January 2017

Dear Current and Future Colleagues,

Welcome to the Occupational Therapy Programs at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia!

Our community of learners is vibrant and our opportunities for scholarship and research are many. We encourage you to participate fully with other members of the learning community in these research and academic endeavors.

This manual is designed to help you become familiar with the faculty in the Department of Occupational Therapy, and their scholarship. It describes programs of research and scholarship in the department and illustrates the many projects that are open to student participation, and collaboration with others. Many of our faculty are leaders in their respective fields. As a student, working with our faculty will not only expose you to their work and enrich your learning, but it will also give you a chance to contribute to research and scholarship that advances the practice and teaching of occupational therapy. Students can choose to participate as part of their graduate assistantship and/or work in the laboratories as volunteers. For those of you who are matriculating in the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Programs (Occupational Therapy Doctorate or Post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate), the laboratories provide rich environments for fellowship and capstone experiences. For our current and potential collaborators, this guide is designed to provide you with information about our programs of research and scholarship in hopes that you might reach out to us for collaborative opportunities. The generation of new knowledge happens best when diverse minds come together as thought leaders!

Our programs of research are grouped into two areas: 1) research laboratories, and 2) laboratories for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). The research laboratories offer an opportunity to participate in programs of research in specific topic areas. The laboratories for the SoTL offer an opportunity to study teaching methodologies and pedagogies and to participate in research related to learning outcomes.

Please feel free to further explore faculty research and scholarship by linking to their profiles on our Web pages (see links next to faculty contact on following page). Here, you will find additional information about each member of the faculty, including active projects, and a full list of their publications. Please take advantage of this opportunity to work alongside of and learn from a group of highly talented faculty who are individually and collectively committed to education, scholarship, and research.

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Professor and Chair

and

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Mission Statement
Department of Occupational Therapy
Thomas Jefferson University
College of Health Professions

“Reimagining Health through Occupation”

The Thomas Jefferson University, Department of Occupational Therapy promotes the health and well-being of people through their participation in occupation. Our mission is accomplished by developing practitioners who are dynamically responsive to changing demands in health care, community and educational environments; engaging in service, practice, advocacy, leadership, scholarship and conducting research.
Mission
To enhance meaningful participation in daily living, educational, social, and leisure activities for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families by investigating the factors that impact participation, occupational therapy interventions that aim to foster participation, and the physical and social environmental adaptations which lead to the best outcomes.

General Laboratory Description
This laboratory investigates important issues for occupational therapy in the area of Autism. Areas of inquiry are listed below.

- Factors that Impact Participation in ASD
  - Sensory features in ASD (brain mechanisms and behavioral features)
  - Developing and applying measures of sensory features
- Evaluating Occupational Therapy Interventions for ASD to promote participation
  - Investigating the effectiveness of Ayres Sensory Integration intervention
  - Evaluating recreational activities in relation to quality of life in persons with ASD (EuREKA Project)
  - Studying the impact of Coaching in Context for College Success (C+C Project)
  - Developing and studying the impact of caregiver education programs
- Identifying Supportive Characteristics of Physical and social Environments
  - Environments to enhance quality of life in individuals with ASD
  - Impact of trauma on participation and for those living with ASD
  - Reconsidering the classroom for children with ASD through projects such as Innovative Design for Engaged Attention and Learning (IDEAL) – listed in environments lab

Example of Projects:
- Understanding sensory features in autism
- Testing Outcomes of occupational therapy using Ayres Sensory Integration in comparison to behavioral intervention to improve functional skills in children with ASD
- Neural connectivity in ASD via fMRI and DTI
- Expanding recreational engagement in kids with autism spectrum disorder (EuREKA Project)
- Coaching in context for college success (C+C Project)
- ASD: A life of quality
- Trauma and ASD

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To improve the quality of services that promote participation in home and community for families and their children who are at risk for, or who have special needs.

General Laboratory Description
We engage in research, provide evidence-based professional development programs, and implement other evidence-based activities to understand, demonstrate, establish, and disseminate best practices that enable infants, toddlers and school-aged children and their families/caretakers within the communities where they live, work, learn and grow every day. We collaborate with the interprofessional team of service providers who work to improve outcomes for children and their families and serve as the training arm for Philadelphia Early Intervention Providers. We lead an inner-city elementary school program to support children's social-emotional competence and that addresses various areas related to literacy.

At the system level, research and other activities explore the comparative effectiveness of implementation strategies designed to promote therapists’ use of evidence-based practices within typical community settings (i.e., homes, child care programs) with a goal of changing systems of care so that all children and their families receive high quality services. Lab activities emphasize family-centered practices where services are provided using family partnerships so that issues that are important to families are identified, examined and addressed through Lab activities.

Examples of Projects:
- Identify and review types of caregiver teaching strategies used by early intervention providers during home visits
- Examine/describe the use of environmental versus instructional versus combined intervention strategies during early intervention home visits and when children’s services are provided in child care or other preschool settings
- Identify caregivers’ reports of use and effectiveness of assistive technology with children with physical disabilities
- Analyze verbal interactions among therapists, caregivers, children with autism in racially matched or mismatched pairs
- Work in child care settings to support participation of children with disabilities

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To improve the lives of older adults and caregivers through knowledge translation and best practices grounded in evidence and real-world experience.

General Laboratory Description
Researchers, educators, and practitioners of Jefferson Elder Care collaborate with community partners and professional organizations to deliver clinical services, training, and consultation, and engage in scholarship and research activities that optimize performance and participation of people as they age and build skills of caregivers.

Example of Projects:
- **Service Delivery**
  - Home-based Dementia Services for Elders and their Caregivers and Family Caregiver Workshops, programs supported by the Pew Charitable Trust
  - Family Caregiver Workshop Series for those caring for someone with dementia, program supported by the Hassel Foundation
- **Training**
  - Certification training in Skills2Care® for occupational therapists, an evidence-based program for caregivers of people with dementia [http://www.jefferson.edu/content/dam/university/health-professions/elderCare/JCHP-Skills2Care-Brochure.pdf](http://www.jefferson.edu/content/dam/university/health-professions/elderCare/JCHP-Skills2Care-Brochure.pdf)
  - Best Practice in Dementia training program for staff working with people with dementia. [http://www.jefferson.edu/content/dam/university/health-professions/elderCare/16-1134%20Dementia%20Care%20brochure%20Final_4-16.pdf](http://www.jefferson.edu/content/dam/university/health-professions/elderCare/16-1134%20Dementia%20Care%20brochure%20Final_4-16.pdf)
- **Consultation**
  - Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care collaboration to develop residency experience for entry-level occupational therapy doctoral students [https://www.pchc.org/](https://www.pchc.org/)
  - Jefferson Geriatrics collaboration to provide services for older adults and develop residency experience for entry-level occupational therapy doctoral students
- **Scholarship and Research**
  - National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and Dementia Practices, collaboration to develop guidelines for care and services and evaluate impact of national training workshops on services for adults with ID and their caregivers [http://aadmd.org/NTG](http://aadmd.org/NTG)
  - In Their Own Words: The Experience of Caregiving for Adults with Intellectual Disability and Dementia, exploratory study funded by Jefferson College of Health Professions, Dean’s Award

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: [http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html](http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html)
Mission
The mission is twofold. First, to develop and validate measurement methods and outcome instruments that generate reliable data that are meaningful and precise, inform occupational therapy treatment, and engage clients in shared decision-making; and secondly, to utilize valid instruments in outcomes research to build evidence in support of practice.

General Laboratory Description
Projects in this laboratory focus on development, validation and implementation of measures of impairment, activity performance, participation, health related quality of life, and quality of life. Patient-reported outcome instruments in the form of computerized adaptive tests and short forms are being developed and tested. Knowledge translation strategies are being implemented to encourage and to evaluate clinical uptake of new measures. Studies are being conducted to evaluate outcomes of practice using valid instruments that generate reliable and meaningful outcomes.

Example of Projects:
- Knowledge translation of the Spinal Cord Injury Functional Index (SCI-FI), the Pediatric Spinal Cord Injury Activity Measure (PEDI-SCI AM) and Pediatric Measure of Participation (PMoP).
- Staging and replenishment of the Pediatric Measure of Participation (PMoP)
- Diffusion tensor imaging as a biomarker for pediatric spinal cord injury
- Measures of participation across the lifespan
- Implementation of the Occupational Performance Coaching (OPC) Model to enhance desired participation among children with chronic conditions and their parents.
- Validation of spinal cord injury clinical trials outcome instruments in youth with spinal cord injury
- Spinal cord injury clinical trials outcomes evaluation in youth with spinal cord injury
- Reliability of imaging the spinal cord
- Linking adult and pediatric patient reported outcome instruments
- Testing outcomes of occupational therapy using Ayres Sensory Integration
- Evaluation in Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI)

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To study the environmental influences on participation in meaningful occupations and health promotion.

General Laboratory Description
This lab explores the dynamic interaction between the human and nonhuman environment to promote occupation, health and participation. The environmental and contextual factors including the physical, social, cultural, political, economic, and virtual aspects are studied. Projects focus on improved individual client and/or patient-centered healthcare outcomes as well as health professions education, and health policy. Populations studied include underserved persons with chronic health conditions, such as spinal cord injury, children and adults with a variety of chronic health conditions, and multiple disabilities; and newly arrived refugees to Philadelphia. One unique aspect of this lab is the interdisciplinary collaboration between the Occupational Therapy Department at Jefferson and the Industrial Design Department at Philadelphia University for research, design, prototype development, testing, and evaluation of client-centered products that utilize universal design principles, promote increased environmental access, and improve occupational engagement for individuals living with disability.

Specifically related to those with sensory differences, the interdisciplinary Innovative Design for Engaged Attention and Learning (IDEAL) fosters an understanding of how to promote and utilize environmental sensory supports; and the Sensory Aware and Friendly Environments (SAFE) program, works with businesses and organizations to improve their customer’s experiences by understanding, respecting, supporting and creating environmentally-based strategies for people with sensory differences. IDEAL and SAFE projects are carried out in collaboration with faculty in the Autism and SI laboratories.

Example of Projects:
- Analysis of the physical, cultural, and political environments impact on play for children with neurodevelopmental conditions in Cuba and Nicaragua
- Collaborate with Jefferson faculty and staff to learn geographic information system technology as a tool for environmental research
- Participate in focus groups and interviews with individuals experiencing chronic health conditions about environmental supports and barriers to participation in health-promoting occupations.
- Participate in efforts to increase awareness of sensory needs and environmental supports through the SAFE and IDEAL programs
- Interdisciplinary design collaborations between occupational therapy and industrial design to develop client-centered products to enhance occupational performance and participation
- Investigate environmental strategies to enhance participation in an overnight camping experiences for children with physical disabilities

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To investigate the neural and behavioral correlates of sensory integration and their impact on function and participation in daily living, educational, social, and leisure activities.

General Laboratory Description
This laboratory investigates the neural mechanisms of sensory integration, sensory integration intervention, assessment of sensory integrative functions, and other aspects related to sensation, participation and occupational therapy.

- Brain mechanisms and behavioral features of sensory integration
- Development and testing of an Evaluation of Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI)
- Evaluating occupational therapy interventions using the principles of sensory integration to promote participation
- Identifying sensory-based supportive characteristics of physical and social environments
  - Enabling participation via reconsidering the classroom for children through projects such as Innovative Design for Engaged Attention and Learning (IDEAL)

Example of Projects:
- Understanding sensory features in individuals with autism
- Evaluation of Ayres Sensory Integration (EASI)
- Testing outcomes of occupational therapy using Ayres Sensory Integration in comparison to behavioral intervention to improve functional skills in children with autism
- Sensory aware and friendly environments (SAFE)
- Innovative design for engaged attention and learning (IDEAL)

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To study and disseminate ways to increase knowledge, skill, and promote evidence-based practice within a broad range of practice settings. Create educational initiatives to foster the integration of clinical expertise, patient values, and best research evidence into the decision making process for effective patient care.

General Laboratory Description
The evidence-based practice laboratory focuses on the ongoing study of methods to develop student and practitioner attitudes, knowledge and skills and create practice environments that facilitate and sustain evidence-based practice.

Example of Projects:
- Assess systematic development of environments that promote evidence-based practice
- Explore clinicians’ use of everyday evidence
- Review effectiveness of teaching methods to develop students’ knowledge and skill in evidence-based practice

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To identify current and innovative, evidence-based methodologies and practices that support and enhance professional development and teaching effectiveness among health professions faculty.

General Laboratory Description
The Professional Development Laboratory focuses on methods for developing skills for academia including teaching, effective management and balance of workload for highest quality education and educational outcomes and building capacity to engage in educational research.

Example of Projects:
- Analyze awareness and use of electronic medical records in entry level occupational therapy curricula
- Analyze faculty workload as it impacts instructional delivery

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To enhance the quality of fieldwork education and the doctoral residencies by studying and responding to the needs of occupational therapy students, programs, fieldwork educators, faculty mentors, on-site mentors, and existing and emerging practice environments.

General Laboratory Descriptions
This laboratory focuses on the study of the fieldwork process, fieldwork students, fieldwork educators, and fieldwork environments.

Example of Projects:
- Studies of collaborative models of fieldwork
  - Compare outcomes of traditional models of fieldwork education and the collaborative model
  - Participate in collaborative model of supervision in school-based practice
  - Participate in collaborative model of fieldwork education toolkit dissemination
  - Data collection and analysis of the collaborative residency experience
  - Analysis of residency project outcomes (local and national)
- Education and training
  - Fieldwork educators: develop, implement and evaluate Fieldwork Educators Certificate
- Implement and evaluate program and Clinical Council Day
  - Train and evaluate Academic Fieldwork Coordinator’s Institute
  - Assess education of on-site mentors and community-based sites on efficacy of occupational therapy services at the individual, group, population and organizational level
  - Develop and implement exemplary doctoral residency projects and evaluate long-term impact of outcomes

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Implementing High Fidelity Simulations in OT Education
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Tracey Vause Earland, PhD, OTR/L
Audrey Zapletal, MS, OTR/L

Mission
To study the effectiveness and impact of using robust simulation training methods in occupational therapy education.

General Laboratory Description
The high fidelity simulation laboratory focuses on the ongoing development, implementation and evaluation of simulation methodology as a compliment to other learning activities in the curriculum. This includes discipline specific and interprofessional simulations.

Example of Projects:
- Exemplary simulation programs embedded in entry-level curriculum
  - Student clinic day (OT 552, *Interventions: Enhancing Human Performance*)
  - Conflict resolution (OT 499, *Interdisciplinary Care Planning*)
  - Schizophrenia: positive & negative symptom encounters (OT 558, *Interventions: Enhancing Social Participation*)
  - Clinical discharge scenario (OT 499, *Interdisciplinary Care Planning*)
  - Engaging Students in Interprofessional Collaboration: A United States-Japan Exchange

- Teaching and Learning Outcomes: (C3 – comfort, competence, confidence)
  - Student clinic day (OT 552, *Interventions: Enhancing Human Performance*)
  - Conflict resolution (OT 499, *Interdisciplinary Care Planning*)
  - Schizophrenia: positive & negative symptom encounters (OT 558, *Interventions: Enhancing Social Participation*)
  - Clinical discharge scenario (OT 499, *Interdisciplinary Care Planning*)
  - Engaging Students in Interprofessional Collaboration: A United States-Japan Exchange
  - Student clinical skill competence evaluation in preparation for FW II (i.e., safety, performance skills, communication skills)

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at: [http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html](http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html)
Mission
To create, study and advance innovative learning opportunities that promote collaborative interprofessional practice leading to excellence in healthcare delivery.

General Laboratory Description
The interprofessional education laboratory focuses on the ongoing study of methods to develop interprofessional education and collaborative practice skills among faculty, students and practitioners throughout the Jefferson healthcare community.

Example of Projects:
- Evaluate an interprofessional geriatric clinical skills fair
- Development and evaluation of virtual world training programs
- Evaluate interprofessional learning activities within the health mentor program
- Explore, develop and measure the role of occupational therapy within an interprofessional palliative hospital program
- Assess longitudinal outcomes of health mentors program

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html
Mission
To build sustainable partnerships between select organizations and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University and to establish and study an innovative model that fosters the implementation of evidence-based practices and routine outcome measurement into occupational therapy practice. PrEMO serves as a training ground for students, fosters partnerships with clinicians and generates new knowledge through clinical research.

General Laboratory Description
Jefferson students join Jefferson faculty and fieldwork educators to develop the specialized knowledge and skill needed to provide model practice that is specific to the population and setting. Students develop skill in Data-Driven Decision Making as they mentor with the PrEMO team to produce client-specific case reports, participate in program development and/or engage in clinical research activities.

Example of Projects:
- The Pioneer Sensory Autism Center at Burlington County Special Services Center: a school-based setting for children with autism
- Inglis House: a specialty residential nursing care facility for adults with physical disabilities including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, stroke, and others
- Academy in Manayunk: an independent co-educational college prep school serving bright students with language-based learning differences in grades 1-12
- Good Shephard Penn Partners’ Dan Aaron Parkinson’s Rehabilitation Center: an outpatient setting that provides Parkinson’s patients, their families and care partners with specialized rehabilitation services

For more information regarding this lab please visit our website at:
http://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/departments/occupational-therapy/research.html