



APTA TN TNOTA

2023 FALL CONFERENCE COURSE BROCHURE

DOUBLETREE CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN

407 CHESTNUT ST, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402

Friday, October 13

UTC Offsite Cadaver Lab

Cadaver-based Neuroanatomy Review and Clinical Applications

This interprofessional "hands-on" course will present a cadaver-based review of gross neuroanatomy to include a study of dissections of the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. Components of dissection related to neuroanatomy will be demonstrated in the course as well. Imaging and clinical applications of most common pathologies will be discussed during the course.



Presenter: June Hanks, PT, DPT, PhD

June Hanks, PT, DPT, PhD is Associate Professor and Director of the Anatomy Laboratory at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). As lead instructor in the Human Gross Anatomy course in the Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy programs at UTC, Dr. Hanks actively engages students in cadaver dissections and the study of dissections as a foundational course in the programs. Additionally, Dr. Hanks teaches cardiopulmonary, wound management, and acute care in the Department of Physical Therapy at UTC. Dr. Hanks has her PhD in Exercise Science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, her MS PT from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, her DPT from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and a Graduate Certificate in Human Anatomy from Hardin-Simmons University. In addition to teaching full time, Dr. Hanks is actively engaged in clinical practice in an outpatient setting.



Presenter: Jessica Hackathorne, PhD, MOT, OTR/L

Jessica Hackathorne, PhD, MOT, OTR/L is an Assistant Professor in the UTC Occupational Therapy Doctoral program and serves as a co-lead instructor for Human Gross Anatomy for the OTD and DPT first year students. Dr. Hackathorne is also the co-lead instructor for Neuroscience, which is a combined course between programs. She teaches the adult neuro content and advanced clinical practice for the occupational therapy students. Dr. Hackathorne continues to practice in an adult inpatient rehabilitation hospital.

General Professional Track

From Surviving to Thriving (Mental Wellness for Rehabilitation Therapists)

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), health workers are more likely to experience mental health problems. Working conditions have always been challenging for healthcare workers, even before the pandemic. Currently the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced additional elements of fatigue, strain, stress, loss, and grief for healthcare workers. This course is designed to help rehabilitation professionals understand mental health among healthcare workers and how stress and burnout affect rehab therapists and their performance, based on neuro- and bio- physiological processes. In this course, participants will learn tools to enhance mental wellness and preventative measures for optimal health and well-being. Therapists will have an opportunity to practice research-based techniques, including holistic and integrative approaches in their clinical practice.



Presenter: Anna Evans, PT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA, CHC

Dr. Anna Evans, PT, DPT, CEEAA is an ABPTS board-certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist. She recently moved to Tennessee and is an active member of the APTA, Florida and Tennessee chapter. She is also a member of the APTA Geriatrics Cognitive and Mental Health SIG. She has 30+ years of clinical practice, as well as in administration, academia, and academic administration. She has served as positions for the FPTA Neurology Special Interest Group (SIG) and for the Geriatric SIG from 2017-2019. She also volunteered for task forces for the APTA and FBPTS. Dr. Evans has provided numerous professional presentations related to Geriatrics and Neurology. She is a Certified Health Coach and a Life Coach and utilizes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), and Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT) Mindset Life Coach in her practice. She is also an RYT-200® yoga instructor. She currently works for Functional Pathways TN.

Presenter: Gabriella Guerra, OTR/L

Gabriella Guerra-Valero, OTR/L is a practicing occupational therapist and licensed massage therapist. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation Sciences and Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Guerra-Valero is currently working with an organization serving senior living communities in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. As a practicing occupational therapist, Mrs. Guerra-Valero works mainly with geriatrics, mostly with cognitive deficits and mental health issues. She specializes in implementing her massage therapy skills to address stress management, chronic pain, and management of symptoms related to general anxiety disorder. She utilizes soft tissue mobilization techniques with her patients in the skilled nursing and long-term care setting. Mrs. Guerra-Valero is looking forward to engaging with members in the profession while advancing in her career through presenting her knowledge and skills in mental health.



Presenter: Preeti Jha, PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, Cert MDT - RYT 200

Dr. Preeti Jha PT, DPT, OCS, MTC, Cert MDT RYT -200 is a practicing Physical Therapist and Center Manager in a hospital-based outpatient orthopedic clinic with Kessler Rehabilitation in New Jersey. Dr. Jha has 15+ years of clinical experience in various fields for patients of various age groups from Pediatrics to Geriatrics population using evidence-based treatment and hands -on approach. She is Yoga- and Mindfulness-certified with interest in burnout and runs a yoga SIG within Kessler Rehab for 5+ years to bring concepts of yoga in the rehabilitation setting along with PT, OT, speech, and Cognitive rehab therapists to treat patients and assist therapist making way to a better therapeutic alliance. She is also part of Health & Wellness Committee of the Kessler organization which helps employees identify ways for better work-life balance and prevent burn-out. Her goal is to improve quality of life by identifying issues “inside-out”.

State of TN Licensure, CE Broker & Audits

Presenter: Noranda French

Physical Disabilities/Rehab Track

Therapeutic Means to Managing the Symptoms of Dementia

The purpose of this program is to assist the therapist in evaluating and developing an appropriate plan of care for people with all types of dementia. The focus of the program is on caregiver education, family, patient preferences, and environmental safety using evidenced-based activities and appropriate interactions. The results of the program include maintaining patient quality of life, highest level of independence, and safety while also minimizing negative behaviors and caregiver frustration.

Presenter: Amie Goins, MS, OTR/L

Amie D. Goins, MS, OTR/L received her bachelor’s degree from Carson-Newman College in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis on Child and Family studies. She then, received her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Milligan College with attention to working with the geriatric population. For the last 10 years, she has been a practicing clinician in inpatient rehab and skilled nursing facilities and is now the director of rehab for Ahava Therapy Services. She has a passion for working with those with dementia after experiencing the disease firsthand through helping her grandparents. When Amie is not at work or training other facilities in the use of this program, she is enjoying her family including her two children (ages 7 and 8) and encouraging her fitness team through health coaching.



Understanding the Person behind the Dementia: Insights and Strategies to Improve Outcomes in PT and OT

This course is designed to equip OT’s, PTs, COTAs, PTAs, and students with new knowledge and skills to be utilized when working with clients who have a diagnosis of dementia. Presenters will combine lecture with hands-on lab, and dementia simulation to improve therapeutic outcomes, decrease caregiver frustration, and minimize patient behaviors that may interfere with progress in physical and occupational therapy treatment sessions. During this immersive experiential dementia simulation, the individual’s senses of sight, touch, and hearing are altered while performing common everyday tasks, thus experiencing what it might be like to live with dementia. Attendees will learn why skilled touch is good “medicine” in dementia care; how touch strengthens care-partner relationships and you will practice Compassionate Touch R techniques to use in your practice. We will conclude with a time of reflection and sharing of ideas to help persons living with dementia.

Presenter: Caroline Rogers, PT, DPT

Caroline is the director of the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Chattanooga State Community College where she is the lead teacher for several courses including Neuromuscular Conditions and Treatment for the PTA. Her clinical experience in acute care hospitals, home health, outpatient rehab, and skilled nursing facilities has allowed her to use her love of the geriatric population across various settings. She was an APTA board- certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist from 2010 -2020 and wants to share her love for the older adult population with others who share that same passion.



Presenter: Laura Ellen Christian, B.S.Ed, Therapeutic Recreation, Dementia Live CERT

I have worked in the aging services industry for the past 18 years, 17 of those with a top senior living provider supporting development and implementation of engagement programs for seniors as well as creation and oversight of the company’s dementia training program. Serving as Senior Vice President of Engagement and Dementia Training, I implemented AGE-u-cate Training Institute programs at over 40 communities and used them routinely as I engaged in staff training and skills coaching at senior living communities with staff, family members and the community at large. Now working for AGE-u-cate, I have extensive "real life" knowledge of leveraging experiential training combined with existing training resources. My education includes a B.S.Ed in Therapeutic Recreation from The University of Georgia. I have also completed training courses through Dementia Capable Care becoming a CPI Dementia Care Behavior Specialist in 2018. I am also active as a board member for Dementia Action Alliance.



Presenter: Ann Germany, BFA, Dementia LIVE Cert

Born in Seoul Korea and a proud daughter of an Air Force Colonel, Ann brings over 18 years of marketing and sales experience to Age -u-cate Training Institute. With a background in Public Relations, Corporate Communications, and Strategic Marketing/Sales, Ann combines her experience working with Fortune 500 companies, nonprofit organizations, and her own marketing company to bring a diversity of experiences to ATI. A seasoned, motivational speaker, Ann implements the belief that to communicate effectively and diplomatically is tantamount to success in both a professional as well as a personal arena! Transitioning to the Senior Industry, Ann became a certified specialist in Senior Living and Aging/Dementia sharing a combination of her real-life journey being a care giver for her mother for 22 years with the experience of working closely with families. Having experienced the dementia journey with her own mother, Ann is very passionate about sharing Age-u-cates platform to educate the medical, professional, and private sectors about normal aging and dementia. Ann is a founding member of North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force Foundation, NGEATFF, and the Chairman of Commission of Elder Affairs for Fulton County working closely with the Board of Commissioners in the Metro Atlanta Area on behalf of seniors. A classically trained pianist, Ann is a mother to seven amazing children, a supporter of the arts, a lover of sports... and passionate about living every moment to its fullest!



Therapeutic Gains: Improving the Continuum of Care Between Rehabilitation and Strength and Conditioning Professionals

This course will explore the interrelationship and overlap between the professions of rehabilitation and strength and conditioning. Material covered will include shared professional goals, differences in scope of practice, similarities in professions along the treatment continuum, effective collaboration between rehabilitation and strength and conditioning professionals, basic periodization strategies for rehabilitation professionals, and a case study analysis.

Presenter: Cody Whitefoot, PT, DPT, OCS

Dr. Cody Whitefoot PT, DPT, OCS is an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science at Lincoln Memorial University, TN. His research interests include the impact of blood flow restriction (BFR) on aerobic capacity and orthopedic clinical evaluation with a special emphasis on diagnostic testing.



Presenter: Asher Flynn, PhD, CSCS

Dr. Asher L Flynn, PhD, CSCS is an Assistant Professor of Exercise Science and Sport Scientist for the Women's Soccer team at Lincoln Memorial University, TN. His research interests focus on fatigue and athlete monitoring in collegiate athletes, and aspects of women's soccer performance.

The Nerve of Some People! Common and Not-So-Common Peripheral Nerve Entrapments and Injuries Using Case Examples

This course will review common and not-so-common peripheral nerve entrapments and injuries using fun and interesting case examples and stories from clinical practice. Topics will include mechanisms of injury, a review of the anatomical relevance to nervous tissue injuries and dysfunction, the key subjective and objective information used to differentially diagnose nerve dysfunctions, and the treatment options used to alleviate patients' complaints. Current evidence will be provided to substantiate why certain courses of action are more or less likely to be successful. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of how to examine and treat peripheral nerve dysfunctions.



Presenter: Derek Charles, PT, DPT

Dr. Charles is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Tennessee State University, teaching musculoskeletal related courses. He is a Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist, a Fellow in the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists, and a Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist through Maitland Australian Physiotherapy Seminars. Dr. Charles treats patients in outpatient orthopedic settings and serves as a clinical instructor for the TSU Tiger Clinic, a student run, pro bono clinic serving TSU and the North Nashville Community. He has served as the APTA-TN Reimbursement, Practice and Nomination Committee Chair.

Hearing Hoofbeats and Identifying Zebras: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Treatment of Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

Occupational and physical therapists are trained that when you hear hoofbeats, you should think of horses. But what happens when those hoofbeats are zebras? This is the case in up to 3% of the general population who are diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, hypermobility type (hEDS); a heritable connective tissue disorder leading to joint instability. While hypermobility is the hallmark of hEDS, the connective tissue disorder affects multiple systems including neuromuscular, integumentary, cardiovascular, lymphatic, gastrointestinal, gynecological, and immunological systems. Due to this wide breadth of impact, it is integral that patients with hEDS receive comprehensive care to promote optimal outcomes. Through interdisciplinary care and consideration, occupational and physical therapists are uniquely equipped to not only provide this care, but also to assist in the early identification and diagnosis of those with hEDS. This evidence-based course will offer insights into this process to promote collaborative intervention to maximize patient success.



Presenter: Michaela Kent, PT, DPT, OCS

Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Dr. Michaela Kent is employed as a physical therapist at the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she works alongside a multidisciplinary team of health care professionals to offer well rounded care to empower patients with chronic medical conditions, including those with hypermobility and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome diagnoses. Prior to working at The Osher Center, Michaela worked at Nationwide Children's Hospital, completing her Orthopedic Residency, and going on to work as part of both the sports and orthopedic team as well as the adolescent neuro team. Michaela received her DPT as well as her BS in exercise science with a minor in psychology from The University of Evansville. Outside of Physical Therapy, Michaela enjoys participating in aerial silks and coaching swimming.



Presenter: Jamie Bergner, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, COMT

Jamie Bergner is an occupational therapist and certified hand therapist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with over 20 years of clinical practice experience specializing in complex and traumatic injuries of the upper quadrant. In 2016, she received her post-professional doctorate in occupational therapy, education track. She is a professor for Cox College MSOT and entry-level doctorate programs. Additionally, Jamie teaches weekend continuing education courses nationally as lead faculty and co-director of the Hand and Upper Extremity Track for IAOM-US. She is an advocate for clinician-led research, is a principal investigator, and has published in peer reviewed journals. Married for 22 years, Jamie enjoys a full family life with two kids, ages 16 and 11.



Presenter: Charlene Zimmerman, PT, DPT, OCS

Dr. Charlene Zimmerman graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2007. Since that time, she has gained experience in multiple clinical settings including acute care, skilled nursing, home health, and outpatient orthopedics. She has worked for Vanderbilt Medical Center since 2012, spending much of that time working as a Certified Lymphedema Therapist. In 2018, Charlene independently studied and passed the Board Certification in Orthopedics and transferred to the Osher Center for Integrative Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2019. This opportunity has afforded Charlene with improved awareness of the complexity of pain. She enjoys weightlifting, running, and reading.

Pediatric Track

Promoting Activities of Daily Living in Prenatally Substance-Exposed Infants and Toddlers

Learn evidence-based ways of understanding and addressing occupational challenges of prenatally substance-exposed infants and toddlers in early intervention settings. Gain practical knowledge of interventions that impact young children's participation in feeding and sleeping. Participants will reflect on the environment's influence on infant and toddler behavior and how to effectively utilize sensory integration and family-centered interventions in practice.



Presenter: Christy Isbell, PhD, OTR/L

Christy Isbell, PhD OTR/L is a pediatric occupational therapist with more than twenty-five years of experience working with young children. She is an Associate Professor in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) where she teaches pediatric occupational therapy courses. Dr. Isbell maintains her clinical practice in occupational therapy and her specialty is early intervention. She has presented nationally and internationally on topics related to sensory integration, autism spectrum disorder, fine motor development, and children born substance exposed. Dr. Isbell has written books and articles to educate intraprofessionals, parents, and caregivers.

Occupational and Physical Therapy in the Pediatric ICU

This course will describe the implementation of an Early Mobility protocol in the pediatric ICU. We will also discuss considerations for treatments of critically ill pediatric patients with age-appropriate recommendations and therapeutic interventions. Lastly, we will introduce a comprehensive orientation and competency structure to promote best practice for clinicians treating in this area.



Presenter: Katherine Hedden, PT, DPT, PCS, CBIS

Kat is a pediatric physical therapist at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a board-certified pediatric specialist and brain injury specialist. She specializes in pediatric acute care, treatment of pediatric critical care and early mobilization, and acute neurotrauma and acquired brain injury. Kat is passionate about advocacy for the pediatric continuum of rehabilitative care and comprehensive management of patients with pediatric Inpatient Rehabilitative needs. Kat guest lectures for several universities in Tennessee, has presented at national ECMO and PM&R conferences, and has presented posters with CSM and pediatric conferences.



Presenter: Gracie Brinck, OTR/L, OTD

Gracie is a pediatric occupational therapist at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt located in Nashville, Tennessee. She has experience in both outpatient and inpatient settings and now specializes in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, but also has completed special projects in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She enjoys working with patients and their families at the most vulnerable time in their hospital stay and supporting them throughout their continuum of care.

Reflexes: The Foundation of Function

This educational session details the underlying theories, frameworks, and practice models of reflex integration; the neuroscience of reflexes; the purpose and clinical implications of various reflexes; and the significant roles of occupational and physical therapy in reflex integration.



Presenter: Kaitlyn Cavins, OTD, OTR/L

My name is Kaitlyn Cavins, and I am a pediatric Occupational Therapist at Integrated Pathways in Hixson, Tennessee. I am passionate about serving children and their families well through practical, client-centered care. I fell in love with pediatric reflexes and the neuroscience behind it during my capstone, and I am so excited to share my passion and what I have learned with others! In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, curling up with a good book, and taking my dog, Cruella, on walks around our neighborhood.

Saturday, October 14

General Session

Keynote

Emma, along with her OT and PT, will discuss her experiences in therapy as it relates to her journey with Multiple Sclerosis. Emma was diagnosed with MS in 2015. She traveled to Russia in 2017 for high dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplant. She then began her therapy with Pi Beta Phi. Valery and Emma have worked together on and off the entire 6 years and Elise has been working with Emma the last 3 years. Emma and her therapists will discuss Emma's progress in therapy and how she has overcome the challenges of her diagnosis with the help of her therapists.



Presenter: Valery Hanks, OTR/L, C/NDT, CPAM

Valery Hanks, OTR/L, C/NDT is an Occupational Therapist at Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute at Vanderbilt Medical Center Bill Wilkerson Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She provides outpatient based services as part of an interdisciplinary team for adolescents and adults with neurological impairments. Valery graduated from The University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in 2000 and has focused the entirety of her career treating people with neurological impairments. In the community, she serves as the Vice President of the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association and sits on multiple committees advocating for Occupational Therapy.



Presenter: Elise Shepard, PT, DPT, NCS

Elise Shepard, PT, DPT, NCS is a physical therapist at the Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Elise works with a variety of neurological patient populations including stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and other progressive neuromuscular diseases. Elise graduated with her doctorate of physical therapy from Belmont University in 2015, completed the ABPTS neurologic physical therapy residency at Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute in 2016, and earned her board-certified neurologic physical therapy specialist certification in 2017. Elise is a clinical connector with the nonprofit Love Your Brain, and is passionate about educating her patients on the benefits of a healthy mind-body connection.

**Presenter: Emma Monte**

Emma Monte is an Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University and has authored two books and several articles on her field. Diagnosed with RRMS in 2015, she quickly progressed to SPMS. Monte underwent HSCT in June 2017 in Russia with Dr. Denis Fedorenko, world renowned hematologist and pioneer of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for MS. Since then, with the help of her occupational therapist and physical therapist, she has been slowly regaining her functions.

General Professional Track**We Are All Broken: Psychologically Informed Therapy - Tips, Tricks, and Technology to Improve Patient Outcomes**

This comprehensive course will explore various clinical applications derived from fields such as psychology, hospitality, nursing, medicine, and therapy to improve therapeutic alliance and patient reported outcomes. The course content is diverse and covers a range of topics, including psychometrics, adapted motivational interviewing, trauma-informed practice, coping skills, mindfulness, and patient management. Additionally, the course will utilize virtual reality applications to enhance the learning experience.

**Presenter: Ryan McConnell, PT, DPT, DSc, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT**

Dr. McConnell currently serves as Assistant Professor at Belmont University's School of Physical Therapy and teaches gross anatomy, psychosocial aspects of healthcare and therapeutic modalities. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Doctor of Science degree from Bellin College. He completed a postdoctoral orthopaedic residency and fellowship in orthopaedic manual physical therapy. He is Board Certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists. When not teaching at Belmont University, he serves as a clinical mentor for residents and fellows in training.

Cost-Effective Marketing Tools to Maximize Visibility and Promote Your Healthcare Business

This interactive course will appeal to the healthcare professional with an entrepreneurial spirit exploring starting a private practice or already out in the marketplace. It will discuss strategies for a digital presence as well as optimizing marketing opportunities within your practice workflow.

**Presenter: Marsh Naidoo, PT**

Marsh Naidoo, PT has over 25 years of experience as a physical therapist. She graduated from the University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban in 1996 with BSc (Physiotherapy). In 2020 she founded Teletherapy Services LLC, a hybrid private practice providing physical therapy services to her clients in the clinic, at their home or virtually through telehealth. She built her practice from the ground up with the goal of providing accessible, affordable, value-based care to her clients in the State of Tennessee. She founded Raising Kellan a nonprofit digital platform for parents raising children with disabilities in 2019. The platform consists of a blog housed at www.raisingkellan.org, a podcast, and a book. She currently serves as a board member at Healing Horses, a 501(c)3 organization located in Dyersburg TN that provides therapeutic horsemanship for persons with disabilities. She is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and the American Business Women's Association.

Physical Disabilities/Rehab Track**Inequities in Access and Impact of Post-Stroke Home Occupational Therapy Services on Readmissions in a Statewide Medicaid Population**

Stroke or cerebrovascular accident (CVA) is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. Stroke frequently results in impairments that negatively impact an individual's ability to engage in functional tasks and activities of daily living. Occupational Therapy (OT) is a key component of poststroke rehabilitation, and research indicates that OT improves the functional recovery and quality of life of CVA patients. Occupational and physical therapy services are typically initiated in the hospital and sometimes continue after discharge. After the hospital, stroke survivors may be discharged home or to an outpatient setting, and research suggests that the majority of those who are discharged home do not get these much-needed services. In this session, we will examine whether racial, gender-based, and geographic inequities impact access and utilization of OT services and whether the receipt of home OT services after stroke reduces hospital readmissions.

**Presenter: Anne Zachry, PhD, OTR/L**

Anne Zachry received a PhD in Educational Psychology & Research from the University of Memphis in 2010. Prior to joining the UTHSC Occupational Therapy (OT) faculty in 2013, she practiced as an occupational therapist for over 20 years in a variety of settings. Her blog, "Pediatric OT Tips" has been ranked as a top OT blog for the past 5 years. In 2016, she received the Student Government Association Executive Council Excellence in Teaching Award and was a finalist for the Memphis Business Journal Health Care Heroes Award. She received the UTHSC Alumni Association Public Service Award in 2016. Her books, "Retro Baby" and "Retro Toddler" were published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Retro Baby" won the Benjamin Franklin Gold Award in 2013. Dr. Zachry currently serves as the Chair of the UTHSC Department of Occupational Therapy.

**Presenter: Lee Williams, OTD, OTR/L**

Lee Williams received a clinical doctorate from Quinnipiac University in 2017. He accepted a full-time faculty appointment to UTHSC in 2018. Prior to this he practiced full time as an OT in the outpatient clinical setting where he managed a vestibular rehab specialty and work-hardening/industrial medicine program at Baptist Hospital. He has extensive experience in acute care and ICU settings. Primary research interests include stroke rehab and Social Determinants of Health.

Transcranial Stimulation: From Cortical Mapping to Clinical Implications

In this course, participants will develop an understanding of how cortical mapping is performed for the motor and sensory cortices, the difference between adaptive and maladaptive cortical reorganization, current research surrounding transcranial stimulation devices (i.e. transcranial magnetic stimulation, transcranial direct current stimulation), and what these new stimulation techniques could mean for physical therapy treatment.



Presenter: Mia Fox, PT, DPT

Mia Fox PT, DPT graduated from Ithaca College and practiced as a pediatric and adult outpatient physical therapist in upstate New York for 5 years prior to moving to Memphis to pursue a terminal degree in Neuroscience. She is currently studying how different regions of the brain interact in a learning paradigm using electrophysiological techniques in animal models. Outside of the lab, she practices outpatient and pediatric physical therapy privately, advises the competitive climbing team at Memphis Rox Climbing and Community, and aids in the development of the adaptive rock-climbing program at Memphis Rox Climbing and Community.

Are You Prepared to Be In It for the Long Haul? An Overview of Long-Haul COVID-19 and Rehabilitation Implications

Survivors of COVID-19 may develop symptoms that last for weeks, months, or even longer which is known as long COVID, long-haul COVID, post-acute COVID, or chronic COVID. Long-haul COVID symptoms are vast and can have a long-term impact on the functioning of individuals. Rehabilitation professionals need to be aware of the symptoms and be prepared to address the needs of patients with long-haul COVID. This 2.0-hour course will provide evidence-based strategies to address the comorbidities and symptoms associated with long-haul COVID, appropriate intensities of treatment, and strategies to maximize functional outcomes.



Presenter: Suzanne Greenwalt, PT, DPT, CCS, GCS

Suzanne Greenwalt has been a physical therapist since 2002 and has worked in a variety of practice settings, including education, acute care, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing facilities. She is an Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Education at Belmont University in the School of Physical Therapy. She is also a physical therapist at Ascension Saint Thomas in acute care. In addition, she is an educator and mentor in National HealthCare Corporation's (NHC) Geriatric Residency Program. Suzanne Greenwalt is a Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist and was the first physical therapist in TN to have this certification. She is also a Geriatric Clinical Specialist. She is an active APTA member and is on the Board of Directors for the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Section of the APTA. Her interest areas include geriatrics, cardiopulmonary conditions, interprofessional education, and clinical education.

Academia Track

Fieldwork Educators' Perspectives on Level II Fieldwork Student Failures

One of the most challenging aspects of occupational therapy fieldwork education is failure of a Level II fieldwork rotation. The reasons for student failure of a Level II fieldwork rotation are complex and frequently hard to quantify. Due to the complexities associated with Level II fieldwork failure, the limited body of research that currently exists on the subject is insufficient in determining the root cause of Level II fieldwork failure. The purpose of this study is to add to the current body of literature through the exploration of fieldwork educators' perspectives on Level II fieldwork failure. This qualitative study was conducted using a case study approach. The findings will be utilized to better identify the root causes of student failure and will allow for more effective improvement opportunities. After analyzing the data, the findings were categorized into five themes. The five themes are (1) student's difficulty receiving feedback, (2) avoiding conflict and failing students, (3) importance of communication, (4) strategies to aid struggling students, and (5) student expectations. Strategies to address these findings will be addressed.



Presenter: Lauren Beard, OTD, MOT, OTR/L, CPAM

Lauren Beard is an Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator of the Occupational Therapy Program at Tennessee State University. She received her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has received a Master of Occupational Therapy from Tennessee State University and Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Lipscomb University. Lauren holds experience in OT practice working with adult and geriatric populations in long term care and home health settings. Her current certifications include LSVT BIG, physical agent modalities, and fieldwork educator. Her research has primarily focused on fieldwork education.



Presenter: Christine Watt, PhD, OTR/L, CPAM

Christine Watt is a partner in a consulting firm focused on disability litigation. She received an Associate of Applied Science in OTA from Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (1999) and a Bachelor of Science in OT from University of Southern Indiana (2004). Her other educational experiences include a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management (2000), a Master of Rehabilitation Counselor Training (2007) and a PhD in Rehabilitation – all from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Her clinical experience includes 5 years as a COTA and 8 years as an OT in a variety of settings prior to entering academia in 2012. Her research interests include aging in place, industrial rehab, and student success in OT education.

Helping Students Learn to Clinically Reason During Fieldwork

This two hour lecture will discuss the use of the Cognitive Apprenticeship Model to structure clinical education. The presentation starts with a discussion of how students clinically reason and then moves in to explaining the Cognitive Apprenticeship Model and how it can be applied to clinical education. Finally, the presentation provides practical tips for creating positive learning spaces for students to learn and practice clinical reasoning.



Presenter: Janna Knickerbocker, EdD, OT/L, BCPR

Janna Knickerbocker is an occupational therapist working primarily in physical dysfunction with adults with various neurological conditions for over 25 years. She has worked at Methodist North Hospital for the last several years. Additionally, she has taught at Concorde Career College and provided consulting services for the adult MDA and ALS clinics. She has a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, a Master of Arts in Psychology, and a Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Instructional Design and Technology. Janna is Board Certified in Physical Dysfunction and volunteers time with different AOTA committees. She has had the privilege of being the clinical instructor for numerous students over the years.

Training Occupational (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) Students to Enhance Interprofessional (IP) Clinical Practice

Interprofessional (IP) collaboration is essential for optimal patient outcomes. Providing opportunities for PT/OT students to learn to work in interprofessional teams is critical to prepare them for clinical practice. The IPEC (Interprofessional Education Collaborative) core competencies are the foundation for interprofessional training. This course will present the interprofessional sequence for PT/OT students, emphasizing experiences that incorporate traditional health care teams as well as non-traditional team members such as law, theater, music therapy and interior design. In addition to IP cases, experiences include an end-of-life simulation, poverty experience, acute care simulation, and an environmental modifications interprofessional experience. These experiences develop knowledge and skills in teamwork, communication, role clarity, and confidence for clinical practice. The objectives, student outcomes, and clinical relevance for each experience will be presented. Opportunity to exchange other IP experiences will be provided.



Presenter: Renee Brown, PT, PhD

Renee Brown, PT, PhD has been a PT for 40 years specializing in patients with neurologic deficits. She has been an academic faculty member since 1991. Dr. Brown has been at Belmont University since 2002, serving as a faculty member, chair and is currently the Senior Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. In her current role, she helps coordinate the interprofessional experiences including the professions within the College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (PT, OT, pharmacy, social work, exercise sciences, public health and mental health counseling). She has numerous publications and presentations on neurologic rehabilitation and interprofessional education topics.



Presenter: LaRae Murray, OTD, OTR/L

LaRae Murray, OTD, OTR/L is an Assistant Professor in the School of Occupational Therapy at Belmont University and teaches in both the MSOT and OTD programs. She has practiced in a variety of adult inpatient and outpatient settings with a focus on the hand and upper extremity. At Belmont she has been involved in interprofessional events and has participated in training for planning and leading interprofessional simulations. Her professional interests include injury prevention in musicians and interprofessional experiences.

Pediatric Track

Sensory Processing, Social Participation, and Anxiety: Considerations in Enabling Occupational Participation of Children

Many children can respond to sensory information in an adaptive manner to support function in daily occupations including social participation. While considerable research has focused on occupational disruption in children with sensory processing disorders, more recent research has found that there is wide variability in sensory processing patterns in neurotypical children (Dean et al., 2022). The unique sensory needs of neurotypical children can not be overlooked as only 61% of these children have all response patterns within the “expected” range. Some children with differences in sensory processing have been found to have lower participation levels (Chien et al., 2016) and to be at increased risk of developing internalizing problems such as anxiety (Schmidt et al., 2013). The purpose of this session is review research related to sensory processing, social participation, and anxiety and to discuss strategies to support sensory health and occupational participation for all children.



Presenter: Lorry Liotta-Kleinfeld, EdD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

Lorry Liotta-Kleinfeld has been a Professor at Belmont University for 25 years where she teaches courses in pediatrics and neuroscience. Lorry is a core faculty for the Vanderbilt Consortium LEND (VCL) which prepares students to participate in interprofessional collaborative practice and assume leadership roles to serve children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. She has been engaged in ongoing research to examine the impact of children’s sensory processing on occupational participation. She has published and lectured on interprofessional education initiatives, social justice, and the relationship between sensory processing and social participation.



Presenter: Cynthia Hickman, OTD, OTR/L, SIPT, CLT-LANA

Cynthia Hickman has been a pediatric occupational therapist for 22 years. She practices in the community as well as serves as the academic fieldwork coordinator and associate professor at Belmont University. She has worked in the school setting, outpatient clinic and early intervention settings. She has completed research examining the relationship between sensory processing and occupational participation and sensory processing and anxiety in children. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Autism Tennessee.

Student Track

Human Trafficking in Practice and Fieldwork for Therapy Students, Practitioners, and Educators

This powerpoint-based presentation incorporates interactive discussions with the most recent information on human trafficking based on the United Nations 3P Protocol. Foundational information for the presentation includes human trafficking statistics, types of trafficking, biopsychosocial deficits in trafficked persons, research sources, and current intervention approaches. These components will be linked specifically to OT and PT educational and practice settings. Interactive discussions include methods to identify trafficked persons in settings, educate therapy staff/students, develop novel fieldwork/capstone projects, and “small things to do” to increase awareness and combat trafficking.



Presenter: Toni Thompson, DrOT, OTR/L, NDT Therapy Ed

A graduate of University of Illinois OT program, Toni Thompson served in Peace Corps/Ecuador and worked at the National Cerebral Palsy Association in Caracas, Venezuela. She worked in adult mental health with culturally diverse populations, and in pediatric orthopaedics at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Tampa for 22 years. She earned her DrOT at Nova Southeastern University with concentration in human trafficking. Certifications include Sensory integration & Praxis (SIPT) and Neuro-Developmental Treatment-Pediatrics. She has authored over 40 articles in OT, PT, and orthotics-prosthetics publications, and 3 text chapters. Presentations include state OT conferences, international orthotics-prosthetics conferences, and OT conferences in India and Malaysia, and several World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) conference venues. For 25 years, she has been an instructor and tutor for TherapyED exam review courses. Currently, she presents on and mentors OT students in capstones/projects in human trafficking and cultural humility and serves as a family caregiver.

Strategic Professional Development for Students & Practitioners: Beyond Licensing & License Renewal

This interactive session is open to students and practitioners from both the OT and PT communities. During this session, participants will learn why it's important to be strategic in planning for the path they desire to take in their chosen profession and will discuss steps to develop or strengthen a plan of action for doing so.



Presenter: Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP, CDP

Stephanie holds a B.S. in occupational therapy from Washington University in St. Louis and has been an occupational therapist for over 32 years. She has worked as an OT educator since 2013 and serves as program director and associate professor of the OT program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis. She holds an M.S. in Leadership & Policy Studies and a Doctorate of Education in Instruction & Curriculum Design with an emphasis on Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Memphis. Stephanie serves as TNOTA President-Elect and as the representative for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Representative Assembly for the state of Tennessee. She chairs the Communications Committee and is the Membership Coordinator for the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) as well as serving as a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Association for Assistive Technology (TAAT).

Cervical Radiculopathy Demystified: Clinical Decision-Making and Hands-on Skills for PT/OT Students

Unravel the complexities of cervical radiculopathy with our dynamic two-hour course designed specifically for physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) students! Immerse yourself in expert-led discussions and interactive hands-on sessions that will strengthen your clinical decision-making skills, broaden your understanding of the condition, and enhance your hands-on treatment techniques. As a participant, you will: Gain a comprehensive understanding of cervical radiculopathy, including its causes, symptoms, and diagnoses; Learn evidence-based assessment strategies and the latest treatment options to optimize patient outcomes; Enhance your critical thinking skills in clinical decision-making to confidently tackle complex cases; Participate in hands-on sessions, practicing cutting-edge techniques and modalities to treat cervical radiculopathy.



Presenter: Steven Spinks, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

Dr. Steven Spinks received his Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science from Western Kentucky University. He received his doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He completed a Postdoctoral Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship in Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy with Upstream Rehabilitation Institute. He is also Board Certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists. He is currently working on his Doctor of Philosophy in the Health Sciences. Dr. Spinks served on the board of directors in the Tennessee Physical Therapy Association as membership chair and has served in various leadership roles throughout volunteer organizations and through Upstream Rehabilitation. He actively participates in teaching continuing education courses with his primary focus on vestibular rehabilitation and concussion management through the American Institute of Balance since 2016. He is an assistant professor at Gannon University, leading the musculoskeletal series and advanced practice courses. His scholarship interests are in the areas of vestibular medicine, orthopaedic manual physical therapy, therapeutic exercise and dosage, and clinical integration of knowledge to practice.



Presenter: Ryan McConnell, PT, DPT, DSc, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT

Dr. McConnell received his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He received his doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He completed a Postdoctoral Orthopaedic Residency and Fellowship in Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy with Upstream Rehabilitation Institute. He is also Board Certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists. He is currently working on his Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy through Bellin College. Dr. McConnell has served in various leadership capacities with the Tennessee Physical Therapy Association and within outpatient orthopedic settings. Dr. McConnell was recently awarded the Emerging Leader Award through the American Physical Therapy Association. He continues his clinical practice in outpatient orthopedics with BenchMark Physical Therapy and is actively participating in Upstream Rehabilitation Institute's postdoctoral residency and fellowship programs. His scholarship interests are in the areas of: orthopaedic manual physical therapy, therapeutic neuroscience/pain science education, biopsychosocial implications of clinical practice, and dry needling.

Sunday, October 15

Physical Therapy Ethics & Jurisprudence

Ethics (PT)



Presenter: Alan Meade, PT, DScPT, MPH

Jurisprudence (PT)



Presenter: Alan Meade, PT, DScPT, MPH

Occupational Therapy Interest Track

Ethics (OT)



Presenter: Dr. Susan McDonald, EdD, OTR/L

Jurisprudence (OT)



Presenter: Dr. Susan McDonald, EdD, OTR/L

More Than “Just” an OTA: Recognizing Your Value and Contribution to the Occupational Therapy Profession

Maybe you love your job as an OTA, but are questioning how to make more of an impact in your OT department, facility, or even the OT profession. Or you'd like to engage in more leadership but are not really sure where to start or if you are qualified to be a leader. This session will challenge anyone feeling that they are “just” an OTA to realize their importance and contributions. The information and activities during the session will help you begin see the difference you make already. The session is designed to also help you navigate leadership and advocacy in ways that feel manageable and authentic to you.



Presenter: Niccole Rowe, BA, COTA/L

Niccole Rowe, BA, COTA/L has 10 years of experience as an occupational therapy assistant in various settings such as acute care, long term acute care, skilled nursing, academia, and outpatient chronic pain treatment. As part of her current role as one of the founding partners of Aspire OT, Niccole works to support other OT practitioners through exceptional continuing education. Niccole has been published in a textbook chapter and in OT Practice including co-authoring 2 continuing education articles. Niccole was also one of the lead authors for AOTA's official document “Occupational Therapy's Role in Treating Pain”. She was honored as the co-recipient of the American Occupational Therapy Association's 2018 Terry Brittell OTA/OT Partnership Award. She has also been recognized for her leadership in occupational therapy as she was chosen for the 2017 cohort of AOTA's Emerging Leaders Development Program and received the AOTA Gary Kielhofner Emerging Leader Award in 2020. She holds a BA in Communication.

Let's Chat about COTAD Chapters' Challenges & Successes in OT/OTA Programs

The Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) is a nationwide nonprofit organization established in 2013 to empower those in the OT profession to engage in practices that increase justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI); anti-racism; and anti-oppression for a transformative occupational therapy profession. As the student-run divisions of COTAD, COTAD Chapters are OT/OTA student-led groups that work together to develop and promote JEDI, anti-racism, and anti-oppression within OT/OTA education programs and in the profession. There are currently 13 OT/OTA programs in Tennessee, several of which have established COTAD Chapters. This session will offer an opportunity for open dialogue about challenges and successes in starting and running a COTAD Chapter from the perspectives of both students and faculty members with experience and/or interest in this area.



Presenter: Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP, CDP

Stephanie holds a B.S. in occupational therapy from Washington University in St. Louis and has been an occupational therapist for over 32 years. She has worked as an OT educator since 2013 and serves as program director and associate professor of the OT program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis. She holds an M.S. in Leadership & Policy Studies and a Doctorate of Education in Instruction & Curriculum Design with an emphasis on Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Memphis. Stephanie serves as TNOTA President-Elect and as the representative for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Representative Assembly for the state of Tennessee. She chairs the Communications Committee and is the Membership Coordinator for the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) as well as serving as a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Association for Assistive Technology (TAAT).

Orthopedic Track

How an Early Activity and Mobility Protocol for Mechanical Vent Patients Can be Beneficial in Rural Hospital Settings



Presenter: Dacy Thomasson, MOT, OTR/L

Dacy is a graduate from Tennessee State University, where she received her Master's Degree in December 2019. Since then, Dacy has worked at a rural, acute care hospital outside Nashville, TN, specializing in ICU, orthopedic, and general acute care patients. She is currently enrolled at the University of Missouri's Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctoral program, where she will finish her coursework later this fall. Since being enrolled in Mizzou's PPOTD program, Dacy has found a passion for advocating and working with mechanical-vent patients, creating and establishing an early activity and mobility protocol. She is actively conducting research to determine what functional outcomes are present with these patients. Also, she has created an academic course for Mizzou's OT program. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, vacationing to the beach, watching the Tennessee Volunteers, and spending time with family and friends. Fun fact, her brother Dalton is a DPT student at UTC!

Rehab Considerations for the Post-Surgical (and Conservative) Active and Athletic Shoulder

A detailed approach to shoulder rehab for the conservative and post-surgical patient. Will discuss exercise rationale, technical considerations, progression decision-making, and operative approach assessment. Goal is to avoid common mistakes and maximize outcomes, visit productivity for patient satisfaction and therapy reputation enhancement



Presenter: David Maldonado, DPT, SCS, ATC/L, PES

David graduated from Belmont University in 2001 after receiving his athletic training certification in 1997. He completed a sports residency in 2006 and became a board certified sports clinical specialist soon after. He has worked in college athletics including as a head athletic trainer at the University of Southern Indiana for 5 years. Experiences including the Tennessee Titans, 12 years in MMA as a cutman, and current role as a sports PT primarily working with TTU athletes have given him extensive and varied experience for the active patient.

I'm Supposed to Do What? How to Navigate the Work Comp System and Succeed by Treating Injured Workers

The worker's compensation process is federally mandated, state-regulated, provides value to physical therapy companies, and helps individuals return to work. However, the system is complicated to navigate and provides a lot of ambiguity to individuals providing the care. Physical therapists receive little to no training as they enter the field in the worker's compensation process, even though physical therapists provide incredible value to the patients within this very system. The purpose of this presentation is to outline workers' compensation regulations, and the stakeholders, to help physical therapists understand the varying roles of individuals within this ecosystem. This lecture, and interactive activities, will highlight the differences between traditional and commercial health physical therapy in terms of billing, treatment goals, and utilization review. Additionally, suggestions will be provided to diversify revenue streams through workers' compensation, and best practice suggestions for managing patient cases.



Presenter: David Jennings, PT, DPT, SCS, CMTPT, ATC

David Jennings worked in collegiate athletics as an athletic trainer with Louisiana State University and Vanderbilt University before attending physical therapy school at Belmont University and graduating with his DPT in 2015. For 7 years he worked in various roles in outpatient orthopedics including a sports physical therapy residency program at Vanderbilt University, and directing two private practice clinics in Franklin, TN. He joined Bardavon Health Innovations during the summer of 2022 as Senior Director of Network Partnerships. In this role, he works closely with physical therapists to streamline the care provided to injured workers and he wants to ensure these patients experience the best outcomes possible. He has learned the workers' compensation process is not intuitive or simple to navigate, despite being incredibly valuable to injured workers and their employers, and that physical therapists typically do not receive any education in the system prior to entering the workforce.



Presenter: Christopher Scoma, PT, DPT, OCS, COMT

Chris completed his undergraduate training and PT school at the University of Evansville in Indiana. He graduated in 2008 with a bachelors in Exercise Physiology and in 2010 with his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He joined Results Physiotherapy in 2010, and has served in a variety of workers' compensation clinical roles, most recently as the Director of Workers' Compensation Quality and Education for Upstream Rehabilitation's 1200+ clinics. Chris believes that early utilization of physical therapy is an integral part of facilitating return to work for the injured worker, and he has tailored both internal and external educational content to highlight the evidence supporting this perspective.