Vermont Occupational Therapy Association

SAVE THE DATE!

VOTA Annual Conference
March 7, 2020
Mental Health, Sensory & Behavior, Hand Therapy, Assistive Technology, Functional Cognition, Documentation/Goal Writing, Home Modifications

Capitol Plaza, Montpelier VT

Registration
VOTA COTA members: $70
Non COTA members: $105
VOTA OTR Members: $90
Non OTR Members: $130
Student/ Non practicing: $35
Other all day: $130

Please share this mailing with non-VOTA members, friends, family and those in the general public. Easy way to promote our profession and state association!

We are an all inclusive non profit organization who accepts individuals of all abilities without bias toward race, ethnicity, gender or beliefs.

AOTA Vision 2025

An inclusive profession, occupational therapy maximizes health, well-being, and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities through effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday living.

Winter Quarterly
2020

VOTA Officers:

- President: Caren Maslowsky
- Vice President: Chelsea Vaillancourt
- Secretary: Tabitha Davis-Barron
- Treasurer: Karen Downey
- Newsletter Chair: Kristen Jackson
- Membership Chair: Viki Delmas
- Legislative Chair: Todd Patterson
- Public Relations: Patty Thomas
- RA Rep: Ela Dupont

Inside this issue:

Program Development Grant Winners	2
President Update Meet and Greet Info	3
Diane Aja Scholarship AOTA Conference	4
Legislative Update	5
Unilateral Spatial Neglect Gretchen Daly, OTR/L	6
Our Mission	7

*** OT/OTA Program Development in progress in Vermont***

The University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences has hired Victoria Priganc, OTR/L, PHD, as the Interim Director, to develop two Occupational Therapy Doctorate programs (OTD). A post-professional OTD for therapists who have an undergraduate degree or a masters degree in Occupational Therapy, and who are presently OTRs will hopefully be accepting students for the fall of 2020 or 2021. The entry level OTD for anyone interested in becoming OTRs who have an undergraduate or masters degree in another field, will hopefully be accepting student for the fall of 2023. Both of these OTD programs are being developed and in the process of approval by the University of Vermont and the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) which is part of AOTA. If you have any questions about these two program please email Victoria Priganc, at victoria.priganc@med.uvm.edu

Castleton University is developing an OTA two year associate degree program at its Vermont campus. Castleton University already has an undergraduate degree program in Health Sciences, so the OTA program can be embedded and a person can earn an undergraduate degree along with the OTA. This program should be accepting student sometime in the next 2 years. Please watch the Castleton University website for additional information. If any COTAs in Vermont are interested in accepting Fieldwork 1 or 2 students from the Castleton OTA program, please contact Karen Downey, at votatreasurer@gmail.com

Please let me know if you have any additional questions about the upcoming higher education programs for OT in Vermont– Thank you, Karen Downey, OTR/L, MS, VOTA Treasurer

Rutland Area OTs Win Entrepreneurship Grants

Two Vermont Occupational Therapists, Darian Fagan and Patty Thomas, are among the six finalists selected to participate in OnRamp, a grant that provides a year-long entrepreneurship curriculum from CoStarters, a membership to The Mint: Rutland's Makerspace and access to mentors from the Rutland area business community.

Fagan is an OT who works for VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region. She is developing an adaptive bathing brush that would promote independence for clients with mobility constrictions. Thomas is a school-based OT who is developing an assistive device that will provide visual supports for students with special needs to help them maintain body position and stance.

The grant, provided through the Rutland Economic Development Corp., is also supported by a ThinkVermont Innovation Grant and partnerships with LaunchVT and the Vermont Center for Emerging Technology's Scale Here program, local matching money, plus the generous assistance of various local companies. It will provide participants the opportunity to go from idea to complete business in one year.

Congratulations!

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
Caren Maslowsky, OTR/L

As the 2019 year comes to a close, we at VOTA had the opportunity to reflect at our Leadership Retreat in October. We have many things to be thankful for, even in the face of challenges such as reimbursement changes in skilled nursing and home care. We have seen our membership surpass our goal of 100 this spring. This feat of over 40% growth in one year earned Vermont the Membership Award at the Affiliated State Association Presidents (ASAP) meeting in New Orleans!
We successfully launched a digital software platform for membership management. This allowed us to convert to a rolling membership year. This added 12 months of value to a new mid-year membership instead of all renewals at year's end. If you haven't logged into your account in a while, take a few moments to check out the digital member directory for career networking. More features, such discussion forums, are being developed.

Elections will be held at the VOTA Annual Meeting on March 7, 2020, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. We had positive feedback from members about the format, facility and location. The Conference Committee chose to hold our event there again. I hope you will join in the positive energy we're building in VOTA and consider stepping forward to serve on the Board, or a committee in 2020. Positions available for nomination include: President, Membership Chair, Legislative Chair, Secretary. Committees include: Public Relations / Social Media, Legislative, Membership, and Conference planning. Please write me at otvermont@gmail.com for more information, or to nominate someone.

I expect the beginning of 2020 to be an exciting time with our VOTA Conference, as well as AOTA's Annual Conference coming to our neighbor state. I invite you to post on the VOTA Facebook page if you're interested in rideshare or finding a hotel roommate in Boston. I would like as many Vermonters as possible to join me at our meetup there and the Annual Meeting - learning, networking and representing our beautiful Green Mountain state.
Many blessings to all of you in this holiday season and coming year!

Submissions needed!
Please be sure to consider submitting an article, article review, or any other information you'd like to share with fellow OTs and OTAs across the state. Submissions can be emailed to:
Kristen Jackson, Newsletter Chair
votanewsletter@gmail.com

All OTs and OTAs- Plan to Attend- VOTA Needs Your Input!

Rutland Area Meet and Greet-sponsored by Vermont Occupational Therapy Association-

Thursday- January 9, 2020 from 5:30-7:30pm. At TASO-on- Center, 22 Center St., Rutland, Vermont. Join us for complimentary appetizers and the opportunity to share information and ideas with members of the VOTA Board. Please RSVP by January 7 to Patty Thomas or Karen Downey so we will know how many appetizers to provide. Cash bar available.

TASO ON CENTER

Time to submit your application for the annual Diane Aja Scholarship!

Anyone interested in attending AOTA's annual conference needs to apply!!!!

This is an annual award for an active VOTA member to receive AOTA member rate admission fee to the annual AOTA Conference March 26-29, 2020 in Boston, MA.

An article must be submitted after the conference including photos.

Please visit our website: https://www.vermontot.org/diane-aja

Answer the following questions and submit via email:

1. Tell us about yourself, including the strengths and talents that would contribute to the growth of VOTA.

2. Describe one goal for professional development as an OT provider, and how you would use the experience to further this objective, were you selected to attend the national conference.

3. What actions can you take in your OT practice and workplace to ensure the core values of diversity, equality, and inclusion for people from differing backgrounds that vary by race, gender, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, education, age, physical ability, religion, etc.?

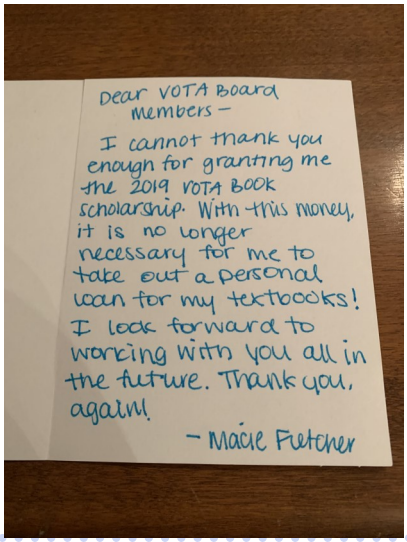
Deadline is February 15th, so our winner can be announced at our annual VOTA Conference on March 7, 2020

2020 AOTA Annual Conference and Expo
March 26-29, 2020

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
415 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210

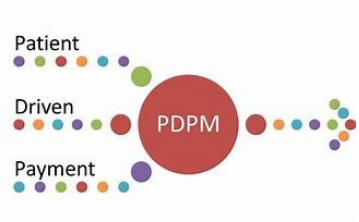
Register by March 4th to save money!

Earn up to 24 contact hours in one convenient location while learning evidence-based research.



Thank you Macie Fletcher and congratulations on your 2019 book scholarship from VOTA!

Legislative Chair Report December 2019



From Todd Patterson, OTR/L

Federal PDPM: CMS changes to reimbursement for Subacute Nursing Facilities and Home Health Agencies moved ahead with a start date of September 2019 for SNF and January 2020 scheduled for HH. The most significant changes in reimbursement relates to a focus upon patient characteristics and coding and a shift from therapy utilization as a primary driver of Medicare reimbursement. There have already been significant changes in Therapy service delivery in SNF- addressed by AOTA in this statement:

https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Federal-Reg-Affairs/News/2019/Important-Message-About-PDPM.aspx

Proposed Physician Fee Schedule: There are 2 proposed changes to the Physician Fee Schedule in 2019/ 2020. The first proposes a 8% reduction in reimbursement by 9/27/19 in an effort to maintain budget neutrality. The second is a data collection change, ear marking OTA billing with a payment modifier. This data collection is expected to result in a payment change in OTA provided services in 2022.

https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Federal-Reg-Affairs/News/2019/Comment-Potential-Cut-Services.aspx

https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Federal-Reg-Affairs/News/2019/Medicare-OTA-Payment-Modifier-Implementation.aspx

CONGRESS

Home Health

U.S. Reps. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Jason Smith (R-MO), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and David McKinley (R-WV) introduced the Medicare Home Heath Flexibility Act (H.R.3127) in the House of Representatives, while Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Todd Young (R-IN) simultaneously introduced identical legislation in the Senate (S.1725). These bills would allow occupational therapists to open home health therapy cases under Medicare.

https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/Congressional-Affairs/Legislative-Issues-Update/2019/Home-Health-Flexibility-Act-Introduced.aspx

Unilateral Spatial Neglect

Gretchen Daly, OTR/L

Unilateral Spatial Neglect (USN) is a cognitive disorder that can be a consequence of stroke or traumatic brain injury and commonly occurs after a right middle cerebral artery stroke. The reported prevalence of USN varies between 50-82% and is more common in right verses left hemispheric lesion.[1] USN is defined as the "failure to report, respond, or orient to novel or meaningful stimuli presented to the side opposite a brain lesion, when this failure cannot be attributed to either sensory or motor defects."[2] USN is also called neglect, inattention, hemi-inattention, and spatial neglect. This impairment is characterized by lateralized errors, and commonly co-occurs with hemiplegia, anosognosia, homonymous hemianopsia and attention, memory and sensation deficits. The presence of USN is associated with longer hospitalizations and poor functional recovery in patients with stroke.[3-5]

A battery of tests is recommended to assess for the presence of USN over a single test, and performance-based tests are recommended over pencil-paper tests.[6] Tests that are commonly suggested are the Catherine Bergego Scale (CBS), an ecological assessment, and the Behavioral Inattention Test (BIT), a table top test. The CBS includes functional tasks that assess for USN at the personal (body space), peri-personal (reaching space), extra-personal (far space) level,[7] while the BIT tasks assess for the presence of USN at the peri-personal level only.[8]

Grattan recommends that occupational therapists assess patients with brain damage to determine the presence of USN.[6] Completion of a standardized assessment, performance-based when feasible, is essential for objective measurement of USN. In occupational therapy sessions we may observe inattention to the hemiplegic side of body, failure to locate items on one side of a meal tray or sink, and colliding with objects when navigating in an environment. OT clinicians should use evaluation results coupled with functional observations to guide treatment and to provide education about the functional implications of this complex impairment on the individual's safety, independence and discharge planning.

Li, K., & Malhotra, P. A. (2015). Spatial neglect. *Practical neurology*, *15*(5): 333-339.
Heilman KM, Watson RT, Valenstein E. Neglect and related disorders. In: Heilman KM, Valenstein E, eds. *Clinical neuropsychology*. 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993:279–336.
Oh-Park, M., Hung, C., Chen, P., & Barrett, A. M. (2014). Severity of Spatial Neglect During Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Predicts Community Mobility After Stroke. *PM&R*, *6*(8), 716–722
Chen, P., Hreha, K., Fortis, P., Goedert, K. M., & Barrett, A. M. (2012). Functional Assessment of Spatial Neglect: A Review of the Catherine Bergego Scale and an Introduction of the Kessler Foundation Neglect Assessment Process. *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation*, *19*(5), 423-435.
Azouvi, P., Olivier, S., de Montety, G., Samual, C., Louis-Drefus, A., & Tesia, L. (2003). Behavioral assessment of unilateral neglect: Study of the psychometric properties of the Catherine Bergego Scale. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *84*(1), 51-57.
Grattan, E. S., & Woodbury, M. L. (2017). Do Neglect Assessments Detect Neglect Differently? *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, *71*(3), 1-9.
Spaccavento, Simona, et al. (2017). Effect of Subtypes of Neglect on Functional Outcome in Stroke Patients. *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, *60*(6), 376–38.
Plummer P, Morris ME, Dunai J. (2003). Assessment of unilateral neglect. *Physical Therapy*, *83*, 732–740.

Acknowledgements:
S Pierce, MS, OTR/L, J Conk, MS, OTR/L, M Francis, MS, OTR/L, Suzanne Lawrence, PT, DPT, Rehab Therapy Clinical Research Educator: University of Vermont Medical Center participants in quality improvement project.

VOTA

Vermont Occupational Therapy Association
PO Box 925
Richmond, VT 05477

Phone: 802-488-0766
E-mail: otvermont@gmail.com

The mission of the Vermont Occupational Therapy Association (VOTA) is to promote and advance occupational therapy practice, research, legislation, and education, and to support occupational therapy practitioners in Vermont. The Association serves its members by providing support services, acting as a public advocate of occupational therapy, and participating in cooperative interaction to meet the needs of the professional and the public.

Follow us on:

Facebook: **Vermont Occupational Therapy Association**

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/vermontoccupationaltherapists/

VermontOccupationalTherapyAssn on Twitter: https://twitter.com/AssnVermont

Please visit our website:

www.vermontot.org

VOTA Membership

Continue your VOTA Membership! Join any time of the year with our rolling membership!

Encourage co-workers and friends who are Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistants to consider becoming a member of our organization.

Please sign up on our website or request an application form from our membership chair to sign up for a 1 or 3 year membership with VOTA.

Questions?

Please contact:

Viki Delmas

email: votamembership@gmail.com

OT 3 Years: $110
OTA 3 Years: $70

Student/Retired/Non practicing: $15

OT 1 year: $40
OTA 1 year: $25

Vermont Occupational
Therapy Association
PO Box 925
Richmond, VT 05477