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# Adult Rehabilitation Specialty Conference

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**  
June 1-2, 2026



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VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | JUNE 1–2, 2026 | ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

OTA

June 1, 2026

## Keynote | 11:00 am–11:45 am

Strength in Partnership: Advancing Adult Rehabilitation Evidence Through Practice–Education Collaboration

*Hannah Oldenburg, EdD, OTR/L, BCPR, University of Minnesota Rochester, Rochester, MN; Jennifer Bergstrom, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN*

Collaboration between occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) and educators is vital for advancing research in physical rehabilitation. Equipping OTPs with knowledge and resources can bridge the gap between theory and practice, fostering innovation and improving outcomes.

## Session 101 | 12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Mirror Box Therapy in 2025: Evidence, Clinical Nuance, and Practical Strategies for Neurorehabilitation

*Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, WVU Medicine, Wheeling, WV*

Updated, practical overview of mirror box therapy for stroke, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), phantom limb pain, neglect, and sensory-motor deficits. Covers mechanisms, dosing, progression, case-based decision-making, and strategies to confidently apply it in practice.

1:00 pm–2:00 pm Lunch Break

## Session 102 | 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

New Self-Efficacy Tool for Acute Care – Occupational Therapy Acute Care Self-Efficacy Scale

*Hannah Oldenburg, EdD, OTR/L, BCPR, University of Minnesota Rochester, Rochester, MN; Corey McGee, PhD, MS, OTR/L, CHT, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN*

Explores a new reliable self-efficacy scale for occupational therapy practice in acute care, designed for educational or training use with novice or experienced practitioners delivering occupational therapy services in adult hospital settings.

## Session 103 | 3:15 pm–4:15 pm

Uncovering Otolith Dysfunction: The Hidden Contributor to Dizziness and Imbalance

*Natalee Pender, OT, GDP, CMDCP, Enhabit Home Health, Ludlow, MA*

Otolith dysfunction contributes to dizziness, imbalance, and cognitive decline. This session covers key clinical signs, assessment tools, rehab strategies, and emerging approaches to support better diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes.

## Session 104 | 4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Role of Occupational Therapy in Promoting Sleep Among Breast Cancer Survivors

*Manisha Sheth, West Coast University, Los Angeles, CA*

80% of breast cancer survivors (BCS) experience sleep disturbances due to treatment-related side effects. This session will highlight occupational therapy strategies to restore sleep in BCS using holistic, client-centered, and evidence-based approaches.



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## Session 201 | 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Ally is an Action Word: Post-Operative Occupational Therapy Intervention for Gender-Affirming Care Surgeries

*Lisa Semro, OTD, OTR/L, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA*

Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) are key practitioners who can and should become advocates for the trans and gender diverse population. OTPs in acute care should maximize their involvement in post-op gender affirming care protocols due to the value that the occupational therapy scope provides.

## Session 202 | 12:15 pm–1:15 pm

Functional Neurologic Disorder—Evaluation and Treatment at the Intersection of Medicine and Occupational Therapy

*Jane Tu, MSOT, Dell Medical School - University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX; Timothy Tu, DSc, MEd, OTR, University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, El Paso, TX*

An adult functional neurologic disorder (FND) case shows how occupational therapy and medical teams work together to improve function, reduce stigma, and support recovery. Participants gain practical tools for assessment, intervention, and collaboration to advance occupational therapy practice in complex care.

1:15 pm–2:15 pm **Lunch Break**



## Session 203 | 2:15 pm–3:15 pm

Assessing and Addressing Cognitive Impairments in Adults With Heart Failure: The Distinct Value of Inpatient Occupational Therapy Practitioners

*Jenna Nguyen, MS, OTR/L, BCPR, CSRS, CNS-Advanced Neurodegenerative, CDP, Lehigh Valley Hospital, York, PA*

How occupational therapy practitioners promote health, quality of life, and engagement in daily life for adults with heart failure-associated cognitive impairments that affect self-care, health management, and instrumental activities of daily living.

## Session 204 | 3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Advancing Vision Care: Assessment and Intervention Frameworks for Stroke, TBI, and Complex Neurological Diagnoses

*Jody Niemann Priest, MS, OTR/L, AdventHealth Sports Med and Rehab, New Smyrna Beach, FL*

Learn to address vision deficits in neurological conditions through evidence-based screening, assessment, and compensatory strategies. Practical tools and a case study will help improve occupational engagement and patient outcomes.

## Closing | 4:45 pm–5:30 pm

Digital Literacy as a Rehabilitation Outcome: Preparing Adults for a Connected World

*Vikram Pagpatan, EdD, OTRL, CLA, BCP, ATP, FOATA, BCTS, BCCS, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Brooklyn, NY*

Digital literacy influences medication management, telehealth access, safety, and independence. This session provides practical, evidence-based tools for embedding digital competency into adult rehabilitation, supporting occupational therapy practitioner leadership in technology.