

Winter 2021
UFOT Newsletter



Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues, Friends, Alumni, and Students:

With touches of Fall everywhere in North-Central Florida, we are reminded that this year is drawing to a rapid end—and what a year it was! Like you, the faculty, staff, students, and I have continued to stay focused on our committed path and brought - despite the challenges of this year - creativity, innovation, diligence, growth, and resilience to the Department.

I am delighted to share a few of the year's highlights:

We have appointed four new clinical faculty, including Dr. Faradj-Bakht, Dr. Becky Piazza, Dr. Anna Galloway, and Dr. Sanaz (Suny)

Gibson— to teach in our OTD and/or BHS programs. We have also appointed Ms. Beth Gibson as a clinical instructor and manager of the SmartDriver Rehab program. Likewise, we have added two excellent tenure track faculty members: Dr. Stefanie Bodison and Dr. Hongwu Wang. Profiles of these members are

Five faculty members have received national awards this year: Dr. Jessica Kramer, Mid-Career Award, AOTF; Dr. Christine Myers (1) Fellow AOTA, and (2) Distinguished Scholar of the National Academies of Practice, Occupational Therapy Academy; (3) Dr. Linda Struckmeyer, 2021 Outstanding Alumni Award, Washington University Program in Occupational Therapy; (4) Dr. Sandra Winter, Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED) Scholar Award; and (5) Dr. Sherrilene Classen, AOTF Exemplary Service Award for Excellence as Editor-in-Chief for the Occupational Therapy Journal of Research (2015-2021).

Other activities that we are very proud of include the following:

1. Our UF OTD Program has met all of the standards and received accreditation from ACOTE for the maximum number of years (seven) eligible for a new program, in August 2021.
2. We have made extensive contributions to our Department's DEI initiative—including revising curricula, expanding our admission practices, and redeveloping our recruitment, screening, and hiring practices. See detailed information at <https://ot.phhp.ufl.edu/about/dei/>.
3. We are graduating our first cohort of OTD students in December 2021—an exceptional group of individuals with extraordinary Capstone projects. Special thanks to Dr. Linda Struckmeyer and our dedicated faculty members and site mentors who have coached and guided these OTD students!
4. We have revamped OT's Equal Access Clinic (EAC). A big shout-out to Dr. Anna Galloway, who has led the strategic planning initiative and provided exceptional leadership. See <https://ot.phhp.ufl.edu/service/equal-access-clinic/>.
5. We are launching our Driver Rehabilitation Therapy Program in the Summer of 2022. For more information, please visit <https://drt.ot.phhp.ufl.edu/#webinars>.
6. Consider joining our virtual Sandra Edwards Colloquium on February 12th, 2022. See <https://ot.phhp.ufl.edu/sandra-edwards-colloquium/> for the program details and registration.

Finally, Happy Holidays to all our friends, colleagues, and stakeholders. We are proud of our place in the Gator Nation and so thankful for all your contributions and support to our Department and profession!

Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, FGSA

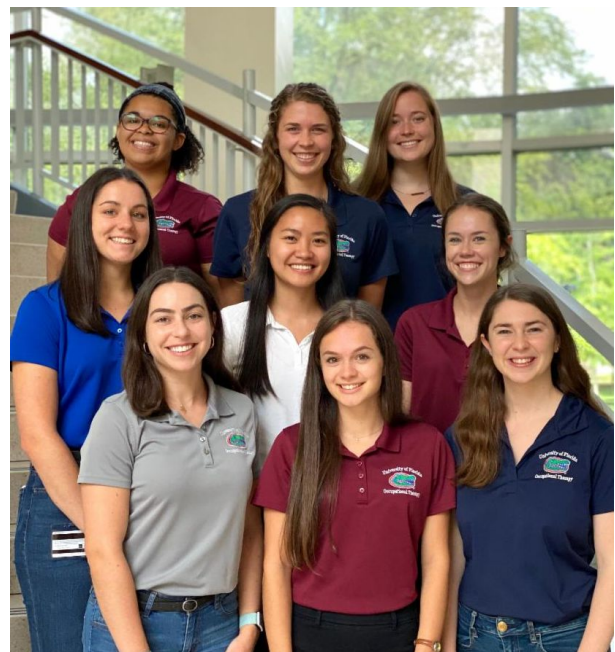
Professor and Chair: Department of Occupational Therapy

University of Florida | College of Public Health and Health Professions

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Equal Access Clinic

The Occupational Therapy Equal Access Clinic (OT EAC) is a student-run clinic serving the greater Gainesville area. The vision is to improve the well-being and quality of life of underserved community members by providing equitable, client-centered care through (re)engagement in meaningful activities. Since the new student board transition in the summer of 2021, the clinic has served 13 clients across 30 sessions addressing a range of needs from newly acquired injuries to chronic illness. We look forward to enhancing the operations of this clinic to provide continued high-quality care via telehealth and on-site services within the Gainesville community.



*Top from left to right: Soriah Milorin, Avery Ferguson, Leah Knight
Middle from left to right: Melinda Shaw, Kayla Ramos, Lindsey Berkowitz
Bottom from left to right: Cara Steinberg, Ana Ghislandi, Olivia Morand*



UFOT Attends FOTA21

Occupational therapists and students across Florida (as well as a few other states) attended the virtual Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA) conference on 13-14 November, 2021. UF had 37 students in various groups present posters and 5 faculty members present short courses or research posters. The team of Michelle Waldman, Anushka Pandya, Emily Duenas, Sharon Medina along with Dr. Consuelo Kreider won an honorable mention award for having the most visually engaging poster. The title of the poster was “Strategies for meeting holistic needs of university students with learning disabilities and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder”. Congratulations to Dr. Kreider and her team!

Welcome New UFOT Faculty Members

Dr. Hongwu Wang

Dr. Hongwu Wang is joining the Department of Occupational Therapy in January 2022 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Wang joins us from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. and received his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science and Technology with a specialization in Rehabilitation Robotics from the University of Pittsburgh. The common threads running through his research are his interests in wearable technology and mHealth, data-driven health technologies and assessment, assistive technology, rehabilitation robotics, and technology transfer. Currently, he is developing and evaluating wearable focal vibration therapy for precision rehabilitation for patients with neurological disorders, diabetes, and cancer survivors.



Dr. Stephanie Bodison

The OT Department welcomes Dr. Stefanie Bodison, OTD, OTR/L as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Bodison’s research program uses multimodal neuroimaging methods to investigate the neural correlates of sensory processing as a foundation for the development of sensorimotor and social-emotional skills in neurotypically developing children and those with neurodevelopmental disorders. Her work is funded by the Department of Defense, NIH National Institute on Health

(Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism), and the Southern California Clinical Translational Science Institute. Dr. Bodison will supervise OTD Capstone students, mentor Ph.D. students, and develop and teach courses consistent with her scholarly work.



Beth Gibson, OTR/L, CDRS

Beth Gibson, OTR/L, CDRS joined the faculty of the OT Department in October as a clinical lecturer and manager of the SmartDriver Rehab program. She will be an instructor in the Post-Graduate Certificate in Driver Rehabilitation Therapy program, launching in the Summer 2022. Ms. Gibson has worked in the field of driver rehabilitation for over 25 years in the Atlanta area. She served drivers from age 15 – 90+ and brings expertise in adaptive driving equipment, using low to high-tech driving controls and outfitting clients in tech appropriate vehicles. She is excited to help expand the field of driver rehab, participate in driving related research and continue to build the SmartDriver Rehab program.



Two UFOT Staff Positions Available

OPS Administrative Support Assistant

The Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida, is seeking an OPS Administrative Support Assistant to support the Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy and assist with our UF SmartDriver Rehab Program. This is a highly professional position requiring daily contact with the public, faculty, staff, university community and governmental agencies.

[Learn More](#)

Academic Assistant II

Students engaging in clinical experiences work through this person to be sure their academic, health immunization records, and clinical placement requirements are complete. This person serves as the main point of contact for clinical affiliates and acts as a liaison for clinical issues within the department. Additionally, this role supports the Academic Fieldwork and Capstone Coordinators in data organization and analysis related to clinical education and its' initiatives. In conjunction with the Academic Fieldwork and Capstone Coordinators and the Dean's Office, this individual manages all clinical affiliation contracts. Finally, this position assists with the daily operations of the OTD program including coordination and data entry into a continuing education tracking system; and other projects as assigned (e.g. administrative support and coordination related to special events, conferences, and colloquia, and continuing education).

[Learn More](#)

Become a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist

Now Accepting Summer 2022 Applications



Driving is the primary means of transportation in the United States and is a vital link to community integration and societal participation. Populations across the lifespan require driving evaluations and interventions. These include:

- The 61 million people with **disabilities** require special vehicle fittings, vehicle prescriptions, and/or community mobility training to fulfill their roles
- The 40 million **older adults** with cognitive, visual, motor, and other sensory impairments that impact their fitness to drive abilities
- The 2 million people living with **Parkinson's disease** who want to continue to drive or stay engaged in their communities
- The 2.5 million post 9/11 **military veterans** that have served our nation—many of them being at risk for crashes, driving citations and/or violations upon return to civilian life.
- The 2.4 million young adults with **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder** who need to be independent with personal and/or community mobility
- The 1.5 million young individuals with **autism** who is concerned if they can learn to drive.

Why enroll in UF OT's Post-Professional Driver Rehab Therapy (DRT) Program?

- UF is ranked 5th among all public universities in the USA and is known for its premier educational programs.
- UFOT is ranked 4th among public university-based occupational therapy programs in the USA, with demonstrated excellence in academic, research, and service programs.
- UFOT is the only department in the USA presenting a Driver Rehabilitation Therapy Program for professionals, with expert faculty in clinical driver rehab or driver rehab science.

As a student you will:

- Be able to provide evidence-based assessments and interventions for populations across the lifespan.
- Be exposed to a leading-edge driver rehabilitation facility with state-of-the-art equipment.
- Be trained to work in diverse practice settings including inpatient, outpatient, or private practice.
- Be prepared to receive credit towards sitting for the certification examination as a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS).
- Complete the DRT program in as little as three semesters (Summer, Fall, and Spring)
- Complete five courses (14 credits), including:
 - Three online courses
 - One supervised and mentored course to enhance your competencies in the DRT field
 - One-week competency onsite training at the University of Florida's SmartDriver facility.
- Choose to complete the entire DRT program or register for individual DRT modules.

Attend our Upcoming Webinars for More Information

- **December 8, 2021:** 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
- **January 12, 2022:** 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
- **March 16, 2022:** 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Sign up for a Webinar

Earn up to 4 CEUs
Register by December 31
for early-bird rate of \$15!



College of Public Health
and Health Professions

Occupational Therapy

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SANDRA EDWARDS COLLOQUIUM

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

**Functional Cognition in Occupational
Therapy: Assessment, Intervention
and Technology Across the Lifespan**

REGISTER NOW

Keynote Speaker:

Timothy Wolf

OTD, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA



Register Now!



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