



Schedule for 2025 TNOTA Conference
September 12-14, 2025
J Walter Barnes Conference Center at Jackson General Hospital
Jackson, TN

Friday, September 12, 2025
Pre-Conference

Time	Session
1:00-1:30	Registration
1:30-3:30	Suicide Prevention Training <i>Lauren Woods, PhD, OTR/L</i> <i>Kaylin Flamm Lawrence, OTR/L</i>
3:30-3:45	Break
3:45-5:45	Ethics and Jurisprudence <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP</i>

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time	Session		
7:15-8:00	Registration <i>Exhibitor Hall Open</i>		
8:00-8:30	Welcome and Presidential Address <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP. TNOTA President</i> Breakfast Provided		
	Adult Track	Pediatric Track	Academia
8:40-10:25	Workshop 1: Pinched Nerves Can Be a Real Pain! Evidenced Based Evaluation and Treatment of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (Introductory) <i>Jamie Bergner, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, COMT</i>	Workshop 2: Looking Beyond the Limits of Historical OT School Based Practice: Shaping the Future (Intermediate) <i>Michelle Graham, MSOT, OTR/L</i> <i>Emily Smith, OTD, OTR/L</i> <i>Carolynn Farley, MS, OTR/L</i> <i>Tiffany L Smith, MS, OTR/L</i>	Workshop 3: Enhancing Occupational Therapy Education Through Simulation: Strategies for Effective Implementation (Intermediate) <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP</i> <i>LaRae Murray, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM</i>
10:35-11:25	Short Course 1: Mobile MOC: An Interprofessional Approach to the Health of Rural Older Adults (Intermediate) <i>Meagan Oslund, OTD, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 2: OT and ABA: A Model for Collaborative Pediatric Practice (Introductory) <i>Rebecca Whitaker, OTD, OTR/L</i> <i>Alexis Witkin, MEd, BCBA, LBA</i>	Short Course 3: The Effectiveness of Peer Editing in Increasing the Scholarly Writing Skills of Occupational Therapy Students (Introductory) <i>Pamela Lewis-Kipkulei, PhD, OTD, OTR/L</i>
11:35-12:25	Short Course 4: Sleep Smart: Strategies to Promote Better Rest (Introductory) <i>Calandra Henry, OTS</i> <i>Laura Carpenter, PhD, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 5: <i>Prerequisite to Workshop 5</i> A Primitive Look at Reflexes: An Introduction to Reflexes (Introductory) <i>Sandra Dicks, MOT, OTR/L</i> <i>Tanner Wright, OTD, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 6: Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Meet-Up <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP</i>



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

12:30 -1:45	Keynote Panel <i>Missy Bryan, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, ATP, CPST</i> <i>Megan Colletti, MS, OTR/L</i> <i>Denise Higdon, OT/L</i> <i>Taylor Kozell, OTD, OTR/L, CNS-AP, PAq</i> <i>Libby Skolnik, MS, OTR/L, CEIM, NTMTC</i> Lunch Provided
--------------------	--

	Adult Track	Pediatric Track	Specialty Track
2:00-3:45	Workshop 4: Bridging Occupation and Health: OT Solutions for Social Determinants of Health and Chronic Disease Management (Introductory) <i>Elicia Cruz, PhD, OT/L</i>	Workshop 5: A Primitive Look at Reflexes: Putting Knowledge into Practice (Intermediate) <i>Sandra Dicks, MOT, OTR/L</i> <i>Tanner Wright, OTD, OTR/L</i>	Workshop 6: Framework for AT Consideration and Assessment (Intermediate) <i>Debbie Abraham OTR/L</i> <i>Diane McCluskey, OTR/L, ATP</i>

3:55-4:55 Poster Session #1 Exhibitor Hall Open	4:00-4:30 TNOTA Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program Meet-Up
--	--

	Adult Track	Pediatric Track	Specialty Track
5:05-5:55	Short Course 7: Empowering Recovery: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Addiction Treatment (Intermediate) <i>Cassidy Berry, MS, OTR/L</i> <i>Kathy Ward, BS, Substance Abuse Disorder Specialist and LADAC II intern</i>	Short Course 8: What Next? Emerging Specialty Areas Within Pediatric Occupational Therapy for OTs and OTAs (Introductory) <i>Ashley Robertson, COTA/L, CAIP, C-AAT</i>	Short Course 9: Hands at Home (Intermediate) <i>Andrew Hamrick, MOT, OT/L, CHT</i>

 Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association
Sunday, September 14, 2025

7:15-8:00	Registration <i>Exhibitor Hall Open</i> <i>Breakfast Provided</i>		
	Adult Track	Pediatric Track	Specialty
8:00-9:45	Workshop 7: OTpreneur: How To Establish a Thriving Private Practice (Intermediate) <i>Kaylin Flamm Lawrence, OTR/L</i> <i>Dakota K. Lawrence, LPC-MHSP, NCC</i>	Workshop 8: Safe Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing (Introductory) <i>Anjali Vasishta, OTR/L</i> <i>Mary Brinkley, COTA/L</i> <i>Sara J Muncher, OTR/L</i>	Workshop 9: Why Water Works: Embracing Aquatic Therapy in Occupational Therapy (Introductory) <i>Taylor Kozell, OTD, OTR/L, CNS-AP, PAq</i>
9:55-10:45	Short Course 10: Burnout, Resilience, and Locus of Control in Occupational Therapy (Introductory) <i>Tabitha Gibbs, MSOT, EdD</i>	Short Course 11: Supporting the Mother-Infant Dyad: OT's Role in Maternal Health from Hospital to Home (Intermediate) <i>Libby R. Skolnik, MS, OTR/L, CEIM, NTMTC</i>	9:55-11:40 Workshop 10: <i>Follow up to Workshop 6</i> AT for the Related Service Provider (Intermediate) <i>Debbie Abraham OTR/L</i> <i>Diane McCluskey, OTR/L, ATP</i>
10:55-11:45	Short Course 12: Providing Occupational Therapy Expertise in the Non-traditional, Corporate Health and Wellness Sector (Advanced) <i>Robert J Mullaney, OTD, DBA, MBA-HSA, OTR/L</i>	11:00-11:30 Pediatric Community of Practice Meet-up <i>Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L</i>	

12:00-1:00	TNOTA Annual Business Meeting & Legislative Update <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP. TNOTA President</i> Lunch Provided
-------------------	--

1:00-2:00 Poster Session 2 <i>Exhibitor Hall Open</i>	1:00-1:30 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting <i>Stedmon Hopkins, OTD, MOT, OTR/L</i>
---	---

	Other/General	Pediatric Track	Student Track
2:00-2:50	Short Course 13: Practice with Purpose: A Journey Toward Clinician-Led Research (Intermediate) <i>Jamie L Bergner, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, COMT</i>	Short Course 14: Bridging Gaps: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Pediatric Primary Care (Introductory) <i>Anne H. Zachry, PhD, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 15: NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know <i>Elise Foust, COTA/L, CFPS</i>
3:00-3:50	Short Course 16: Energy Conservation - Unlocking an OT Superpower (Intermediate) <i>David Eades, PPOTD, OTR/L</i> <i>Lauren Beard, OTD, MOT, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 17: Reasons for OTPractitionersto Referto Seating and Positioning Clinics (Introductory) <i>Andrew Hinkle, OTR/L</i> <i>Sara Muncher, OTR/L</i>	Short Course 18: COTAD Chapter Conclave: A Chat about COTAD Chapters' Challenges & Successes in OT/OTA Programs <i>Stephanie Lancaster, EdD, OTR/L, ATP</i> <i>Stedmon Hopkins, OTD, MOT, OTR/L</i>

Session Descriptions
Saturday, September 13, 2025
Short Courses

Short Course 1: Mobile MOC: An Interprofessional Approach to the Health of Rural Older Adults. This presentation highlights the role of occupational therapy

(OT) on the MobileMOC, an interdisciplinary mobile healthcare team delivering services to rural communities with limited access to care. The team—comprising OT, nursing, social work, nutrition, and public health—works collaboratively to address complex biopsychosocial challenges through personalized, holistic care. OT students and faculty actively participate in service delivery, applying classroom knowledge in real-world contexts while educating peers about the scope and value of OT. This hands-on experience strengthens interprofessional communication, enhances clinical reasoning, and prepares students for future collaborative practice. A case example will demonstrate how team-based care improved outcomes for a patient facing environmental and functional barriers. The MobileMOC serves as both a care delivery model and a training ground for future health professionals, reinforcing the importance of integrated care and expanding access to essential services in underserved areas. **Short Course 2:** OT and ABA: A Model for Collaborative Pediatric Practice. Collaboration between occupational therapy practitioners and applied behavior analysis (ABA) professionals presents a powerful opportunity to enhance outcomes for children with Autism. This session will focus on how integrated practice between the fields of OT and ABA can expand the impact and effectiveness of occupational therapy services and help both fields engage their clients more holistically. Drawing from hands-on experience in an interdisciplinary clinic, presenters will share strategies for fostering successful collaboration, structuring



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

impactful interdisciplinary meetings, and building shared goals across disciplines. Participants will engage in case study reviews to deepen their understanding of collaborative care models that extend OT's reach and relevance in complex clinical settings.

Short Course 3: The Effectiveness of Peer Editing in Increasing the Scholarly Writing Skills of Occupational Therapy Students. OT instructors address students' writing skills and ACOTE standard B.4.3 focuses on documenting the need for OT services. Students design, implement, and disseminate scholarly studies and participate in activities aligned with research priorities and advance knowledge translation, professional practice/issues, or service delivery (ACOTE Standard B.5.2). Students enter programs with varying writing skills, and many demonstrate poor writing skills. Writing techniques can help improve the writing process, including collaborative writing applications, which allow simultaneous editing of online documents.. Peer editing, defined as "a collaborative learning process that allows students to review, critique, and edit each other's work", is a learning tool performed via collaborative applications. Research demonstrates that peer feedback is more effective than instructor feedback. This study explored how peer editing and feedback, provided during writing assignments, impacted students' writing skills and whether scholarly writing skills were improved.

Short Course 4: Sleep Smart: Strategies to Promote Better Rest. Sleep is a foundational occupation that significantly impacts health, daily function, and quality of life. Occupational therapy practitioners are uniquely positioned to address sleep challenges across the lifespan. This session will highlight the OT's role in promoting sleep through evidence-based, client-centered strategies. Using practical tools, presenters will discuss how to assess sleep disturbances, implement effective sleep hygiene routines, and create personalized interventions that support occupational performance. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to address this often-overlooked area of practice.

Short Course 5: A Primitive Look at Reflexes: An Introduction to Reflexes. Primitive reflexes contribute to the development of muscle tone, sensory integration, head control, and overall motor skills. As reflexes integrate they lay the foundation for higher learning skills and more mature movement patterns. This course is designed to give participants a greater understanding of what primitive reflexes are, why they are important, the impact reflexes have on development, and potential risk factors for retained primitive reflexes. A deeper understanding about primitive reflexes enables clinicians to provide improved and quality care in practice. This course will focus on the Moro, TLR, ATNR, STNR, and Spinal Galant reflexes in the pediatric setting. **This is a prerequisite course to Workshop 5.**

Short Course 6: Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Meet-Up. This interactive session provides a dedicated space for occupational therapy faculty serving as academic fieldwork coordinators (AFWCs) in OT or OTA programs to connect, collaborate, and support one another. Participants will engage in discussion around fieldwork placement challenges, student support strategies, site development, documentation, and emerging models of supervision. Discussion about the reinstitution of the previously organized Tennessee Fieldwork Consortium with support from TNOTA will be included. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies, shared resources, and an expanded professional network. **This session is open to OT/OTA faculty members only.**

Short Course 7: Empowering Recovery: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Addiction Treatment. This presentation highlights the essential collaboration between occupational therapists and addiction therapists in the recovery process. It explores how their combined expertise supports individuals in regaining functional independence and emotional stability. Key topics include coordinated goal setting, integrating behavioral therapy with practical skill-building, and fostering long-term relapse prevention. Through real-life case studies and evidence-based strategies, the presentation emphasizes how interdisciplinary teamwork enhances treatment success and overall well-being for individuals on their recovery journey.

Short Course 8: What Next? Emerging Specialty Areas Within Pediatric Occupational Therapy for OTs and OTAs. Throughout our OT careers, we may ask ourselves the question what next? How can we continue to develop our skills and knowledge to maximize our potential to support our clients? The expansion of occupational therapy practice is emerging daily, and in this short course, a brief overview of emerging practice areas and specialty certifications available to both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants will be discussed. Animal-assisted therapy, anxiety-informed care, and the family-centered AEIOU feeding approach will be highlighted. A brief overview of some other trainings needed within pediatric therapy such as pelvic floor therapy and vision therapy will be discussed. Case studies and resources will also be provided along with an open discussion about the need for practitioners to expand into specialty areas of practice within the field of occupational therapy.

Short Course 9: Hands at Home. Hand therapy is often relegated to the world of outpatient therapy. However, its benefits apply across a variety of settings and home health is no different. This session will identify the importance of hand therapy in the home health setting and provide evidence based and innovative treatment ideas for this unique setting.

Workshops

Workshop 1: Pinched Nerves Can Be a Real Pain! Evidence-Based Evaluation and Treatment of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Peripheral nerve impingement can disrupt lives by causing pain, altered sleep, and interfere with daily activities. In this interactive, hands-on workshop, you will be guided through the occupational therapy process for addressing median nerve compression, starting with how to lead the occupational profile to uncover critical clues from your client's history. Dive deep into the complexities of carpal tunnel syndrome and learn how to identify common "imposters" that mimic its symptoms. You'll practice focused evaluation techniques and sharpen your clinical reasoning to identify nerve impingement patterns. Participants will examine best practice, and leave with practical, evidence-based treatment strategies to reduce pain and restore function. Whether you are an experienced therapist looking to refresh your approach, or a new practitioner looking to equip with skilled evaluation and treatment techniques, this workshop will give you the skills you need to get clients back to what matters most...without pain.

Workshop 2: Looking Beyond The Limits Of Historical OT School Based Practice: Shaping The Future. As an active member of the TNOTA Pediatric CoP, I was contacted by an occupational therapy practitioner in a Tennessee school district in need of some school-based advocacy assistance. The occupational therapists were advised that OT's goals needed to stay focused on fine motor skills. Adaptive behavior, social-emotional, etc. should be handled by the case manager. This is an example of how occupational therapy has been limited in our scope of practice and the therapists are not recognized in their role to implement strategies in others of concerns to support student participation. We will address school based best practice concerning contextual services, collaborative goal writing, and our role in a multi-tiered system of supports.

Workshop 3: Enhancing Occupational Therapy Education Through Simulation: Strategies for Effective Implementation. Simulation-based learning is increasingly recognized as a valuable tool in occupational therapy education, offering students safe, controlled environments to develop clinical competencies. This workshop aims to provide OT educators with practical strategies for integrating simulation into curricula, drawing on evidence-based practices and current research. Participants will explore various simulation modalities and discuss their applicability in educational settings. The steps to developing and implementing a successful clinical simulation will be examined. The session will also include time for sharing ideas for simulation scenarios and discussion of potential

challenges as well as thoughts about ways to facilitate successful implementation. There will be time to share, so participants are encouraged to bring simulation ideas and scenarios.

Workshop 4: Bridging Occupation and Health: OT Solutions for Social Determinants of Health and Chronic Disease Management. Chronic disease is a leading cause of death and disability, with over 40% of U.S. adults living with two or more chronic conditions. OTs are well-positioned to address this public health crisis by targeting social determinants of health (SDOH) and health-related behaviors (HRB) through occupation-based approaches. Research shows that SDOH not only correlates with but can also predict chronic disease and disability. Evidence supports OT's role in efforts to prevent and manage conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and mental illness through interventions that promote meaningful engagement in daily activities. These interventions can be implemented across both traditional and emerging practice settings and under different payment systems. This session will highlight OT strategies for shaping SDOH and HRB and provide tools for tailoring interventions to diverse settings. Participants will leave with an individualized plan to systematically apply these concepts within their own scope of practice.

Workshop 5: A Primitive Look at Reflexes: Putting Knowledge into Practice. Retained primitive reflexes can interfere with proper development that leads to difficulties in ~~motor skills, sensory processing, and cognitive functions~~. Screening and testing for retained reflexes supports early recognition of potential issues needed to guide intervention strategies for the best possible outcomes. This workshop is designed to teach participants how to screen for common retained—primitive reflexes in the pediatric setting with a focus on the Moro, TLR, ATNR, STNR, and Spinal Galant reflexes. Participants will also be shown and have an opportunity to practice testing techniques. Finally, this workshop will assist in understanding how to develop treatment activities that target integration of primitive reflexes enabling clinicians to provide better care to those they serve. **Required to attend Short Course 5 in the morning.**

Workshop 6: Framework for AT Consideration and Assessment. This session introduces the SETT (Student, Environments, Tasks and Tools) Framework, a structured approach for determining assistive technology supports for students. The framework guides teams in identifying a student's strengths and needs, considering all environments related to school participation, analyzing the specific tasks the student is expected to perform, and selecting tools with features that directly support those needs. Through case studies and guided practice, participants will apply the SETT Framework to develop practical, individualized solutions that support student access, participation, and learning.

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Short Courses

Short Course 10: Burnout, Resilience, and Locus of Control in Occupational Therapy. This course will explore the relationship between burnout, resilience and locus of control among occupational therapists. Up to 38% of occupational therapists experience burnout, characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced accomplishment. Resilience acts as a protective factor against burnout, and internal locus of control positively correlates with higher resilience. Utilizing resilience-building strategies and promoting autonomy could help reduce burnout to create healthier, more sustainable work environments for OTs.

Short Course 11: Supporting the Mother-Infant Dyad: OT's Role in Maternal Health from Hospital to Home. This short course offers a foundational overview of occupational therapy's growing role in maternal health across the continuum of care—from pediatric intensive care units to community and home-based settings. With a focus on the mother-infant dyad, participants will explore how OT can address maternal mental health, role transitions, occupational disruption,



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

and caregiving needs. Case-based examples from NICU, CVICU, and community contexts will illustrate opportunities for holistic, family-centered care and advocacy. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and a clearer vision of how to integrate maternal health into OT practice.

Short Course 12: Providing Occupational Therapy Expertise in the Non-traditional, Corporate Health and Wellness Sector. Experienced occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) ~~will learn details of the potential roles of occupational therapy within the non-traditional, corporate work setting.~~ Upon the conclusion of the session, OTPs will be able to describe a theoretical foundation in which occupational therapy practitioners can present to non-traditional, corporate employers to enhance their understanding of occupational therapy expertise within employee wellness programming. OTPs will also be able to identify at least two key practice factors of occupational therapy that would pique the interest of non-traditional corporate employers to consider hiring an OTP. Finally, OTPs will be able identify at least two human resources for continued guidance and mentorship towards becoming involved in corporate wellness programming.

Short Course 13: Practice with Purpose: A Journey Toward Clinician-Led Research. Did you know it takes 17 years for research to be integrated into clinical practice? This session aims to accelerate the translation of evidence to practice. You are invited to reimagine yourself -not only as OT practitioners but as leaders in research and best practice. Participants will explore practical strategies for developing research skills within busy clinical settings, examine real-world methodologies suited for clinician-led inquiry, and re-examine current practices through a data-driven lens. This presentation empowers attendees to take purposeful steps on a research journey by transforming questions from the clinic to meaningful contributions to the occupational therapy profession.

Short Course 14: Bridging Gaps: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Pediatric Primary Care. As Tennessee continues to expand efforts toward improving early childhood development and access to care, pediatric primary care clinics have the potential to serve as an ideal setting for occupational therapy (OT) services focused on health promotion, prevention, and early intervention. This session will introduce the expanding role of occupational therapists in pediatric primary care, including developmental screening, caregiver coaching, sensory and behavioral support, and collaboration with medical providers. Participants will review evidence supporting early OT intervention and gain practical tools for initiating and sustaining OT services in pediatric clinics. The session will emphasize how OT practitioners can help reduce service gaps for young children and families.

Short Course 15: NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know (Student Track). During this session, an NBCOT Ambassador will share valuable information ~~about preparing and applying for the national OTR and COTA certification exams.~~ Specific topics include exclusive details about the exams, study tool resources, test day information, data regarding exam questions, and advice from other students and recent certificants. This presentation will allow you to be better informed about the various aspects of the national certification exam experience. Connect with NBCOT and hear about the best approaches to achieve your goal for Occupational Therapy Certification.

Short Course 16: Energy Conservation - Unlocking an OT Superpower. Energy conservation is a vital yet often overlooked area of expertise in occupational therapy. While many of us intuitively use energy conservation techniques with our adult clients, do we fully understand the impact of our interventions? This exciting intermediate-level short course invites all occupational therapy practitioners to explore energy conservation through the lens of the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF-4). Join us as we delve into the essentials of energy conservation for adults, featuring a straightforward and standardized client self-assessment that you can easily implement in your practice. We'll also discuss groundbreaking research on the efficacy of occupational therapy-provided energy conservation interventions. The session kicks off with a pre-test to gauge your knowledge and wraps up with an engaging discussion and post-test.



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Short Course 17: Reasons for OT Practitioners to Refer to Seating and Positioning Clinics. Occupational Therapy practitioners receive basic knowledge on seating and positioning in their education programs. This basic knowledge may not be enough to support people with significant orthopedic and neurological challenges such as dystonia, kyphosis, scoliosis, windswept hips or pelvic obliquity. At times, people may benefit from the services that can be provided at a Seating and Positioning specialty clinic. Services could include custom molded seating and alternative positioning, modifications to current seating and equipment, customization of commercial equipment, power wheelchair trial and training, and integration of technology and communication systems. Understanding available options for people will allow the person to have better health and quality of life.

Short Course 18: COTAD Chapter Conclave: A Chat about COTAD Chapters' Challenges & Successes in OT/OTA Programs (Student Track). 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 initiatives 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.

Workshops

Workshop 7: OTpreneur: How To Establish a Thriving Private Practice. In this presentation, participants will explore the beginning stages of a small business startup shaped around emerging practice Occupational Therapy. Participants will glean the similarities between the occupational therapy practitioner and the entrepreneur and leave feeling empowered to meet a need in their local marketplace.

Workshop 8: Safe Feeding, Eating and Swallowing. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are at a higher risk of having mealtime challenges. These challenges could include the risk of aspiration, choking and poor nutrition as well as decreased independence with eating. Occupational therapy practitioners provide a vital role in helping people be safe with feeding, eating and swallowing. This course will provide clinicians assessment and intervention skills that can be added immediately to their toolbox.

Workshop 9: Why Water Works: Embracing Aquatic Therapy in Occupational Therapy. The lecture explores how water's unique properties—buoyancy, hydrostatic pressure, viscosity, and thermal effects—can be harnessed to support rehabilitation, improve neuromuscular function, and enhance psychosocial well-being. The session discusses the physiological, neurological, and biomechanical impacts of immersion, clarifies common misconceptions (e.g., gravity is still present in water), and outlines clinical indications and contraindications. Aquatic interventions such as the Halliwick Method, Bad Ragaz, Watsu, and Burdenko approaches are examined, along with other practices like aquatic cognitive-motor training. The presentation emphasizes the versatility and benefits of aquatic therapy for diverse populations and conditions, encouraging practitioners to thoughtfully integrate it into clinical care.

Workshop 10: AT for the Related Service Provider. This session equips occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists with a practical understanding of their role in assistive technology (AT) within the educational model. Participants will examine how AT supports student access and participation, how to engage in the AT consideration process as part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, and how to document AT use



effectively. Case studies and application activities will highlight strategies for identifying, trialing, and integrating AT tools that align with student needs, and educational goal.

Poster Session #1 (Saturday)

Approach to Student Satisfaction of the East Tennessee State University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

Presenters: Don Lewis, OTD, EdD(ABD), MBA-HCM, MS, OTR, Ashley Harbison, OTS, Elly Jackson, OTS, Makenzie Smith, OTS, and McKenzie Williamson, OTS

Comparing the Effects of Mindfulness Techniques on Stress Reduction for OTD and DPT Students: A Randomized Control Pilot Study

Presenters: Sara A Lum, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, CSRS and Anna Kiel, PhD, MOT, OTR/L

Empowering the Culture: The Nashville Black Wellness Collective and Occupational Justice

Presenters: Samaiyah L Pilot, OTS and Kimberly Walker, OTD, OTR/L

Hard Skills Needed for OT Student Success in Acute and Orthopedic Fieldwork Settings

Presenter: Debra M Gibbs, EdD, MHS, OTR/L, CAPS, FAOTA and LaRae Murray, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM

Impact of Music on Engagement with Dementia Patients

Presenters: Sarah Moore, OTS, Savannah Freeman, OTS, Maya Spataro, OTS, and Rebecca Ahlfeld, PT, DPT, OTR/L, MOT

Impact of Occupational Therapy Services on the Quality of Life of Cancer Patients

Presenters: Brenna N Bocik, OTS, Julie E Cyr, OTS, Mckinley G Tyson, OTS, Sarah E Usry, OTS, and Sarah N Cushman, OTS

Impacts of H.A.B.I.T Dog-Based Reward System on Behavior in Upper Elementary Students from a Teacher Perspective

Presenters: Elizabeth Rimmer, BS, OTS, Kristy Ilia, BS, OTS, and Cassandra L Norris, BS, OTS

Resilient Grads: An Occupational Therapy-Informed University Program for Enhancing Resilience in STEM Graduate Students

Presenters: Kimberly N Walker, OTD and Brittany Davis, OTS

The Impact of Aquatic Group Exercise on Loneliness and Social Isolation in Older Adults

Presenters: Angelina Kelley, OTS, Hayden Goode, OTS, Matthew Gunn, OTS, Lily Simmons, OTS, and Abby Hightower, OTS

Understanding Client Experiences at a Local Food Pantry

Presenters: Elicia Cruz, PhD, OT/L, Cristina Cinca, OTS, Isabel Creasey, OTS, Kathryn Livingston, OTS, and Kristen Powlas, OT/L

Use of the Gross Motor Unit Scale as a Measurement of Patient Progress in a Pediatric Outpatient Clinic

Presenters: Amy Holland Neal, MS, OTR/L and Emily Anderson, OTD, OTR/L

Poster Session #2 (Sunday)

Attitudes, Behaviors & Barriers to Aquatic Therapy in Occupational Therapy Practice

Presenter: Taylor Kozell, OTD, OTR/L, CNS-AP, PAq

Breast Cancer-Related Lymphedema in Women

Presenters: Maizey Strand, OTS, Airlie Railley, OTS, and Bristol Panchikal, OTS

Curriculum Mapping in Occupational Therapy Education: Guided by Fink's Taxonomy of Significant Learning and 2023 ACOTE Standards

Presenters: Savannah D Yankee, OTD, Lindsay Williams, OTD, OTR/L, MT-BC, CPAM, and Don Lewis, OTD, EdD(ABD), MBA-HCM, MS, OTR

Feeding Problems in Prenatally Substance Exposed Young Children (birth through 5 years): A Retrospective Chart Review

Presenters: Hannah E Dougherty, OTS, Sydney H Byrd, OTS, and Christy Isbell, PhD, OTR/L

How Does Individual Personal Strength Training Compared to Group Strength Training Classes Affect Psychosocial and Physical Health in Women Ages 40-55 years old

Presenters: Jennie M Douglas, OTS, Rayvenne M Wilson, OTS, Allie M Highfill, OTS, and Kerry Ormond, MOT, OTR/L

Managing Maladaptive Behaviors in Pediatric Rehabilitative Settings: The Role and Opportunity for Pediatric Occupational Therapy Practitioners

Presenters: Keyuna Johnson, OTD, OTR/L

The Nature-based Therapy Experience: A Gardening Program for Brain Injury Survivors

Presenters: Kaleigh Garst, OTD, LSVT BIG® certified and Lindsay Williams, OTD, OTR/L, MT-BC, CPAM

Pediatric Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Knowledge and Experience of Elopement Mitigation Strategies and Adaptive Equipment

Presenters: Missy Bryan, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, ATP, CPST, Ashley Caceres, OTS, Liz Eisenga, OTS, Claire Grobe, OTS, and Dani Olsen, OTS

Training Staff at Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Support Individuals with Intellectual, Developmental, and Learning Disabilities

Presenter: Makensie N Cotter, OTD

The Impact of the THRIVE Transition Curriculum on Postsecondary Outcomes for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Presenter: Gigi Jordan, OTD, OTR/L

What Providers Think Matters: How Beliefs Impact OT Referrals in Chronic Pain

Presenters: Madison Warren, BS, COTA/L, OTS, Brooklyn Balsan, BS, OTS, Taylor Casanta, BS, OTS, Marie Hankins, BS, OTS and Zoe Hudson, BS, OTS

SpecialEvents

1. **Professional Headshots to Benefit for Brightstone:** Saturday 3:45-5:45 - Professional Photographer on site to take headshots for a donation benefitting TNOTA's 2025 philanthropy partner Brightstone. Minimum donation \$10 for practitioners and \$5 for students Headshot will be sent digitally via email.
2. **Trivia Night to Benefit Tennessee Occupational Therapy Foundation:** Saturday starting at 7:00 pm at Twist Midtown Grill located inside the DoubleTree by Hilton Jackson. We will play 4 rounds of trivia, get a team together and come join us. Food and drink available for purchase. Minimum donation \$15 for practitioners and \$10 for students. The winning team will receive a prize. Team limited to 5.
3. **Student Lounge:** Sponsored by Tennessee State University's SOTA
4. **TNOTA Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program Meet-Up:** Saturday 4:00-4:30
5. **Pediatric Community of Practice Meet-Up:** Sunday 10:55-11:15 Facilitated by Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L
6. **Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting:** Sunday 1:00-1:30 Facilitated by Stedmon Hopkins, OTD, MOT, OTR/L
7. **Exhibitor Hall:** Saturday 7:15-8:00 am, 3:55-4:55 pm and Sunday 7:15-8:00 am, 1:00-2:00 pm