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State of the Journal: Introducing Assistant Editors

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State of the Journal: Introducing Assistant Editors

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Credentials Display

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As the Editor-in-Chief of the *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT), it is always my pleasure to present the annual State of the Journal. Each year I get to highlight the progress and accomplishments of the journal and the wonderful team of people who work diligently to make the journal a success. I work closely with the Associate Editor, Ms. Allison Chamberlain Miller, and the Copy Editor, Dr. Cynthia Cunningham, in the day-to-day operations of OJOT. This year, Dr. Ben Atchison retired as the managing editor and moved to the advisory board. We are fortunate to have the wonderful Dr. Nancy Hock as our new managing editor. We also welcomed Dr. Karen Jacobs and Dr. Rob Lyerla to the advisory board and several highly qualified members to the editorial review board. Completing the group of core editors is Dr. Jennifer Fortuna, who, as the art editor, provides a beautiful cover and interesting artist profile for every issue. Without these key members of the OJOT team, I would be unable to do my job as editor-in-chief adequately. In addition to these core editors, the advisory board, editorial board, and editorial review board continue to be vital to the direction, scope, and publication of OJOT.

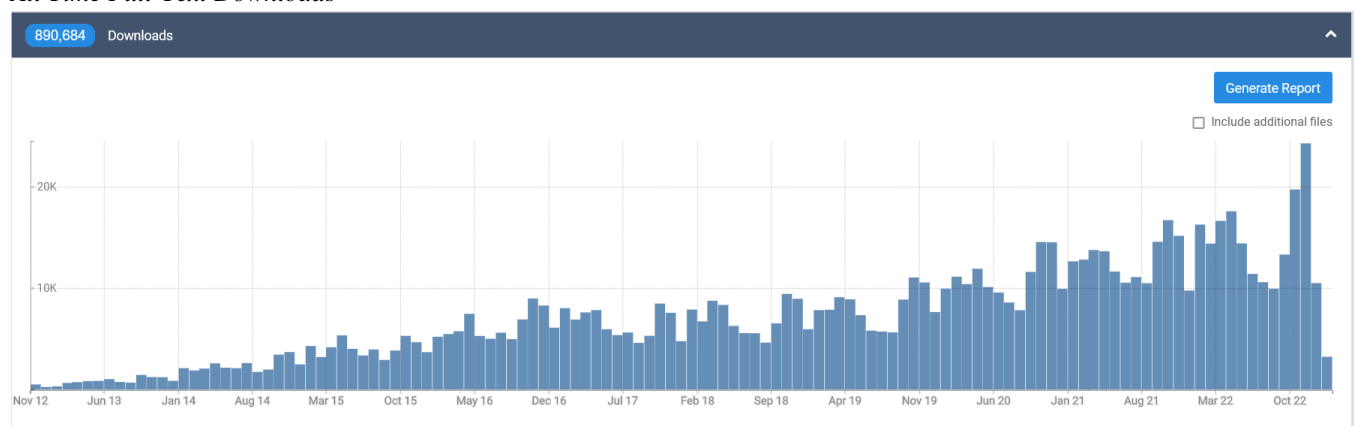
As always, I would like to thank our donors for their support of OJOT. The journal would not be viable without the generosity of Drs. Fred Sammons and Barbara Rider. Also, thank you to this year's issue sponsors, Dr. Sharon Gutman, Dr. Paula Jamison, Ms. Sandra Edwards, and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University, who were featured sponsors.

Year in Review

Through the work of this team and the support of the boards and sponsors, OJOT experienced another year of exponential growth. The monthly full-text downloads of articles continue to trend upward, with a record 24,326 full-text downloads in November 2022. The annual number of full-text downloads for the past year was 181,947, another OJOT record. OJOT has now had 890,684 full-text downloads since the first publication in the Fall of 2012. Figure 1 shows the steady growth of all time full-text downloads from November 21, 2012 to January 10, 2023.

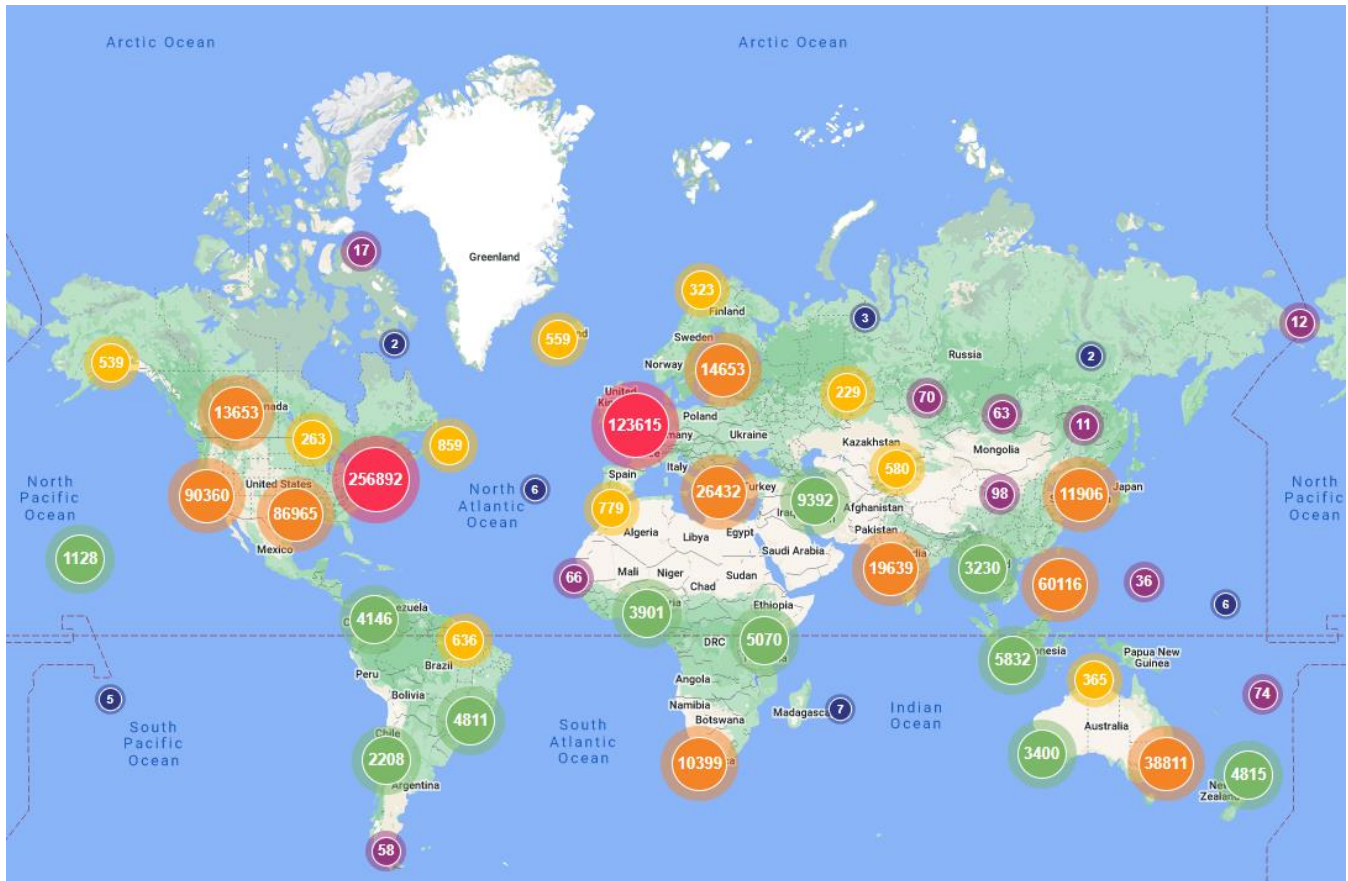
Figure 1

All Time Full-Text Downloads



Readership continues to spread around the globe. Figure 2 provides a map of the worldwide readership of OJOT with downloads in almost every country in the world. Greenland and a few countries in Africa are the only exceptions. You can view a live, interactive world map of downloads on our homepage, www.ojot.org, anytime.

Figure 2
Map of Readership Distribution



Introducing OJOT Assistant Editors

Because of the steady growth of OJOT, the OJOT advisory board recommended that we add assistant editors to our roster. They were added to the roster to help meet this demand and provide OJOT with more voices from the occupational therapy profession. No one voice or opinion should dominate a professional journal, and these assistant editors are highly qualified to step into these leadership editor roles. In addition, the profession of occupational therapy will benefit from having more scholars trained as editors who can step into the role of editor-in-chief of a journal seamlessly.

Role of Assistant Editors

The assistant editors are responsible for working with the Editor-in-Chief to ensure the publication of high-quality content in OJOT. The assistant editors are committed to publishing scholarly articles in the categories of applied research, practice, and education related to their area of specialization in the profession of occupational therapy. The assistant editors, in partnership with the editor-in-chief, are responsible for the selection and substantive editing of content related to their area of specialty.

The duties of the assistant editors are to:

1. Screen all manuscripts in 1 week that are assigned to them and either reject the submission or forward those that meet the criteria for review to editorial review board members for peer review.
2. Communicate the results of the peer review process to authors, including reviewer feedback and the editor's comments and whether the decision is to decline to publish, to accept following minor revisions, or to complete major revisions and resubmit.
3. Work with authors who are invited to revise their manuscripts throughout the revision process.

4. Provide constructive feedback to authors whose manuscripts are rejected.
5. If needed, write a scholarly Letter from the Editor addressing issues related to the publication of OJOT or their area of specialty on a topic deemed timely and important by the editors.
6. Ensure timely production of four full issues per year on a regular production schedule in coordination with the editor-in-chief, associate editor, copy editor, and managing editor.
7. Participate in journal promotion and development activities, including sponsorships, marketing, and other appropriate advertising in collaboration with the managing editor.
8. Develop ancillary materials such as style guidelines, submission and review process, and solicitation requests in collaboration with the editor-in-chief, associate editor, copy editor, and managing editor.

Assistant Editor Profiles

This esteemed group of occupational therapy scholars has been providing service to OJOT for many years: as members of the editorial review board, guest editors, and an art editor. They were invited to serve as assistant editors based on their diverse areas of specialties, professional backgrounds, and excellent records of publication and service to OJOT. Below are the OJOT assistant editors' profiles presented in alphabetical order. Each of the following scholars attended training sessions and has begun their work as an OJOT assistant editor.



Debbie Amini, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, is the director of professional development with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). She received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from Quinnipiac University and her EdD in adult education from North Carolina State University. She has over 30 years of experience as a hand therapist and academic. She founded and directed an occupational therapy assistant program in North Carolina and served as an assistant professor in a master's level occupational therapy program before moving to her current position with AOTA. Dr. Amini has been published in peer-reviewed journals, newsletters, and trade journals; has written several book chapters; and authored several CE courses. She served as a columnist for *ADVANCE for Occupational Therapy Practitioners* for 15 years. Her topics included occupation-based hand rehabilitation and occupation-based practice. She has presented nationally and regionally on topics related to hand therapy, splinting, teaching, learning, and documentation. She has served in several AOTA volunteer positions, most recently as chairperson of the Commission on Practice, where she oversaw the development of the third edition of the *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process*. She is the 2014 recipient of the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association's (NCOTA) highest honor, the Suzanne C. Scullin Memorial Award, for contributions to the practice of OT and the NCOTA.



Molly Bathje, Ph.D., MS, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at DePaul University. An occupational therapist for over 20 years, she received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from St. Ambrose University, her master's degree in health systems management from Rush University, and her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary health sciences from Western Michigan University. Dr. Bathje's clinical experiences focused on inpatient and outpatient mental health care, serving children through older adults. Other clinical experiences include pediatrics, acute care medicine, long-term care, and community-based care. Her scholarship and service focus on

identifying and addressing the health care disparities that adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities face in the health care system. She believes effective interdisciplinary preparation of future health care providers is a vital component of improving health outcomes for this population. She has published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and newsletters on topics related to mental health, teaching and learning, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was the inaugural art editor for OJOT. Her scholarship and service have been recognized by various institutional and state occupational therapy association awards.



Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller Ph.D., DrOT, OTRL, CDP, FMiOTA, is an associate professor in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program at Wayne State University (WSU). Her research expertise is in training and quality of life for caregivers of people with dementia in terms of (a) needs assessment and analysis for community-dwelling individuals living with chronic conditions and (b) the scholarship of teaching and learning, interprofessional teaching and learning, and instructional design, and delivery. She is an NIH-funded researcher who has secured over \$260,000 of grant funding as the primary investigator (PI) or Co-PI and an additional \$2.85 million as a Co-PI. She is the

lead editor of three books, author of chapters in leading textbooks in the occupational therapy profession, and has published several peer-reviewed research papers based on both qualitative and quantitative methodology. Dr. DiZazzo-Miller was awarded The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016, was named to the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellows in 2017, and became an Academic Leadership Academy Fellow at WSU in 2019. She currently serves as a gerontology subject matter expert for AOTA on the Advanced Certification Commission.



Beth Elenko, Ph.D., OTR/L, BCP, CLA, FAOTA, is an associate professor and admissions coordinator at the New York Institute of Technology and is recognized as a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). She received her entry-level occupational therapy (OT) degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1987 and her advanced master's (1995) and doctoral degree in applied research in OT (2000), both from New York University. This is where her clinical, academic, and scholarly journey began to intertwine. Dr. Elenko has worked extensively in the pediatrics population, from the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to school-based practice, but most

notably with the birth to 3-years-of-age population. She believes this time is critical for occupational therapists to engage with young children and their families and impact them on a positive trajectory for their future while providing family-centered best practice strategies in Early Intervention (EI). She works extensively to help progress the academic world to train professionals effectively to provide effective EI practice. She has been on a mission to disseminate knowledge of these crucial practices into the OT profession, in addition to teaching research and evidence-based practices. She promotes family-centered best practices as the root and obvious intervention model to apply to infants, young children, and their families. However, she believes we ineffectively teach these topics in our entry-level education. We also do not train and support our occupational therapists to learn more once they are practicing. Dr. Elenko's research interests include understanding both the therapist and families' perspectives to improve and provide effective service delivery in EI, as well as examining the leadership in OT, primary care services in OT, and sensory processing strategies.



Bryan M. Gee, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCP, CLAP, holds degrees from Idaho State University (Ph.D. and MEd), the University of St. Augustine (OTD), and D'Youville College (BS/MS). Dr. Gee holds AOTA board certification in pediatrics, Levels I, II, and III, certified by the STAR Institute. Dr. Gee has published over 40 peer-reviewed research articles and more than 80 national presentations on sensory-based interventions, therapy dosage and therapy-related practice patterns, and parent education and training and sensory processing. He has completed AOTA's Academic Leadership Institute. Dr. Gee is also the founding director of the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program and founding chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah. In addition, Dr. Gee has held various volunteer positions with AOTA and

NBCOT and currently is an associate editor with the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and sits on AOTA's Commission on Education.



Shirley Peganoff O'Brien, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, is a university foundation professor at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in occupational science and occupational therapy and is recognized as a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She received a BS in occupational therapy from Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; an MS in occupational therapy from Rush University, Chicago, IL; and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in educational policy analysis and evaluation. Dr. O'Brien has teaching and research expertise in policy development and leadership, sensory modulation and autism, online learning, and student mentoring. She is recognized for her

application of interprofessional practice in community settings. Dr. O'Brien has received numerous awards for her work in pediatric occupational therapy practice, leadership, and teaching. She serves as coordinator of the faculty innovators at EKU and coordinator of the post professional doctoral program in occupational therapy. She has presented and published on the topics of effective technology use in the classroom, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), and designing learning environments, along with other disciplinary applications in pediatrics, autism, and transition programming for students with disabilities into college environments.

Conclusion

Thank you for spending another year with OJOT as readers, authors, and editors. We appreciate the scholarly exchange that serves to improve the profession. Our many sponsors afford us the ability to continue to provide global open access to clinical solutions and educational resources for the profession of occupational therapy. We always are excited to see the continued growth of the journal and are grateful for the continued support and addition of so many scholars to the OJOT team. In the upcoming year, OJOT will benefit from the input of the assistant editors, and we will begin to share their voices by publishing their edited articles and their letters from the editor.
