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Deborah Hinerfeld, Chairperson, Volunteer Leadership Development Committee

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AOTA Award of Merit

Margo B. Holm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, ABDA
Professor Emerita
University of Pittsburgh
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Occupational Therapy Department
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Advancement of Occupational Therapy Research and Education

Few occupational therapists reach the level where their professional contributions extend beyond the borders of their country to impact health care and education worldwide. Dr. Margo B. Holm is definitely at the level of this rare breed of occupational therapist that has made a noteworthy and meaningful global impact to the profession. In 2000, Dr. Holm delivered her Eleanor Clark Slagle lecture challenging occupational therapy to shift to an evidence-based profession in the new millennium—a challenge so powerful that it was not only acknowledged and accepted, but incorporated as a key component of AOTA's 2017 Centennial Vision.

Dr. Holm is a global leader in occupational therapy research and education as evidenced through her work to advance occupational therapy education, research, and practice in Jordan as a 2010 Fulbright Scholar. In addition to her involvement with the Fulbright program, Dr. Holm has served internationally as an expert consultant to occupational therapy practitioners, educators, and researchers in Canada, Germany, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, Puerto Rico, Sweden, and Taiwan on issues related to evidence-based practice, functional outcomes, and the role of occupational therapy in managing late-life depression and cumulative trauma disorders.

Throughout her impressive career, Dr. Holm’s international activities have been matched by her professional contributions in the United States. Dr. Holm is a highly sought after expert to work with faculty to assure that their curricula are aligned with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) Standards. She has consulted with more than 20 occupational therapy programs in the U.S. and has provided presentations on curriculum design in more than 23 states. Dr. Holm has successfully contributed to the advancement of the profession and the Association by effectively balancing the two equally intense roles of being an occupational therapy scientist and an occupational therapy educator.

For more than 45 years, Dr. Margo B. Holm has truly made an exceptional difference to the profession of occupational therapy in both research and education. For all that she has done in her lifetime of professional achievement that has made a difference in occupational therapy, it is with gratitude that she receive AOTA's highest honor, the AOTA Award of Merit.
OTA Award of Excellence

David Merlo, MS, COTA, CPRP
Clarence Center, New York

Promoting Occupational Therapy in Community Mental Health

David M. Merlo is described by his nominator, Gloria Lucker, as “the personification of excellence in the profession of occupational therapy.” He describes himself as “an educator/advocate/practitioner/leader/servant who envisions a world where all people of all abilities can freely accrue the benefits and opportunities available within our society without the burdens of stigma, discrimination, and inaccessibility—a world where all citizens have self-satisfying lifestyles sustained by a proper blend of support, interdependence, and opportunity.”

Professor Merlo has practiced as an occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapy assistant educator for 20 years. His area of focus is mental health and he obtained certification as a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) in 1989. He is a leader in promoting the role of occupational therapy in community mental health.

Professor Merlo has expanded service learning opportunities for students at Erie Community College, where he teaches, by engaging them in community-based projects. For example, he provides opportunities for students to engage in fieldwork, service-learning, employment, research, and collaboration with experts in mental health services through his work with the Restoration Society. Professor Merlo is a Board Director of the Restoration Society, an organization that provides housing, work support, financial literacy, parenting support, and community integration services to persons with mental illness.

In addition to serving on the Restoration Society Board, Professor Merlo has held numerous leadership and volunteer positions in the New York State Occupational Therapy Association, the Consortium of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Educators, the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, and the Metro-Buffalo OT Fieldwork Network. He serves as the liaison between AOTA and the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. Professor Merlo was also a leader in the campaign to license occupational therapy assistants in New York State.

Professor Merlo shares his expertise in psychiatric rehabilitation, assistive technology, and website development through local, state, and national presentations as well as through the websites he has developed. He is an outstanding teacher, role-model, advocate, and leader in occupational therapy for persons with mental illness. His many accomplishments, awards, presentations, and service to the profession of occupational therapy and the field of psychiatric rehabilitation make him most deserving of the OTA Award of Excellence.
Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award

Helen S. Cohen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA
Houston, Texas

Outstanding Vestibular and Sensorimotor Research and Practice

Dr. Helen S. Cohen receives the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award for her scholarly research, clinical practice, and teaching, which has been instrumental in developing strong evidence and expanding the scope of practice for occupational therapists in the area of vestibular rehabilitation. Dr. Cohen has presented internationally to therapists and physicians on how vestibular dysfunction reduces independence and participation in personal self-care skills and instrumental activities of daily living, and her work has provided evidence about the value of vestibular rehabilitation programs and occupational therapy for clients with many different types of vestibular disorders. Her collaborative work with investigators in the Neuroscience Research Laboratory at NASA/Johnson Space Center has provided an occupational therapist’s perspective on specific on-going research projects and on general recommendations for the neuroscience research program for space exploration. The occupational therapy community has benefited tremendously from that work.

Dr. Cohen has published more than 82 peer-reviewed papers, and she is the editor of an award-winning neuroscience textbook, *Neuroscience for Rehabilitation*, which addresses occupational therapy, vestibular neurophysiology, vestibular rehabilitation, motor learning, vestibular diagnostic testing, and epidemiology. She became the first therapist to be funded by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), a division of the NIH, to study vestibular rehabilitation, and she remains one of the few NIH-funded occupational therapists who have been consistently funded since 1993.

Dr. Cohen is a leader in the field of vestibular rehabilitation and is most deserving of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award.

Lindy Boggs Award

Denise M. Miller, MBA, OTR/L
Glendale, California

Local, State, and National Advocacy for OT

Denise M. Miller, MBA, OTR/L receives the Lindy Boggs Award in recognition of her extraordinary advocacy for occupational therapy. Ms. Miller targeted her leadership focus on behalf of her peers and for client populations who benefit from her specialty areas of practice. She has served as AOTA Alternate Representative for Minnesota (1996–1999), a Standing Committee member of the Work Special Interest Section (WSIS) (1995–2002), WSIS Chairperson (2002–2005), and AOTIPAC Region 5 Board member (2008–2013).

Ms. Miller’s work complements our AOTA Centennial Vision in the areas of Work and Industry and Productive Aging. She is a nationally recognized leader and well published in the area of work and industry, and she was responsible for designing, researching, and implementing the LiveWell Senior Program, which has touched the lives of 1,500+
seniors and their families since its inception in 2011. Ms. Miller’s efforts have earned her recognition as a community champion regarding continuity of care and partnerships with all service providers within the senior population. Throughout her career, Ms. Miller has exemplified OT advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. She has held many leadership positions, worked in collaboration with government officials, and received more than 100 certificates from legislative officials acknowledging and commending her efforts for advocating for occupational therapy.

Health Advocate Award

Leadership in Collaboration to Promote Independence and Safety for Older Adults

The CarFit initiative represents a national collaboration between AAA, AARP, and AOTA that has served more than 40,000 seniors since its inception in 2005, with expansion now abroad in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Inspired by crash statistics highlighting the frailty and fragility of the aging body, visionaries of these three associations came together to combine expertise, missions, access to older drivers, and leaders in transportation and healthcare to deliver a public health message of injury prevention and safety for the aging driver.

AAA

As North America’s largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA is a leader in transportation safety, advocacy, and education. Their expanding resources dedicated to the aging driver include a broad array of programs and initiatives that support safe driving and access to transportation for drivers of all ages, abilities, and contexts. This award acknowledges AAA’s extensive involvement—both at the national and local level—in advocacy, legislation, political support, and consumer awareness in senior driver safety and the CarFit collaboration.

Working collaboratively, leadership at AAA and AARP combined their extensive resources of brand and membership outreach with AOTA’s expertise in driver rehabilitation and adaptive solutions for seniors. Since the inception of CarFit, AAA has developed a dedicated website, assessment and educational materials, and programs that address driver safety and include messaging to inform consumers of the resources and services of occupational therapy. Through education, the CarFit initiative addresses pro-active aging, acknowledging that individuals aging with challenges or health conditions have options and resources to continue driving for as long as safely possible. AAA National staff Jacob Nelson and Rhonda Shah deserve special recognition for their tireless dedication to this collaboration and member outreach, as do the 44 AAA and Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) clubs across the United States and Canada that dedicate resources to promote and grow the CarFit program in their local communities.

AARP

AARP is a leader representing the needs and interests of older adults. Their broad array of advocacy and education programs and initiatives include priorities to expand resources that support aging in place, healthy aging, and livable communities. This award acknowledges AARP’s extensive reach impacting legislation, political support, and consumer awareness to help individuals remain in their homes and communities as long as they wish. In particular, this award focuses on two initiatives that include collaboration with occupational therapy toward the advancement of health promotion, wellness, and aging in place: CarFit and the Home Fit Guide.

Working together, leadership at AARP and AAA combined their extensive resources of brand and membership outreach with AOTA’s expertise in driver rehabilitation and adaptive solutions for seniors. Since the inception of CarFit, AARP has developed a dedicated web-
site, educational materials, and programs that address driver safety and informs consumers of the resources and services of occupational therapy. AARP staff, Frank Carroll and Josh Dunning, deserve special recognition for their tireless dedication to this collaboration and member outreach.

AARP has also developed a Home Fit Guide for consumers to self-assess their home’s ability to fit their needs as they age. Leaders from AARP Michigan, including staff and OT volunteers, originally developed this program. It is now a successful community based workshop given in over 14 states last year. AARP staff, Amy Levner, Aldea Douglas, and Karen Kafantaris, deserve special recognition for development of Home Fit resources to educate consumers about strategies to age in place.

AOTA Roster of Fellows

A Champion for Authentic Occupational Therapy Practice
Debbie Amini, EdD, OTR/L, CHT

Innovator in Community Practice and Youth Services
Christine Berg, PhD, OTR/L

Leader in Fieldwork Education and Professional Development
Deborah Bolding, OTR/L, PhD

Leadership and Advocacy in Geriatric Practice
Felicia Chew, MS, OTR

Creative and Innovative Teaching, Scholarship and Service
Jane Clifford O’Brien, PhD, MSEdL, MS, OTR/L

Transforming Pediatric Practice Through Education and Advocacy
Patricia Coker-Bolt, PhD, OTR/L

Outstanding Contributions to Education, Scholarship, and Practice
Lucinda Dale, EdD, OTR, CHT

Advocate, Innovator, Mentor, Leader in Occupational Therapy
Marsha Dunn Klein, Med, OTR/L

Outstanding Contributions in Ethics and Interprofessional Education
Regina Ferraro Doherty, OTRD, MS, OTR/L

Excellence in Education Through Practice and Service
Lenore Frost, PhD, OTR/L, CHT

Educator, Researcher, Author, Practitioner, Advocate, and Mentor
Lynn Gitlow, PhD, OTR/L, ATP
Innovative Leadership in Professional Education Program Development
Cynthia Grapczynski, EdD, OTRL

Leadership and Advocacy Addressing Health Care Disparities
Elizabeth Griffin Lannigan, PhD, OTR/L

Advocate for Cultural Diversity and the Profession
Peggy Gurock, OTR

Leadership Excellence in Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education
Debra Hanson, PhD, OTR/L

Leading Occupational Therapy Through Tomorrow’s Technological Changes
DeLana Honaker, PhD, OTR

Exemplary Dedication Through Service and Leadership
Julie Kalahar, MS, OTR/L

Leader in Work Injury Prevention and Research
Vicki Kaskutas, BS, MHS, OTD

Bridging the Worlds of Practitioner and Scholar
Elizabeth Larson, PhD, OTR

Professional Development in Education and Practice
Jeffrey Loveland, OTRD, MS, OTR/L

A Champion for Mental Health and Wellness
Lisa Mahaffey, MS, OTR/L

Contributions in OT Education, Research, and Leadership
Shelley Mulligan, PhD, OTR/L

Advancement in Low Vision and the Profession
Julie Nastasi, OTR, OTR/L, SCV

Prolific Scholar, Responsible Program Leader, Compassionate Practitioner
Susan Nochajski, PhD, OTR/L

Leadership in Education, Research, and Practice
Judith Olson, PhD, OTR/L

Promoting Practice Through Diversity and Academic Leadership
Karen Parker Davis, MA, OTR/L
Pioneering Occupational Therapy Practice in Mental Health
Pat Precin, MS, OTR/L

Professional Dedication Through Research, Teaching, and Service
Patricia Schaber, PhD, MA, OTR/L

Building Bridges of Opportunity for Community Participation
Cathy Schelly, MEd, OTR

Leadership in Assistive Technology, Literacy, and Universal Design
Judith Schoonover, MEd, OTR/L, ATP

Advancing Practice Through Education and Collaborative Research
Mary Shotwell, PhD, OTR/L

Clinical and Academic Leadership Through Business Management
Vicki Smith, EdD, MBA, OTR/L

Advocacy for Children and Families With Disabilities
Rondalyn Varney Whitney, PhD, OT/L

Visionary Leadership for Access to Rural Services
Donald Walkovich, DHSc, MS, OTR/L

Leadership in Management, Mentoring, and Hand Therapy
William Walsh, MBA, MHA, OTR/L, CHT

Dedication Enhancing Occupational Therapy Education
JoAnne Wright, PhD, OTR/L, CLVT

Recognition of Achievement Award

OT Leadership and Advancement in Low Vision
Orli Weisser-Pike, OTD, OTR/L, SCLV, CLVT

Innovation in Mental Health Practice and Research
Susan Krutis, ScD, OTR/L

Passionate About Creating Access for Life
Debra Young, MEd, OTR/L, SCEM, ATP, CAPS
Outstanding Mentor

Janet DeLany, DEd, OTR/L, FAOTA
Towson, Maryland

Exceptional Lifelong Mentor Through Collegial Partnerships

Dr. Janet DeLany is recognized for her excellence in mentoring to many of her colleagues and students. She embodies all of the characteristics that support individuals, groups, and organizations to help others achieve their goals, through modeling, holding the highest of standards of excellence and ethics, and using the best strategies of humor, supportive encouragement, and validation. Dr. DeLany has significantly impacted many individual’s approach to practice and scholarly activities by influencing and inspiring them to accomplish as much as possible. Her pragmatic approach to seeing all sides of an issue and debating various perspectives is a natural and effective mentoring style. She has the ability to facilitate an atmosphere of collaboration, making each individual feel acknowledged and validated, while moving an issue forward to completion and setting realistic goals through collaboration, collegiality, and compromise.

Although she has held a variety of roles, including Practitioner, Faculty Member, Doctoral Program Director, Department Chair, and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. DeLany is exceptional because of who she is, rather than what she does. She mentors others, not by directing from above, but by standing beside them, acknowledging strengths, and focusing on mutual respect and collaboration.

Dr. Janet DeLany is beyond doubt an exceptional mentor, adviser, advocate, teacher, leader, professional, and role model and it is our honor to bestow the AOTA Outstanding Mentor Award to her today.

Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader

Rachel Dargatz, OTD, OTR/L
Champaign, Illinois

Leadership, Advocacy, and Development of the Profession

In her short career to date, Dr. Rachel Dargatz has exhibited extraordinary passion, energy, and advocacy skills and has made an outstanding contribution to the profession via social, community, and program activities.

Dr. Dargatz has attracted attention from her colleagues, professors, and supervisors because of her striking ability to focus on an area of need or interest, envision creative ways to be of service, and then drive a project to fruition. She is dynamic in inspiring others and seeking support for her initiatives, and she is proactive in developing mentoring connections that will provide further opportunities to learn.

Dr. Dargatz’s leadership capacity extends beyond research and clinical service and she has emerged into a spirited voice of advocacy for the profession, often leading by example and inspiring others to take action. As a student, she became involved with AOTPAC, personally attending several Capital Hill Days and educating and inspiring her fellow students to increase their interest and participation in advocacy activities. Since graduating, Dr. Dargatz

continued
has been involved in the Illinois state association and was recently elected to be the Illinois representative to the RA. Most notably, Dr. Dargatz served on the Practice Act Committee. She rallied fellow practitioners and students with her engaging style of leadership, created fact sheets for the legislative representatives, and testified before the House Committee.

In 2011, Dr. Dargatz was deservedly selected for AOTA’s Emerging Leaders Development Program. Since then, she has gone from strength to strength, proactively finding ways to best serve her clients, colleagues, and community. Carolyn Baum notes that, “She is driven, she is inspired, and she will make a great impact in our field.” Dr. Dargatz exemplifies the definition of an emerging leader and is a deserving recipient of the Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award.

Terry Brittell OTA/OT Partnership Award

Community Living and Participation Policy and Scholarship

Robin Jones, MPA, COTA/L, ROH
Chicago, Illinois

Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chicago, Illinois

Robin A. Jones and Joy Hammel have partnered on education, research, and disability policy/systems change initiatives and activities for the past 20 years. Initially focusing on access to assistive technology and environmental modifications, their partnership has grown to addressing disparities experienced by diverse disability communities. Their partnership has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally within the profession of occupational therapy and within the disability policy arena.

Through their partnership, Dr. Hammel and Ms. Jones made significant contributions to education, including the development of one of the first assistive technology and environmental modifications course for occupational therapy students. Their collaboration on several advanced graduate courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago has also brought them accolades nationally, with a course on participatory action research and disability policy recognized by the national group COMPASS Compact as a model for hundreds of universities. In addition, their partnership on many large scale federal grants has resulted in more than 200 presentations, as well as numerous publications in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles, national reports, book chapters, and policy briefs. Dr. Hammel and Ms. Jones have also together served as volunteer leaders on more than 20 different committees and task forces for AOTA and AOTF.

Dr. Hammel and Ms. Jones serve as exemplars of an OTA/OT partnership that is multi-faceted and mutually supportive. They have combined their experiences and perspectives in a complementary manner to bring their expertise to education, research, practice, policy, and advocacy, resulting in an impact far greater than what two individuals can accomplish working alone. The impact of their partnership is impressive and serves as an inspiration to occupational therapists around the world, making them most deserving of the Terry Brittell OTA/OT Partnership Award.

Cordelia Myers AJOT Best Article Award

M. J. Mulcahey, PhD, OTR/L, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Philadelphia
Lisa Merenda, MSN, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Philadelphia
Feng Tian, PhD, School of Public Health, Boston University, Boston
Scott Kozin, MD, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Philadelphia
Michelle James, MD, Shriners Hospitals for Children Northern California, Sacramento
Gloria Gogola, MD, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Houston
Pengsheng Ni, MD, PhD, Health and Disability Research Institute, School of Public Health, Boston University, Boston


The Mulcahey et al. paper is a uniquely rigorous research study using multicenter sites, a large sample size, and a cross-sectional design to establish the psychometric properties of upper-extremity function and activity performance item pools for children with brachial plexus birth palsy. The development of such item banks is critical to demonstrate that occupational therapy services for this population are effective, because few other instruments have precision and address meaningful patient-reported outcomes. As such, this study is unique for its rigor and relevance to a population for which occupational therapy services are critical.

Jeanette Bair Writer’s Award

Orli Weisser-Pike, OTD, OTR/L, SLCV, CLVT
Memphis, Tennessee

Eye Witnesses: Keeping Low Vision Caregivers’ Needs in Sight Through Occupational Therapy, OT Practice, 18(22), 14–18.

Caregiving for someone with vision loss involves particular skills and abilities, such as safely walking with the person. But caregivers who do not understand their loved ones’ capabilities cannot be expected to adequately support them to become as independent as possible in all of their many activities of daily living. This concise, well-written, and highly practical article describes a program in Tennessee that allows caregivers to effectively look through the eyes of the people they care for, gaining a better understanding of and patience for their loved ones’ capabilities and concerns.

Special Interest Section Quarterly Writer’s Award

Claudia E. Oakes, PhD, OTR/L
West Hartford, Connecticut


The author explores how older clients may respond to an occupational therapist’s objective evaluation of their home’s safety, and why there is often a gulf between the practitioner’s and the client’s view of safety in their own home. As such, she offers new insights into the client’s perspective. In addition, she provides practical recommendations for new ways to explore a client’s perspective about safety that will eventually lead to more satisfaction with the therapeutic process and better outcomes.
AOTF Academy of Research

Deidre Rose Dawson, PhD, OT Reg (Ont)
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Dawson is a Senior Scientist with the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest in Toronto, an Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto, and a member of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario Centre for Stroke Recovery. Dr. Dawson's research combines her training in rehabilitation science, epidemiology, and neuropsychology in order to best understand how cognitive processes in healthy aging, stroke, and other acquired brain disorders impact people's abilities to be autonomous in community living and to develop effective interventions that promote optimal participation in everyday life. Her work spans from an ecologically valid assessment of cognitive impairments to occupationally based cognitive rehabilitation approaches to music-supported rehabilitation approaches to investigating the benefits of community support programs. Her research is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Heart & Stroke Foundation Centre for Stroke Recovery, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, and the Quebec Rehabilitation Research Network.

Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L, FACTA
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Hammel is Professor and Wade Meyer Endowed Chair of Occupational Therapy at the Departments of Occupational Therapy and Disability and Human Development, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. She also directs the Graduate Studies for the Occupational Therapy Doctorate and is faculty in both the Doctoral Program in Disability Studies and the Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Sciences. Dr. Hammel is an internationally recognized leader, scholar, and educator in the areas of participation disparities of people with disabilities, as well as in community-based participatory research related to community living and participation choice, control, and societal opportunity for people who are aging with disabilities. Her work focuses on identifying key environmental barriers and supports that enable the least restrictive community living environment and full societal participation of individuals with disabilities, and creating and validating assessment tools and item banks to evaluate participation disparities and opportunities at individual, community, and population levels. Her participatory environmental intervention research has affected systems change, social justice, and the development of action plans for environmental and policy issues for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Dr. Hammel has received more than $7 million in federal grant funding and has had continuous funding on 37 grants since 1988.

Elizabeth R. Skidmore, PhD, OTR/L
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. Skidmore is Associate Professor in the Departments of Occupational Therapy and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and a member of the graduate faculty of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Skidmore's
NIH-funded research program examines the influences of cognitive impairments and mood symptoms on activities of daily living outcomes, and interventions designed to ameliorate these influences, focusing on two areas: interventions designed to improve rehabilitation outcomes for individuals with cognitive impairments after acquired brain injury (stroke, traumatic brain injury), and activities of daily living disability among community-dwelling older adults with mild cognitive impairment and major depression disorder. Dr. Skidmore is currently completing a final Phase II trial, examining the active ingredient in strategy training and guided discovery, and she is commencing the start of a Phase III randomized control trial examining the efficacy of strategy training for reducing disability in the first six months after stroke. A secondary aim of this most recent RCT is an examination of the mechanisms of change attributed to strategy training, with a focus on changes in selected domains of cognitive function and mood. Dr. Skidmore has received more than $2 million in funding.

**AOTF Award for Community Volunteerism**

**Sandy Hanebrink, OTR/L**

Touch the Future

Anderson, South Carolina

Ms. Hanebrink created partnerships that expanded roles and opportunities for occupational therapy and access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities at local and national levels. From the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) volunteer network to creating National Alliance Partnerships, from grassroots advocacy to national testimony, she expanded opportunities for occupational therapy and individuals with disabilities globally. Through Ms. Hanebrink’s leadership, AOTA and the occupational therapy profession are more accessible and inclusive; occupational therapists have increased access to training, presenting, research, and assistive technologies; manufacturers have occupational therapy as a resource; public and private programs have increased knowledge and skills to provide accessible and inclusive facilities and services; and individuals with disabilities are achieving life goals.

**Alexander Lopez, JD, OT/L**

Touro College

Sayville, New York

Mr. Lopez developed a unique community service program called PAR FORE (Perseverance, Accountability, Resiliency, Fellowship, Opportunity, Respect, and Empowerment). This mentor program is designed for at-risk youth in underserved areas to develop life skills through the occupation of golf. PAR FORE utilizes therapeutic principles inherent in the sport of golf to foster positive personal, social, and physical growth and development. The environmental context and activity demands of golf can foster a sense of self, a cooperative spirit, and productive personal, social, cultural, and physical skills necessary for adult success. Mr. Lopez volunteers his time to meet with PAR FORE participants year-round to mentor, guide, and supervise occupational therapy students and volunteers.
A. Jean Ayres Award

Dottie M. Ecker, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA
La Canada Flintridge, California

Ms. Ecker's contributions to occupational therapy and sensory integration span education and practice: she has been instrumental in establishing an educational approach in sensory integration and has dedicated many years of practice to the implementation of this intervention approach. From its inception, Ms. Ecker has been part of the “movement” to develop and establish the theory and practice of sensory integration. She exemplifies the intent of this award in her unwavering and lengthy record of commitment to the application, development, and testing of the theory developed by A. Jean Ayres, PhD, OTR.

Susan H. Knox, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Hollywood, California

For decades, Dr. Knox demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the development and application of theoretical concepts of occupational therapy. In creating the Knox Preschool Play Scale, she made significant contributions to the development and application of occupational behavior theory and occupational science. She identified key play skills prevalent in young children's occupations, and she provided a reliable and valid method for assessing play in practice. Dr. Knox has a longstanding dedication to the highest level of excellence in post-professional training in sensory integration. Her work has immeasurably strengthened the application of sensory integration theory to the practice of occupational therapy around the world.

Virginia Scardina Award of Excellence

Deborah Whitcomb, MBA, MS, OTR/L
Cincinnati Occupational Therapy Institute
Cincinnati, Ohio

Ms. Whitcomb is committed to improving the lives of young children through the application of theory while incorporating her own innovation in the area of sensory integration, attachment, and brain behavior. Most recently she developed two novel programs: Connections for Life, a multidisciplinary, family-focused collaborative for young children who have experienced complex trauma; and Camp OdakOTa, a traditional camp experience designed to meet the specific needs of children with sensory processing problems. She extended the reach of occupational therapy in the greater Cincinnati area through these and other programs.
Dr. Drobot served as Treasurer of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Board of Directors for four years and as a member of the Board of Directors for six years. During his tenure as Treasurer and AOTF Board member, Dr. Drobot gave generously of his time and personal resources and served as Chair of the AOTF Audit Committee, Chair of the AOTF Investment Committee, and on the AOTF Executive Committee. Though his professional commitments often required international travel, he actively and consistently participated in Board and Board committee meetings. His keen understanding of board governance, the technology field, and the financial arena greatly contributed to AOTF’s endeavors. His commitment has been unwavering through his service on the Board.

AOTF Leadership Service Commendation

Jane Acquaviva, OTR/L
Raleigh, North Carolina

Andrea Bilics, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Worcester State University
Worcester, Massachusetts

Nancy Richman, OTR, FAOTA
Glantz/Richman Rehab Associates
Highland Park, Illinois

Jane Rourk, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Durham, North Carolina

Jane Acquaviva, Andrea Bilics, and Nancy Richman served as members of the AOTF Scholarship Selection Committee for five years. They were instrumental in transitioning the program to merit-based scholarships and converting the program from a paper application process to a fully integrated online application and review system. Jane Rourk served as a member of the AOTF Scholarship Selection Committee for two years and led the committee as Chair for one year. Ms. Rourk also serves as an Honorary Life Member of the AOTF Board of Directors.

These highly respected and experienced colleagues from clinical practice and education devoted hundreds of hours to reviewing applications and recommending candidates to receive scholarships through AOTF and its scholarship program partners. They have given generously of their time and personal resources. Their keen understanding and commitment to the scholarship process have been unwavering throughout their service to the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Aaron Eakman, PhD, OTR/L
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado

Dr. Eakman served as a member of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Board of Directors for three years. During his tenure, Dr. Eakman gave generously of his time and personal resources. His intellect, professional demeanor, and keen understanding of the academic environment greatly contributed to his role as member and now as Chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee.
Dr. Schoessow served as President of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) from 2011 to 2013, and as a member of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Board of Directors for those two years. During her tenure as PTE President and AOTF Board member, Dr. Schoessow gave generously of her time and personal resources and served on the AOTF Awards of Recognition Committee. Her keen understanding of PTE contributed significantly to a highly functioning honor society. Her commitment to occupational therapy students and new clinicians in adding value to the health care system has been commendable throughout her service to PTE and the Board.

Dr. Tanta served as Chair of the AOTF Volunteerism Award Committee. She established guidelines and reviewed the first set of nominees for the inaugural award in 2010 and continued in this role for three more years. She was instrumental in developing the review criteria and scoring rubric. Dr. Tanta has given generously of her time and personal resources.

**PTE Mary J. Bridle First Research Award**

*Beta Delta Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon*

Nova Southeastern University
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

The team of Klaudia Kulpa, Sabrina Chang, Dr. Jacqueline Reese-Walter, Dr. Ariela Neuman, Samantha Kirschner, Justine Bunville, and Harami Rodriguez presented the study, “Health Care Profession Students’ Knowledge about Occupational Therapy.” The study was a pretest–posttest design in which the questionnaires identified specific areas of occupational therapy practice that other students may lack knowledge in, such as treatment methods, recipients of occupational therapy services, and work settings. Furthermore, students from the following health care disciplines were invited to attend the educational seminars: Audiology, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Physical Therapy, Physician’s Assistant, and Optometry. As determined by the pretest–posttest results, health care profession students’ level of knowledge about the occupational therapy profession increased after the educational seminars.
2014 AOTA Retired Educators Award

The following individuals are being acknowledged for their exceptional leadership and commitment to the advancement of occupational therapy education:

Karen F. Barney, PhD, COTA/L, FAOTA
Gail S. Bass, PhD, COTA/L
Bette Bonder, PhD, COTA/L, FAOTA
Eperanza Brattin, COTA, Med
Esther Huecker, PhD, COTA/L, FAOTA
Anne E. Jenkins, MA, EdM, MDiv, DMin, COTA/L
Anne MacKay Lawton, MS, COTA/L

2014 AOTA Service Commendations

Matthew Abisamra, COTA/L, COR
Driving/Driver Rehabilitation Network Manager, Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDIS), 2011–2014

Beatriz C. Abreu, PhD, COTA, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Christine L. Achenbach, Med, COTA/L
Pennsylvania #2 Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Stephanie Amanda Acord-Vira, COTA/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Elaine Craddy Adams, COTA
AOTA Advisor, Skilled Nursing Facility Issues, 2013

Audrey Jane Aguilar, COTA
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2013

Tara Cassandra Alexander, COTA/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Debbie Amini, EdD, COTA/L, CHT
Chairperson, Commission on Practice (COP), Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Member, Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC), 2011–2014
Chairperson, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014

Rebecca E. Argabrite Grove, MS, COTA/L
Chairperson, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPIC), 2011–2013
Member, Representative Assembly Leadership Team (RALT), 2011–2013

Mary Kay W. Arvin, COTA, COTA/L, CHT
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Ann Mooody Ashe, MHS, COTA/L
Practice Representative, 2nd Term, Ethics Commission, 2011–2014

Ganesh Muneshwar Babulal, RA
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Charlene Marie Baize, COTA
Professional Development Coordinator (Education/Research), Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDIS), 2011–2014
Erica Bartleson, MOT, OTR/L
Oregon Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Shawn Patrick Baxter, MS, OTR/L
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2012–2013

Tanya Jeanne Bay, OTR, OTR
Colorado Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013

Susan Sadlek Bazik, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Quarterly Editor, Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (DDSS), 2011–2014

Caroline Ann Beals, MS, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2011–2013

Alison Jean Beck, PhD, OTR
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2007–2013.

Andrea M. Bilics, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Teri L. Black, COTA, ROH
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2011–2013

Patrick James Bloom, FAOTA, OTR/L, MA
Director, Board of Directors, 2011–2014
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Judith Carol Blum, MS, OTR/L
Hospitality Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

Stefanie C. Bodison, OTR/L
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014

Jessica Jean Bolduc, DrOT, MS, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Emerging Leaders Development Committee, 2012–2014

Lauren E. Bonacci, MOT, OTR/L
Professional Development Coordinator (Forums), Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDSIS), 2012–2014

Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Cheryl Lynne Boop, MS, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Hector L. Borrero, MBA, OTR/L, CAPS
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Yeliza Quintana Bosques, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014

Robin Elizabeth Bowen, EdD, OT, FAOTA

Abby M. Brayton-Chung, MS, OTR/L
Member, Volunteer Leadership Development Committee (VLDC), 2013–2014

Ashley Brock, BS
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Catana E. Brown, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Katherine Ann Burson, MS, OTR/L, CPRP
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Sarah Burton, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Author, Guidance for Performance Evaluation of School Occupational Therapists, June 2013

William Albert Butler Jr., OT/L
Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

Susan Cahill, PhD, OTR
Member, Response to Intervention (RTI) Workgroup, 2013–2014

Claudine Campbell, MOT, OTR/L
Quarterly Editor, Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDSIS), 2012–2014

Kristine M. Carandang, MS, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Judith Carney, OTR/L, CAPS, MPA
California #2 Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Jana Priest Cason, DHS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Jacquelyn Linn Chamberlin, MA, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Ohio Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Pei Fen Chang, PhD, OTR
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014

Elizabeth Marie Chiariello, PhD, MS, OTR/L
Member, Representative Assembly Minutes Review Committee, 2012–2013

Tracy L. Chippendale, PhD
Member, Prospective Student Live Chat, 2013–2014

Carrie A. Ciro, OTR/L, PhD, FAOTA
Oklahoma Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013

Tammy Clifton, MOT, LCTR
Member, APP Review Committee, 2011–2013

Donna Jeanne Colaianni, PhD, OTR/L, CHT
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014

Wanda I. Colon, PhD, OTR/L
Puerto Rico Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2014

Mildred Consolo-Melchionne, BS, COTA
Contributor, HCR Ad Hoc Committee OTA Fact Sheet, 2013

Kiel Cooluris, BS
Student Representative to the Commission on Practice, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2015

Susan Coppola, MS, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Nicole A. Cortes, OTS
ASD Liaison, Commission on Education, 2012–2014
Vesna Cotic Costello, MS, OTR/L
Reviewer, Middle Managers Program, 2011–2012

Jerry Joe Coverdale, OT, CHT
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Jo Anne Crain, PhD, OTR/L
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2005–2014.

Anne Frances Cronin, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Director, Board of Directors, 2011–2014

Sara Jane Anderson Crowley, Adv. Dip, OT, OTR/L
Florida Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Mary Kay Currie, OT/L, BCP, FAOTA
Chairperson, Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development (CCCPD), Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Member, Recognitions Committee, 2010–2011
Member, Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC), 2011–2014

Mariana Leonora D’Amico, EdD, OTR/L, BCP, CIMI
Professional Development Coordinator (Education/Research), Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (DOSIS), 2011–2014

Amy Rowntree Dargh, FAOTA
Representative to SPHM Standards, 2010–2013

Kristin Jade Davis, BS
Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD), Representative Assembly, 2012–2014
Student Representative to the RA, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2012–2014

Joan Ziegler Delahunt, MS, OTR/L
Kansas Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Carole Dodge, OT, CHT
Hand Subsection Coordinator, Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDSIS), 2011–2014

Carol Ann Doehler, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Anna Domina, OTR, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Christine Draves-York, MS, OTR/L
Maine Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Brian James Dudgeon, PhD, OTR, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Diane Patrick Durham, MS, OTR/L
Reviewer, Middle Managers Program, 2012–2014

Tara Duryea, OTS
OTA Vice-Chairperson, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2014

Kathryn Melin Eberhardt, MAEd, COTA/L, ROH
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013

Rhonda Tapp Edwards, MS, OTR/L
Kentucky Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013
Geraldine Uy Eichhorn, OTD, OTR/L, BCN  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Christopher A. Eidson, MS, OTR/L  
Alabama Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Margot Tolosky Elacqua, OTD, MBA, OTR/L  
New York #2 Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Kara Elmore, MS, OTR/L  
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2011–2013

Linda S. Falb, MS, OTR/L  
Colorado Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Michelle Elizabeth Farmer, OTD, OTR/L  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Joan Kate Feder-Kelman, MA, OTR, CRC  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Kimberly Ann Ferland, MA, OTR/L, CHT  
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2011–2014

Faye S. Fick, MS, OTR/L  
Professional Development Coordinator (Education/Research), Work & Industry Special Interest Section (WISIS), 2011–2014

Kathleen Theresa Foley, PhD, OTR/L  
Alabama Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013  
Member, Representative Assembly Minutes Review Committee, 2012–2013  
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Paul Andre Fontana, OTR, FAOTA  
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Lauren Hartmann Foster, OTD, OTR/L  
Member, School Mental Health (SMH) Work Group, 2013–2014

Loretta Jean Foster, MS, COTA/L  
OTA Representative, 2nd Term, Ethics Commission, 2011–2014

Megan Kathleen Foti, OTR/L  
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

LaVonne Frances Fox, PhD, OTR/L  
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Tara Shawn Franks, COTA  
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Brenda Lee Frie, MA, OTR/L, CHT  
Sergeant at Arms, Representative Assembly, 2013

Erin Fritts, OTR/L  
Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing Forum Moderator, Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (DDSSIS), 2011–2014

Margaret Mary Frye, MS, OTR  
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013  
New York #2 Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Eileen R. Garza, PhD, OTR, ATP  
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2006–2007  
Member, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, 2007–2014
Peter C. Gaskins, MD
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Bryan M. Gee, OTD, MED, OTR/L, BCP
Member, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), 2011–2014

Michael Joseph Gerg, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CWCE
Chairperson, Work & Industry Special Interest Section (WISIS), 2011–2014

Peter Wayne Giroux, FAOTA, MHS, OTR/L, PhD
Member, Recognitions Committee, 2011–2013

Coralie H. Glantz, OT/L, BCG, FAOTA
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Elizabeth Anne Goodrich, OTR, ATP, PhD
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014

Susan K. Goszewski, MSM, OTR
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2010–2014

Julie McLaughlin Gray, PhD, OTR/L
Member, Prospective Student Live Chat, 2013–2014

Karla Weatherford Gray, LICSW, MSW, OTR/L
Liaison, Joint Commission Ambulatory Care Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013

Norma Ann Greenberg, OTRA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Gayle Gross, OTR/L
People Power Co-Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

Sue Ann Guerrette, OTD, OTR/L, BCG, CAE
Florida Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Sharon A. Gutman, FAOTA
Editor-in-Chief, AJOT, 2008–2014

Mary Johnson Hager, OTR, FAOTA
Member, Representative Assembly Minutes Review Committee, 2012–2013
West Virginia Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Ashley Dale Halle, OTD, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Dorothy Sue Handley-More, MS, OTR/L
Member, Commission on Practice, 2012–2014

Sandra Hanebrink, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Florence B. Hannes, MS, OTR, FAOTA
Contributor, HCR Ad Hoc Committee OTA Fact Sheet, 2013

Courtney Hansen, COTA/L
South Dakota Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013

Debra J. Hanson, PhD, OTR/L
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012
Kimberly Dale Hartmann, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chairperson, Special Interest Section Council (SISC), Representative Assembly, 2011–2013
Member, Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC), 2011–2013
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Member, Centennial Commission, 2013–2014

Susan Skees Hermes, MS, OTR/L, BCP
Reviewer, PowerPoint Presentation, Occupational Therapy’s Role in Transitions, 2013

Nathan Bernard Herz, MBA, OTR/L, OTD
Treasurer, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Treasurer, Board of Directors, 2011–2014

Wendy Churchill Hildenbrand, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Diane M. Hill, COTA/L, ROH
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013

Deborah Hinerfeld, MS, OTR/L
Georgia Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013
Member, Recognition Committee, 2010–2013

Midge Hobbs, MA, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Emerging Leaders Development Committee, 2011–2013

Lauren Holahan, MS, OTR/L
Author, Guidance for Performance Evaluation of School Occupational Therapists, June, 2013

Barbara Ruth Hooper, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2005–2014

Mary Kay Isaacson, EdD, OTR/L, ATP
Member, Agenda Committee, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Meenakshi Balkrishna Iyer, PhD, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Karen Jacobs, EdD, CPE, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Anne E. Jenkins, DMin, EDM, MA, MDx, OTR/L
Ofs in Foreign Countries (OFTC) Representative, Representative Assembly, 2010–2013
Internationally Based Practitioners Representative Assembly, 2013–2014

Tracy Lynn Jirikowic, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chairperson, Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (DDSIS), 2011–2014

Traci Ann Johnson, MS, OTR/L
New Hampshire Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Tracy L. Johnson, MA, OTR/L
Minnesota Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Mary-Ellen Johnson, OTO, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Julie Renee Kalahar, MS, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014
Chairperson, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014
Victoria Kaskutas, BS, MHS, OTD, OT/L
Quarterly Editor, Work & Industry Special Interest Section (WISIS), 2011–2014

Brenda Lee Koverman, MBA, MS, OTR/L
AOTA Advisor, Hospital Inpatient Issues, 2013
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Christine Lynn Kroll, MS, OTR
AOTA Advisor, Skilled Nursing Facility Issues, 2013

Fengyi Kuo, DHS, OTR, CFPP
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Nadine Kwebetchou, MS, OTR/L
Maryland Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013

Panelpha L. Kyler, ScD, OTR, FAOTA
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Amy Jo Lamb, OTD, OTR/L
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Member, Ad Hoc Emerging Leaders Development Committee, 2012–2014
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012
Reviewer, Middle Managers Program, 2012–2014

Patty Laverdure, OTD, OTR/L, BCP
Author, Guidance for Performance Evaluation of School Occupational Therapists, June, 2013

Lindsey J. Minniear Lawrence, BGS, COTA/L, ROH
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2011–2014

Donna L. Lee, OTR
Hawaii Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Sharon Kikkawa Lee, OTR, CHT
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Susan Lingelbach, OTS
Chairperson, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2014
Student Representative to the Board of Directors, 2013–2014
Member, Centennial Commission, 2013–2014

Chiung-Ju Liu, PhD, OTR
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Helene Lee Lohman, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2005–2014

Kathleen E. Longbrake, MS
Public Member, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, 2007–2014

Ann Therese Lund, OT/L, CIT, CHT
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014

Marge Rose Luthman, MS, OTR/L
Professional Development Coordinator (Education/Research), Sensory Integration Special Interest Section (SISIS), 2011–2014

Lisa Mahaffey, MS, OTR/L
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011–2014
Wanda Jean Mahoney, PhD, OTR/L
Professional Development Coordinator (Forums), Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section (DDSIS), 2011—2014

Linda M. Maiers, MS, OTR/L, CHT
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Zoe Mailloux, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Judith Malek, MS, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

James L. Marc-Aurele, MBA, OTR/L
Maine Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011—2014

Debra Lee Margolis, MS, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Abbey Marterella, OTR/L, PhD
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Kirsten Rae Matthews, MA, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2008—2014

Teresa A. May-Benson, ScD, OTR/L
Chairperson, Sensory Integration Special Interest Section (SISIS), 2011—2014
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Kathleen McCracken, COTA/L
New Hampshire Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011—2014

Valley Michele McCurry, MBA, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2007—2014

Jennifer Lee Mclaughlin, MOT, OT/L
Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP) Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012—2014
Vice-Chairperson, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012—2014

Deborah Datteri McMillan, OTR/L
Wyoming Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012—2013

Christine Rae Merchant, PhD, OTR/L
Arizona Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011—2014
Member, Agenda Committee, Representative Assembly, 2011—2014

David M. Merlo, MS, COTA, CPRP
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Denise M. Miller, MBA, OTR/L
Director of Region V, AOTPAC, 2008—2013

Eric Lee Miller, OTR/L
North Carolina Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012—2013

Claudia J. Miller, OTR/L, FAOTA
OTA Program Director & Chairperson, OTA Program Directors Education Council, 2011—2014
Member, Centennial Commission, 2011—2014

Heather Miller Kuhaneck, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013
Debra P. Misrahi, OT
Florida Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Rivka A. Molinsky, MA, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Megan Amy Montague, BHS
Secretary, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2014

Letha Joyce Mosley, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Mary Muhlenhaupt, OTR/L, OTR/L, FAOTA
Author, Guidance for Performance Evaluation of School Occupational Therapists, June, 2013

Sherry Lynne Muir, MOT, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Lauro A. Muñoz, OTR, MOT
Chairperson, Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section (PDSIS), 2012–2014
Liaison, Joint Commission, Ambulatory Care & Hospital PTAC, 2012–2013

Susan Lynn Murphy, ScD, OTR, MS
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Patricia S. Nagaishi, PhD, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014

Gerry Sooby Nichols, MBA, OTR
Member, Appeals Board Roster, 2011–2014

Izel Obermeyer, MS, OTR/L
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Kylie O’Connell, OTS
OT Vice-Chairperson, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2014

Linda Marie Olson, PhD, OTR/L
Liaison, Joint Commission, Behavioral Health Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013
Representative, Joint Commission, Behavioral Health Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013

Doreen Marie Olson, MS, OTR
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Renee Ortega, MS, COTA/L
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Barbara Lynn Ostrove, MA, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2004–2008
Member, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, 2008–2014

Debra Susan Ouellette, MS, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Mashelle Kristine Painter, Med, COTA/L
Member, Commission on Practice, 2012–2014

Sharon B. Pape, MS, OTR
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Karen Parker Davis, MA, OTR/L
Member, Recognitions Committee, 2010–2013
Lori Ann Patria, MS, OTR/L
Accessibility Services Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

John Robert Patro Jr., MS, OTR/L
Pennsylvania #1 Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013

Andrew C. Persch, MS, OTR/L
Reviewer, PowerPoint Presentation, Occupational Therapy’s Role in Transitions, 2013
Member, Transitions Work Group, 2013–2014

Christine Peters, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Dorothy Peterson-Bethea, EdD, OTR/L
Member, ACOTE Emeriti, 2012–2014

Margaret Sarah Picchiarini, MOT, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2010–2014

Sara Gwynnellyn Pickett, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2010–2014

Deborah B. Pitts, PhD, MBA, OTR, BCMH, CPRP
Alternate, Joint Commission, Behavioral Health Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013

Michael Albert Pizzi, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Obesity Prevention Work Group, 2013–2014

Ingrid Mary Provident, EdD, OTR/L
Member, Agenda Committee, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Pennsylvania #2 Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Emily S. Pugh, MA, OTR, LHRM
Agenda Chairperson, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Member, Representative Assembly Leadership Team (RALIT), 2011–2013
Member, Representative Assembly Leadership Committee (RALC), 2013–2014

Yvonne Michielle Randall, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Desna J. Ratcliff, MS, OT
Indiana Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013

Sharon Thomson Reitz, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Author, Occupational Therapy in the Promotion of Health and Well-Being, 2013

Nancy Z. Richman, OTR/L, FAOTA
AOTA Advisor, Skilled Nursing Facility Issues, 2013
Liaison, Joint Commission, Nursing and Rehabilitation Center PTAC, 2012–2013
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Tammy L. Richmond, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Pamela Sue Roberts, PhD, OTR/L, SCFES, CPHQ, FAOTA
AOTA Advisor, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility and Hospital Inpatient Issues, 2013
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Monica Robinson, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Juleen L. Rodakowski, OTR, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013
Penny N. Rogers, MAT, OTR/L
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013
Mississippi Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Member, OTA Education Ad Hoc, 2013–2014

Mary Eva Rose, PhD, OTR/L
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Julie Beth Rosenfeld, MA, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014

Sean Neil Roush, OTD, OTR/L
Member, Agenda Committee, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014
Oregon Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Holly Russell, MS, OTR/L
People Power Co-Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

Coletta Clare Sargent, MS, OTR/L
Liaison, Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013

Michelle M. Savrann, MHA, OTR/L
Member, Agenda Committee, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013
Member, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), 2011–2013
Massachusetts Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Marjorie Elizabeth Scaffa, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Author, *Occupational Therapy in the Promotion of Health and Well-Being*, 2013

Peggy A. Schaefer, COTA/L
People Power Co-Chair, Local Conference Committee, 2013–2014

Sarah Abigail Schoen, PhD, OTR
Quarterly Editor, Sensory Integration Special Interest Section (SISIS), 2011–2014

Trina Lea Schulz, MS, OTR
Chairperson, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), 2013–2014
Member, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), 2011–2013

Deborah Williams Shamblin, OTR/L, CHT
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2010–2013

Doris J. Shriver, FAOTA, OTR

Carol Siebert, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
AOTA Advisor, Home Health and Hospice Issues, 2013
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013
Joint Commission Representative, Home Care Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013
Vice Chair, Joint Commission Home Care Accreditation PTAC, 2012–2013

Dianne Franklin Simons, PhD, OTR/L
Virginia Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Dauphine Sisk, OTD, OTR/L
Reviewer, E. K. Wise Scholarship, 2013

Camille L. Skubik-Peplaski, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Kentucky Representative, Representative Assembly, 2012–2013
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013
Amy Hahn Solomon, MS, OTR  
Contributor, HCR Ad Hoc Committee OTA Fact Sheet, 2013  
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2000–2007  
Member, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, 2007–2014

Dawn Albarado Sonnier, LOTR  
Member, Representative Assembly Leadership Committee (RALC), 2013–2014  
Member, Representative Assembly Leadership Team (RALT), 2011–2013  
Recorder, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Judith Frances Starr-Lintner, OTR/L  
Ohio Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Virginia Carroll Stoffel, PhD, OT, BCMH, FAOTA  
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Michele Annette Stoll, BS, COTA  
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2014

Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, PhD  
Chairperson, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee, 2012–2013

Tim E. Sullivan, MOT  
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2012–2013

Sean Michael Sullivan, BA  
Communications and Advocacy Chairperson, Assembly of Student Delegates Steering Committee, 2013–2014

Miranda Christine Sweet, BS  
AOTA National Office Volunteer, June 2013

Stacey Ellen Szklut, MS, OTR/L  
Professional Development Coordinator (Forums), Sensory Integration Special Interest Section (SISIS), 2011–2014  
Mentor, Emerging Leaders Program, 2012

Francine Tan, MA, OTR/L, OTD  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Heather Joy Thomas, PhD, OTR/L  
California #1 Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2014

Joyce R. Titus, MHS, OTR/L  
Mississippi Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Jeffrey Lane Tomlinson, FAOTA  
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011–2013

Alexa Trolley-Hanson, MS, OTR/L  
Member, Nominating Committee, 2012–2013

Susan Bell Tucker, MPH, OTR/L  
Chairperson, Recognitions Committee, 2010–2013  
Member, Volunteer Leadership Development Committee (VLDC), 2013–2014

Virginia Toyomi Tully, MBA, OTR  
Hawaii Alternate Representative, Representative Assembly, 2011–2013

Mari Jo Ulrich, MA, OTR  
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2011–2014
Michael J. Urban, CEAS, CWCE, MBA, MS, OTR/L
Member, Commission on Practice, 2011—2014

Christine Kay Urish, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Karen A. Vance, OTR
AOTA Advisor, Home Health and Hospice Issues, 2013

Marjorie Vogeley, MGA, OTR/L
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2008—2013

Amber L. Ward, OTR/L, ATP
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2010—2014

Brooke Ward, BA
Central Committee Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Shirley Ann Wells, DrPh, OTR, FAOTA
Member, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC), 2011—2014

Lisa Branscum Wicks, MHS, OTR
Member, Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP), 2011—2013

Myka Winder, OTD, OTR/L
Member, Prospective Student Live Chat, 2013—2014

Wayne Lamar Winistorfer, MPA, OTR
Member-at-Large, Ethics Commission, 2011—2014

Yvette Woods, PhD, OTR/L
Member, Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, 2011—2014

Jo Anne Wright, PhD, OTR/L, CL VT
Member, Representative Assembly Minutes Appeal Committee, 2012—2013

Mae Yan, OTS
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Reform, 2011—2013

Cynthia Celaine Yeager, PhD, OTR/L
Representative to NCHPEG, 2006—2013

Jacqueline Yvette Young, COTA/L, ROH
Member, Recognitions Committee, 2010—2013

Missi A. Zahoransky, MHS, OTR/L
AOTA Advisor, Home Health Issues, 2013
Member, Commission on Practice, 2010—2012
Description of Awards

Each year, AOTA and AOTF recognize and honor colleagues who have made significant contributions to the profession of occupational therapy through an annual nominations process that members are encouraged to be part of. Each organization’s respective committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and making final selections from each of the outstanding candidates that are put forward. This tradition is a source of pride within the profession. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to increase public awareness and focus public attention on the contributions not only of individuals, but of the profession as a whole. The following is a list of the awards and recognition bestowed by AOTA and AOTF for which individuals may be nominated.

Awards and Recognitions Offered by the American Occupational Therapy Association

AOTA Award of Merit is the highest Association honor for an occupational therapist. The purpose is to honor members of AOTA who have made an outstanding global contribution to the profession of occupational therapy.

OTA Award of Excellence is the highest Association honor for an occupational therapy assistant. The purpose is to honor occupational therapy assistants who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of occupational therapy.

Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award is an academic honor established as a memorial to Eleanor Clarke Slagle, one of the outstanding pioneers in the profession of occupational therapy. The purpose is to honor a member of AOTA who has creatively contributed to the development of the body of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and clinical practice.

Lindy Boggs Award recognizes the significant contributions by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in promoting occupational therapy in the political arena by increasing recognition of occupational therapy in federal or state legislation, regulations, and policies or by increasing appreciation and understanding of occupational therapy by elected or appointed officials.

Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award recognizes an occupational therapy practitioner (clinician, educator, or researcher) who has demonstrated emerging leadership and/or extraordinary service early in his or her occupational therapy career.

Outstanding Mentor Award recognizes occupational therapy practitioners (clinician, educator, or researcher) who have demonstrated outstanding mentoring of a student, colleague, or employee in a sustained partnership in practice, academic, or research contexts, wherein mutual respect, guidance, and knowledge are shared.

Health Advocate Award expresses the appreciation of AOTA for extraordinary contributions of national significance that led to the advancement of health promotion, health care, or both.

Terry Brittell OTA/OT Partnership Award recognizes an occupational therapy assistant and an occupational therapist who, through their collaborative efforts to promote the profession of occupational therapy, exemplify the professional partnership.

AOTA Certificate of Appreciation expresses the appreciation of AOTA for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of occupational therapy.

AOTA Roster of Fellows recognizes occupational therapist members of AOTA who, with their knowledge and expertise, have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the Association.

AOTA Roster of Honor recognizes occupational therapy assistant members of AOTA who, with their knowledge and expertise, have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the Association.

Recognition of Achievement Award recognizes occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who have made notable contributions to the profession and its consumers in a focused area of occupational therapy practice.
Cordelia Myers AOT Best Article Award is presented every year to recognize a first-time author (sole author or first author) of a feature article in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy published in the previous year.

Jeanette Bair Writer's Award is presented every year to recognize the author(s) of a feature article in OT Practice that inspires occupational therapy practitioners to use their management and leadership skills to create better access to occupational therapy services and to promote the profession.

Special Interest Section Quarterly Writer's Award is presented every year to recognize the contributor(s) to the Quarterly newsletter by rewarding excellence in writing that also demonstrates the use of research and/or best practice to advance the profession of occupational therapy.

Retired Educators Award acknowledges exceptional leadership and commitment to the advancement of occupational therapy education.

AOTA Service Commendation recognizes individual members of AOTA who have provided service to the Association and profession through time- or task-limited activities.

Awards and Recognitions Offered by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

Academy of Research recognizes occupational therapists whose exemplary contributions through research have served to advance the knowledge base of the profession.

A. Jean Ayres Award recognizes up to two occupational therapy clinicians, educators, and researchers each year who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the application, dissemination, development, or testing of theory in occupational therapy.

Virginia Scardina Award of Excellence. Inaugurated in 2004, recognizes an occupational therapy clinician who has demonstrated sustained commitment, excellence, and/or innovation in sensory integration and brain-behavior relationships in the practice of occupational therapy.

AOTF Award for Community Volunteerism recognizes an individual or group of occupational therapists and/or occupational therapy assistants who demonstrate commitment, excellence, and/or innovation in providing community-based volunteer services using occupational therapy skills.

AOTF Meritorious Service Award recognizes individuals who have made sustained and exemplary contributions in support of the Foundation’s mission.

Honorary Life Membership on the Board of Directors of AOTF recognizes individuals who have made sustained and exemplary contributions in support of the Foundation’s mission.

AOTF Certificate of Appreciation recognizes the outstanding service of individuals external to the Foundation who have contributed significantly to the fulfillment of the Foundation’s mission, goals, and objectives.

AOTF Leadership Service Commendation recognizes the outstanding service of those contributing their time, energies, and support to the fulfillment of the Foundation’s mission, goals, and objectives.

PTE Mary J. Bridle First Research Award recognizes and fosters scholarship in the occupational therapy community. The $750 annual award, established in 1993 by Pi Theta Epsilon, honors the best manuscript for a completed research study that is initiated while the principal investigator is an occupational therapy student.

Award and Recognition Offered by Both the American Occupational Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation

AOTA/AOTF Presidents’ Commendation honors a respected leader of the profession who has made sustained contributions to occupational therapy over a lifetime of service.
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