



**College of Public Health and Health Professions
Department of Occupational Therapy**

OUR MISSION, YOUR FUTURE



There is a palpable sense of enthusiasm and excitement

in the [Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Florida \(UFOT\)](#). Since 1958, UFOT has furthered its mission of delivering excellence in academics, research and service.

Building upon this rich legacy, UFOT continues to utilize thought leadership to bring about transformational change. Our guiding vision is that by 2025, UFOT will be the preeminent occupational therapy research and educational entity in the nation. This goal toward preeminence is a theme that permeates the University of Florida's (UF) overarching mission of investing in people and programs that help UF help the world.

Today, UFOT is renowned for excellence in education and research. Academic programs include an entry-level [Master in Occupational Therapy](#), an entry-level [Doctor of Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#) and a [Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science](#). UFOT has active research programs in the areas of driving rehabilitation and community mobility and learning disabilities. The department is a co-leader in the NIH-funded K12 [Rehabilitation Research Career Development](#) consortium and houses the [Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation](#).

Message from the Chair

Our faculty consist of world-recognized researchers and academicians who are expanding UFOT's mission beyond our traditional boundaries. Our excellence is demonstrated through faculty members who are inducted into the [American Occupational Therapy Foundation's Academy of Research](#) and to the Roster of Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Additionally, the Editor-in-Chief of our profession's distinguished research journal, [OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health](#), resides at UFOT.

As we look to the future, we are moving towards preeminence by strengthening and enlarging UFOT through strategic faculty hires, increasing our research and scientific portfolio and expanding our current academic programs with a particular emphasis on a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy and new online education programs.

This is one of the most dynamic periods in UFOT history. If you are interested in joining a program with a record of excellence and a clear vision for the future, UFOT is for you.



SHERRILENE CLASSEN, Ph.D., MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, FGSA
Chair and Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy
Director, Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation
Editor, OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health



UF | Preeminence

INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
THAT HELP UF HELP THE WORLD

LEARN MORE

UFOT is situated in a hub of research and educational activity

that provides a wealth of interdisciplinary collaborative opportunities. The department is located at UF Health, the nation's only academic health center with six health-related colleges located on a single, contiguous campus. Not only is UFOT situated in a multidisciplinary academic center, but it is adjacent to two outstanding medical centers that provide excellent health care and a commitment to research and medical education.

UF Health is the Southeast's most comprehensive academic health center and encompasses two hospital systems, more than 100 physician practices, six health-related colleges, nine research institutes and centers, and a variety of programs and services providing care to 67 Florida counties.

The Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center, a tertiary care and active teaching hospital, is located adjacent to the University of Florida medical complex. Its long affiliation with UF provides collaborations that enhance our clinical, research and education missions.

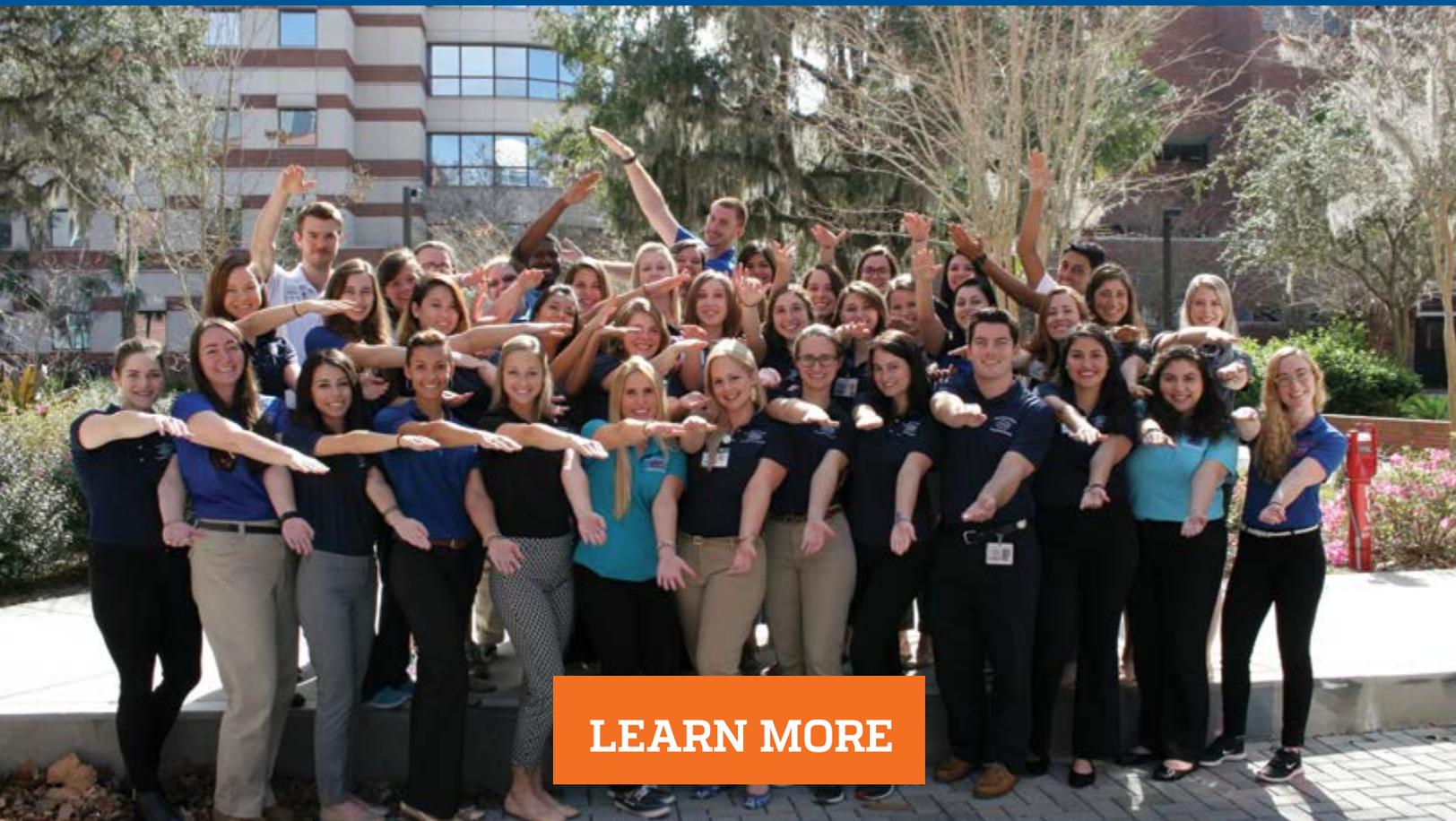
Why UFOT?

- **Graduate program is ranked third** among public Association of American Universities by U.S. News & World Report and is overall ranked among the top 17 occupational therapy departments in the country
- **Co-leader in the NIH-funded K12** Rehabilitation Research Career Development consortium, with support for early career investigators
- **Home of two institutes:** Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation and the Florida Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation
- **Opportunities to collaborate** with a rich community of national and international researchers in rehabilitation and related fields
- **Professional development opportunities** for occupational therapy practitioners and others, via online education programs
- **Annual Sandra Edwards Colloquium** with opportunities to strengthen the clinician-scientist model
- **UFOT alumni hold leadership positions** in state and national professional and clinical organizations

**Luther King, DrOT,
OTR/L, CDI, CDRS**
Clinical Assistant Professor



“The preeminence initiative is propelling UFOT forward with unprecedented research support and faculty resources. My goals as a clinician-scientist are well within reach.”



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The University of Florida is one of the top 10 public research universities in the country

and is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. Over the past decade, the University of Florida has moved into the top tier of research universities by providing world-class faculty across 16 colleges with the resources they need to produce groundbreaking research. UF's preeminence initiative dovetails with UFOT's mission to be the preeminent OT research entity by 2025.

UFOT is housed in the [College of Public Health and Health Professions](#), providing an enriched environment for research collaborations. In NIH awards, we are 7th in the nation among the 60 accredited schools of public health at public universities and UFOT's research funding is among the top in the United States.

During this time of dynamic growth and innovation, UFOT offers unparalleled support for faculty. New faculty will join one of the top OT programs in the country and be a part of an academic community that is committed to excellence in research and faculty development and will work on the greatest challenges faced by our nation and the world.

UFOT Research



Sergio Romero, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor

"UFOT is taking on humanity's toughest challenges and working collaboratively across disciplines to create breakthrough solutions."

UFOT is nationally and internationally renowned

for its research in [Driving Rehabilitation](#) and has a variety of projects, programs and scholarly activities, including:

- Positive transition and self-management for young adults with neurodevelopmental learning disorders
- Continuing competence in occupational therapy
- Patient outcomes measurement
- Use of grip strength as a biomarker of preclinical conditions
- Tobacco cessation and health promotion for people with disabilities
- Participation in activities for teens with developmental disabilities
- Auditory hyper-reactivity in autism spectrum disorder
- Health promoting strategies for caregivers and caregiving
- Aging in place and community participation
- Cancer care across the continuum for minority populations
- Tele-rehabilitation

These projects have been funded by the following organizations:

- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation
- National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Department of Defense
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Other funders include a variety of centers, foundations and private industries

Publications

UFOT faculty are well-published and showcase expertise and interdisciplinary scholarship. A recent addition to UFOT's publications is the newly published core textbook for driving rehabilitation professionals, [Driving Simulation for Assessment, Intervention and Training: A Guide for Occupational Therapy and Health Care Professionals](#).

LEARN MORE

UFOT is nationally renowned for its excellent programs in occupational therapy education.

The department has outstanding academic and training programs that include an entry-level [Master in Occupational Therapy \(MOT\)](#), an entry-level [Doctor of Occupational Therapy \(OTD\)](#) and an interdisciplinary [Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science](#).

Other educational programs include: predoctoral training at the [Clinical and Translational Science Institute](#), the [Rehabilitation Research Career Development Program](#), which educates and trains future rehabilitation scientists, and various online continuing education programs.

UFOT Academics

- **Graduate program is ranked third** among public Association of American Universities by U.S. News & World Report
- **Top 17 occupational therapy departments** in the country
- **A rich history**, with seminal leaders Dr. Alice Jantzen, Dr. Lela Llorens, Dr. Kay Walker and Dr. William Mann as our past chairs
- **Presents rigorous pedagogical programs**, informed by best evidence and best practices, from the undergraduate to doctoral level
- **Attracts the best and the brightest students** (more than 300 applicants for 45 spots in 2017)
- **Alumni leaders** in local and national occupational therapy leadership positions
- **Provides lifelong learning opportunities** via its online education program and the annual Sandra Edwards Colloquium
- **Averages 100%** scores on the NBCOT exam

Orit Shechtman, Ph.D., OTR/L

Associate Professor

- *1997 University of Florida Teacher of the Year*
- *2005 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Occupational Therapy Education*
- *2006 College of Public Health and Health Professions Teacher of the Year*
- *2005-2006 Most Outstanding Faculty Member*
- *2016 College of Public Health and Health Professions Teacher of the Year*



“Touching the lives of students and preparing them for their careers is very fulfilling. It touches my heart and makes it all worth it.”



[LEARN MORE](#)

UFOT faculty have the support to fulfill their goals.

UFOT faculty have access to a remarkable array of resources, support systems and collaborators to facilitate their work.

The academic health center is home to the [Clinical and Translational Science Institute \(CTSI\)](#). This institute was founded in 2008 to speed the translation of scientific discoveries into improved health by strengthening the university's ability to conduct clinical and translational research.

CTSI offers faculty regulatory knowledge and research support, which includes research project navigation services plus consultations and services for ethics, IRB, compliance, ClinicalTrials.gov, quality assurance and regulatory guidance.

Faculty Resources

Research Administration and Oversight – Five key offices oversee the protection of research subjects and the administration of research funding, contracts and policies at UF.

Research Resources and Support – Research support is offered by numerous offices and programs working across and within the colleges. Resources include research services, participant recruitment resources and core laboratories and shared facilities.

Funding Opportunities – A strategic portfolio of campus-wide intramural funding opportunities helps UFOT researchers increase their competitiveness for public and private grant dollars. Individual colleges and departments also offer support for faculty members.

Collaboration Opportunities – Opportunities for research collaborations abound at UF, which is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes.

Technology Licensing and Entrepreneurship – With a long history of transforming scientific breakthroughs into useful new products, UF actively promotes the transfer of the university's intellectual property to the marketplace.

A portrait of Consuelo Kreider, a woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a light green V-neck sweater. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green plants and trees.

**Consuelo Kreider,
Ph.D., OTR/L**
Research Assistant Professor

“As a faculty member, the help you receive on a day-to-day basis can make or break you. The tremendous support and resources available at UFOT helps me be a more effective academician.”



Our Mission, Your Future

At UF, we have some of the top faculty in the country. In addition to attracting a record \$791 million in research awards last fiscal year, our faculty continue to foster the uniquely collaborative environment that transforms potential into results.

Join the Gator Nation

UF By The Numbers

- **#1** – Times Higher Education ranked UF No. 1 for graduate employability for 2016
- **2** – Two Pulitzer Prize winning faculty members call UF home
- **5K** – UF has nearly 5,000 faculty members, the vast majority of whom have distinguished teaching and research careers
- **#6** – In production of doctoral degrees
- **#9** – U.S. News & World Report ranked UF No. 9 among public universities for 2018
- **\$12.56B** – Through its research and other activities, UF contributed more than \$12.56 billion to Florida's economy in fiscal year 2014-15
- **33** – UF is the only program to finish among the nation's top 10 in each of the last 33 national All-Sports standings
- **36** – National championship teams
- **43** – UF has 43 faculty elections to the National Academy of the Sciences, the Institute of Medicine or the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- **\$791M** – Research awards received by UF in 2016

Christine Myers, Ph.D., OTR/L

Clinical Associate Professor

- 2017 – Present MOT/OTD Program Director, UFOT
- 2015-2017 Research Assistant Professor, UFOT
- 2000 Master of Health Science, UFOT
- 1995 Bachelor of Health Science, UFOT



“When I’m traveling and wearing my Gator gear, I often hear, ‘Go Gators!’ from complete strangers. It’s in those moments I am reminded that I am part of something that spans the globe. I am part of the Gator Nation.”



Gainesville is a crossroads

where nature and culture, down-home roots and international diversity, affordable living and personal enrichment, all intersect in the heart of north central Florida.

Gainesville... It's a Lifestyle!



- It's a habitat where you can **explore the great outdoors** at a bevy of hiking trails, parks, lakes, rivers and springs.
- It's an incubator where you can **stimulate your mind and imagination** at local museums, theaters, art galleries and music venues.
- It's a smörgåsbord where you can sate your appetite at a wide variety of restaurants featuring **worldwide and world-class cuisines**.
- And it's an arena where you can **cheer on the hometown team** or get in the action at any number of athletic and recreational facilities.
- To discover just what Gainesville has to offer, check out visitgainesville.com.



#5

Top College Destinations 2017

American Institute for Economic Research

#29

Fifty Best Bike Cities

Bicycling Magazine

#15

Best Cities for Entrepreneurs 2017

Livability.com



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