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Rush University Department of Occupational Therapy

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Sponsor Profile: Rush University Department of Occupational Therapy



Rush University and Rush University Medical Center have been a part of the Chicago landscape for more than 150 years. Rush (including Rush University and Rush University Medical Center) is a not-for-profit health care, education, and research enterprise. Rush has established itself as a local and national leader by providing renowned patient care, educating future health care leaders, and providing a variety of community service programs.

Students in Rush University's entry level Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT) have a unique experience because the carefully crafted academic, clinical, and research curriculum is paired with Rush University Medical Center. The students' immersion into the health care environment produces knowledgeable, confident, and prepared practitioners with strong evidence-based practice leadership skills.

Rush uses the Practitioner-Teacher-Investigator (PTI) model, meaning the OT faculty members have many different roles, including teaching, research, and practice. Faculty share current practice expertise in the classroom, supervise students during clinical experiences, and engage in scholarly pursuits. Rush University's OT faculty members are recognized nationally and internationally for their professional achievements, including the following:

- Linda Olson, PhD, OTR/L is currently the acting chairperson for Rush University's Department of OT and chair of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Mental Health Special Interest Section (MHSIS). In the past, she has served as the AOTA MHSIS Quarterly Editor and in numerous

leadership positions within the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA). Dr. Olson has numerous publications and has presented locally and nationally on her interests in mental health.

- Beverly Myers, MHPE, CHT, OTR/L is renowned for her knowledge of PNF, having trained many therapists and students throughout her career, and co-authored *Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation: Patterns and Techniques*, a seminal textbook on the topic. She received the 2013 ILOTA Therapist of the Year award for her positive contributions to the field of OT in Illinois. She also received the 2013 Rush University College of Health Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognized her outstanding performance in educating students.
- Mary Ellen Stoykov, PhD, MS, OTR/L is the recipient of an NIH-funded K12 Grant (K12 HDO55931, comprehensive opportunities in research training) and has published multiple articles on upper extremity hemiparesis. She has extensive knowledge in bilateral motor control and has presented both nationally and internationally on this topic. Dr. Stoykov also serves on the editorial boards of several professional journals.
- Rebecca Ozelie, MHS, OTR/L, BCPR has published several research articles on spinal cord injury rehabilitation and has presented nationally and internationally on this topic. She also teaches the AOTA Fieldwork Educator Certification course nationally.
- Molly Bathje, MS, OTR/L is the Art Editor of the *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*. She has published several articles exploring the use of art-based

activities in the practice of OT. She has also presented research nationally on topics of OT education, sensory processing in mental illness, and health care disparities.

- Brenda Koverman, MS, MBA, OTR/L is currently serving as District III representative for the AOTPAC Board of Directors. She has an extensive history of involvement in the ILOTA and continues to serve on the ILOTA Practice Act Sunset Committee.

Rush University Medical Center practitioners bring their expertise to the classroom by providing lectures and labs, and directing courses. Practitioners also supervise student clinical experiences, including clinical practicum experiences and course assignments. The OT department is involved in establishing Rush as a Stroke Center of Excellence. Highlights of the Rush University Medical Center OT clinical program also include:

- Inpatient Rehabilitation
- Day Rehabilitation
- Hand Therapy
- Adult, Older Adult, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Inpatient and Outpatient Pediatrics
- Driving Rehabilitation
- Lymphedema Management

The Rush University Department of OT is proud to sponsor the winter 2014 issue of *The Open Journal Of Occupational Therapy*. The journal's mission to publish high quality articles focused on the field of OT aligns with the department's value of innovative best practices, scholarly engagement, and service to the community. Through its sponsorship, the Rush

University Department of OT hopes to aid in bringing new knowledge to OT practitioners around the globe.

For more information about Rush University's Department of OT, please visit their website at:

www.rushu.rush.edu/occuth