

Heather Simpson, MOT, OTR/L

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Professional Summary

Occupational Therapist

- Registered and Licensed Occupational Therapist in State of Florida
- Extensive adult and pediatric outpatient therapy services
- Registered as Pediatric Specialist

Education

2003-2007 University of Florida Gainesville, Florida

- B.S. Exercise and Sport Sciences
- Minor: Elementary Education

2007-2009 University of Florida Gainesville, Florida

- Master's in Occupational Therapy
- Co-Recipient of Ann Sirmyer Ballard Award

2015-expected graduation 2017 University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences

- Transitional Doctorate of Occupational Therapy

Experience

2010-2014 UF Health Rehab for Kids Gainesville, Florida

Pediatric Occupational Therapist, Outpatient

- Responsible for evaluation and treatment of pediatric population ranging from neurological conditions, behavioral disorders, sensory and developmental delays.

2010-2011 UF Health Rehab at Magnolia Parke Gainesville, Florida

Adult Neurological Occupational Therapist, Outpatient

- Responsible for evaluation and treatment of neurologic populations of brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, cerebral vascular injuries and neurological cancers.

2011-Current UF Health Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration
Gainesville, Florida

Occupational Therapist, Outpatient

- Responsible for evaluation and treatment of movement disorder populations including Parkinson's, Ataxias, Tourette, Dystonia, Tremors and muscle disorders.

2012 UF Health Rehab Gainesville, Florida

Occupational Therapist, Inpatient PRN

- Responsible for evaluation and treatment of inpatient unit for neurological team as a PRN therapist.

2013-Current UF Health Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration

Tourette Clinic Coordinator

- Responsible for pediatric and adult Tourette and Tic disorder clinic patient advocacy, support and clinic happenings.

2014-Current Tourette Association Southeast Regional Center of Excellence

Coordinator

- Responsible for coordination of five Centers of Excellences as recognized by the Tourette Association of America. All Centers provide research, advocacy, training and support for those with tic disorders and Tourette Syndrome.

2016-Current University of Florida Occupational Therapy Department

Adjunct Lecturer

- Responsible for education of graduate and undergraduate students within the pre-Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy program as designated by the University.

July 2016 Cross Country Education

Speaker, Taking Control of Tic Disorders

- Designed a continuing education program for national organization that was presented for Tic Disorders.

Research

- 2016 Vancouver, BC, Canada
Prevalence of upper extremity freezing in Parkinson's Disease
DeJesus, S., Ahmed, B., Almedia, L., Shahgholi, L., Patterson, A., Warren, L., Simpson, H., Okun, M. & Hess, C.
Presented by Movement Disorders Fellows at AAN Conference-Poster
- June 21, 2016 Berlin, Germany
Do different tic phenotypes have different responses to Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention for Tics (CBIT)?
Deeb, W., Almeida, L., Simpson, H., Malaty, I. & Okun, M.
Presented by Wissam Deeb, M.D. at International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society Conference
- 2016 Vancouver, Canada
Upper extremity cooling reduce tremor acutely in patients with essential tremor: Preliminary data
Almeida, L., Warren, L., Simpson, H., Vedam-Mai, V., Vaillancourt, D., Martinez-Ramirez, D., Okun, M. & Wagle-Shukla, A.
Presented by Movement Disorders Fellows at AAN Conference- Poster
- 2015 University of Buffalo
Daily functioning of children with Tourette syndrome: An exploratory study
- Participated in as an Expert Reviewer of Parent Survey

Publications and Speaking Engagements

- CBIT Workshops Hosted by Tourette Association and CDC
Varied locations
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Talk Show
Tic Disorders and OT
Participant/Speaker
- Simpson, H. (21 April, 2016) *Sensory integration and Tourette syndrome* [YouTube Presentation Webinar]
Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0aAm4FaS1Y>
- Simpson, H. (2017) Know how to access rehabilitative therapies. In Okun, M.S. (Ed.), *Tourette Syndrome, 10 secrets to a happier life* (9-24). San Bernardino, CA: Books4Patients.