

Progress Notes

University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Occupational Therapy
Spring 2020



CREATING TOMORROW'S PRACTICE

A Message from the Department Head

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Professor and Head



**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY
COLLEGE OF
APPLIED HEALTH
SCIENCES**



Dear Colleagues,

We share these notes while we are all coping with a global pandemic, adjusting to online academic activities, and becoming virtual learners. This unprecedented situation is challenging us in many ways, however we are learning lessons that hopefully will help us become better human beings. I am particularly proud of our occupational therapy faculty who have risen to the challenge of providing our students with the best possible online education. I am also grateful to our students for their patience, understanding and willingness to adapt to not being physically on campus. Our staff has also provided invaluable support during this time. Despite the unusual circumstances due to COVID-19 and the fact that this spring issue of our Progress Notes is missing photos of highly anticipated but canceled events such as our Scholarship of Practice Day and the AOTA conference in Boston, faculty and students continue to earn very prestigious awards and accomplish important milestones.

One of our biggest points of pride is that this year's *U.S. News and World Report graduate school rankings listed the UIC MS OT program as # 3 in the country*, along with two other OT programs. This new ranking is a testament to the quality of the MS program, the dedication of the faculty, and the talented students we recruit.

SUSAN MAGASI RECEIVES AWARD



People with disabilities are an unrecognized health disparities population and experience barriers to healthcare access, quality and outcomes. Lack of accessible medical diagnostic equipment (MDE), such as height-adjustable examination tables and wheelchair accessible weight scales, exacerbate those disparities.

In January 2017, the United States Access Board finalized new standards for MDE and suggested that once the standards are adopted, people with disabilities will “finally be able to receive health care comparable to that received by their non-disabled counterparts.” However, in the same month, President Trump issued Executive Order 13771, which stipulates no new

federal regulations can be enacted unless cost-neutrality was documented. Consequently, the MDE Standards have not been widely endorsed and barriers to healthcare access persist for the 54 million Americans with disabilities. **Susan Magasi**, associate professor of occupational therapy and disability studies and director of the Program for Healthcare Justice for People with Disabilities, and Robin Jones, director of the Great Lakes ADA Center in the Department of Disability and Human Development, received a contract from the **National Council on Disability** to lay a foundation for cost-effectiveness research on the use of accessible MDE. Using a combination of systematic literature review, environmental scans, expert interviews and consensus building, Magasi and Jones will help develop recommendations related to MDE Standards for Congress, federal policy makers, relevant federal agencies and healthcare systems. OTD candidate Ricardo Ramirez and MSOT student Hilary Marshall round out the UIC-based team.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE COLLABORATION



L to R Justin Payette, Heidi Fischer, OTD practicum student Gina Mulanlara and Megan McCray with OT and PT students.

On February 24, clinical assistant professors **Heidi Fischer**, OT and Justin Payette, PT, assisted by OT clinician Megan McCray, collaborated to create an interprofessional experience for OT and PT students as part of their courses. Students participated in the discussion of a video case study of a client post-wrist surgery. Faculty facilitators role-modeled interprofessional collaboration during the case discussion. Students worked in small interprofessional teams to problem-solve various cases and educate each other on their respective roles and approach to patient care.

MARY KHETANI AWARDED AOTF IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH GRANT

Associate professor **Mary Khetani** and her Children’s Participation in Environment Research Lab (CPERL) will complete a project titled “Implementation of Electronic Shared Decision-Making Support to Design and Monitor Participation-Focused Early Intervention (EI).” This two-year implementation research grant is funded through the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Mary is the principal investigator and will collaborate with colleagues at UIC (Elizabeth Papautsky and **Ashley Stoffel**), in Colorado and Pittsburgh (Beth McManus, Jodi Dooling-Litfin and Natalie Leland), and through the AOTA Community of Practice in early childhood (Lesly James and Kris Barnekow). Vera Kaelin, PhD student in Rehabilitation Sciences, will coordinate project completion.

As EI programs transition to electronic data capture systems for accountability and quality improvement, implementing evidence-based electronic assessments is a scalable strategy to strengthen family engagement in shared decision-making to design and monitor EI services. The team will test the Young Children’s Participation in Environment Measure (YC-PEM), an innovative and evidence-based electronic patient-reported outcome (e-PRO) for engaging families to design and monitor participation-focused care. A recent NIH R03 project yielded evidence of its feasibility, acceptability and value when deployed within a clinical workflow. Most families also used their responses to draft goals and intervention strategies to share with providers, which was positively associated with caregiver confidence for care plan implementation. In the first aim, the team will test the effects of the YC-PEM e-PRO on stakeholder prioritized outcomes, together with several implementation strategies identified in the R03 project phase. In the second aim, they will examine stakeholder perspectives of facilitators and barriers to its implementation across multiple EI programs.

Mary Khetani’s investigative team:



Mary Khetani



Beth McManus



Natalie Leland



Vera Kaelin



Jodi Dooling-Litfin



Elizabeth Papautsky

UIC OPENS OT CLINIC

UIC has opened a new Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, directed by clinical assistant professor **Heidi Fischer** and clinical associate professor **Ashley Stoffel**. The practice works in partnership with UI Health's Diabetes Center and Endocrinology Clinic and its Family Medicine Center to help adults experiencing chronic health conditions whose ability to participate in daily activities is limited. The new faculty practice also serves families and children who need additional support to develop new skills. It aims to provide occupational therapy to underserved communities by visiting patients in their natural settings and homes. In addition to providing necessary health care services, the new practice is committed to adding value to UIC's academic community. It will help bring clinical experiences to the classroom to help OT students understand real practice. Some students also help with administration of the clinic, like developing patient and family satisfaction surveys and e-learning courses for practitioners working in the practice. This training builds a partnership between practice and the academic world.

STUDENTS DEVELOP COVID-19 RESOURCE IN SPANISH

To respond to the current health crisis and support communities, OTD students Ricardo Ramirez, Cristina Rodriguez and Ashley Maldonado used their OT skills to create a COVID-19 factsheet in Spanish to support the Latinx community. The factsheet, which features OT-oriented tips on staying active, has been disseminated widely to several community agencies in the Chicagoland area, as well as community agencies in Cleveland, Ohio; Santa Clara, California; Salisbury, Maryland; Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Anchorage, Alaska. The factsheet has reached as far as the Latinx community in Hong Kong. Agencies posted the sheet on their website and their health promoters are sharing it throughout the community and on social media.

Cómo Protegerse del Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Es importante que usted y su familia se proteja del COVID-19
La mejor forma de prevenir la enfermedad es evitar el virus

¿Cómo puedo evitar el virus?

- **Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por lo menos 20 segundos.**
 - Puede cantar el coro de "las mañanitas" mientras que se lava las manos.
- Si no tiene jabón, use un desinfectante de manos que contenga al menos un **60%** de alcohol.
- No debe tocarse sus ojos, su nariz o su boca antes de lavarse las manos.
- Manténgase a **6 pies** de distancia de las otras personas.
- Solamente salga a lugares públicos si es necesario (como ir a comprar comida o por necesidades básicas).
- Limpie y desinfecte las superficies que toque diariamente (como los celulares, mesas, controles, llaves, las manijas de las puertas, y los interruptores de luz).
 - Tire todos sus pañuelos sucios en la basura.
- **NO** es necesario que usted use una mascarilla si no tiene síntomas. Sin embargo, si está cuidando a alguien que está enfermo use una mascarilla.



View this full factsheet at: <https://cms.ahs.uic.edu/inside-ahs/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/03/How-to-protect-yourself-from-COVID-19-fact-sheet-Spanish.pdf>

LENDING A HAND TO THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY



Susan Magasi's research team (including current and former team members Laci Richert, Ricardo Ramirez and Laura VanPuymbrouck) prepared and sent over 100 COVID-19 care packages to research participants with disabilities. The care packages included: team created COVID factsheets, soap, tissues and lotion. A second mailing with updated information and face masks is scheduled for early May.

STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

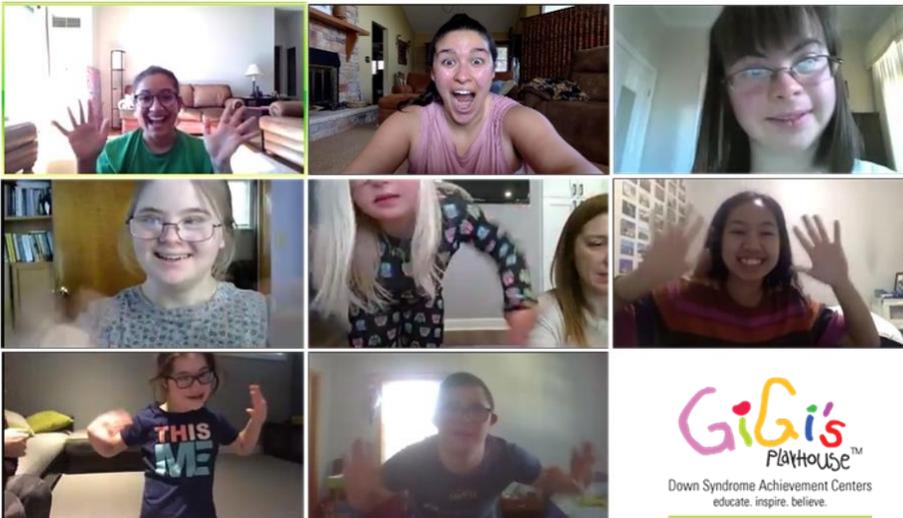
This year, for the first time, UIC OT Students and Illi-SOTA participated in the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's St. Catherine's Challenge. On January 30, students held a breakfast bar in Student Center West to raise funds for OT research. Thanks to their efforts, UIC received the Rush to the Top Award for generating the highest fundraising total by a school new to the challenge.



Illi-SOTA board members Ali Baumgarten, Bethany Marshall, Mia DiGiacomo, and Justyna Falat sell breakfast to raise money for the challenge.

The AOTF St. Catherine Challenge is a national student-led fundraising initiative to support Intervention Research Grants (IRGs) awarded by the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. IRGs provide early-stage research funding to OT investigators that enables them to collect pilot data and build proof of concept for new and novel ideas. UIC faculty have received 4 of these grants, which are the first step to improving the delivery of quality care. It was the goal of this year's challenge to fully fund one IRG in 2021 with funds raised by students. With \$54,000 raised in total from all participating schools, this goal was met.

REMOTE DANCE CLASSES



Vivian Villegas (top center, OTD student), Crystle Grinen (middle right, MS student), and Vanessa Honorato (top left, UIC Pre-OT undergrad student) are pictured leading the session.

UIC OT students have partnered with GiGi's Playhouse Chicago, a community-based organization that provides free services for people with Down syndrome and their families, to develop an adaptive dance and yoga program for children and adolescents with Down syndrome. UIC OT students design and implement the weekly group (now held virtually) which targets physical and social-emotional development. The program celebrates its two-year anniversary this May.

COTAD CHAPTER IN THE DEPARTMENT



COTAD Chapter co-chairs Jasmine Brown (left) and Asha Rao (right).

MS, OTD and OT PhD students met to create a Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) chapter within the OT Department. The chapter will be co-chaired by PhD student Jasmine Brown and MSOT student Asha Rao, who will also serve on the Illi-SOTA board. COTAD chapters support occupational therapy students working together to develop and promote diversity and inclusion within occupational therapy education programs and in the profession.

ILOTA STUDENT CONCLAVE

The 2020 Illinois Occupational Therapy Association Student Conclave, held at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab February 29, invited occupational therapy students to network with students from other programs, practitioners and ILOTA board members. The event offered sessions, panel discussions, SRALab tours, and resumé reviews to enhance students' continuing learning experiences and professional growth as future OTs.



UIC MS and OTD students at the conclave.

OT LAB MIXER



OT department faculty and students at the OT Research Lab Mixer.

The OT Lab Mixer, a student-organized event, was held in the Department of Occupational Therapy on March 5. The event gathered research team leaders, research assistants, and lab volunteers to meet and learn about each other's current projects and overall focus areas of their labs. The purpose of this event was to connect and build the research community within the OT department.

STUDENT AWARDS



Two MS/OT students won highly-competitive American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) Scholarships.

Ricardo Ramirez

OccupationalTherapy.com Scholarship (\$5,000)

Amanda Hopcroft

NBCOT Scholarship (\$2,750)

Susan Magasi (right), AOTF board member, with award winners.



Elnaz Alimi, OTD student, was selected as 2020 Illinois Emerging Leader for the National AUCD (Association of University Centers on Disabilities) system. She was honored for her participation in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program and of all her efforts in promoting access and advocating for people with disabilities.

UI HEALTH CLINICIANS RESPOND TO COVID-19



(Left) Susan Mills, OT, Jessica Buchanan PT and Hannah Colias, OT – three members of the inpatient Prone Team supporting the intensive care units during this crisis. The Prone Team is a group of therapists who turn ventilated COVID-19 patients from supine to prone to promote improved lung function and spO2 saturation.



(Above) Megan Kennedy, Coordinator of inpatient PT and Kate Ciancio, Coordinator of inpatient OT, modeling Supine/Prone shirts. UI Health is selling shirts to raise money for their underinsured COVID-19 survivors.



(Left) Jennifer Stenger, OT, receiving a CARE award in recognition of demonstrating the core values of UI Health: Compassion, accountability, respect and excellence

UIC OT ALUMNI AND FORMER POSTDOC AWARDED AOTF GRANTS



Danbi Lee (UIC OTD and PhD alumnus, now assistant professor at University of Washington) received an AOTF Intervention Research Grant.



Amber Angell (UIC former post-doctoral fellow, now assistant professor at the University of Florida) received an AOTF Health Services Research Grant.

AHS ALUMNI AWARDS

Two OT alumni received awards from the UIC College of Applied Health Sciences.



Grace Baranek '81 BSOT, an internationally known researcher on autism spectrum disorder, is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Dr. Baranek is professor, associate dean and chair of the Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. Her current research concerns early identification screening methods and tools for autism spectrum disorder in infants and children. She led the Sensory Experiences Project, a 10-year longitudinal study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development on the developmental course, mechanisms and functional effects of sensory features in children with ASD.

Laura Mraz '10 MS OT, '11 OTD, founder and CEO of two multidisciplinary therapy practices for children with disabilities, is the recipient of the New Alum Award. Dr. Mraz is the CEO and founder of Eyas Landing, an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic that provides multidisciplinary services for children and adolescents, and Blue Bird Day, an intensive therapy program that offers multidisciplinary services in a preschool and kindergarten setting. The two practices, both located in Chicago, together serve about 370 clients weekly, with about 170 full-time staff. Dr. Mraz embodies the OT department's Scholarship of Practice Model. She is active in training and mentoring AHS students as a guest lecturer, adjunct instructor and fieldwork supervisor, and her clinic is a research site for OT faculty.



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