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## Special Tribute to Dr. Jim Hinojosa

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### **A Tribute to Dr. Jim Hinojosa**

This issue of *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* will not include a sponsor profile so that we can pay special tribute to Jim Hinojosa, who passed away on August 6, 2018.

We begin with a personal reflection from Diane Powers-Foltz Dirette, Editor-in Chief, followed by a statement that was published by the American Occupational Therapy Association, authored by three of Jim's closest colleagues at the University of the Sciences and in the Department of Occupational Therapy at New York University, respectively: Dr. Paula Kramer, Dr. Kristie Patten Koenig, and Dr. Tsu-Hsin Howe. Dr. Dirette states:

Dr. Jim Hinojosa was a founding advisory board member for *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, and he served in that position until his passing this year. His service was critical in the formation of the journal, as he offered advice for the development of the journal, plans for future paths, and guidance on the roles of the various board members, including the editor-in-chief. For me, personally, Jim was my long-time mentor and friend. He was my thesis advisor and the chair of my dissertation committee at New York University. His steadfast support and encouragement helped me develop my path as an occupational therapist, researcher, academic, and editor. I relied on him not only as a student, but also as a professional. He continued to give me advice over the years, even as his health was failing. There are too many examples of his kindness to include in this tribute, but I still hear his voice, especially when I am making any decision. His rational, objective approach stays with me and will continue to guide me.

We, the staff of OJOT, are saddened by the loss of our colleague and friend. His contribution to the journal was important to us, and we will miss him greatly. The following is an obituary for Dr. Jim Hinojosa written by his colleagues. We decided we could not say it better than they did, so here is their tribute.

In their tribute, Kramer, Patten Koenig, and Howe (2018) state: "It is with the deepest sadness that we announce that Dr. Jim Hinojosa, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Occupational Therapy at NYU Steinhardt, passed away on August 6, 2018, in his sleep. He leaves behind a strong legacy, especially his contributions to the OT profession. He was a dear friend and mentor to many. His kindness and generosity will be remembered by all who came in contact with him. He has touched so many personally and through his writings. This brief statement doesn't begin to describe the wonderful person that Jim was and how much he meant to all of us. Jim was a leader in the field of occupational

therapy and was named as one of the top 100 most influential occupational therapists during the centennial celebration of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Dr. Hinojosa began his career as a therapist at Blythedale Children's Hospital, moving into academia at the State University of New York at Downstate Medical Center, and then in 1990, he came to New York University. He was chair of the department from 2000 to 2007 and was awarded the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award in 2011. Jim served the profession through his leadership in multiple AOTA and American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) committees and commissions. He chaired AOTA's Commission on Practice, and he served on AOTA's Executive Board (1989-1995) and Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development. He was also a director on the AOTF Board (1993-1999). Dr. Hinojosa received many major awards in occupational therapy, including the AOTA Roster of Fellow in 1984, Award of Merit in 1994, Meritorious Service Award in 2000, and the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, the profession's highest academic honor granted by AOTA, in 2006. He was the co-author of 14 books and numerous book chapters, and he had more than 150 peer-reviewed publications. He is survived by his partner of 42 loving years, Steven A. Smith, his mother, and two brothers. A celebration of his life will be held at NYU on September 27, 2018, in the evening, and a scholarship will be established in his name at NYU for those who wish to remember him. He was a true gentleman and a scholar, a wonderful part of the NYU family, and he will be dearly missed.

*Written by Ben J. Atchison, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA*

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### **References**

Kramer, P., Patten Koenig, K., & Howe, T-H. (2018, Aug 9). *In Memoriam: Jim Hinojosa, OT, PhD, FAOTA*. Retrieved from <https://www.aota.org/Publications-News/AOTANews/2018/Memoriam-Jim-Hinojosa.aspx>.