## 2014 Scholarly Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Gail Bass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taylor Duniven &amp; Anna Flaten</strong> Occupational Therapy’s Role: Transitioning Individuals with Autism from the School Setting into Adult Roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joelle Evenson &amp; Rebekah Miesbauer</strong></td>
<td>Promoting Social Participation, Leisure, and Community Integration for Adults with Developmental Disabilities: An Intervention Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. LaVonne Fox</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teresa Bunn Caitlin Layden</strong> Assisting Occupational Therapists in North Dakota: An Agricultural Resource Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Debra Hanson</strong></td>
<td><strong>Krista Coleman &amp; Natalie Senger</strong> Collaboration to Impact Occupation-Based Practice during Level II Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Anne Haskins</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alyssa Jenkins &amp; Renae Witta</strong> The Incidence and Influence of Musculoskeletal and Nerve Injuries Among Occupational Therapists: An Exploratory Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kara Maatz &amp; Jared Zimmerman</strong></td>
<td>Interventions Used by Occupational Therapists and Allied Health Providers in Regards to Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain: A Systematic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Cindy Janssen</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kyle Donner &amp; Rachel Newman</strong> Increasing Collaborative Communication Regarding Proper Positioning: A Photographic Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jessica Montgomery</strong></td>
<td>A Community Grant Application to Support People with Dementia and their Caregivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Janet Jedlicka</strong></td>
<td><strong>Brittany Larson &amp; Sarah Stutz</strong> Integration of Sexuality Content into an Occupational Therapy Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prof. Breann Lamborn and Prof. Suzanna Morrison</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lauren Battles &amp; Maia Sobolik</strong> Retained Primitive Reflexes and ADHD: Examining Atypical Symptomology in the School-Aged Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quiney Adams &amp; Jamie Croft</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kayley Knapek &amp; Chelsey Jones</strong> Making the “Better Half” Even Better: A Support Program for Military Wives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chelsea Hesby &amp; Macaila Pagel</strong></td>
<td><strong>Occupational Therapy Based Guide for Caregivers of Individuals with Muscular Dystrophy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Mandy Meyer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alexandra Berdal, Megan Meyer &amp; Nicolet Sadlowsky</strong> Reducing Recidivism for Youth Through an Integrated Residential and Community-Based Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Sarah Nielsen</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kelsey Lindstrom &amp; Molly Simmons</strong> A Practice Guide for Occupational therapists on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Jan Stube and Prof. Julie Grabanski</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kaitlyn Radi &amp; Anna Schumacher</strong> Occupational Therapy in Oncology: A Guide for the Occupational Therapist Working on the Oncology Care Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terese Boeder &amp; Lauren Schneibel</strong></td>
<td>Fostering Self-Identify in Adolescents Who Experience Spinal Cord Injuries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Gail Bass

Taylor Duniven & Anna Flaten
Occupational Therapy’s Role: Transitioning Individuals with Autism from the School Setting into Adult Roles

Joelle Evenson & Rebekah Miesbauer
Promoting Social Participation, Leisure, and Community Integration for Adults with Developmental Disabilities: An Intervention Guide

Occupational Therapy’s Role: Transitioning Individuals with Autism from the School Setting into Adult Roles
Taylor Duniven, MOTS & Anna Flaten, MOTS

Purpose: The incidence of diagnoses of children with autism has increased. Between 1980-1994 the rate of diagnosing autism rose 373 percent (Dales, Hammer, & Smith, 2001). According to Shattuck et al. (2012) there were approximately 50,000 adolescents with ASD turning 18 in 2012. As the numbers of young adults diagnosed with autism begin to reach high school graduation, there is a need for specialized programs and services to meet the demands of this growing population (Cimera & Cowan, 2009). The purpose of this scholarly project was to provide an educational tool for occupational therapists addressing the role of occupational therapy in providing services for young adults with autism in hopes of increasing community independence and overall life satisfaction for these individuals.

Method: A literature review was conducted on the role of occupational therapy in working with adults with autism. Principles from adult learning models and the occupation-based model, Person Environment Occupation Performance (PEOP) model were used as a guide in the development of the educational tool. Throughout the literature it was found that many young adults with autism are unable to achieve functional independence within the community. The authors also noted there was limited evidence based research conducted on adults with autism and the role of occupational therapy in working with this population. Because of this, there needs to be an educational tool available for occupational therapists to assist with meeting the growing demands of this population.

Conclusions: The product of this scholarly project is an educational tool specifically addressing occupational therapists role in transitioning young adults with autism into adult roles. The educational tool provides evidence based literature on areas of difficulties faced by young adults with autism, case study examples, and additional resources for practitioners. The educational tool is intended to be given as a three hour in-service for occupational therapists. The authors hope from the development of the educational tool, more young adults with autism will have the opportunity of achieving functional independence within the community.

Promoting Social Participation, Leisure, and Community Integration for Adults with Developmental Disabilities: An Intervention Guide
Joelle Evenson, MOTS & Rebekah Miesbauer, MOTS

Upon an initial review of literature, it was found that life expectancy of individuals with developmental disabilities has been increasing which is leading to a greater number of adults with developmental disabilities living in the community. Because these individuals are living longer, it puts an extended burden on caregivers and the adults with developmental disabilities are being placed in group homes. Adults with developmental disabilities have limited access to activities outside of group homes (Mansell, Elliott, Beadle-Brown, Ashman, & Macdonald, 2002; Abbott & McConkey, 2006). They are spending most of their time engaged in more passive activities and have little social interaction with people other than parents, staff, or other adults with developmental disabilities (Felce & Perry, 1995; & Lippold & Burns, 2009). Because of this, opportunities for social participation and leisure activities within the community are limited leading to a lack of community integration.

Occupational therapists can play a vital role in the development of these skills and extend their performance range in order to engage adults with developmental disabilities into leisure activities and integrate them into the community. The product of this scholarly project, which is intended for use by occupational therapists, is an intervention guide focusing on three areas: social participation, leisure exploration and participation, and community integration for adults with developmental disabilities. An in-service presentation was also created to educate administrative personnel and staff about the issues and to advocate for use of the activities in the intervention guide group homes.

The methodology for the project consisted of an extensive review of literature and resources. The interventions in the guide include those created by the authors and others that were adapted using materials from other resources and authors. Cole’s Seven Steps
were not used in their entirety but were used to guide the structure of the group activities, and the Ecology of Human Performance model was foundational in the development of the product as well (Schwartzberg, Howe, & Barnes, 2009). The recommendations for this project include: further researching on available programs addressing all areas of occupation in group home settings, completing outcome research on the effectiveness of the interventions included in the guide, expanding the use of the guide to those who reside at home with caregivers, and an addition of more interventions into the guide using evidence-based practice. The limitations of this project are that it has not been implemented into practice and does not address all areas of occupation.

Assisting Occupational Therapists in North Dakota; An Agricultural Resource Guide
Teresa Bunn, MOTS, & Caitlin Layden, MOTS

Within the state of North Dakota, agriculture and farming are of the most essential and influential factors within the state's economy (Rathge et. al 2012). Rural communities are among the medically under-served areas within the United States; establishing the dire need of healthcare services (Hagglund et al., 1998; Schweitzer et al., 2011). A study conducted by Meyer and Fetsch (2006) deduced the four prominent disabilities affecting farmer's engagement in occupations as arthritis, spinal cord injury, amputation, and back injuries. Farmers, and their family members, are also at higher risk for work related stressors which may result in severely disabling conditions; which overall establishes an even greater need to provide services to this population (Schweitzer et al., 2011). In addition, Willkomm (2001) reviewed the difficulties farmers with disabilities encounter and the increased risks for secondary injury.

A literature review was conducted to identify areas of need for farmers; the performance skills and client factors potentially impacted by injury, and best practice assessments and interventions. Based on the results of the literature, a concise manual entitled An Agricultural Resource Guide for Occupational Therapists was developed. This resource guide is designed for occupational therapists to utilize when working with this population. It contains a review of assessments and intervention strategies to utilize with farmers within his or her context based on the Ecological Model and encompassing the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. An Ecological Model perspective is utilized to consider the farmer and tasks within the natural work and home environment. Components from the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework were utilized throughout the manual to provide organization of multiple client factors and performance skills required by farmers to complete tasks.

North Dakota is a state dominated by agriculture; as such, it is essential to understand the population’s physical, mental, social, cultural, and temporal constraints. The purpose of this project was to ensure that the needs of the farmer and family are being met and allow the farmer to remain active within the profession for as long as he/she so chooses.

Collaboration to Impact Occupation-Based Practice during Level II Fieldwork
Krista Coleman, MOTS, & Natalie Senger, MOTS

The purpose of the product was to develop a collaborative learning process between the fieldwork educator and the student to promote the use of occupation-based and client-centered practice during level II fieldwork experiences in adult physical rehabilitation settings. The literature review revealed many obstacles that constrain occupation-based and client-centered practice from being utilized by occupational therapists in the medical setting. The product uses the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) as a catalyst to promote implementation of occupation-based practice throughout the fieldwork experience. A collaborative approach to learning using the social collectivism perspective is used. The product provides opportunity through participation in a series of joint readings, learning activities, and reflection, for the student therapist and fieldwork educator to 1) begin to view the existing practice activities through the lens of an occupational behavior model, 2) reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the processes in place at the fieldwork setting, and 3) collaboratively develop resources and processes that support client-centered and occupation-based practice at a fieldwork setting.
The Incidence and Influence of Musculoskeletal and Nerve Injuries Among Occupational Therapists: An Exploratory Study

Alyssa Jenkins, MOTS, & Renae Witta, MOTS

**Purpose:** The purpose of this research study was to explore the incidence and influence of musculoskeletal and nerve injuries among occupational therapists. Specifically, we examined the influence of musculoskeletal and nerve injuries on work satisfaction, work performance and overall quality of life in occupational therapists practicing in physical rehabilitation settings.

**Methodology:** An exploratory survey research design was implemented following study approval from the University of North Dakota (UND) Institutional Review Board. Occupational therapists who were affiliated with the UND Occupational Therapy Program contract sites were invited, via email, to participate in this exploratory study. In addition, the survey was posted on the American Occupational Therapy online forum, OT Connections. Convenience and snowball sampling was used. Respondents completed demographic questions (pertaining to practice area, work related tasks, work participation and work satisfaction) and the World Health Organization Quality of Life-Brief, an instrument intended to assess quality of life. Following data collection, descriptive and inferential analyses of data were completed.

**Results:** Of the 156 respondents who comprised the final sample, 111 practiced in the primary focus area of rehabilitation, participation and disability and 24 (21.8%) reported having a musculoskeletal or nerve injury. Moderate correlations were found between perceived work satisfaction and quality of life, expected productivity and quality of life and the relationship between job physicality and work satisfaction. No relationships were found between expected productivity and perceived work satisfaction, and length of musculoskeletal or nerve injury symptom experience and work satisfaction. Similarly, there were no relationships identified between quality of life and hours worked per week, frequency of patient handling, frequency of physical agent modality delivery, job physicality, and length of musculoskeletal or nerve symptom experience. In addition, gender, length of symptom experience, current illness, influence of illness or injury on work performance and perceived work satisfaction did not influence quality of life. Hours worked per week, number of patients seen per day and average length of treatment session did not affect incidence of musculoskeletal or nerve injuries.

**Conclusions:** There was an increased incidence of musculoskeletal or nerve injuries among occupational therapists when compared to the general population. Although the incidence is higher, the general influence of these injuries or illness in regards to perceived work satisfaction, work performance and quality of life in occupational therapists appears to be inconsequential.

Interventions Used by Occupational Therapists and Allied Health Providers in Regards to Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain: A Systematic Review

Kara Maatz, MOTS, & Jared Zimmerman, MOTS

**Problem:** Chronic musculoskeletal pain is the most widely known disability in the American health care system (National Institute of Health [NIH], 2010). Chronic pain affects how individuals are able to engage in meaningful activities of daily life. Unrelieved pain can potentially result in longer hospital visits, emotional distress, and increased re-admission rates to hospitals (The American Academy of Pain Medicine, 2012). A review of research in the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) database revealed that few clinically useful references were available for practitioners regarding interventions used with chronic musculoskeletal pain (AOTA, 2014). As a result, it was determined that effective chronic pain management interventions should be further reviewed and analyzed through a systematic review.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this systematic review was to identify and investigate commonly used allied health interventions utilized with individuals who are experiencing chronic musculoskeletal pain and assess the utility of those interventions.

**Methods:** An extensive, systematic review of quantitative research was completed using PubMed because of its broad collection of health sciences literature. We selected particular inclusion and exclusion criteria aimed to identify high quality and rigorous evidence regarding preparatory, purposeful, and occupation-based interventions used in occupational therapy and allied health professions in the treatment of individuals with chronic musculoskeletal pain. Specific research processes and analysis were used to develop an organizational framework of the treatment interventions in the reviewed literature regarding chronic musculoskeletal pain management.
Results: This systematic review yielded evidence that pointed to a diverse set of literature that varied in topic and rigor. While it does represent the “best” evidence available, the review showed a severe lack of high quality, replicated, and clinically useful occupation-based treatment interventions. Despite the absence of consistency in research topics, the review did reveal that programs that required a specified amount of time to be completed by subjects (and included an educational component regarding pain self-management) and consistent and frequent meetings with a designated health care professional provided better outcomes for clients with chronic musculoskeletal pain.

Conclusion: Despite the high numbers of individuals in the U.S. who experience chronic musculoskeletal pain, there is a dearth of research regarding clinically useful, occupation-based interventions for these individuals’ health care needs. There is a need for research focusing on the utilization of purposeful and occupation-based interventions addressing chronic musculoskeletal pain. The lack of research, highlighted in this systematic review, limits occupational therapy practitioners’ ability to prescribe effective, occupation, and evidence-based interventions for clients with chronic musculoskeletal pain in clinical practice.

Increasing Collaborative Communication Regarding Proper Positioning: A Photographic Guide
Kyle Donner, MOTS, & Rachel Newman, MOTS

Approximately 98,000 people die annually in the United States due to medical errors (Institute of medicine, 2013). These medical errors are most often due to miscommunication between healthcare providers (Sutcliffe, Lewton, & Rosenthal, 2004). Impaired positioning is one type of medical error, which leads to severe complications such as contractures, pressure ulcers, and occupational deficits (Amidei, 2012; de Jong, Nieuwboer, & Aufdemkampe, 2006; Gordon, 2004). The purpose of this scholarly project is to provide a communication tool that will increase interprofessional communication and collaboration in regards to client positioning needs in healthcare settings. A literature review was conducted on positioning guidelines, communication strategies and barriers, and teaching strategies. The five target diagnoses of this scholarly project were traumatic brain injury (TBI), cerebral vascular accident (CVA), spinal cord injury, burn, and orthopedic injury. The goal of this program is to decrease secondary complications related to improper positioning that will impede occupational performance by providing consistent and evidence-based positioning strategies. The Model of Human Occupation (MOHO), Social Learning Theory, and Dynamical Systems Theory were utilized to guide the creation of this scholarly project. The resulting product of this scholarly project was an adaptable interdisciplinary communication tool to guide positioning of clients with the aforementioned diagnoses as well as other individuals with limited mobility. Through implementation of this communication tool, clinicians can provide consistent and evidence-based positioning to their clients, increase interdisciplinary communication and carryover of care, and assist in prevention of secondary medical complications related to improper positioning.

A Community Grant Application to Support People with Dementia and their Caregivers
Jessica Montgomery, MOTS

Problem: In upcoming years, the population of older individuals with dementia is expected to rise exponentially, with the expectation that the majority of these individuals will choose to age in place. Along with the increase of older adults with dementia is the higher reliance on informal caregivers to ensure that individuals with dementia can continue to reside safely in the community.

Purpose: The purpose of this scholarly project was to identify and expand occupational therapy’s role in promoting health and wellness of both the client and the caregiver in the home and community.

Methodology: An inclusive literature review was conducted on older adults, caregivers, and home and community settings using Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, EBSCOhost databases, Google Scholar, ODIN catalog, OT Search, PubMed, Science Direct, SCOPUS, Wiley Interscience, and textbooks.

Results: A review of the literature indicated that caregiver interventions were useful in reducing the negative impacts of caregiving, such as caregiver burden and decreased physical and mental well-being, as well as improving caregiver outcomes that positively impacted both the caregiver and the care receiver. A grant application for a community program for individuals with dementia and their caregivers was created to address the diverse needs of this population to facilitate and maintain independence in the daily lives. This interdisciplinary program follows the concepts of the Social Ecological Model of Health (SEMH), Ecology of Human Performance (EHP), and Cognitive Disabilities Reconsidered Model (CDRM).
**Conclusion:** The community program outlined in the grant application can be used to provide support and assistance to individuals with dementia and their caregivers to promote health and wellness. Implementation of this program will provide education, support, and access to skilled services and community resources for people with dementia and their caregivers. It is recommended that an occupational therapist implement this grant program inside a rural community and complete a pilot study assessing the health and wellness of the client with dementia and their caregiver upon completion of the program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr. Janet Jedlicka</th>
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<td>Brittany Larson &amp; Sarah Stutz</td>
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**Integration of Sexuality Content into an Occupational Therapy Curriculum**

**Brittany Larson, MOTS, & Sarah Stutz, MOTS**

Sexuality is a broad term that can be used to encompass other terms such as sexual expression and sexual functioning, and can be defined as a holistic concept of the individual that is more than just physical sexual behavior but also relates to thoughts and feelings of everyday life (Couldrick, 1998a). Sexuality and sexual functioning are considered an activity of daily living (ADL) by the *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process* (2008); however, it is a topic that is not being routinely addressed with clients by occupational therapists or other healthcare professionals (Hattjar, 2012). Studies show there is a significant lack of information given to clients in regard to sexuality, as well as dissatisfaction with the services that are provided for sexuality. This information implies an increase in knowledge, experience, and comfort levels with sexuality needs to be addressed with occupational therapists and occupational therapy students in order to treat clients in a holistic and client-centered manner.

A comprehensive literature review was completed to identify key aspects of sexuality. The literature review revealed a significant lack in student and practitioner confidence and competence in addressing sexuality in a clinical setting. After an extensive search regarding the topic of sexuality within the profession of occupational therapy it was found that much of the limited literature stems from the late 1980’s to early 1990’s, yet the literature from the 2000’s continue to address the same issues. Due to the reported low levels of comfort for occupational therapy students and practitioners regarding sexuality and the role occupational therapists play in addressing the subject with clients, the following product was developed. There was a dearth of the information and no evidenced-based articles were located regarding sexuality or how to teach about the topic.

The product created includes lesson plans that address different aspects of physical and/or psychosocial impairments that may impact sexuality. The product lesson plans consist of varying lectures, readings and activities, to be incorporated into several courses throughout the duration of an occupational therapy professional program. The goal of this product is to increase exposure to issues of sexuality and sexual functioning throughout the curricula of a Midwestern professional occupational therapy program in order to create competent and comfortable practitioners within the field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prof. Breann Lamborn and Prof. Suzanna Morrison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Battles &amp; Maia Sobolik</td>
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<tr>
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**Lauren Battles, MOTS, & Maia Sobolik, MOTS**

Approximately 2 million people within the United States are living with an amputation, most commonly in the lower extremity (Amputation Coalition, 2013). By the year 2050, the number of lower limb amputations will increase significantly due to the aging population who encounter a variety of debilitating diseases, such as diabetes, Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), Dysvascular, and/or heart diseases (Resnik and Borgia, 2011). Additionally, according to the National Center for Health Statistics (2012), 69.2 percent of Americans are overweight. This trend in weight gain is also present in the amputee population and significantly affects the quality of life for these individuals due to added strain on their remaining joints. For those who have a lower limb amputation, the battle with obesity impacts the way their prosthesis fits the affected limb on a daily basis, particularly in the elderly. Available research does not address weight management for the elderly amputee population. The purpose of this project is to develop a weight management resource directed to the elderly client who has experienced a lower limb amputation. Using the Model of
Human Occupation (MOHO) as the theoretical foundation, fitness and nutrition manuals were developed to help individuals manage their weight to ensure their prosthetic device fits properly on a consistent basis.

**Retained Primitive Reflexes and ADHD? Examining Atypical Symptomology in the School-Aged Population**

**Quincey Adams, MOTS, & Jamie Craft, MOTS**

**Purpose**

Typical development begins in-utero and progresses throughout the lifespan. Jean Piaget authored a theory that encompasses core aspects of the lifespan stages related to typical development of sensory and motor systems. Piaget outlined the developmental stages as: sensorimotor stage, preoperational stage, concrete operational stage, and formal operational stage. Within these stages, the typically developing child learns to adapt and respond effectively to his or her environment (Cole & Tufano, 2008). Dr. Jean Ayres described a similar developmental process, termed Sensory Integration. This process is defined as the coordination of the sensory systems in order for an individual to effectively interact with his or her environment (Ayres, 1979). For this scholarly project, Piaget and Ayres’ theories will be used in parallel to create a framework of typical and atypical development throughout the lifespan.

Another facet of typical development is the presence of primitive reflexes, which are initially used for protection against external stimuli, and later integrated into purposeful movement (Berne, 2006). The retention of certain primitive reflexes may cause sensory and motor dysfunction in the school-aged child (Goddard, 2002). Another cause of sensory and motor dysfunction in this population is attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which impacts approximately 9.5% of Americans under the age of seventeen (CDC, 2010, p.1439).

ADHD is defined as “a disorder of childhood and adolescence manifested at home, in school, and in social situations by developmentally inappropriate degrees of inattention, impulsiveness, and hyperactivity” (Stedman, 2005, p. 136). Many of the characteristics of ADHD symptomology and retained primitive reflexes are very similar in presentation, and the purpose of this scholarly project is to explore possible correlations between the two (Konicarova & Bob, 2012; Konicarova & Bob, 2013; Taylor, Houghton, & Chapman, 2004).

**Methodology**

An extensive literature review was conducted on typical human development, including primitive reflexes, and atypical developmental behaviors that may occur if these reflexes are retained. ADHD was also thoroughly researched, specifically with regard to how sensory integrative behaviors are presented throughout development. Research exploring any possible correlation between retained primitive reflexes and ADHD was reviewed and analyzed.

**Conclusions**

A product was developed in the form of a scholarly article to explore a possible correlation of retained primitive reflexes and sensory-integrative behaviors in school-aged children diagnosed with ADHD. Included in the article is an explanation of atypical behaviors presented with retained primitive reflexes, ADHD and atypical behaviors, as well as research conducted on any possible correlations between retained primitive reflexes and ADHD. It is intended that this article will be submitted for publication in *OT Practice*, a scholarly magazine published by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). This scholarly article will be used to demonstrate the need for further research on this topic.

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**Dr. Mandy Meyer**

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**Kayley Knapke, MOTS & Chelsey Jones, MOTS**

The purpose of this project was to develop a program that addresses the needs of military wives and the challenges they experience due to having a spouse in the military. Through utilization of an occupational therapy perspective, this program focuses on the promotion of wellness and increased quality of life for military wives which in turn facilitates overall cohesion and support.
Making the “Better Half” Even Better: A Support Program for Military Wives was influenced by the Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance Model due to the focus on an individual’s valued roles, tasks and activities along with their performance in those occupations, and the notion that person, environment and occupation interact dynamically and affect one another (Cole & Tufano, 2008). This program is designed to be disseminated directly to healthcare professionals and occupational therapists that work closely with military families. The goal of the program is to provide support, education and resources to military wives in order to promote their overall wellness and quality of life, which in turn, positively affects their families.

The resulting program is to be used by occupational therapists to promote the overall wellbeing of military wives through interventions such as education sessions on mental health both regarding themselves and their spouse, the deployment cycle, conflict resolution and communication skills, relationship development and maintenance, coping and stress management while also providing information on community resources and how to foster social support.

Occupational Therapy Based Guide For Caregivers Of Individuals With Muscular Dystrophy
Chelsea Hesby, MOTS, & Macaila Pagel, MOTS

The purpose of this scholarly project was to develop a holistic guide that could be provided by occupational therapists (OTs) to caregivers of individuals with muscular dystrophy (MD). A comprehensive literature review was conducted on the impact that caregiving for individuals with MD has on quality of life, stress management and mental health. The review of literature also explored caregivers’ access to resources and common difficulties experienced. The literature revealed that there have been recent advances in medical fields which have led to an increased lifespan for individuals with MD to an average age of 27 years old (Eagle et al., 2007). As a result, caregivers of individuals with MD are experiencing an increase in psychological and physical demands for an extended period of time. Families and caregivers have expressed the need to have access to reliable and accurate resources throughout the disease process. They have often reported feeling vulnerable, stressed and less supported as the disease progressed when they did not have access to resources (Dawson & Kristjanson, 2003). Based on the unmet needs that caregivers of MD often face, a guide, Caring for Yourself as a Caregiver, was created. The guide can be used to ensure caregivers have easily accessible resources to fulfil their needs as a caregiver while maintaining their own physical, emotional and mental health.

Guided by the Model of Human Occupation and the adult learning theory, this caregiver guide addresses a caregiver’s volition, habituation and performance capacity to increase meaningful impact and occupational functioning. These models were also used to format the product in a way to make it easily understood by caregivers of varying educational levels. Within the caregiver guide there are sections that focus on: roles of a caregiver, information about MD, how the disease typically progresses, common caregiver tasks, caregiver well-being, the grieving process, palliative care, and resources to look for additional information. There was also an OT manual created to serve as an intervention tool and provide guidance on how to use the caregiver guide. Through OTs providing the guide, caregivers will be able to better care for the individual with MD and find greater meaning, value and a sense of commitment from taking care of their loved one with MD. This manual was created to help caregivers get the most out of their time with their loved one by learning how to best care for themselves.

Reducing Recidivism for Youth Through an Integrated Residential and Community-Based Program
Alexandra Berdal, MOTS, Megan Meyer, MOTS, & Nicolet Sadlowsky, MOTS

Purpose

Reportedly, 95% of youth in the juvenile justice system have had prior involvement with the juvenile justice system, suggesting that intervention does not adequately address the needs of these youth (Sedlack & Bruce, 2010; OJJDP, 2003). The purpose of this project was to address the problem of recidivism with an emphasis on preparing for transition from residential placements to community engagement.

Methods

An extensive literature review was conducted in order to understand the occupational performance deficits that youth in the
juvenile justice system face in transitioning to their community. The information obtained from the literature review was then analyzed using the Person Environment Occupation model (Law et al., 1996). Areas of need for youth were identified through completion of the systematic analysis and include: (a) vocation, (b) leisure, (c) education, (d) health management and maintenance, and (e) social participation, which are all important aspects of occupational performance within the youth’s community. In addition, the following key principles emerged from the systematic analysis: (a) self-determination, (b) engagement in meaningful occupations, (c) care through an interdisciplinary team, and (d) mentorship.

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A Practice Guide for Occupational therapists on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
Kelsey Lindstrom, MOTS, & Molly Simmons, MOTS

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project was to develop the occupational therapy (OT) role and a practice guide for OTs to use with their young adult client who has sustained a sports-related mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI).

**Methods:** An extensive literature review was completed on mTBI to examine risks when engaging in sports, common symptoms occurring due to mTBI, OT and rehabilitation assessments and interventions used following an mTBI. Further literature reviewed included current guidelines used in OT and other disciplines, integration of individuals affected by mTBI back into daily occupations, effects of intervention, and identifying when retirement from the sport is necessary.

**Results:** The OT role and a practice guide were created based on the Person-Environment-Occupation Model of Occupational Performance for OT practitioners. The product, An Occupational Therapy Practice Guide for Sports-Related Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries in Young Adults, provides the OT with education materials, assessment recommendations, secondary/tertiary prevention materials, a case study, and example goals and interventions.

**Conclusions:** Following the acute stages of sustaining an mTBI, the literature has shown that individuals continue to have persisting complaints and difficulties returning to their daily occupations. Therefore, it is important that healthcare professionals know of the risks, symptoms, guidelines, assessments, interventions, integration to daily life and when it is time for an athlete to disengage in sports following mTBI. Limitations regarding the product include that it is specific to sports-related mTBI and young adults and the guide has not currently been implemented into OT clinical practice.

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering Self-Identify in Adolescents Who Experience Spinal Cord Injuries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Occupational Therapy in Oncology: A Guide for the Occupational Therapist Working on the Oncology Care Team**
Kaitlyn Radi, MOTS, & Anna Schumacher, MOTS

Although cancer diagnoses are more frequent today, individuals with cancer are surviving longer than ever before. Those who experience cancer may undergo radiation, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, bone marrow transplants, or surgery. These treatments, along with the cancer itself, can cause anywhere from mild to severe symptoms. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, the degree to which occupational participation is interrupted varies considerably. The professional literature documents the practice of occupational therapy with persons diagnosed with cancer who are living with cancer and those receiving occupational therapy as part of a palliative approach. Although occupational therapy has been recognized in these levels of care, the role of occupational therapy in primary care oncology and oncology specialist care has not been developed.

The purpose of this scholarly project was to develop a guide for occupational therapists practicing in oncology specialist care and providing intervention for adults diagnosed with cancer. The guide includes an overview of the occupational therapy process with examples guided by the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO) and the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework, as well as resources for advocacy on behalf of the profession. The individual’s roles and routines are often affected due to the effects of cancer and the cancer treatment. The occupation-based MOHO was selected for its ability to address the dynamic interaction of the person and the environment in producing occupational performance. Emphasis is placed on the individual’s volition, personal causation, roles and habituation within the physical and social environment.
Fostering Self-Identify in Adolescents Who Experience Spinal Cord Injuries
Terese Boeder, MOTS, & Lauren Schneibel, MOTS

Purpose: The purpose of this scholarly project is to identify a need and to guide occupational therapists during the treatment of adolescents who have acquired a spinal cord injury. During the adolescence stage, an individual begins to develop a sense of self and sense of direction, as well as formulate values which all contribute to personal identity formation. The manual will guide the occupational therapist to address identity formation through use of the chosen assessments and interventions. It is believed that focusing on aspects of identity formation as experienced in the midst of a traumatic SCI will foster successful adolescent identity development and a resultant higher quality of life.

Method: A literature review was conducted utilizing the search items “typical adolescent development, identity formation, spinal cord injury, and occupational therapy” in multiple online databases including: CINAHL, PubMed, PsychInfo, Academic Search Premier, OT Search, and Google Scholar. Textbooks and government-based websites were also utilized to obtain additional information.

Summary/Results: A manual was developed to guide occupational therapists treating adolescents with spinal cord injuries to foster a positive self-identity. The assessments and interventions chosen are guided by the Model of Human Occupation (MOHO), with the goal of building a strengthened identity, increasing self-esteem, and promoting a higher quality of life.

Conclusion: The manual is appropriate for practicing occupational therapists in the inpatient neuro-rehabilitation setting. Prior to full implementation, it is suggested that research be conducted in order to test the clinical significance of the manual. Addressing identity as a part of the treatment for an adolescent with a spinal cord injury is an important aspect of occupational therapy intervention.