

## Tentative Schedule

### Schedule

#### **Friday October 20, 2023**

12:30 - 1:00 - Check - in for Pre conference Institutes

1:00 - 5:00 - **Preconference Institutes**

5:00 - 7:00 **Registration Opens**

5:00 - 5:30 **Headshots** - \$25 visit registration table to sign up

5:30 - 7:00 **VOTA Board Meeting: Open to all VOTA Members**

Please join the VOTA Board for the October meeting! Hear what your state association is doing for you. There will be an open speaker time for any VOTA member who wishes to comment.

7:00 - Enjoy the evening with family and colleagues

#### **Saturday, October 21, 2023**

Between sessions and during the poster sessions please visit the sponsor and exhibitors tables

7:00 - 8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

7:30 - 8:00 **Headshots** - Visit the registration table to sign up

8:00 - 9:30 **Welcome and Keynote Address - Peacock Room**

- **Savanah Howe, MS OTR/L, QMHP-A, CNS**  
President of Virginia Occupational Therapy Association
- **Michael Iwama, PhD, MSc, BScOT**

9:45 - 11:15 **Concurrent Sessions A**

- **The Efficacy of Using Simulated Level I Fieldwork vs. Traditional Environments: Are We Effectively Preparing Students for Level II Fieldwork?** (*Academic and Fieldwork Education*) Intermediate

Sharon Wright, OTD, OTR/L, Haley Payne, COTA/L, & Athena Coleman, OTS

This research study aimed to determine the effectiveness of using simulated instruction to meet Level I fieldwork standards and its efficacy in preparing students for Level II fieldwork success.

- **Enhancing Maternal and Infant Health: Collaborative Care Model between an Occupational Therapy Practice and Midwifery Birth Center** (*Maternal Health*) Intermediate

Hayley Chrzastowski, OTD, OTR/L, CIMI, DONA Trained Labor/Delivery Doula, Hermann & Wallace Pelvic Floor Level 1, Upledger Institute Craniosacral Therapy Level 1, Lactation OT Breastfeeding for TOTs and Oral Motor Assessment/Remediation

This presentation will expound upon the symbiotic relationship and cohesive care model between an OT and a midwifery practice to provide comprehensive and supportive care to pregnant/postpartum women and their infants to enhance the transition to motherhood, physical recovery, establishment of co-occupations, breastfeeding outcomes, and infant development.

- **Leisure Promotion among Survivors of Brain Injury** (*Mental Health*)

Introductory

Elizabeth Morghen Sikes, PhD, OTR/L

Leisure participation is a core focus of occupational therapy practice. Among survivors of brain injury, leisure participation significantly declines after injury and may be associated with higher rates of anxiety and depression. This presentation will discuss promotion of leisure among survivors of brain injury from theory-based promotion strategies to specific activity modification examples.

- **Navigating the Transition to School-based Practice** (*Child and Youth*)

Introductory

Liz Anderson, MS OTR/L

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of school-based occupational therapy in Virginia for those interested in transitioning to this setting. Topics covered include legislation, practice foundations, collaboration with stakeholders, a day in the life of a school-based OT, and valuable resources for practitioners.

- **OT Exchange Program in Osnabrück, Germany: Exploring the Influence of Global Context on Daily Practice Realities** (*Global OT*) Introductory

Sarah Garrison, MOT, OTR/L, Vesna Cotic Costello, MS, OTR/L, Addison Panse, OTS, Caitlin Saunders, OTS, Joshua Bomar, OTS, and Lauren Jones, OTS

Ever wondered what OT looks like in another country? Come join participants in Radford University's inaugural USA/Germany exchange to discuss their

experience. This interactive session will promote curiosity and reflection on culture, policy, education, and more as we explore the influence of context for practice on a global scale.

**11:30 - 12:15 Poster Session 1 - Salon A**

*(Posters will be set-up alphabetical order, moving clockwise)*

- **Amplifying Strengths-Based Approaches in Occupational Therapy Practice** *(General and Professional Issues)*

Pam Stephenson, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

This poster explores the evidence for embedding strengths-based practice across occupational therapy contexts. In addition to considering the various elements of strengths-based practice, it also identifies strategies for amplifying strengths-based approaches in occupational therapy practice.

- **An Integrated Approach to Healthcare in the Aging Adult** *(Productive Aging)*

Jennifer Wagenhoffer MS,OTR/L, CLT and Tabatha Nicole Bonas, PharmD, PIC

Aging in place refers to the ability of older adults to live in their own homes and communities as they age, rather than moving to a different living arrangement (Lewis & Buffel, 2020). It has several benefits: 1) Familiarity and comfort: Staying in one's own home and community provides a sense of familiarity and comfort that can be essential for older adults; 2) Independence: Aging in place allows older adults to maintain their independence, which can improve their overall quality of life; 3) Cost-effective: In most cases, aging in place is more cost-effective than moving to a nursing home or assisted living facility; 4) Access to a support network: By staying in their own homes, older adults can continue to access their support network of friends and family, which can improve their overall well-being; 5) Control over environment: Aging in place allows older adults to retain control over their environment and the level of assistance they receive, which can be important for maintaining a sense of dignity and autonomy.

- **The Benefits of a Wellness Groups in Higher Education** *(Academic and Fieldwork Education)*

Carma Elizabeth Sample, MOT, OTR/L, Lauren Jones, MOTS, Martha Drapac, MOTS, Alyssa Dougherty, MOTS, Alyssa Dougherty, MOTS

A brief presentation on the effectiveness and need of a peer led wellness group for college aged students and faculty. This workshop will include personal experience, how to use Cole's 7 Step Plan, advice for future groups, and an example activity of a week from the group run.

- **Building Capacity Through Self-Regulation in Interprofessional Teams**  
*(Mental Health)*

Olivia Hubshman, MOTS, Madeline Stewart, MOTS, & Isabella Wessel,  
MOTS

Simon and Durand-Bush (2014) found a positive relationship between providers' self-regulation capacity and well-being, which can impact their abilities to optimize best practice. The purpose of this study is to explore the Interprofessional Autism Clinic (IPAC) team's pre-existing knowledge about self-regulation, while considering each discipline's clinical perspectives and approaches.

- **COVID-19 Impacts on Handwriting and Resultant Recommendations for Change in Occupational Therapy Public School Best Practices** *(Child and Youth)*

Jackie Erb, OTD, OTR/L and Morghen Sikes, PhD, MS, OTR/L

This study explored the methods by which school-based OTs provided services, particularly handwriting remediation, during the COVID-19 pandemic and identified enhanced learning strategies that arose within the virtual space. Strategies that continue to be utilized after the return to in-person schooling were identified and used to form OT best practice recommendations.

- **Electrical Stimulation Protocol Review and Optimization for Patients with Hemiplegic Shoulder Subluxation** *(Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation)*

Katherine Goracke, OTDS

This student capstone project aimed to assess, refine, and expand upon an inpatient rehab facility's existing protocol for the provision of neuromuscular electrical stimulation by providing evidence-based, standardized, and accessible practice guidelines and resources to promote buy-in, compliance, and consistency from occupational therapy practitioners managing competing clinical demands.

- **Enhancing the Use of Assistive Technology in Rehab: Promoting Increased Use of the My Life Room at Sheltering Arms Institute** *(Rehabilitation, Disability and Participation)*

Kaitlyn Hurley, OTD

Although the use of AT provides significant benefits to patients who have experienced an acute injury, it is often underutilized in the acute rehab stage of care. This project involved developing educational materials for clinicians to increase patient education on devices and to promote maximum patient independence post-inpatient stay.

- **Improving Toileting Outcomes for the Pediatric Population by Including Pelvic Health Approaches: How a Capstone Collaboration Can Help** (*Child and Youth*)

Elizabeth Richardson, MS, OTD, OTR/L, Sue Berres, OTR/L, & Kylie Lanigan, OTDS

Toileting is a developmental milestone that influences children's engagement in daily occupations and impacts the entire family. Bladder and bowel dysfunctions and sensory processing differences are associated with challenges in this area. OTPs can apply principles of pelvic health and sensory processing interventions to provide holistic, family-centered care.

- **Mentoring Diversity: Facilitating Mentorship Between HBCU Students and OT Practitioners** (*General and Professional Issues*)

Kristen Bozza Edmonds, OTD, OTR/L and Denisha Megginson, M.Ed.Student

Diversity is vital for the success of the OT profession, but how can individual practitioners make an impact? Mentorship with Historically Black College or University (HBCU) undergraduate students will help to break down barriers, give students access to more resources, and provide awareness of the OT field.

- **Patient & Caregiver Education to Support Discharge Planning in Inpatient Rehabilitation** (*Rehabilitation Disability, and Participation*)

Harleigh Hanselman, OTD and Allison Ellington, OTD, OTR/L

Patient and caregiver education has been associated with improved discharge outcomes, yet literature shows a gap in time dedicated to education in OT practice. By creating patient and caregiver education materials, this capstone project aimed to build therapist and family capacity to enhance discharge planning in an inpatient rehabilitation facility.

- **SOARing in the Kitchen: Addressing Self-Confidence in Adolescents with Disabilities Through a Baking Program** (*Child and Youth*)

Morgan Mauck, OTD

This program was developed to target self-confidence by teaching functional skills that are beneficial for academic achievement, job performance, and independence (Saxe-Custack et al., 2021). The General Self-Efficacy Scale was administered to participants before and after completion of the 5-week baking program. Results indicated that the baking program was efficacious in improving self-efficacy overall, improving scores by a total of nearly three standard deviations.

- **Taking Care of Mamas** (*Maternal Health and Wellness*)

Caroline Rich, MSOT, OTR/L

Taking Care of Mamas is an evidence-based program proposal that would extend home health OT services to women in the first 6 weeks postpartum after

cesarean section surgery (c-section). Women who undergo this major abdominal surgery do not currently receive any services in their homes to support recovery. The program's aim is to fill this much-needed gap.

- **Using Play to Cultivate Resilience Within Resource Families** (*Mental Health*)  
Andrea Poe, OTD

Occupational therapy is not recognized as a community resource for addressing the challenges within the child welfare system. The results of a pilot study exploring the benefits of play in promoting resource parent-child connections offer a new direction for support which reaffirms occupational therapy's role in mental health.

- **Utilization of Application-Based Learning to Enhance the Integration of Foundational Concepts and Improve Problem-Solving Skills for Occupational Therapy Students** (*Academic and Fieldwork Education*)

Elizabeth Soccio, OTD

Educational curriculums are moving away from mastery of foundational concepts and towards students' ability to apply information. This capstone project aims to minimize the gap between lectured content and the application of knowledge. The utilization of application-based learning allows for students to integrate foundational concepts and improve their problem-solving skills.

12:30 - 1:30 **Lunch, Business Meeting, Awards, and Scholarship Ceremony**

1:45 - 2:45 **Poster Session 2 - Salon A**

(Posters will be set-up alphabetical order, moving clockwise)

- **Addressing the Mental Health & Wellness of Student Athletes through the Lens of Occupational Therapy** (*Mental Health*)

Ragan Wiseman OTD/S and Teri Gilley, DHSc, OTR/L, BCP, CTP

Collegiate student-athletes have many expectations to uphold, and their mental health may suffer because of that. This capstone project aimed to increase the number of resources on Radford University's campus. There was a policy that was implemented to address screening, wellness days, and various activities to promote mental wellness.

- **Barriers to Participation in Physical Activity for Elementary School Children with Disabilities** (*Child and Youth*)

Carter Gillaspie, OTS and Sarah McCadden, OTD, OTR/L

The purpose of this presentation is to inform OT practitioners on the barriers to participation in physical activity for elementary school children with disabilities. We will discuss barriers found in the literature, the impact OT can have, and why it is important to support equal opportunity for children with disabilities.

- **The Effect of IVF Treatments for Infertility on Occupational Balance: A Qualitative Study** (*Emerging Practice Area - Women Health*)  
 Lindsay Leigh, MS, OTR/L, Certified Aging in Place Specialist, and Alysha Skuthan, Ph.D., OTR/L, ASDCS  
 This poster will highlight the results of a qualitative research study conducted to answer the research question: What is the perceived occupational balance of women undergoing IVF for infertility? Future implications may include identification of an emerging practice area in OT. Research was completed in July 2023.
- **The Effectiveness of Peer-Based Interventions on the Development of Leisure Skills in Children with Neurodevelopmental Impairments or Developmental Disabilities: A Systematic Review** (*Child and Youth*)  
 Michelle Burek, MS, OTR/L  
 My systematic review revealed that peer-mentoring, peer-mediated, and/or peer networking interventions can be beneficial for children and youth with and without neurological impairments and developmental disabilities to increase their participation in social, leisure, and recreational activities, developmental play, social, and leisure skills, and enhance their physical and psychosocial health and quality of life.
- **Exploring the Effect of Holistic Training Targeting Perceived Stress, Mindfulness, and Self-Compassion on ECE Performance Patterns and Well-being** (*Health and Wellness*)  
 Julie Bonham, OTD, MS, OTR/L, C/NDT, Carter Juergens, MOTS, Mia Cajigas, MOTS, & Samantha Lazarus, MOTS  
 Our purpose is to share a mindfulness-based curriculum developed for early childhood educators (ECEs) that experience high levels of stress and burnout. Emphasis will be placed on evidence-based holistic training in order to reduce stress and improve self-compassion and balanced perspective-taking.
- **Exploring the Supports and Barriers for Students Seeking Mental Health Services on College Campuses** (*Mental Health*)  
 Rachel Roglaski, MOTS, Jamey Bunn, MOTS, & Samantha Kinsky, MOTS  
 There is an increased prevalence of college students experiencing mental health crises with a variety of supports and barriers that may affect their ability to seek services on campus. This presentation includes our research proposal which utilizes the PEO model to analyze these factors on a college campus.
- **Holistic Sexuality among College Students, and its Relationship to Mental Health: An Exploratory Study** (*Health and Wellness*)  
 E. Morghen Sikes, PhD, OTR/L, Deeanna Delcoco, OTS, Jessica Wilkerson, OTS, Shannon Jones, OTS, Logan Shuttleworth, OTS, Karly Williams OTS, Kenzie Stout OTS, & Lindsey Davis OTS

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between college students' holistic sexuality and self-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression. Anxiety and depression were measured with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). Sexuality was measured using the Occupational Performance Inventory of Sexuality and Intimacy (OPISI). Results: The sample was predominantly female, caucasian, and heterosexual (n=206). A significant inverse correlation was observed with each holistic sexuality domain and anxiety and depression.

- **Implicit Bias in Rural Healthcare** (*General and Professional Issues*)

Amanda Bird Blevins, OTD, OTR/L, CFPS, CAPS, Allyson Meek, OTS, Kyndall Hiatt, OTS, Derrick Hill, OTS, & Madison Owens, OTS

This poster represents research designed to understand awareness of implicit bias in allied health professions in the rural Southeastern US. This work aligns with AOTA's focus on health and wellness, including addressing health care disparities.

- **Occupational Therapy's Distinct Role in Primary Care: Implications for Practice** (*Emerging Practice Area*)

Emily Budd, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational therapy's role in population health and wellness align with the needs of the

primary care practice area. Intervention approaches for promotion, prevention and self-management, including common conditions addressed in primary care, are discussed. Reimbursement models and implications for practice in the primary care setting are explored.

- **OTs role in Addressing Pelvic Floor Dysfunction and Associated Urinary Incontinence in the IPR Setting** (*Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation*)

Sarah McCadden, OTD, OTR/L and Breanna Judy, OTD

OT's role in addressing pelvic floor dysfunction (PFD) and associated urinary incontinence (UI) in the inpatient rehabilitation (IPR) setting will be explored. Defined types of incontinence and prevalence will be reviewed including the occupational impact of UI on clients. The OT process will be discussed for addressing PFD in this setting.

- **Occupational Therapy's Role in Comprehensive Substitute Education and Training** (*Child and Youth*)

Abbey Tomchik, OTS, Keli Mohica, OTS, & Pam Stephenson, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA

Literature indicates substitute teachers report diminished perceptions of their ability to support students with disabilities, emphasizing the need for supplemental support, education, and training. This presentation aims to highlight the role of occupational therapy in training and empowering paraeducators, and

describe how occupational therapy's unique lens can enhance classroom preparedness.

- **School OT and the Henrico County Public Schools Culturally Responsive Education Model** (*Child and Youth*)

Nadine Mignardi, OTR/L

Based on James Banks' theory of multicultural education, the Henrico County Public Schools Equity, Diversity and Opportunities Office developed its Culturally Responsive Education Model (CREM). While Banks' theory is linear, with aspects building on one another, the HCPS model is circular, reflecting the belief that teachers and school leaders can build capacity in all areas simultaneously.

- **Utilization of Occupational Therapy Services for Patients with Cancer in an Acute Care Setting and Effects upon Functional Mobility** (*Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation*)

Christine C. McNichols, PhD, OTR/L and Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Occupational therapy (OT) services are not vastly utilized for patients with cancer despite evidence that many patients have rehabilitation needs. Through the analysis of patient records from a National Cancer Institute hospital over 5 years, this study investigated OT services for hospitalized patients with cancer and their functional mobility independence.

3:00 - 4:30 Concurrent Session B

- **Implementing Occupational Therapy Services in the Acute Postpartum Unit: A Starter Kit** (*Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation*) Introductory

Sarah Sidar, OTR/L, BCB-PMD and Jasmin Dockett, OTR/L

Do you have what it takes to work on the acute postpartum unit? You just might! This workshop will help you identify the skills you have, determine where you need to grow, and provide actionable steps to implement an acute postpartum occupational therapy program in your hospital.

- **Improving Young Children's Engagement in Hands-On Constructive Play at Home Through Culturally Responsive Parent Education and Empowerment** (*Child and Youth*) Intermediate

Michelle Boulanger Thompson, PhD, OTR/L, QMHP

Play is foundational to childhood, learning, and happiness. This culturally responsive parent-implemented environmental intervention empowers parents to facilitate their child's occupation of hands-on play, a foundation for life-long learning. Research design is single-subject multiple-baselines across participants. Results demonstrate a functional relationship between the intervention and children's engagement in constructive play.

- **Meaningful Occupation and Health: Myths or Facts?** (*General and Professional Issues*) Intermediate

Susan Lin, ScD OTR/L FAOTA FACRM

The positive relationship between engagement in meaningful occupations and health and well-being is often assumed. Does recent evidence support the tenet that participation in meaningful occupations leads to improved health and well-being? Does research offer insights to understand meaning across the lifespan? Does engagement in certain activities promote brain health? Research will be presented and discussion will promote reflection and application.

- **OT Nation: Applying the OT Process, One Population at a Time! Works in Progress** (*Population Level*) Introductory

Amy Russell Yun, OTD, MS, OTR/L, Erin Bartal, MOTS, Hannah Black, MOTS, Natalie Hardy, MOTS, & Sarah Frances House, MOTS, Emily Yelanich, MOTS, & Teale Richards, MOTS

This session shows participants how to apply the OT process to address the occupational needs of populations by reviewing the literature and providing examples of population-level OT interventions in various stages of development. Participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm their own ideas in small groups relating to their population.

- **Where is Rehabilitation in Palliative Care: An Evidence-Based Toolkit to Promote the Integration of Rehabilitation Services in Palliative Care Practice** (*Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation*) Intermediate

Ann Henshaw, OTD, MPH, MBA

The growth of hospice and palliative care, the rising complexity of the people we serve, and the unmet rehabilitation needs of people with serious illness demands interprofessional collaboration. Occupational therapy can spearhead the integration of holistic, person-centered palliative rehabilitation.

4:45 - 5:45 **Conversations that Matter**

- **Mental Health** - Lindsey Carter, OTD, OTR/L, QMHP-C
- **OTA Forum** - Kimberly Kearney, COTA
- **Resources to assist individuals facing health disparities and inequity** - Leah Savelyev, DHSc, OTR/L, OTA/L, Amy Russell Yun, OTD, MS, OTR/L, Carrie Clawson, OTR/L, ATP, & Robin Ramsey,
- **School-Base Practice** - Andrea Adkins, OTR/L

5:45 - 6:15 **Headshots** - visit the registration

6:00 - 7:15 Stick around for the Raffle to support student scholarships and Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

7:15 Enjoy your evening - More information to come!

Sunday, October 22, 2023

7:45 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast and Communities of Practice

7:45 - 8:30 **Headshots** -visit the registration table

8:45 - 10:15 Concurrent Session C

- **The Entrepreneurial OT** (*General Professional Issues*) Introductory  
Becky Balog, OTR/L, ADHD-RSP

Have you ever thought about saying goodbye to traditional methods of practice to blaze your own trail as an entrepreneur, using your skills and expertise as an OTP? In this session, we will discuss some of the mindset shifts, areas to investigate, and resources you might need in the adventure of starting your own OT-based business.

- **Let's Get Organized: An Intervention for Every Toolbox** (*Rehabilitation, Disability and Participation*) Intermediate

Carrie Clawson, OTD, OT/L, ATP and Suzanne White, MA, OTR, FAOTA  
According to 2019 U. S. Census data, there are an estimated 41 million people in the United States with a disability. Of these, 38% had cognitive difficulty, including nine million people of working age. Time awareness and management, planning, and prioritizing skills form the foundation for participating in work, connecting with others, managing a household, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This presentation offers an option for both a reliable measure of time management skills and an evidence-based intervention. The Assessment of Time Management Skills 2.0 (ATMS 2.0) is a self-administered questionnaire that assesses an individual's common time use strategies, which can support or impede their ability to manage time consistently and effectively. Successful time management requires an awareness that time can be manipulated through the active use of skills, strategies, and tools. It encompasses the creation and maintenance of a flexible routine, as well as the ability to evaluate one's personal effectiveness (White, 2013, 2021).

- **NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know** (*General and Professional Issues*) Introductory

Hannah L. W. Harris, OTD, OTR/L

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.

- **Applying Polyvagal Theory in OT Practice to Facilitate Emotional Regulation in Children** (*Child and Youth*) Intermediate

Kathleen M Yopp, MOT, OTR/L

This workshop provides an overview of the nervous system's role in emotional regulation and its impact on the child's ability to engage in daily living tasks. Participants will learn the underlying neurophysiology of emotional dysregulation and social engagement challenges impacting occupational performance, and how Polyvagal theory can improve adaptive responses.

- **Student Experiential Learning: A Collaboration to Advance the Education of Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Virginia** (*Academic and Fieldwork Education*) Intermediate

Patricia Laverdure, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, Elizabeth Richardson, OTD, OTR/L, Amanda Leo, MOT, OTR/L, Lauren Andelin, OTD, OTR/L, and OTS and OTAS

In this panel presentation of experiential education stakeholders in Virginia, we examine the development of innovative models of fieldwork supervision and capstone mentorship, sustainable educational partnerships, and strategies to promote challenging learning experiences. Participants will gain valuable knowledge to support their own development as experiential education leaders in Virginia.

10:30 - 12:00 Concurrent Session D

- **Cumulative Trauma Disorders. Where Exactly is the Problem?** (*Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation*) Introductory

Nancy Krolikowski, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Treating tendinitis and compression neuropathies is not always straightforward. Multiple pain sites may be difficult to locate. Persistent pain impairs function. This workshop uses arm mapping to identify pain sites, wound healing education and muscle balance activities to improve client understanding and compliance. Current literature will be reviewed.

- **Deprescribing 101: Role of Occupational Therapy Clinicians As Part of the Interprofessional Team** (*Productive Aging*) Intermediate

Lynn Z. Chatfield, OTR/L

Polypharmacy has led to an interprofessional collaborative model focusing on deprescribing medications to reduce falls and hospitalizations and improve quality of life. Occupational Therapy has an essential role in impacting lifestyle changes and function, for improved outcomes, through the use of evidenced based interventions.

- **Let's Talk about Sex (and OT)! Therapeutic Uses for Sex Toys** (*General and Professional Issues*) Introductory

Megan Osborne, OTD

Sex and intimacy are commonly under-addressed within occupational therapy education and practice. This presentation will give participants the opportunity to build their comfort and knowledge in discussing these topics through an interactive activity focused on therapeutic uses of sex toys.

- **Navigating the Practice Setting of Academia: What we Wish we had Known as New Educators** (*Academic and Fieldwork Education*) Introductory

Sarah McCadden, OTD, OTR/L and Emily Budd, OTD, OTR/L

The career specialty area of academia will be explored. A review of literature will be presented identifying notable attributes of a novice occupational therapist educator. Competencies promoting success as an OT educator will be reviewed and resources to support a career transition to academia will be discussed and applied.

- **Person First vs. Identity First Language: The Evolution of the Neurodiversity Movement and What this Means for OT Practitioners** (*Child and Youth*) Introductory

Lauren Andelin, OTD, OTR/L, BCP and Heather Guthrie, OTS

This presentation will examine the evolution of the preference for identify-first language, particularly in the autistic community. We will review principles of neurodiversity affirming language, goals, and intervention and discuss the importance of working with families and caregivers to determine the language our clients prefer.