2023 UOTA Conference Program

7:15 - 7:45 ~ Morning Pilates/Yoga

Classroom 6

Laura Blakely, OTS

Start your morning with us in a 30-minute morning Pilates/yoga session with a certified Pilates and GYROKINESIS/GYROTONIC instructor. Get your mind and body ready for a day of learning!

7:45 – 8:30 am ~ Registration

Entrance Hall South

Registration & Continental Breakfast

Auditorium

8:30 – 9:30 am ~ Keynote Address (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Reconnecting with the Meaning and Joy of our Work! * **

Tony Tsai, MBA

What is the meaning of our work? Is it intrinsic to the tasks for our work or is it something that we create? In this session, we will step back and examine the reasons for our work and the perspectives that we can take to enhance meaning and joy within it.

9:40 - 10:40 am ~ Breakout Session 1 (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Life Hardening: The Possibility of Enhanced Function with OT. * **

Philip Lamoreaux, OTD, OTR/L, CLCP, LCP-C

This presentation explores the benefits of High-Intensity Training (HIT) in Occupational Therapy, emphasizing its role in improving mobility outcomes and patient engagement. Introducing "Life Hardening," a developing idea rooted in neuroplasticity principles, it offers innovative strategies for inpatient rehabilitation. The combined application of MOHO and HIT within occupational therapy has been termed "Life Hardening". This intervention is rooted in neuroplastic principles and proposes standardized assessments related to HIT to facilitate its implementation from a physical to occupational therapy standpoint. This presentation will delineate the foundation of Life Hardening, applying HIT In the occupational therapy context to the tasks required to achieve functional independence and the goals of occupational therapy.

Classroom 4

Postpartum Health and Wellness: A Program Designed for the Occupations of Motherhood Taylor Hoyt, OTR/L.

Mothers undergo immense physical, emotional, and mental stress and change during the postpartum period. Many new mothers have few resources for finding support during this time. Occupational therapy has a scope of practice that includes many occupations and co-occupations of motherhood that support this transitionary period. This presentation outlines a program developed to assist new mothers in sleep, breastfeeding, maternal mental health, and physical activity. This program utilizes evidence related to occupational therapy and the needs of postpartum mothers, addressing their needs with a holistic lens and empowering mothers to seek support and make informed decisions about their postpartum care. This program development uses health and wellness coaching to address barriers and strengths in their roles and occupations as mothers. By using a strengths-based and occupation-based approach, the program increases parental self-efficacy and positive emotions. This presentation will disseminate the findings and outcomes from the program as well as the implications for future practice and emerging areas in occupational therapy.



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Classroom 5

How Does Your State Association Function?

Brenda Lyman, OTR/L

The Utah OT Association's organizational structure has evolved over the past couple of decades to meet the needs of OT professionals in Utah. Members and non-members may or may not comprehend what the UOTA has to offer and what role it plays in showcasing occupational therapy in Utah communities. This one-hour presentation will provide an overview of the organizational structure and make-up of the UOTA, showing the interconnectedness between committees and the Board, plus where to turn for questions. A member organization's role vs. Utah's regulatory body's role will be discussed. The presentation will spotlight how UOTA has evolved to be a premier voice representing OT in Utah and how members have a clear advantage for opportunities and leadership advancement. This presentation will be designed to be informational for volunteer leaders, practitioners, and students.

Classroom 7

Hypermobile Health! Finding Flexible Strength & Stability Despite Connective Tissue Issues. ** Angie Blaser, OTR/L

Hypermobile Spectrum Disorders (HSD), and Ehler's Danlos Syndromes (EDS) are, and have been, historically underserved and underdiagnosed by the medical community. As medical professionals who have an abundance of applicable specialty areas within our scope of OT practice, it is both a responsibility and an opportunity to contribute to the quality of care provided to this population. This session reviews the typical presentations, common comorbidities, and functional barriers, provides examples of impactful OT interventions, and extends resources for patient advocacy and further clinical education. The purpose of this presentation is to educate the local OT community regarding typical presentations, as well as specific ways in which OT could support and improve healthcare approaches undeserving those with hEDS/HSD (Hypermobile-Ehler's Danlos Syndrome and -Spectrum Disorders). Information and resources will be provided to justify and support improved screening for hypermobility across settings for improved treatment efficacy. Lastly, evidence-based adaptive, compensatory, and remediative approaches to hypermobile health demonstrate the contextualized scope of potential influence that Occupational Therapy has for the daily health and wellness of our hypermobile communities.

Classroom 8

Open Education Resources as a Tool to Improve Student Equity, Engagement, and Outcomes. Gabe Byars, OTR/L.

This presentation is designed for educators and students but is open to all who are interested in learning more about Open Educational Resources (OER). OER is an alternative to traditional texts that allow access with reduced barriers and cost. OER has been shown to improve student access to course materials and educational outcomes. Faculty and students in the SLCC Occupational Therapy Assistant program co-created an OER to support physical dysfunction courses. This presentation will give an overview of OER, available resources, and the process of creation and implementation from faculty and student perspectives.



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10:50 - 11:50 am ~ Breakout Session 2 (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Documenting Functional Cognition to Reflect OT's Unique Role * **

Neil Scott, OTR/L, Kristen French, OTR/L, and Shalyn Hample, OTR/L

This presentation will educate practitioners on how to document OT assessment and intervention of functional cognition. OT's role in addressing cognitive deficits can be difficult to define, often sounding too similar to services offered by speech-language pathologists and therefore creating the appearance of duplication. Although many OTs address cognition during function and in occupation-based sessions, OT assessments and documentation often mimic those of other disciplines. In order for OTs to differentiate our role when assessing and treating patients with impairments in cognitive function, we must modify our documentation to highlight OTs' unique contributions in this area. This short course will review the steps of the collaborative process, offer documentation examples, suggest changes to EMR, and apply information to case studies. Participants will be encouraged to identify possible changes to their individual as well as department documentation.

Classroom 4

Self-Regulation Strategies

Melanie Suttner, COTA/L

This presentation is for students and practitioners who are interested in learning how self-regulation strategies benefit all individuals when dysregulated, especially those with diagnoses such as SPD, PTSD, and trauma. The objective is to further educate practitioners in self-regulation strategies, the benefits of advocating for self-regulation strategies to be implemented in schools, advocating for collaboration with educators to enhance co-regulation in the classroom across the lifespan, and by virtue serving our communities using therapeutic tools and ultimately improving outcomes.

Classroom 5

Feeding and Eating Issues with the Peds Population Using a Telehealth Service Delivery Model Lyndsay Fait, MOT, OTR/L and Devani Emery, COTA/L

This presentation aims to provide important considerations for treatment sessions addressing pediatric feeding issues using a telehealth service delivery model and identify strategies to implement successful telehealth interventions and outcomes for children with sensory-based feeding issues. This presentation plans to outline how OTA students at Salt Lake Community College's Pro Bono clinic address the needs of the pediatric community using a telehealth service delivery model. Presenters will share how the student-run clinic, with oversight from faculty, provides effective interventions to address sensory-based feeding and eating issues with pediatric clients using peer support and a synchronous telehealth model.

Classroom 6

Government Affairs in School-Based Practice

Krisanne Lewis, OTR/L

This presentation will provide information about advocacy efforts for school-based OT practitioners in Utah. School-based practice is a large specialty area in Utah. Various efforts are underway to bring together school-based practitioners (OTs and OTAs) across the state. Current advocacy efforts are targeting workload/caseload caps in schools and opening the door to educator's licenses for OT practitioners. Come learn about what has been done and join the effort to continue to make change in Utah!



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Classroom 7

Ethics and Standards of Practice in Healthcare **

Rustin Diehl, Esquire

This presentation will provide 1 of the 2 required hours of ethics-related continuing education required by the Utah Department of Professional Licensing (DOPL) for re-licensure. In this hands-on interactive workshop, Mr. Diehl will review the basic principles of ethics as they relate to our AOTA code of ethics. Be prepared to engage in roundtable discussions regarding ethical standards of practice as they relate to OT practice and healthcare services in general.

Classroom 8

New Graduate Panel: Perspectives of the Current Job Market.

Kristen Courtney, M.Ed., COTA/L, ACUE, Zachary Payne, COTA/L, Melanie Jacobs, COTA/L, Sheri King, COTA/L, Amber Watts, COTA/L, Jocee Burr, OTR/L, and Ashlee Sadler, OTR/L,

Students will have an opportunity to discuss common concerns & themes about upcoming graduation & board exams by interacting with a panel of recent graduates in diverse practice settings. The panel discussion will begin with introductions and answers to the most commonly asked questions. By using an andragogical approach to learning, students will experience a personalized, informative, and relevant session that will prepare them for the future.

11:50 – 12:50 pm ~ Lunch & Business Meeting (.75 CEU)

South Auditorium

Lunch & Business Meeting (Business meeting starts at 12:15 pm)

1:00 – 2:00 ~ Specialty Practice Area (SPA) Sessions (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Rehabilitation SPA - Habit Retraining: How can we do better? * **

Gabe Byars, OTR/L

By the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to: Define habits and describe the process of habit formation, describe the role of habits in health promotion for individuals with rehabilitation, and give 3 actionable steps for incorporating habits into daily practice

Classroom 4

Mental Health SPA – Occupational Therapy, Mental Health, and Burn Out

Bonnie Eckman, COTA/L

Join Bonnie in discussing how to use occupational therapy mental health strategies to avoid or reduce burnout in our own practice.

Classroom 5

Entrepreneurs SPA - Business and Legal Tips When Starting and/or Running Your Own Business.

Rustin Diehl, Esquire

Join Mr. Diehl, a business and tax attorney, for an interactive discussion about the Legal requirements for starting your own OT practice from scratch, adding a partner to an existing private OT practice, and purchasing a building for the OT practice. Come learn as he shares his legal expertise about the different types of business entities, tax issues, acquiring real estate, and more.



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Classroom 6

Geriatrics SPA - The Role of OT in Geriatric Mental Health in Long-Term Settings $Sam\ Tse,\ OTR/L$

Aging in place is not always possible for older adults, and there are many different types of long-term care - including but not limited to; assisted living, adult care homes, skilled nursing, and memory care - available to provide individuals and families with various levels of support. According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that 15% of adults aged 60 or older experience some type of mental health concern. OT's role in geriatric mental health is important in addressing meaningful occupations, leisure participation, and self-efficacy for individuals in this population. It is also crucial to recognize barriers and resource limitations that make it challenging to promote optimal independence, health, and wellness for older adults in long-term care settings. With the aging population growing rapidly, the need for occupational therapists in long-term care settings will increase, as well as the need for holistic, client-centered, and evidence-based care, which includes defining clearly what OT's role is in geriatric mental health.

Classroom 7

Pediatrics SPA - Scope and Impact of the CDC Changes to Developmental Milestones ** Nick Sidwell, OTR/L

Learners will discuss and study the implications of the changes and revisions of the CDC's Milestone checklists. Removal of skills like crawling from the milestone list based on the lack of age-related data will be discussed, and the implications of its possible devaluation and the important physical, sensory, and cognitive benefits it affords for the babies we serve. Other changes What doctors and diagnosticians will use for criteria when determining therapy needs and the timeliness thereof.

2:10 – 3:10 pm ~ Breakout Session 3 (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Where to Begin: Practical Clinician Strategies to Combat Racism in Occupational Therapy Practice - Live via Zoom * **

Naomia Rivera, COTA/L

This presentation will provide practical strategies to clinicians to aid in combating the negative effects of racism on the delivery of occupational therapy services. Attendees will be provided an overview of racism as a social determinant of health and the importance of race as a client factor, including the implications on access to and participation in occupations. Practical strategies for fighting racism in the healthcare environment, as well as how to bridge the gap with clients from diverse backgrounds to improve the effectiveness of occupational therapy service delivery will be provided.

Classroom 4

Mental Health Occupational Therapy Treatment in Utah

Angie Blaser, OTR/L

Despite our profession's roots in Mental Health and the current need to improve this area of health within our communities, Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Utah have been limited in opportunities to practice within this specialty area. This presentation will both demonstrate relevant factors that contribute to skilled clinical reasoning, highlighting the intervention phase of Occupational Therapy treatment within psychiatric settings, as well as provide resources for further clinical education and actionable steps to contribute to the expansion of skilled OT in this special area of practice. In addition to lecture components, this presentation will intermittently provide experiential opportunities for further understanding of ANS regulation strategies, contextual application to given case studies, and will provide resources to broaden and strengthen attendee's self-regulation toolbox applicable in a variety of clinical settings.



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UOTA 2023 Annual Conference Program: Serving - Promoting - Advancing Classroom 5 Reduce Behaviors! Increase Independence! Teach Skills! Welcome to Social Narratives Kristen Wilson, SLP, BCBA Social narratives, or stories, can be a very powerful tool to reduce problem behaviors and build new skills at the same time. In this presentation, you will learn what social narratives are and listen as we review some case studies about clients who have successfully used social narratives as part of their clinical and school-based programs. Then the fun begins as you get to dive in and create your own social narrative for that one client on your mind! Classroom 6 "Hack-A-Thon" Brain-Storming Session. Give Input Into How Your State Association Runs! Brenda Lyman, OTR/L This hands-on presentation is designed to engage membership at all levels -- student, OT, OTA-to work together and collectively provide ideas to strengthen the UOTA, i.e., contemporary and best methods to recruit for volunteer leadership. A "hack-a-thon" was successfully implemented twice with the virtual Mountain West Regional Conference, where UOTA joined Idaho, Montana, and other states during the COVID years. Then, it was designed for student input on "how to increase state association membership". The outcome and ideas generated have been used to develop many projects UOTA is implementing in 2023. Classroom 7 Strategies to Increase Fieldwork Educator Competence ** Lyndsay Fait, OTR/L & Taylor Hoyt, OTR/L This presentation is for occupational therapy fieldwork educators (FWE). The purpose of the presentation is to provide teaching/educational strategies to enhance the FWE experience. In clinical fieldwork settings, the FWE must be a competent OT practitioner and an effective educator. This presentation will offer strategies for the FWE to effectively guide OT and OTA students through their fieldwork experience by incorporating growth mindset concepts, strengths-based teaching and learning strategies based on generational differences, and the use of coaching to facilitate behavioral change in students. This will be a fun, interactive course with tools and strategies for you to take back to your practice. 3:20 – 3:50 ~ Connections over Cookies! Meet with your Region rep & others from your region.

South Auditorium	Region 2 Networking Rep: Patrice Zhao, OTR/L
Classroom 4	Region 1 Networking Rep: Vacant
Classroom 5	Regions 5-6 Networking Reps: Steven Duke, OTR/L, & Jennifer Honda, OTR/L
Classroom 6	Regions 3-4 Networking Reps: Royce Porter, OTR/L & Rebecca White, OTR/L
Entry Hall	SLCC Projects/Posters – (.5 CEU) Grab some cookies and come see what the next generation of OTPs are working on!



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4:00 – 5:00 pm ~ Breakout Session 4 (1 CEU)

South Auditorium

Wellness for Healthcare Professionals - Live via Zoom * **

Cassie Whitmore, RD, LMNT

Post pandemic, it's important that we learn how to no longer just survive but thrive. We'll discuss why wellness matters and what to focus on. Most importantly, we'll talk wellness tips that you can take to the workplace, bring back to your families, and use for yourself - no workplace wellness program needed! While the focus of this presentation is on nutrition, we'll touch on other areas of wellness that you may not have considered before. This presentation will provide practical wellness tips that providers can use for themselves, their families, and their patients.

Classroom 4

The Joy of Sensory and Emotionally Balanced People Through Meditation and Guided Imagery Anita Williams, COTA/L

Through meditation and guided imagery using sensory integration and emotional regulation, my intentions are to enlighten our minds and awaken the soul to new dimensions of gratitude, love, and hope, leading to the resilience of life experiences. May this presentation/workshop promote questions in the mind and a desire for new mindsets. Through these learning objectives, it is my hope that you will feel better, with improved clarity of mind...an overall improvement of the wise mind, which is the balance of emotions and thoughts. Using sensory tools for self-management.

Classroom 5

OT Curricula Patterns for Acquired Brain-injury (ABI) Related Vision Disorders for Entry-Level Programs

Laura Schmeiser, OTR/L

Vision is a primary sensory system used to complete everyday activities and is often negatively impacted after an acquired brain injury (ABI). This presentation will describe the results of a survey study that explored occupational therapy curricula patterns for screening and managing ABI-related vision disorders in the United States. The findings could be useful in the development of a curriculum needs assessment and enhancements to increase the effectiveness of upcoming OT graduates in the state of Utah.

Classroom 6

Outdoor-Based Pediatric Therapy

Rhonda Roth, OTR/L, and Eric Bonin, RT Student

The proposed presentation will present a review of the Sensational Nature Explorers Pilot Program, which ran in the summer of 2023. The presentation will provide learners with a brief review of the current research regarding outdoor occupational therapy, collaboration with other professionals in outdoor approaches (ST, RT, PT, LCSW, etc.), and a basic review of the Sensational Nature Explorers Program. Information regarding observed client progress, parent perceptions, and therapist perceptions will be reviewed for the piloted program.



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Classroom 7

A Hospital Designed for the Patient and for the Future: Creating an Accessibility-First, Patient-First Rehab Hospital **

James Gardner, OTR/L

While most hospitals provide patients with comfortable and welcoming environments, most are unable to cater to every patient's ability due to funding, time or resources. The rehab team at the University of Utah, led by an Occupational Therapist/Assistive Technology Specialist (alongside IT, computer science, and others), had the unique opportunity to design a hospital for the future and, more importantly, for the patient. From the very beginning, the goal was to create accessible spaces that maximize abilities and enable independence with accessing various occupations. With that goal first in mind, the team has created (to the maximum potential) a truly fully accessible hospital. Research has shown introducing assistive technology early is important to ensure newly injured people feel comfortable with the technology by the time of discharge and that the use of technology contributes to gaining a sense of control over their lives. This sense of control can lead to greater resiliency and better-perceived outcomes for these patients, who often are experiencing loss at every level. Through the creation of this hospital, we are offering every patient who enters an option to be as independent as they prefer with as many activities as possible. By doing this, we not only introduce the technology early, we introduce the idea that life with spinal cord injury can be independent and engaged early and often. This presentation will review the process and outcomes of this 5-year journey that has produced the most accessible and patient-first rehab hospital of its kind. The goals of this presentation will be to examine the basic components of a patient-first hospital, share the developmental "blueprints" for creating accessibility-first environments, and inspire other clinicians and hospitals to take steps to create innovative and accessible spaces wherever they work with patients, whether at home, in clinics or hospitals.

Classroom 8

Highlight Your Greatness: Preparing for the Current Job Market

Kristen Courtney, M.Ed., COTA/L

Attendees will learn techniques and strategies to prepare for the current OT job market through learning to write effective résumés and cover letters. Interviewing techniques will also be addressed. Individuals can maximize their experience within the workshop by having a virtual or physical copy of their current résumé or work history details.

5:00 - 5:10 pm ~ Final Wrap Up

South Auditorium CEU Certificate QR Code & Goodbyes!

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Be the OT Everyone Talks About.

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Additional Online Only Content

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Presenter(s)

Course Description (.5 - 1 CEU)

Chantel Wilson, Haley Van Escobar, MOTR/L, CHT

Incredible Outcomes in Prosthetic Intervention: Case Studies in Success (1 CEU)

The purpose of this presentation is to provide real-life examples and explanations of the difference that occupational therapy practitioners can make in the adoption of a prosthetic device when the occupational therapist practitioner works in tandem with the certified prosthetist, surgeon, and manufacturer to assure success. Learn about difficult presentations in finger and partial-hand amputations and how you, along with the CP, surgeon, and manufacturer, can ensure success in prosthetic device adoption. In this one-hour presentation, you will be presented with several case studies of finger and partial-hand amputees with varying injuries and presentations. Haley Van Escobar, MOTR/L, CHT, and prosthetics subject matter expert, also walks you through the new standard for care for this previously underserved population in detail only she, as one of its authors, can provide. You won't want to miss her take on the improved outlook these patients have, thanks to this multidisciplinary approach.

Patrick Walker, OTD, OTR/L Danielle Friberg, OTD, OTR/L

Entry-Level OTD Capstones in Utah (.5 CEU)

This presentation aims to provide education on the entry-level capstone OTD projects and experiences that are now coming to the state of Utah. This presentation will guide potential capstone site mentors in understanding what capstone students may assist with within their facilities. It will also provide examples of past projects and experiences that previous students have undertaken. The presentation's aim is to articulate the role of the entry-level OTD capstone within the field of occupational therapy. The University of Utah is the first residential, entry-level OTD program in the state of Utah. It is essential for practicing occupational therapists to understand the intention of the entry-level capstone, the roles of each mentor, and how capstone students can provide a mutually beneficial relationship to the community.

Kristin Biggins, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CLT

Navigating the Path of Least Resistance: Finding Self-Compassion and Resilience (1 CEU)

This presentation will provide an in-depth view into the reasoning behind stress and burnout that can occur within health care workers, specifically in OT practitioners. In doing so, the participant will be equipped to know how to evade challenging work issues to establish or regain balance in wellness, self-care, and self-compassion. Steps towards establishing resiliency and preserving the therapeutic alliance with our clients will be described. Healthcare workers can experience elevated demands within their settings since the onset of the pandemic. Included in these trials are dichotomies in practice: heavier workloads, less opportunities, rising demands coupled with less resources, cultural inequities, or scenarios that involve difficult environments and safety concerns. In addition to these challenges, the uniqueness of our profession brings with it scenarios that can lend to heightened professional challenges. The clients we serve have a variety of diagnoses with varying degrees of physical limitations and diverse psychosocial presentations. Our job can include an inherent closeness with the client due to hands-on types of interventions. We can experience scenarios such as professional identity issues, work addiction, occupational stress, and role conflicts. Our health and well-being have never been so important to preserve, and establishing meaningful tenets of self-care, self-compassion, and wellness is imperative. Through adopting these values, we are better able to nurture the therapeutic relationship or alliance we have with the client and to have empathy for their experience. Through understanding the reasoning behind imbalance, we can be better equipped to declare resiliency as a foundational 'non-negotiable' for ourselves and our profession.



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University of Utah – Student Presentations on Mental Health-Based Programs (.25 - .5 CEU Each)

Ian Hansen, Stephanie Bonham, Isabel Jones, Jessica Smith

Introduction to the Action Over Inertia Program (.25 CEU)

This presentation is designed to give an overview of what the Action Over Inertia (AOI) Program is, and how it is used in Occupational Therapy practice. AOI is a workbook designed for people with severe mental health conditions that are affecting their participation in daily occupations. This presentation will give an overview of what using the AOI program looks like, what research and models support this program, and how it can be used in practice.

Payton Battles, Paige Bishman, Gabrielle Borbolla, Amanda Doering

Creating and Using Sensory Rooms as Intervention (.5 CEU)

The topic of this presentation is sensory room use in occupational therapy practice. During this presentation, professionals will gain valuable information about the Snoezelen multi-sensory room program, the original intent, and the developers behind it. Additionally, this presentation will cover best practices for multi-sensory rooms and how to create the multi-sensory space. Attendees will learn about how different populations benefit from sensory rooms by targeting different sensory systems to meet unique input needs. Multi-sensory spaces encourage active discussion about their wide use and application as they continue to be an emerging intervention approach. This presentation contributes to occupational therapy practitioners' knowledge by consolidating the information and resources pertaining to sensory rooms.

Laura Blakely, Sadie Croshaw, Sarah Daniels, Kira Hamblin & Alex Recor

Cognitive Behavioral Social Skills Training (CBSST) (.5 CEU)

This presentation explores the Cognitive Behavioral Social Skills Treatment (CBT-SST) and how it can influence occupational therapy practice. CBSST is rooted in cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and social skills training. The goal of CBSST is to enhance clients' social interaction, emotional management, positive thinking, and problem-solving abilities. In this presentation, we'll detail its relevance in occupational therapy, emphasizing its collaborative nature and sharing practical implementation strategies. CBSST can significantly enhance clients' quality of life and daily functioning through improved emotional regulation and interpersonal skills. Integrating this approach broadens therapists' capabilities, providing a holistic solution to clients' multifaceted needs. Attendees will gain insights into seamlessly incorporating CBSST into their practice to enhance client outcomes and well-being.

Katie Inouye, Reagan Probst, Abbie Staten, Bailey Wilson, Taylor Worley

The Zones of Regulation (.5 CEU)

An analysis of the Zones of Regulation (ZOR) intervention including comprehensive information about its development, core motivations and values, and the related research available supporting this as an evidence-based intervention program.

TJ Richardson, Mekenzie Olsen, Brecklyn Hobbs, and Jen Van Orman

The Sensory Connections Program (.25 CEU)

This presentation goes through The Sensory Connections Program by Karen Moore, OTR/L, the relevant populations, treatment settings, and a general overview of what sessions can look like when following the program curriculum. The Sensory Connections Program is vastly versatile and a good tool for every OT's arsenal.

Nicole Brown, Jini Choi, Seeley Schaefer, Rhett Shamo

The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) (.5 CEU)

This presentation offers a comprehensive overview of the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Mental Health Program, emphasizing its person-centered, empowering, and evidence-based approach to help people improve their lives by reaching their goals. Viewers will gain a deeper understanding of how WRAP can be a catalyst for positive change, fostering resilience, hope, and well-being among individuals facing challenges in their lives and how occupational therapists can implement it.



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Hannah Larsen, Faith Friend, Paige Reynolds, and Kallie Brown The NEW-R Program: Nutrition, Exercise, and Wellness for Recovery (.25 CEU)

This presentation examines the Nutrition, Education, and Wellness for Recovery (NEW-R) Program developed by Dr. Catana Brown. This program, designed for a bariatric population, demonstrates incremental and meaningful ways that an overweight population can adjust their habits and routines to increase personal competency related to diet, physical activity, and weight management. This program incorporates a component of Mental Health OT to holistically get the source of behaviors related to nutrition and weight management. From this presentation, viewers will learn and understand how to access resources for the program, the primary objectives of the program, and the importance of encouraging clients to make incremental adjustments to their habits, routines, and rituals that will have a lasting impact on their health. This is a new program created by OTs in a time when the obesity epidemic in the US is rampant. NEW-R presents an understandable and easy OT approach to making lifestyle adjustments that will have important repercussions on a client's overall health and well-being.

Isabel Vander Hyde, Lia Liu, Madeline Halperin, Katy Grieb

Social Skills for Schizophrenia (.5 CEU)

Overall, this presentation aims to raise awareness about the significance of social skills in the context of schizophrenia and equip attendees with valuable knowledge & tools to support individuals with schizophrenia in their journey toward improved social functioning and a higher quality of life. Schizophrenia is a complex & often stigmatized mental disorder that affects millions of individuals worldwide. One of the most challenging aspects of living with schizophrenia is the impact it can have on social functioning. Impaired social skills can lead to social isolation, reduced quality of life, & hindered recovery. This presentation aims to shed light on the importance of social skills in schizophrenia & explores strategies & interventions to enhance them.

Stephanie Cao, Amy Kenney, Aubrey Strong, Ana Maria Zerecero Nunez

The Lifestyle Redesign Program (.5 CEU)

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an in-depth look at the use and effectiveness of the Lifestyle Redesign program as a preventive OT service program in improving outcomes such as health and well-being, occupational functioning, and quality of life. This presentation will cover the program's history and creation, who is eligible to be able to implement the program, the time commitments for the program, program details, and current evidence to support the use of this program. The significance of this presentation is to contribute to each participating clinician's expansion of knowledge of effective, evidence-based programs that can help improve the quality of life for clients in a variety of populations and settings. Furthermore, we hope that this presentation will provide a deeper understanding of this program in how it may be useful for relevant clients. This presentation is created in the hopes of not only bringing exposure and discussion about this particular health program but also to, hopefully, promote interest in clinicians to look into other health preventative programs for the sake of improving the mental and physical health of current and future clients.



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PRESENTER INFORMATION



Angie Blaser, OTR/L. I am a licensed OT and mother of two, who enjoys creativity, connection, and learning from a place of curiosity. Having received my undergraduate education in Behavioral Sciences, emphasizing in Psychology, I found much fulfillment in spending much of my clinical experience specializing in mental health. Adapting, creating, advancing and facilitating group/individual OT treatment in community, psychiatric, and forensic settings was both challenging and exceptionally meaningful. Some specific areas of interest and experience include addressing holistic health in relation to psychosis, disordered eating, women's health, individualized life skills acquisition, assertiveness training, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and autonomic regulation.



Anita Williams, COTA/L. I am a highly intuitive COTA/L who has worked in a variety of settings, yet the mental health department is my all-time favorite. I have had the opportunity to teach emotional regulation, Sensory Connections and life skills to all age levels. I believe that within each of us lies something great and when given the right tool to tap into that gift and strength each of us has the capacity to rise above our trials.



Bonnie Eckman, COTA/L. I have always been passionate about life and being able to live life to the fullest, which is why I am so passionate about Occupational Therapy. During school I spent many extra hours focusing on mental health in relation to function. I was particularly interested in sensory regulation/integration/modulation and its use for improved mental health. I was sure that this is a missing piece to leading a balanced and productive life, sensory input is a basic human survival skill, yet no one was teaching or utilizing it for self-regulation, mindfulness, life balance and basic stress relief. After graduating, I was fortunate enough to find a new startup company whose vision included providing OT with sensory modulation in a dual diagnosis center (mental health and addiction). There, I was able to merge my passion and my employment by assisting in creating a new program/curriculum as well as participating in gathering research for evidenced based treatment. My passion now is to take my knowledge and experience to other occupational practitioners and actively consult in teaching/training others in mental health and sensory treatments. I have provided in-services for OT and OTA education programs, presented as a speaker for multiple seminars and conferences as well as volunteer as often as possible for the NBCOT and UOTA as a specialist in mental health, addiction and sensory modulation.



Brenda K Lyman, OTD, OTR/L, President Emeritus is the past president of the Utah OT Association. She is a Professor Emeritus for the Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and founding designer/program coordinator of the OTA program. Brenda served 28 years in teaching and administration roles at SLCC with many Utah OT practitioners as former students. Brenda currently serves as faculty and a director of admissions in the development of a hybrid, accelerated doctoral program for OTs. She is also a Commissioner to the Central Panel for Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or CAPTE, and the sole OT on that national physical therapy governing accreditation body. Brenda has had past appointments in leadership with NBCOT, was instrumental in the collaborative effort for establishing Utah's OT Interstate Compact and is an ACOTE roster evaluator for OTA programs.



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Cassandra "Cassie" Whitmore, RD, LMNT, has been a practicing dietitian for more than ten years. She received her bachelor's degrees in public health nutrition and Dietetics from Kansas State University. After starting her career working in acute care and inpatient eating disorders in Kansas City, she moved on to management in a critical access hospital. Most of her career has been spent working in Long Term Care at various facilities throughout the state of Nebraska, which included time as an Employee Wellness Dietitian. She has also worked as an outpatient dietitian with a focus on diabetes education and eating disorders and has notable experience in hospice and mental healthcare. She is currently self-employed as a Consultant Dietitian and Speaker. She is based in Lincoln, NE.



Chantel Wilson - Northwest Education Outreach Specialist Chantel earned her bachelor's degree from St. Martin's University and subsequently enjoyed over fifteen years in sales, customer service and marketing roles in the Pacific Northwest. In 2022 she joined the Naked Prosthetics team. Eager to spread awareness about NP products, she creates educational opportunities for medical industry professionals who are caring for our patient population. She specializes in curating multidisciplinary teams to empower and strengthen clinical relationships and positive outcomes for the finger and partial-hand amputee community. In her free time, she enjoys spending days with family and friends, traveling, baking, and being outside.



Danielle Friberg, OTD, OTR/L, DipACLM is an occupational therapist and an assistant professor in the occupational therapy program at the University of Utah. Friberg graduated from the University of Utah with her master's in occupational therapy in 2011 and her Post-Professional Clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy in 2017. Her clinical practice has primarily been in pediatric settings, including early intervention, outpatient, and NICU follow-up; all of which provided her with experience in a wide range of diagnoses. She served in the role of Capstone Coordinator at West Coast University and Keck Graduate Institute where she developed innovative capstone programming and conducted research on the outcomes and value of the entry-level doctoral capstone. Her primary areas of interest include innovative experiential education in emerging practice settings, the role of occupational therapy in maternal health, and the application of lifestyle medicine principles in occupational therapy practice.



Devani Emery, COTA/L, graduated from the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Salt Lake Community College in 2023. She currently works at Spectrum Academy.



Eric Bonin was born in New Jersey with a passion for adventure, teaching, and the mountains. After graduating from Green Mountain College in 2004 with a B.S. in Adventure Recreation, he began a 24-year career in adventure programming. Eric has taught skiing, canoeing, sailing, backpacking, mountain biking and rock climbing to people of all abilities. Eric is currently getting his masters in higher education and another undergraduate degree in Recreation therapy. Eric believes there is opportunity to learn and adventure in everything. Eric brings a passion for teaching, the outdoors, and adventure to everyday. When he's not doing homework or teaching, you can find him expanding his own comfort zones and enjoying the mountains with his family.



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Gabe Byars, OTR/L, is an Associate Professor at Salt Lake Community College. He teaches in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program and oversees the college's student-run occupational therapy clinic. In addition to teaching roles, Gabe serves on the SLCC faculty senate and on the Open SLCC Advisory committee. Gabe and a panel of OTA students will talk today about his own journey of discovering, constructing, and implementing an OER. In particular, the talk will focus on efforts to involve students in OER development to further learning.



Haley Van Escobar, MOTR/L, CHT Haley is a certified hand therapist with a master's degree in occupational therapy and nine years of experience in direct patient care, including working with a physician-owned practice and developing a hand therapy practice from the ground up. Passionate about education, Haley's role at Naked Prosthetics is to develop hand therapy training and protocols for their finger and partial-hand devices. Haley is a contributor to Chapter 18: Sports Injuries in Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation 4th Edition. A professional musician herself, Haley also founded a group focused on hand therapy for musicians, Restore Performance.



James Gardner, OTR/L, is an Occupational Therapist at the University of Utah Hospital in the Department of Rehabilitation and a certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP). He was hired in 2012 to develop an assistive technology program which meets the technology needs of patients across the rehab spectrum in the University of Utah Healthcare system. The goal of the program is to take any function a patient has and make it functional for accessing technology, from phones and gaming to home automation and virtual reality. James is currently the Director of Patient Technology at the Craig H. Nielsen Rehabilitation Hospital, where he ensures that patients have access to their technology and their environment during their hospital stay and helps develop new technology to improve accessibility and independence. He also helps them transition the technology home so they can continue accessing their world through technology in a way that meets their needs and abilities. James has had the opportunity to share this vision for enhanced accessibility in hospital, home, and community settings around the country and looks forward to continuing efforts to improve access and increase independence for people of all abilities.



Krisanne Lewis is the Director of Related Services for Spectrum Academy. She graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in occupational therapy. She has worked in a variety of settings in Texas and Utah, including outpatient, in-home, early intervention, and schools. She specialized her practice in the treatment of children with autism and behavioral disorders. She has a Sensory Certification certificate through the University of Southern California and has post-graduate training in feeding issues, handwriting, behavior interventions and positive behavior supports, visual motor interventions, and sensorimotor interventions. In addition to working with kids with autism, she loves adult education. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her 3 children, hiking, playing volleyball, and reading. She grew up in New Mexico and craves anything made with green chili!



Kristen Courtney M.Ed., COTA/L, ACUE, is a licensed and certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. She holds an Associate of Applied Science from Salt Lake Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology in 2006 from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, and a Master's of Higher Education with a focus on Instruction. In addition to being a faculty and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at Salt Lake Community College's OTA program, Kristen works to advocate for OT services in mental health settings. Kristen enjoys road and mountain biking, skiing, camping, the creative arts, and generally being a weirdo. She also adores spending time with her partner, two rambunctious kids, and three dogs.



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Kristen French is an OT who has worked the past 23 years in various settings, including out-patient neuro, home health, and primarily acute care. Kristen has treated populations such as neurological, orthopedics, critical care, and emergency. She has been with the University of Utah Hospital for the past ten years and is currently working on the Ortho/Trauma team.



Kristen Wilson, MS, SLP-BCBA, LBA Kristen received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Speech Language Pathology from BYU. She received her Board Certification in Behavior Analysis in 2015. Kristen has worked in school and private settings In California, Florida, and Utah. Kristen has worked as an SLP, BCBA, school administrator, as well as a supervisor for the University of Utah's School of Educational Psychology students. Her passion is working with families to teach clients functional communication to reduce maladaptive behaviors. She loves to read, travel, and spend time with her family, especially her two new granddaughters.



Kristin Biggins, OTD, OTR/L, CHT, CLT, has been an occupational therapist since 1992. She received her post-professional doctorate (OTD) from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions (RMUOHP) in 2013. She obtained her certification in hand therapy in 2003 and a certification in lymphedema in 2019. Kristin is an adjunct faculty in the RMUOHP OTD program teaching within the hand therapy elective track program. She works in a hand therapy clinic at Missoula Bone and Joint in Montana. Her passion lies in providing preventative, conservative, and postoperative treatments for upper extremity diagnoses. She is dedicated to emphasizing the holistic perspective of OT within her treatment sessions and is dually devoted to promoting OT within health prevention and wellness settings. Kristin incorporates the tenets of yoga practice through an OT lens with her clients in her privately owned yoga studio.



Laura Blakely, OTS. As a modern dancer, Laura first sought out Pilates to learn more about efficient movement. In 2007, Laura completed her Pilates training through Polestar Pilates. In addition to teaching Pilates, Laura is also a certified level 1 **GYROTONIC®** instructor as well as a certified **GYROKINESIS®** instructor. Her fascination with and passion for movement and its healing capacity extends into her current role as a student in the MOT program at the University of Utah.



Dr. Laura Schmeiser has been an occupational therapist since 2014, predominantly working in neuro outpatient rehab, where she specializes in helping people return to school, work, play, and other daily activities after a concussion/traumatic brain injury. She completed a post-professional doctorate in vision rehabilitation for acquired brain injury in 2022 and is dedicated to providing current, evidence-based interventions. Laura is part of a comprehensive interdisciplinary team at TOSH Neuro Therapy Services in the Salt Lake Valley, which consists of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and neuropsychology. She also provides vision therapy in collaboration with neuro-optometrists to ensure the best care for her patients. In her personal time, she enjoys playing intramural kickball, renovating her fixer-upper home, and exploring national parks with her husband and young son.



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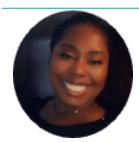
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Lyndsay Fait, MOT, OTR/L, is the founding Program Director and Assistant Professor for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (OTA) at Utah Valley University (UVU). Before her new position at UVU, Lyndsay held various positions within Salt Lake Community College's OTA program over the course of 11 years, including academic fieldwork coordinator, associate professor, and program coordinator. Lyndsay holds a master's degree in occupational therapy from Texas Woman's University (2016) and is an alumnus of Salt Lake Community College's OTA program (Class of 2007). Lyndsay is finishing her Occupational Therapy Post Professional Doctorate Degree at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Her expertise is in pediatric practice, both school-based and outpatient practice settings, and her research interests are in teaching, learning, and education, specifically in OT education.



Melanie Suttner, COTA/L. Hello, my name is Melanie Suttner. Since July 2021, I've enjoyed working as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. Initially, after graduation, I studied under several specialties to gain experience in pediatrics, hand therapy, respiratory, post-acute care, skilled nursing, and home health. I have loved all my experiences and am excited to share my recent journey as a COTA in psychiatric, and pediatric behavioral health. My passion to serve, heal, and lead others - gave rise to becoming an OTA. As I serve my patients and community to become more independent in their changing minds and bodies, I do so by creating a collaborative environment that is energetic, fun and client-centered. I love occupational therapy because the profession values 'meeting people where they're at', demonstrating a community that focuses on the well-being of "all abilities," including both patient and provider. My goal is to continue my interdisciplinary networking, collaboration, and professional development while creating more life-changing events and sustainable programs, to make the world a better place. The best way for me to reach these goals is by staying current with issues, educating everyone, and advocating innovative ways to bridge our patients, families, and practitioners through new and exciting opportunities that promote positive life changes.



Naomia Rivera is a licensed Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant currently working in the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) Program as a Mental and sleep Readiness Specialist at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC. Naomia is a graduate of Pima Medical Institute in Tucson, AZ. Naomia has worked in healthcare for over 20 years as a biomedical engineer, as a member of the United States Air Force, and in the private sector. Naomia brings her vast experience with managing teams, project and resource management, and assisting organizations with developing and implementing policies and programs to ensure continued growth in an ever-changing healthcare environment. She is passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels. She plans to use her previous experience to not only advocate for the use of Occupational Therapy globally as a mechanism to bridge the equity gap but also to assist in making occupational therapy the blueprint for other professions regarding the implementation of DEI principles at all levels of practice.



Neil Scott, MOT, OTR/L, works as an OT at the University of Utah in acute care, on the Ortho/Trauma Team. He graduated in 2005 as a COTA from SLCC and then graduated as an OT in 2011 from the University of Utah. Experience includes acute care, inpatient rehab at the University of Utah, and acute care and TCU at Lakeview Hospital. He and his wife have five children, and he enjoys coaching and playing volleyball with them when he is not working at the hospital.



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Nick Sidwell, OTR/L. Nick is the owner of a private clinic, Ability Innovations, and works as a pediatric occupational therapist. He has spent his career working with children mostly in the school system. He worked in Cache, Logan, Emery and Davis school districts. He also worked in skilled nursing, home health, in-patient, out-patient rehab, and early intervention, and has taught the pediatrics course for occupational therapy assistants at Ameritech College (now called Joyce)



Patrick Walker, OTD, OTR/L, CNS is an Assistant Professor and Doctoral Capstone Coordinator at the University of Utah. As a practicing occupational therapist, he has experience in community-based neuro, skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehab, acute care, swing-bed, and outpatient pediatrics. With this wide variety of experience, his work for entry-level capstone experiences is guided by his passion for all settings in occupational therapy. Walker's work is driven by his desire for occupational therapy to be known as a medical and community-based profession. If you are interested in how a capstone student may assist you in your facilities, please do not hesitate to reach out!



Phil Lamarouex Phil obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Utah and completed his Doctorate at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas in 2023. He initiated his professional career in school-based therapy and subsequently transitioned to inpatient neurorehabilitation. Over a span of six years, Phil secured certifications in Neuro-IFRAH, the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS), and Life Care Planning. Over the past three years, he has been developing and integrating "Life Hardening" principles into OT practice within his inpatient rehabilitation. Phil has also served as an Expert Witness in more than 60 litigation cases, crafting occupational profiles and evaluating individual functional capacities. Recently, he embraced an academic role as the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for an emerging OTD program in Southern Utah. Outside of work, Phil's passions include competitive pickleball, running, vacationing, and cherishing moments with his wife and four children.



Rhonda Roth, OTD, OTR/L has been a pediatric occupational therapist since 2007. She earned a Master of Occupational Therapy from Samuel Merritt University and a Doctor of Occupational Therapy from the University of Utah. She is the owner of Children in Motion, a pediatric therapy clinic located in Murray Utah. Rhonda has specialized training in Sensory Integration from the STAR Institute in Denver Colorado and has completed a wide range of additional certifications throughout her career.



Rustin Diehl, Esquire practices law in the areas of taxation, estate, and business planning with Allegis Law. Mr. Diehl advises individuals and businesses on a variety of Web3 and blockchain issues, federal income and transfer taxation and state taxation planning, and he assists clients in resolution of tax controversy matters. Mr. Diehl forms numerous trusts, DAOs, and limited liability companies for digital asset holding and trading. He also has experience in estate and trust administration, probate, federal gift and estate taxation, and representation of fiduciaries and beneficiaries of estates and trusts. Mr. Diehl represents businesses and nonprofits with organizational and corporate governance matters, reorganizations, joint ventures, and other programming or transactions. He is also a member of legislation and government relation committees and has served as chair of his bar's Business Law Section. He earned a B.A. degree, in economics, from Utah State University, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, and an LLM in taxation at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C.



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Sam Tse, **OTR/L** is an occupational therapist who graduated in the spring of 2021 practicing in both skilled nursing and pediatric behavioral health settings. She is passionate about mental health and advocacy within the field of occupational therapy and values continuing education opportunities related to OT's role in mental health. During graduate school, Sam co-founded the University of Utah COTAD Chapter and continues to be committed to increasing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession. Outside of work, she enjoys aerial hoops, reading, rock climbing, and spending time with her seven pets.



Shalyn Hample is an OT who has worked in acute care for 8 years. She currently works at the U of U Huntsman Hospital in acute oncology care where she has been practicing for 7 years treating patients with a wide variety of conditions and assisting to establish and refine OT's role in the oncology population, from critical care to survivorship.



Taylor Hoyt, OTD, OTR/L is an occupational therapist whose focus is on perinatal and pediatric health & wellness. Taylor is currently an associate professor at Joyce University of Nursing and Health Sciences. She is passionate about life-long learning & strives to spark excitement for OT in her students to help them become compassionate & competent practitioners. Taylor has been in the field of OT since 2012 when she became an OTA. She worked primarily as a school-based practitioner & soon decided to pursue further education by obtaining her master's degree in occupational therapy. Most recently, Taylor completed her post-professional occupational therapy doctorate from Rocky Mountain University & completed her doctoral capstone focusing on postpartum health & wellness. In addition to her experience as an OT, Taylor is an herbalist, specializing in women's & children's holistic wellness, & is seeking certification as an Infant & Child Sleep & Wellness Specialist. She loves traveling, being outdoors, & attending live music with her family.



Tony Tsai, MBA is the Director of Career and Leadership Development for the University of Utah Health Sciences. He helps people connect to their meaning and authentic purpose in their careers through coaching and leadership training. In previous roles, he has led strategic transformation efforts in medical education at the University of Michigan Medical School and the University of Utah Medical School. He was a former officer in the U.S. Army. He holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and a BBA from the Wharton School of Business.

University of Utah MOT Students – Online Presentations. The following presenters are second-year Occupational Therapy Students in the University of Utah Masters of Occupational Therapy program. They are set to graduate in the Fall of 2024 and are eager to join the field in their various areas of interest upon graduation



Ian Hansen, Stephanie Bonham, Isabel Lewis, and Jessica Smith.



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Payton Battles, Paige Bishman, Gabrielle Borbolla, Amanda Doering

TJ Richardson, Mekenzie Olsen, Brecklyn Hobbs, and Jen Van Orman.

Katie Inouye, Reagan Probst, Abbie Staten, Bailey Wilson, Taylor Worley



Sadie Croshaw, Laura Blakely, Sarah Daniels, Kira Hamblin, Alex Recor



Nicole Brown, Jini Choi, Seeley Schaefer, Rhett Shamo



Isabel Vander Hyde, Lia Liu, Madeline Halperin, Katy Grieb

Hannah Larsen, Faith Friend, Paige Reynolds, and Kallie Brown







Stephanie Cao, Amy Kenney, Aubrey Strong, Ana Maria Zerecero Nunez



Thank you to the 2023 UOTA Conference Committee

- ★ Lynn Farley OTR/L- Chairperson
- ★ Jen Van Orman OTS Student Chairperson
- ★ Vanessa Rapier, OTR/L
- ★ Jeanette Murphy, OTR/L
- ★ Angie Blaser, OTR/L
- ★ Jessica Smith, OTS
- ★ Faith Friend, OTS
- ★ Rachelle Dansie, OTAS



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