



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY.

*College of Health Sciences
Department of Occupational Therapy*

**Weekday and Weekend Classes of 2015
Graduate Research Presentations**

Saturday, April 11, 2015
5:15–10:15 pm

Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall
Rooms 216, 217, 218

“Research is formalized curiosity.
It is poking and prying with a purpose.”

—Zora Neale Hurston

“You’d be amazed how much research you can get done
when you have no life whatsoever.”

—Ernest Cline

“Research is what I’m doing
when I don’t know what I’m doing.”

—Wernher von Braun

PROGRAM

- 5:15–5:30 pm** **Weekend and Weekday Program Class Photographs**
- 5:30–5:45 pm** **Welcome**
Dr. Grace S. Fisher, Chair, Occupational Therapy Department
- Presentation of Pins**
Occupational Therapy Faculty
- 5:45– 6:45 pm** **Open hors-d’oeuvres table**
Everyone eats and views posters at the same time
- 5:45– 6:45 pm** **Research Posters (4)**
- 6:50– 6:55 pm** **Research Presentation Opening Remarks**
Dr. Lalit Shah, Professor and Research Coordinator,
Occupational Therapy Department
- 7:00– 10:15 pm** **Research Presentations and final wrap up (8)**

RESEARCH POSTERS 5:45 – 6:45 pm

POSTER 1

The Common Core State Standards' Potential Impact on Occupational Therapy Practice in Pennsylvania

Researchers: Dana Martin, OTS; Nicole White, OTS; Kelsey Whiteman, OTS; Samantha Zaykoski, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Cheri Dotterer, MS, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Lalit J. Shah, OTR/L

Abstract: The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were to be implemented at the start of the 2013-2014 school year. With the adoption of these new standards and the still undetermined outcome, some concern has been raised regarding the ability of some students, particularly those with disabilities, to meet these newly implemented CCSS. Occupational therapists (OTs) typically share a large role in collaborating with educators to adapt educational experiences. Since there is little research on this topic, it will be important to understand the potential impact on occupational therapy practice. This study utilized a qualitative phenomenological design in which schools were selected through stratified random sampling. Survey packets were mailed to 70 school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and eight survey responses were received. Results indicate conflicted views among OTs about the potential impact of the CCSS on the students they serve, as well as on their goals and interventions.

POSTER 2

Implementing Social Occupations in a Supervised Living Arrangement: The Impact on Quality of Life

Researchers: Maria Baldino OTS; Julia Cantwell, OTS; Jennifer Creagh, OTS; Jose Ortiz, OTS; Nicole Pelick, OTS.

Research Committee Chair: Christine Hischmann, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA

Reader: Tiffany Riley, MS, OTR/L

Abstract:

The purpose of this research study was to determine if participating in a bi-weekly cooking group would result in improved quality of life of older adults living within a supervised living arrangement. Data from four participants was obtained through the utilization of the RAND-36 Item Health Survey 1.0 Questionnaire (RAND 36), General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSE), semi-structured interviews and field notes. The study also aimed to identify if social occupations within a supervised living arrangement had an effect on the participants' moods and social participation. Differences between pre and posttest data for both the RAND-36 and GSE were statistically insignificant. Content analysis of the interviews and field notes indicated increased social participation and improved feelings of belonging. Further research is recommended to analyze the effect of social occupations on older adults' quality of life and self-efficacy within a supervised living arrangement.

POSTER 3

Vocational Interest Assessments for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Autism

Researchers: Jennifer Cohn, OTS; Ashley Milkovitz, OTS; Brittany Pondelek, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Mimi Ludwig, MS, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Grace Fisher, OTR/L

Abstract:

The aim of this qualitative research study was to interview five young adults with intellectual disabilities/autism and their caregivers to illustrate the vocational background and interests of these young adults, the themes that arose, vocational aspirations and dreams for the future of the young adults and their parents. The researchers used a structured vocational interest tool and semi-structured interviews of five young adults and their parent. Across case analysis was utilized to identify similarities and differences between the cases. Based on the results the authors conclude these young adults demonstrated individual vocational interests which may best be assessed with tools that go beyond traditional vocational assessments.

POSTER 4

Exploring School Based Occupational Therapists' Perspectives on the Use of iPad

Researchers: Melanie Clabia, OTS; Kaitlyn Cully, OTS; Deborah Keys, OTS;

Kaitlyn Pagnotta, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Andrea Collins, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Lalit J. Shah, OTR/L

Abstract:

Purpose: To discover occupational therapists various uses and opinion of the iPad in the school-based setting.

Methods: Paper surveys were mailed to 500 random participants and the survey was also made available online. Final sample sizes of 116 participant responses were reviewed and data was disseminated.

Results: 84.5% of the respondents report that they use the iPad either personally or professionally and shared various ways in which they use it either as a motivational tool, assistive device, or to address various skills. Respondents also shared ways in which they collaborate with parents and other professionals; however, numerous respondents were adamant about the fact that the iPad cannot and should not replace traditional treatment methods.

Conclusions: Continued research on use of the iPad is necessary to educate and inform practitioners to ensure that school-based occupational therapists are providing evidence-based services consistent with "best practice" methods in conjunction with their professional clinical judgment.

6:50 – 6:55 pm

Research Presentation Opening Remarks

Dr. Lalit Shah, Professor and Research Coordinator, OT Department

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS 7:00 – 10:15 pm

7:00 – 7:20 pm

Parents' Perspective of the Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy Intervention for Children Birth to Three in an Early Intervention Program

Student Researchers: Heidi Kemp, OTS; Stephanie Lemelle, OTS; Julie Mengel, OTS; Hollie Schuster, OTS.

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Lalit J. Shah, OTR/L

Reader: Suzanne Lennon, MS, OTR/L

Abstract:

This study sought to determine parent's level of satisfaction with occupational therapy services in early intervention and the factors that influence their level of satisfaction and perceived efficacy. The location of data collection included the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The respondents were parents of children ages 0-3 who receive occupational therapy services for at least 6 months through early intervention. Data was collected through mailed surveys that were completed and returned by mail to the university. The data was analyzed using the SPSS software program. The participant's information was used to generate data on the effectiveness of occupational therapy services in early intervention. The parents were given the opportunity to provide honest and constructive feedback on how services influenced their shared family experiences in daily occupations. The information gathered in this study will provide the field of occupational therapy with evidence-based literature on the effectiveness of occupational therapy services in early intervention. The information can be used to generate improved intervention strategies, home program development, and improved family-centered practice in early intervention.

7:20 – 7:40 pm

Use of Mobile Applications in Pediatric Occupational Therapy Settings

Researchers: Ann Kumpf, OTS; Deidre Limongelli, OTS; Amy Costa, OTS; Briget Rischawy, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Lalit J. Shah OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Jennifer Dessoie OTR/L

Abstract: The purpose of this descriptive quantitative research study is to provide data regarding the use of mobile devices and applications (apps) in pediatric occupational therapy (OT). The aim is to provide a comprehensive list

of apps currently being used by OT practitioners, their cost and purpose, and to provide comments about mobile device use from OT practitioners in various pediatric settings. An online survey of 19 open- and close-ended questions was issued to OT practitioners in pediatric settings around the United States. The 255 OT practitioners that met the inclusion criteria and responded to the survey collectively listed 575 separate apps being used in practice. The data suggests that there are many apps currently used in a variety of practice setting to serve a particular purpose, and that mobile devices can be beneficial as an adjunct or preparatory form of therapy. To provide best practice, apps must be used appropriately and the client factors of the child being treated must be carefully considered.

7:40 – 8:10 pm

An Investigation of the Methods and Products used to Thicken Infant Formula in U.S. Children’s Hospitals: A Survey Study

Researchers: Brittany Bly, OTS; Katherine Murphy, OTS; Christina Tucci, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Kimberly Kubistek, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, OTR/L

Abstract:

The purpose of this survey study was to determine the methods and products used by children’s hospitals in the United States to thicken formula for infants with dysphagia. Inconsistencies recently discovered in formula thickness can put infants at risk for aspiration and further medical complications. Over the past several years, additional medical and safety concerns regarding treatment for infants with dysphagia have been identified including (a) the development of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) with the use of Simply Thick, (b) increased levels of arsenic in rice products, (c) discrepancies in viscosity of thickened liquids due to thickener properties, and (d) lack of inter-rater and intra-rater reliability, resulting in varying infant care. Paper surveys were disseminated through the United States Postal Service to both the occupational therapy and speech language pathology departments within the 237 children’s hospitals located across the United States. The collected information was then analyzed with the intent to determine current practice trends and contribute to the development of a standardized protocol for thickening formula used in the treatment of infants with dysphagia.

8:10 – 8:30 pm

Transition to Assisted Living Facility: Cognitively Intact Elderly Person's Experience Co-existing with Residents with a Cognitive Impairment

Researchers: William Sopko, OTS; Stephanie Evans, OTS; Samantha Warden, OTS; Jacqueline Paluszek, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Kathleen Hughes-Butcher, MS, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Joseph Cipriani, OTR/L

Abstract:

Objective: This study used a phenomenological approach combined with correlational methods to understand the transitional experience of eleven cognitively intact residents' co-existing with residents who possess a cognitive impairment.

Methods: The Quality of Life Index (QLI) and semi-structured interviews were utilized to understand the impact of the following variables: participants' transition, length of stay, and their total QLI score.

Results: No significant relationship was found among the variables when using the Spearman and Kendall Tau Correlation Coefficients. Even though no significant correlation was found in the quantitative data, strong common themes were found within the qualitative data.

Conclusion: These results suggest that co-existing with residents who possess a cognitive impairment does not impact the participants' transition, but does impact their interaction and/or participation within the facility. Due to a small sample size and other limitations, the data gathered cannot be generalized to all assisted living facilities.

8:30 – 8:50 pm BREAK

8:50 – 9:10 pm

Proceduralization of Typing

Researchers: Amber Housen, OTS; Allyson Irwin, OTS; Kristen Naples, OTS.

Research Committee Chair: Denis Anson, MS, OTR

Reader: Dr. Joseph Cipriani OTR/L

Abstract:

The purpose of this research was to discover factors that facilitate fluent typing and if complex motor planning is a contributing factor. We hypothesized that fluent typists think in words, rather than letters while typing, and if presented with "non-words," their typing fluency would decrease. In this study, we compared typing conventional English text with typing "Lorem Ipsum" pseudo-words to explore the effect of word-level motor plans on performance. We hypothesized

that, if fluent typists had developed word-level motor plans, there would be a greater difference in performance between the texts for touch typists than for non-fluent typists who work a character at a time. The data collected did not support our hypothesis; however, we discovered that faster touch typists were not visually dependent for novel letter arrangements (Lorem Ipsum) in addition to familiar English text. Further research needs to be conducted regarding the motor planning of touch typists.

9:10 – 9:30 pm

A Retrospective Chart Review Linking Parental Age to Sensory Processing Disorder in Children Ages 0-5 Years

Researchers: Christina Liuzzi, OTS; Jenny Martin, OTS; Melanie Short, OTS; Adrian Whitmoyer, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Donna Brink, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Lalit J. Shah, OTR/L

Abstract:

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) and resulting behaviors in young children are emerging concerns among health care professionals and care providers. The aim of this study is to investigate a relationship between advanced parental age and increased sensory processing deficits. The researchers used a Pearson Chi-square data analysis technique to find a relationship between advanced parental age and SPD in 200 children aged 0-5 years. The researchers determined there was no significant relationship when examining parents over the age of 35 years and the likelihood of their children to demonstrate difficulties with sensory processing. These results along with further research may be beneficial to the medical community and the general population in preparation for family planning and management, as well as pediatric therapists working with this population.

Keywords: sensory processing disorder, advanced parental age, occupational therapy

9:30 – 9:50 pm

Development of a Memory Clinic for Older Adults: Promoting Productive Aging

Researchers: John Ignatovich, OTS; Kaitlyn Haldeman, OTS; Alyssa Leonard, OTS; Christopher Walters, OTS; Ashlee Ward, OTS.

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Lauren Zack, OTR/L

Reader: Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, OTR/L

Abstract:

The elderly population is steadily increasing and is expected to continue rising, making it necessary for healthcare professionals to be prepared to work with and treat conditions that are prevalent among this group of individuals. Dementia is among the most prominent of these health concerns, affecting 6.8 million individuals in 2013. Dementia and other cognitive impairments can lead to significant activity limitations and participation restrictions in all aspects of life, potentially compromising safety, health, and well-being. Many individuals who are diagnosed with dementia experience an interference with their activities of daily living, which are performance areas that fall into the OT scope of practice. Medications typically used to treat dementia, are known to have harsh side effects. Fortunately, the brain has a quality called neuroplasticity, which means that the potential for learning continues to exist at any age. A memory clinic was established to determine if cognitive training can prevent, maintain, and restore cognitive function.

9:50 – 10:10 pm

Discoveries in Group Activity Programming for the Able Oldest Old

Researchers: Valerie A. McDonald, OTS; Stephanie A. Pusey, OTS; Phillip R. Terrigno, OTS; Rose N. Wentzel, OTS

Research Committee Chair: Dr. Grace S. Fisher, OTR/L

Reader: Christine L. Hischmann MS, OTR/L FAOTA

Abstract:

As longevity increases there is a growing need for ways to ensure the psychosocial stability and quality of life in the oldest old population. This investigation initially sought to address this via a proven occupational therapy intervention, however, the intervention failed to meet the psychosocial needs of the oldest old which lead to, in its place, new activity programming. We learned the importance of knowing your population through a needs assessment prior to program planning and implementation. The able oldest old are a unique population with a clear and confident self-identity that must be considered when designing group interventions. This action research experience resulted in the provision of a successful group program.

10:10 – 10:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Dr. Lalit Shah, Professor and Research Coordinator, OT Department



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY®