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Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

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Sponsor Profile: Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA



Jane Case-Smith, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA (1953-2014), is the sponsored profile for the winter 2015 issue of *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT). She is sponsored by Dr. Fred Sammons. Dr. Case-Smith was a renowned researcher and educator, specifically in the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Case-Smith began her education with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kalamazoo College, where she graduated cum laude in 1975. She received her master's degree in occupational therapy at Western Michigan University in 1979, at a time when Western offered one of the first graduate programs in occupational therapy. She received her doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1985.

Dr. Case-Smith became a professor at The Ohio State University (OSU), in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, in 1989. She served as a tenured faculty member, chair of the occupational therapy department, and as director of the Pediatric Rehabilitation Lab. At the time of her passing, Dr. Case-Smith was the principal investigator of two NIH-funded studies: the Multisite Trial of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy for Children with Cerebral Palsy and the Multisite Trial of Neurorehabilitation Therapies for Infants with Unilateral Cerebral

Palsy. The National Institute of Child Health and Development is funding both studies through 2017 (Roll, 2014).

Dr. Case-Smith made tremendous contributions to the field of occupational therapy as a researcher and as an educator. Her career as a faculty member and chair allowed her to serve on the dissertation or thesis committees of over 200 students (Roll, 2014). She is the co-editor and author of the pediatric textbook *Occupational Therapy For Children*, which is currently in its 6th edition. The textbook has been widely adopted and used in occupational therapy curriculum. She published over 20 book chapters and over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles during her career. She also served as the editor for the *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research (OTJR): Occupation, Participation and Health*. In addition to the academic and research contributions Dr. Case-Smith made to the field of occupational therapy throughout her career, she was awarded many honors and recognitions. In 1997, she was named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association. In 2001, she received the AOTF A. Jean Ayers Award. In 2012, she received the prestigious President and Provost's Award for Distinguished Faculty Service from OSU; she was one of three to receive the recognition. In 2013, St. Catherine University awarded her the Sister Genevieve Scholar recognition and in 2014 the Texas Woman's University awarded her the Vanderkooi Lectureship.

Dr. Case-Smith not only had an impact in the field of occupational therapy, but on the many people with whom she collaborated and worked. Faculty members in the department of occupational therapy at OSU describe Dr. Case-Smith as a remarkable leader and mentor; she was supportive, inspiring, warm, and funny. She was not only a co-worker, but also a friend that is missed daily. One faculty member describes Jane as:

The total package. She was an exemplary chair; fair, always positive, accessible, timely on task, and vested in the success of individuals at all levels, the department, the institution, and the profession. She inherently understood that the success of any one of these could only positively and synergistically affect the growth of others.

Dr. Case-Smith's legacy has had a profound effect on individuals, as well as the field of occupational therapy. Occupational therapists can embrace her passion and continue to strive to progress both clinically and in research, which will ultimately benefit the profession of occupational therapy.

References

Roll, S. (8/5/2014). OT Community Mourns the Loss of Dr. Jane Case-Smith. The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. Retrieved from <http://www.aota.org/publications-news/aotanews/2014/jane-case-smith.aspx>.

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