



Columbia University

MOTivator

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Fall 2018

Janet Falk-Kessler Retires as Program Director

Janet Falk-Kessler, EdD, OTR, FAOTA retired as the program director of the Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy in August. Janet has been a pillar of our department, joining our full time faculty in 1985 and serving as Program Director since 2001. Her professional accomplishments are too numerous to list, but include:

- Developing the joint MS/MPH program, the first of its kind.
- Serving as a champion to maintain our programs' commitment to mental health
- Shepherding the post-professional OTD through the University administration and the New York State Department of Education, resulting in Columbia being the first NY state program to offer this degree.
- Securing dedicated OT lab space in the Learning Center.
- Developing our Programs' electives program.



Her honors include induction into Kappa Delta Pi, the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows for "outstanding contributions to mental health education", serving on multiple editorial boards, and the NY State Board of Occupational Therapy.

On behalf of the dozens of faculty members and thousands of students she has mentored, we wish her the best during her retirement.

Glen Gillen Announced as New Program Director



Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA has taken over as the newest Program Director of the Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy.

Glen received his undergraduate and masters degrees from NYU and later obtained an EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University. He has been a part of the NYP and Columbia community since joining the staff of the hospital in 1990 and has been on the OT faculty since 1993. Most recently, he has served as a full Professor at Columbia and as the Associate Program Director for OT.

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Letter From the Director

Dear Columbia OT Family,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to reach out to you as the newly minted Program Director. As many of you know we had a bittersweet farewell reception for Dr. Janet Falk-Kessler this past summer. Janet was surrounded by friends, family, colleagues, and most importantly by her adorable granddaughter, Violet. We all wish Janet well as she embraces her new occupational roles of grandmother, golfer, and world traveler.

Speaking of goodbyes, we also said farewell to Dr. Emily Raphael-Greenfield as she retired from her role as a full time faculty member. The program honored her by naming the mental health award for Emily and the first award will be given out at commencement next year. Lucky for us and our students, Emily will continue to teach Group Dynamics.

The summer was a time of big changes for our programs. We welcomed Dr. Pat Precin to our faculty. She continues to amaze us with her seamless transition and positive energy. Pat will be taking on many of the courses that were previously taught by Emily.

This summer our programs moved to a new home. After over two decades in the Neurological Institute we moved to a newly renovated floor in the Georgian Building also on West 168th Street. Please stop by to visit and tour.

We welcomed 55 new students to our program this September in addition to several new Post-Professional OTD students. The students hail from all over the country and they are an energized group!

Last but not least, our world class faculty continues to be exceptionally productive on top of their teaching loads. Their names are well represented in conference brochures, on presentations, on journal articles, on abstracts, on and in textbooks, on awards, and in reference lists.

All said and done, I am a lucky person to inherit such a stellar program.

Cheers!



Glen Gillen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA

Professor and Director, Programs in Occupational Therapy

Vice Chair, Dept. of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine



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Glen Gillen Announced as Program Director, continued

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Glen has been highly accomplished as an academician within the field. He has authored 30 original publications and more than 100 publications in total, including serving as the editor of the definitive textbook on stroke rehabilitation for Occupational Therapists, now in its fourth edition, and as co-editor of Willard and Spackman. He has received numerous awards and invited lectureships, including the keynote Eleanor Clarke Slagle lecture at the national meeting of the American Occupational Therapy Association. He is widely acknowledged as a leader in the field of occupational therapy nationally and internationally.

In addition to his role as Program Director, he will serve as a Vice-Chair in the Columbia Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine and will also serve as an Assistant Dean in the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Emily Raphael-Greenfield Retires from Program

Emily Raphael-Greenfield, EdD, OTR, FAOTA, has semi-retired from the Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy. She will continue to teach Group Dynamics. OT and PT faculty, staff, and alumni gathered for a luncheon sendoff earlier this summer.

Emily graduated from the Columbia Programs in Occupational Therapy in 1986, after initially earning a Masters degree in Anthropology. She later received her EdD from Teachers College.

She created an outstanding Mental Health curriculum in our program and is dedicated to providing services to the homeless population, especially at the Fort Washington Men's Shelter. She and Sharon Gutman created the SMART program, a multi-modal, interactive skill-building program targeting living skills necessary for the transition from the shelter to apartment living.

Two of her classmates from CUOT, Julie Kern and Diane Schreiber, were in attendance at the luncheon.

The Programs have renamed the Mental Health award in her honor. The first award will be given to a student in the class of 2019.



SpOTlight on Faculty

Pat Precin Joins Columbia OT Faculty



Pat Precin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA has joined the faculty of the Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy. She will be overseeing the mental health curriculum. Pat came to Columbia from Touro College. She has also taught at NYIT and served as an adjunct at many other area universities.

She has created several innovative OT programs, including housing programs for the homeless and welfare to work programs for those with behavioral and physical challenges.

She is the author of several books and numerous publications, as well as being a licensed psychoanalyst.

In her free time, Pat is a cave diver and plays the flute. She lives with her spouse, her dog Freud, and her cat Lincoln.

We are happy to welcome her to the OT programs!

Other Program News

- The Programs' offices relocated to the Georgian Building in July. Stay tuned for photos of the new space!
- **Sharon Gutman** has been named Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Occupational Therapy as of November 1st.
- **Daniel Geller** received his EdD and was promoted to Assistant Professor.
- **Phyllis Simon, Daniel Geller, Pat Precin, and Katherine Dimitropoulou** presented at 2018 NYP Research Day, an interprofessional event that brings together the rehab departments across NYP hospitals.
- **Katherine Dimitropoulou** will be collaborating with Dr. Gottlieb at the Columbia Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. She will be designing and conducting studies at Dr. Gottlieb's psychophysics lab using state of the art eye tracking technology to study mechanisms of anticipatory control of action in children with neurodevelopmental disorders (cerebral palsy) and typically developing peers.
- **Lenin Grajo** gave the keynote speech at the Coalition for OT Advocates for Diversity Annual Breakfast at the AOTA conference. He spoke on "Promoting Diversity, Equality, and Social Justice: A Collective Responsibility".

SpOTlight on Faculty

Recent Faculty Publications

Books

- **Gutman, S.A.** & Schonfeld, A.B. (in press). *Screening adult neurologic populations: A step-by-step instruction manual* (3rd ed.). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association Press
- **Grajo, L.** & Boisselle, A. (Eds.) (2019). *Adaptation through occupation: Multidimensional perspectives*. Thorofare, NJ: SLACK, Inc.

Selected Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Abruzzese, L. & **Simon, P.** (2018). Special concerns for the LGBT aging patient: What rehab professionals should know. *Current Geriatric Report*, 7(26).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13670-018-0232-6>
- Boisselle, A. & **Grajo, L.C.** (2018). They said: A global perspective on access to assistive technology. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 6(3).
<https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1541>
- **Gillen, G.** (2018). Cerebrovascular accident/stroke. In W. Schultz-Krohn & H. Pendleton (Eds.). *Pedretti's occupational therapy: Practice skills for physical dysfunction* (8th ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier Science/Mosby.
- **Grajo, L.**, Candler, C., Bowyer, P., Schultz, S., & Thomson, J. (2018). The clinical and classroom utility of the Inventory of Reading Occupations: An assessment tool of children's reading participation. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 6(2). Available online here: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/ojot/vol6/iss1/2/>
- **Gutman, S.A.** & **Falk-Kessler, J.** (2018). Reliability and convergent validity of the Emotional Intelligence Admission Essay Scale Revised. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 81(9), 543-550.
- **Gutman, S.A.**, **Falk-Kessler, J.**, **Sarafian, A.J.**, & Barbour, P. (2018). Emotional Intelligence Admission Essay Scale: Comparison between essay and interview formats. *Annals of International Occupational Therapy*.
<https://doi.org/10.3928/24761222-20180417-02>
- **Gutman, S.A.**, Amarantos, K., Berg, J., Aponte, M., Gordillo, D., Peery, A....Schluger, Z. (2018). Home safety fall and accident risk in the prematurely aging, formerly homeless. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72, <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2018.028050>
- Hreha, K., **Gillen, G.**, Noce, N., & **Nilsen, D.** (2018). The feasibility and effectiveness of using prism adaptation to treat motor and spatial dysfunction in stroke survivors with multiple incidents of stroke. *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation*.
- **Precin, P.**, Koenig, V.E., Chiarello, E. Masotti, G.K., Diamond, B.N., Lashinsky, D.B., & Tierno, O. (2018). SPOTS: A model for the creation of sustainable, population-based, occupational therapy fieldwork sites. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 32, 44-58.

For a full list of faculty publications, see our website

2018 AOTA Conference Presentations

Institute: Practical Applications of Evidenced-Based Motor Control Interventions to Improve Occupational Performance Glen Gilen & Dawn M. Nilsen
Poster: Guided Goal Attainment with Homeless Individuals with Mental Illness Using Creative Therapeutic Groups <i>Lauren Winterbottom, Lee Ann Westover, Emily Raphael-Greenfield</i>
Poster: Strengthening OT Roles in Communities: Program Development, Grant-Writing, and Collaborations in Community Based Practice with Older Adults Lenin Grajo, Phyllis Simon , Clarice Miller*, Anna Peery*, Tamara Wills*, Margo Stoner*, Michelle Hogan*, Ivy Vega*, Melissa Aponte*, Ji Jeong*, Stephanie Aaron*
Session: Systematic Review of Occupational Therapy for Children and Youth (Age 5-21) Lenin Grajo, Amanda Sarafian , et al.
Workshop: Beyond Handwriting: Advocating for the Role of OT in Literacy Development Lenin Grajo , et al.
Poster: Insight and Self Awareness in Stroke Rehabilitation: Process Reflections on Developing a Theory- Guided Approach <i>Danielle Mahoney</i> and Lenin Grajo
Poster: A Pilot Study of Caregiver Health: An Opportunity for Injury Prevention Among Caregivers of Children with Medical Complexity <i>Michaela Fraser, Ellen Shaw, Patricia Hametz, Sharon Gutman</i>
AOTA Town Hall: Choosing Wisely Glen Gillen
Poster: Home Mirror Therapy: A Randomized Control Study Comparing Two Mirror Therapy Approaches for Adults Post Stroke Daniel Geller, Dawn Nilsen, Glen Gillen , et al.
Session: Adaptive Motor Decisions in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy Katherine Dimitropoulou
Poster: Chair Yoga for Cerebral Palsy and Hemispherectomy: An Applied Research Study Genni Hester*, Katherine Dimitropoulou , et al.

Faculty; *MS student and/or recent graduate, OTD student, *alumni*

2018 Commencement Awards

The following members of the class of 2018 were recognized at graduation for their outstanding work:

The Joan Bozuwa Memorial Award for Scholarship, Leadership, Creativity, and Integrity: Genni Hester

The Steven Katz Award for Clinical Excellence: Christina Dumas

Achievement Award for Excellence in Mental Health: Amanda Tedino

Patricia A. Miller Achievement Award for Excellence in Gerontology: Hannah Swirnow

The G. Gordon Williamson Achievement Award for Excellence in Pediatrics: Brittany Manning

The Marguerite Abbott Memorial Award for Physical Disabilities: Ann Bauer-Levey

Robert Evander Achievement Award for Excellence in Science: Samantha Wolff

The Barbara E. Neuhaus Award for Excellence in Research: Sheetala Balasubramanian, Maya Herzog, Elizabeth Kim, Yudis Retig, Hannah Swirnow, Samantha Wolff

Other awards given to members of the OT and broader community who support our work include:

2018 Supervisor of the Year: Alexander Lopez, OTR, Inclusive Sports and Fitness

2018 Distinguished Alumni: Emily Raphael-Greenfield, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

2018 Friend of OT: Kimberlee Baltich, Pibly Residential Programs



SpOTlight on Students

Students Present at 36th Annual Research Day

Masters students presented their research at the 36th Annual Research Day on May 10th. All students in the programs participate in a research sequence.

Sheetala Balasubramanian, Maya Herzog, Elizabeth Kim, Hannah Swirnow, Yudis Retig, and Samantha Wolff presented on the Effectiveness of a Tailored Occupational Therapy Intervention for Women with ADHD: A Randomized Controlled Study. Their research earned them the 2018 Newhouse Research award at graduation.



Sara Barnett, Lauren Fischman, Jamie Halpern, Genni Hester, Colleen Kerrisk, Travis McLaughlin, Ezgi Ozel, and Haisu Wang presented on Pilot Effectiveness of a Stress Management Program for Sheltered Homeless Adults with Mental Illness: A Two Group Controlled Study.

Genni Hester presented her research on Yoga for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Hemispherectomy.

Amber Carmiencke, Derek Douglas, Lauren Freudman, Maria Huerta, Matt McCaa, Sam Miller, Alisha Sherpa, and Miles Viant presented on their pilot study Assessing Environmental Safety Modifications in the Chronically Ill Sheltered Homeless.

Students also presented the following posters:

Comparing Dosage of Mirror Therapy Interventions in Patients with Upper Extremity Hemiparesis Post-Stroke: A Three Group Randomized Control Trial by Lauren Bellante, Kathleen Chu, Carolyn Gillen, and Alison Tanner

Can Communities of Practice be an Effective Mechanism of Translating Clinical Research and Knowledge in Occupational Therapy? A Scoping Study of Literature by Sarah Chefitz, Kristin Decker, Alyssa Lipari, Brittany Manning, Amanda Rubin, and Amanda Tedino

Establishing Psychometric Properties of the Dream Home Assessment by Staley Alexander, Alexandra Alvarez, Caitlin Malloy, and Leah Potter

Determining the Measurement Properties of the Inventory of Reading Occupations – Adult Version by Margaret Boelter, Karlie Dehn, June Ilowite, Rachel Lindenauer, Brittany Mascaro, and Jaime Summers

Errors and Movement Awareness in Ambulatory Children with CP by Ann Bauer-Levey, Rebecca McGuirk, and Anthony Rodin

Effectiveness of a Motor Learning Treatment Protocol in Improving Reaching Ability and Motor Planning in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy by Maribel Castillo, Danielle Conklin, Kelly Higgins, and Jaimie Towey

Motor Planning Abilities in Whole Body Activities in Children with ASD by Samantha Boldt, Christina Dumas, Erica Halpern, and Elana Monahemi

Wearable Sensors for Assessment of Upper Limb Function by Robert Sok

SpOTlight on Students

Profiles of OTD Students



Leslie Kane

Affiliation: New York Presbyterian/CUIMC

OTD Goals: Learn more about the habits and routines of individuals with SCI in the community in NYC and develop an assessment tool for assessing readiness for behavioral health change in this group.

Stephanie Hui

Affiliation: International Academy of Hope (iHope)

OTD Goals: To create an assessment or intervention that evaluates functional cognition in children with complex needs through the use of assistive technology.



Danielle Alonzi

Affiliation: Kennedy Children's Center

OTD Goals: To assess the school readiness of preschool children with autism and developmental disabilities as they transition to kindergarten.

Phyllis Simon

Affiliation: Columbia University Programs in Occupational Therapy

OTD Goals: Identify the unique needs of the LGBT older adult population and establish and promote the role of OT in formal clinical settings, home based, and community practice.



Scott Rushanan

Affiliation: University of Pennsylvania Health System

OTD Goals: Improve my knowledge and clinical skills regarding occupational therapy assessments and interventions for patients with cognitive impairments.

For profiles of all of our current OTD students, visit our website.

SpOTlight on Students

Literacy Drive for Puerto Rico

The class of 2018 held a literacy drive for Puerto Rico in the aftermath of hurricane Maria. Brittany Manning and Alyssa Lipari organized the drive and reached out to students, faculty, friends, and alumni for donations. They collected enough to make 14 kits of literacy materials and toys for children and teachers. Professor Danielle Butin, who directs The AFYA Foundation, helped transport the materials to Puerto Rico.



Students, Faculty, and Alumni Participate in NAMI Walk



Professor Emily Raphael and current and former CUOT students joined the 12th Annual NAMI NYC Walk to raise awareness and money for mental health research and programs. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, hosts fundraising walks around the country to raise money and provide a show of support to those living with mental illness.

SpOTlight on Students

Columbia OT Student Completes Fieldwork at AOTA

Clarice Miller from the Class of 2017 completed her 3rd optional fieldwork last fall with the American Occupational Therapy Association. She wrote a reflection on her time at AOTA and its impact on her future plans:

My experience at AOTA has been amazing. Everyone is welcoming and I'm an active member of our team. I primarily work with our Federal Affairs Team and occasionally collaborate with our Regulatory and State Affairs Team. My typical week involves attending and reporting on Congressional Hearings on the Hill, attending meetings with Congressional Staff with AOTA lobbyists, and meeting Congressmen and women who are supportive of occupational therapy. Additionally, I participated in numerous other educational opportunities such as attending the Learning and Action Network (LAN) Summit on payment reform, meeting with AOTA employees and AOTA Board Members, attending coalition meetings, attending events about the Opioid Crisis and Center for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) payment reform, and various other projects. It has been a "choose your own adventure" type of fieldwork and I chose to focus on issues primarily affecting Medicaid and Medicare.

It has been wonderful to see all the work that AOTA does to support occupational therapy practitioners and the care and research that goes into the materials AOTA produces. I have learned so much about how federal legislation is developed and how AOTA works with other organizations and Congressional Committees and staff to negotiate the content of a bill to best support occupational therapy practitioners and their clients. A majority of our meetings involved negotiating a solution to the therapy cap and advocating for our home health bill which will permit occupational therapists to open home health cases.

For my personal projects, I follow health news closely and look for anything that may impact our profession. One of my main projects has been to thoroughly research Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and assess the role of occupational therapy in those payment models. I will produce a report of my findings and identify how occupational therapy practitioners can meet the goals of an ACO and where there is potential for emerging areas of practice. Additionally, I researched and reported on the new HHS and CMS rule about the HCAHPS pain management survey questions and wrote a blog post on OT Connections about my personal journey to become more politically engaged.

Moving forward, I plan to enter the field as a practitioner while continuing to advocate for occupational therapy at both the state and federal level. I will pursue opportunities to work on my state senator's campaign, work with my state association on legislative goals, and continue to seek opportunities to work with AOTA. After this fieldwork, I have a better appreciation of AOTA and have a better understanding of what it means to be an occupational therapy practitioner. I feel more confident in my ability to define occupational therapy and communicate why it is vital that our services continue to be valued and supported by payment reform and value-based care incentives. My exact path and what future degrees I will pursue is unclear, but I know that advocating for the inclusion and advancement of occupational therapy in the changing healthcare structure is my main goal, no matter the job title.

Columbia OT Student Attends Hill Day

Second year student Krysti Teng attended AOTA Hill Day earlier this month and had the following to say about her experience:

I was a bit nervous attending, but I believe AOTA provided the just right amount of homework and support for me to feel confident to speak in my two Senate staffer meetings. I've been sharing about the positive experience with my classmates and how important our work is impacted on the policy level -- we can't be the best clinicians for our clients if there are policy (more importantly insurance) barriers in the way!

We met with Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Sen. Kamala Harris's offices. We had the president of Advocacy and Government Affairs (AGOT) within Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC), Sabrena McCarley, in our group so she led our AOTA agenda. We had the opportunity to share relevant stories to the measures we were advocating for, so I was able to share experiences in how the lack of IDEA funding has prevented me, particularly in making referrals for related special services like OT, as a special education teacher in South Louisiana.

It was wonderful to learn how much policy can impact the future work I will be contributing to the OT world in a year! It was also great to share the experience with OT students and clinicians from all over the nation!



Alumni News

- Recent graduate **Clarice Miller** was appointed to the Advocacy & Policy Coordinator position for the Home & Community Health Special Interest Section Standing Committee at AOTA.
- **Gretchen Ward** is the Advocacy & Policy Coordinator for the Children and Youth Special Interest Section standing committee for AOTA.

Alumni News?

Send it to Eileen at el2777@cumc.columbia.edu and we will include it in our next newsletter!

Support Columbia OT



Alumni donations help support the following areas:

Scholarships. Last year, students were given 12 awards from general gifts and 4 awards from alumni endowed gifts.

Student support

The new OT multipurpose lab. Our new lab is open and being used by students.

Education enhancement.

Software for classroom instruction

Future donations can support:

Scholarships. 80% of our students rely on Financial Aid.

Any area of practice. Future gifts can be directed to support individuals who are interested in a specific area of practice.

International Program Stipends

Prep Courses for the NBCOT exam

Updated admissions technology

Any support that alumni and friends of Columbia OT can provide will help enhance our student's experience.

How to Give

<https://www.givenow.columbia.edu>

Search for Occupational Therapy for donation options.

By mail to:

CUMC Office of Development
516 West 168th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10032

If you are interested in annual giving or major gifts, please contact Glen Gillen.

Stay Connected to the Programs



Website, including information about our doctoral programs, an alumni section and news updates

columbiaot.org



Official Facebook page with updates from the Programs

<https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaOT>



Alumni, Faculty, and Student Facebook group to connect with others and share resources

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/59530213112/>

Click here to join our mailing list to receive the newsletter via email and receive periodic updates about alumni events