

# MiOTA Newsletter

Fall 2013

Michigan  
Occupational  
Therapy  
Association, Inc.

## 2013 MiOTA Conference Highlights

This year we offered 44 different sessions between the two days of conference. There were 19 posters available for viewing during the session.

Some of the changes to this year's conference included:

1. For Exhibitors
  - a. One free registration to conference
  - b. Breakfast and lunch both days
2. For Registered Attendees
  - a. Breakfast and lunch both days
3. For Presenters
  - a. Half price registration if attending sessions

Thank you to those who took the time to complete surveys at this year's conference. Your responses indicated that 91% felt the sessions offered were at the "just right" learning level. Also, attendees appreciated the opportunity to have meals available for their dietary restrictions with the exception of dessert items and snacks.

Areas for improvement included better scheduling of sessions. Due to the unexpected high rate of attendance we found that some of the rooms became overcrowded. It is difficult to predict which sessions will be of interest to attendees. The conference planning committee will determine ways to prevent this problem for next year.

Lastly an area for improvement is related to the website. Our goal for next year is to offer on-line registration for conference and membership and update the website with a member's only page. Also through the evaluations; it has come to our attention that the old MiOTA website is still accessible via some alternative search engines. We are in the process of removing the old site from those search engines.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the conference which at the Lansing Convention Center October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Mark your calendars.

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*See you at  
the MiOTA  
Fall  
Conference  
At the  
Lansing  
Convention  
Center on  
October  
11-12, 2014*

### Wayne State University

The Masters of Occupational Therapy program had their ACOTE accreditation visit on Oct. 28 thru Oct. 30, 2013. According to Program Director, Dr. Doreen Head the site visit was very successful and we are pleased with the preliminary report from the on-site team. This report will be voted on at the December ACOTE reviewers meeting, at which time we will be notified of the final accreditation.

On behalf of the entire WSU faculty we would like to extend our gratitude to all our clinical fieldwork educators, alumni, and students who contributed to our success!



## Finance Report by Denise Justice

Conference this year was very well attended by members and vendors. Not only do our members and vendors obtain increased knowledge but MiOTA gains financial support. Over the years our conference has been profitable for our organization. Our recent history is charted below.

Conference Location	Year	Profit	Attendance
Saginaw Valley	2005	\$1588.62	123
Macomb Community College	2006	\$11322.25	185
Macomb Community College	2007	\$22563.94	185
Mackinaw Island	2008	\$24897.02	142
Kalamazoo	2009	\$18613.34	156
Somerset Inn-Troy	2010	\$12432.26	108
Mackinaw Island	2011	\$19214.42	107
Kalamazoo	2012	\$12954.05	177
Somerset Inn-Troy	2013	\$TBD	147

For this year's conference we had an actual registration income of \$27,350. Our goal for income was \$28,000. We almost met this goal. In terms of actual exhibitor income we earned \$17,585. Our goal was \$16,500. We exceeded our goal. The expenses of conference to date are \$4,782. This does not account for the rental and food expenses. Our projected expense for conference this year was \$19,955. We are awaiting the final invoice from the hotel.

MiOTA has a student scholarship program now. This year at conference we announced the first recipient, Erica Frederick. How exciting that our organization is now able to offer a scholarship program. Investing in students means investing in the future of our profession. Occupational Therapy within the state of Michigan is growing.

We could use your help in generating additional revenue for MiOTA. If anyone knows of a company that is interested in advertising their product, services or job openings within our newsletter, on our website or as an exhibitor at our upcoming conference feel free to have them contact the MiOTA office at 517-484-4442 by fax or telephone at 517-267-3918 or visit our website [www.mi-ota.com](http://www.mi-ota.com).

## OTs and Zumba by Kathleen Garvey

On Sunday, November 3, a team of Michigan Occupational Therapists gathered to help raise money for the Ann Arbor YMCA Livestrong Program for Cancer Survivors, now in its 5th year. The program is a great community based resource for patients. The YMCA offers free programming to support individuals to maintain their health and aid in the recovery process. The group raised over \$200 for the cause and enjoyed a great leisure occupation. Pictured are Sarah Streng, Lynette Rasmussen, Jane Yaczyk, Holly McCallen, and Kathleen Garvey. The group would love to make it an annual tradition and expand our ranks. Any takers?



## ADVOCAY REPORT by Denise Hoffman Director of Advocacy

*"If you don't like something, change it, if you can't change it, change your attitude."* Maya Angelou

The past year has challenged our profession with many unexpected changes that have lead us to question, discredited, and deflate our passion about health care and our craft. Therefore, now more than ever, we as a profession need to collaborate and advocate for change, awareness, and validation of occupational therapy. As a profession with over 5000 clinicians in Michigan, we CAN impact legislative changes, proposals, and interpretations. However, we are not naive about something's that cannot be changed such as EMR requirements, so, embracing these changes empowered with education, support, and grace will create a more fluid transition of effectiveness, and compliance.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE... This year we worked together and were successful with the following changes...

1. Office of Regulatory Reformed ( ORR) has removed OT of the list to de –license the profession
2. Capitol Hill Day in May 2012 had over 70 OT's in attendance and was successful with communicating to our consistent the concerns of our profession

TOGETHER THERE IS MORE CHANGE TO DO... With that being said there is still much to do... the following are the top areas we still need to advocate for and plan to change over the next year:

1. Autism Bill: effective October 2012 included OT for all ages ( except those with self funded private insurance plans), however an addendum April 2013 removed OT from coverage for children birth – 5 y/o with Medicaid = 2013/2014 GOAL: secure OT coverage for all children birth – 5 y/o despite insurance coverage
2. ORR proposal regarding de licensure still has the OT Board as potential means to disseminate, despite removing OT off the list of de licensure = 2013/2014 GOAL: get the ORR to remove off the proposal disseminating the OT Board
3. Telehealth Bill passed October 1, 2013 but OT is not directly referenced as a coverable discipline = 2013/2014 GOAL: change the interpretation of the bill to reflect OT coverage
4. Medicaid ( specifically Meridian Health) is not covering OT treatment ( or at least in very limited quantities) = 2013/2014 GOAL: to increase Meridian's understanding on the role of outpatient OT feeding, motor skills, and other sensory based treatments and that they are not covered in school, therefore should be a covered benefit for outpatient therapy
5. Medicare is not covering compression garments = 2013/2014 GOAL: compression garments will be covered by Medicare

Lastly, the ACA is here and we need to embrace this change together. I will leave you all with a personal challenge to make a change... stand up and support one of these platforms. Legislative changes are dynamic and always evolving, therefore if a new "hot" item is release and needs immediate attention this paradigm will shift attention as needed. Here is how YOU can make a difference and change...

1. Email feedback on common denials by Meridian - these will be tracked to facilitate what direction OT's need to take to educate Meridian in upcoming meetings, contact [dhoffmanot@gmail.com](mailto:dhoffmanot@gmail.com)
2. Provide feedback on how many children in your practice with Medicaid or self funded plans will not be covered under the Autism bill 's current definition ,contact [dhoffmanot@gmail.com](mailto:dhoffmanot@gmail.com)
3. Interested clinicians who want to start billing with telehealth send your information to [joel.m.phillips@wmich.edu](mailto:joel.m.phillips@wmich.edu)
4. Clinicians providing feedback on how many clients are not getting lymphedema services because they cannot afford bandages, contact [dhoffmanot@gmail.com](mailto:dhoffmanot@gmail.com)

Joining the advocacy team or supporting the team with emails will initiate OT's collaborative process towards change. We will not be silent, and we will work together as a profession to make a difference... it is our right, obligation, and passion to make a change.

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."* Martin Luther King

## 2013 Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship

On Saturday, September 28, 2013 Eastern Michigan University's School of Health and Human Services Occupational Therapy Program hosted the third annual Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship and Conference for over 120 participants. Established in 2011, the lectureship was inspired as a celebration of the legacy of Dr. Spelbring.

Lyla was a national and state leader in occupational therapy, whose mentorship, scholarship, and civic engagement were exemplary. She served in the military during three conflicts, headed the University of Michigan's Occupational Therapy program, and was the Director of the OT Program as well as the interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Eastern Michigan University until her "retirement". Her service to her profession included a long-standing relationship with and a deep commitment to the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association. Lyla was President of the Michigan Occupational Therapy Association from 1959-1961 to 1971. Her work to further the profession was recognized with many national and state awards. She was given the MiOTA Distinguished Service Award in 1970, the Award of Recognition in 1984, and was named to the Roster of Fellows in 1991. She received the American Occupational Therapy Association Award of Merit in 1971, was named a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association in 1973 and became an Honorary Life Membership, American Occupational Therapy Foundation in 1989.

This year's endowed lectureship speaker was Suzanne Peloquin, OTR, Ph.D., FAOTA, Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She presented her lecture, "The occupational therapy genius: Affirmations of our transcendent ethos." Dr. Peloquin's lecture focused on the importance of compassion and competence, as well as the combination of artistry and science, as essential components that set occupational therapy apart from other caring professions. The occupational therapist focuses on developing a therapeutic relationship, and, by building on her/his client's competencies, helps to recreate the client's occupational life. She gave numerous examples, in pictures and words, from historical archives and international modern day practice of therapists, which exemplified these ideals. She described occupational therapists as pathfinders who enable occupations that heal. They reach for their clients' hearts and hands to co-create daily lives. She compelled the occupational therapy community to embrace the genius of their tradition to improve the collective well being through compassionate, competent treatment of the individual, focused on personal dignity, competence and every day health. Area scholars and clinicians also offered an array of workshops and poster presentations as continuing education opportunities for attendees at this daylong conference.

The Spelbring Lectureship was established to create a culture of life-long learning in the occupational therapy community, to support renewal of relationships with the university, as well as to provide networking opportunities to advance practice and enhance professional engagement. Dr. Peloquin's thought provoking lecture stimulated conversation amongst clinicians and students, exemplifying the objectives of the lectureship.

The planning committee for the Lyla M. Spelbring Endowed Lectureship is excited to announce that Dr. Betty Hasselkus will be the 2014 endowed lecturer on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Registration will be available on line.



## MiOTA Ambassadors: Who are They? By Kathleen Garvey, OTRL

On the heels of our successful state conference, the Membership Committee would like to build on the enthusiasm of current members to play an active role in adding new members to our roster. How many of you have OT/OTAs in your current work environment who are not members? How about friends from OT school days you see at the alumni events? Please consider helping us network to provide opportunities for presentations by MiOTA at your workplace, chapter meetings, or professional gatherings. Face to face time with current members can be a very effective recruitment tool and enables feedback to better understand what professionals in Michigan need to be more effective in their practice settings. If you have an idea and /or would be willing to host a presentation, please contact Kathleen Garvey, Recruitment Coordinator, at [kgarvey2011@gmail.com](mailto:kgarvey2011@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for doing your part to promote our profession.

## OT App Recommendations by Donna Case

MiOTA has begun the process of developing a more user friendly and accessible website. Claudette Reid is heading up the process. One of the features will include a members only section. As a result of our recent Conference, one portion of the members section will report favorite apps that our members are using. Below are a list that was generated at one of the workshop sessions.

### Writing:

Finger Trace – trail of stair – Apple  
 Letter School – handwriting – Apple  
 Touch and Write – Upper and Lower Case Letters – Apple  
 Finger Trace – Upper and Lower Case and #'s – Apple  
 Cursive Practice – Apple

### OT Apps:

Dexteria – Keyboarding warm up & Pinch It  
 Letter Reflex  
 Dexteria Jr – tapping  
 Tap Typing – practice typing – words per minute and accuracy  
 Autism App – Resource for other autism apps  
 Shark Metranome  
 Dragon Dictate – voice recognition system to generate emails, documents etc –  
 Go Talk Now  
 Dots – connect the dots has sound and visuals  
 Genius Scan – take photo of document and scans it into PDF  
 Easy Measure – ergonomic workstation – take a photo of it and it will give you the measure – Apple  
 Toddler Lock – Android – Touch screen will do something different – cause and effect while remainder of apps are locked  
 Kids Corner – separate section on phone so it's all the kids can get into

## Hand SIS By: Lydia Christesen OTD, OTR, CHT

The Hand SIS Michigan chapter has just completed their fall hand conference on REHABILITATION OF THE NECK, SHOULDER AND ELBOW presented by Scott Benjamin. We are now working on spring and fall 2014 conferences. The dates and topics are: March 28; Flexor and Extensor Tendon Treatment presented by Rebecca von der Heyde and October 17/18; Neuromobilization of the Upper Quadrant presented by Paul Bonzani. We have not finalized a location for the conferences. If anyone has an interest in having their facility host the conference please contact board member (Lydia.christesen@midmichigan.org).

Also, the board has put together a preliminary questionnaire regarding fabrication and payment of orthosis. The purpose of the questionnaire is two-fold. First it is to determine how therapists in the state are billing out for fabrication of orthotics and second to utilize the information in discussions with insurance companies. A finalized questionnaire will be presented at a later date.

## **UPDATES FROM THE TRI-ALLIANCE EFFORTS**

The most recent meeting with the Tri-Alliance group occurred on October 24, 2013. There were 2 representatives from each discipline of OT, PT and SLP present.

The meeting included a clarification of group purpose which is to support other disciplines with similar initiatives and share knowledge relative to government and reimbursement issues within the state of Michigan.

One of the recent areas that Physical Therapy has focused their initiatives within the state has been direct consumer access. Currently only two states (i.e., OK and MI) do not have direct consumer access. MPTA hopes to have a bill introduced before 2013 end of year. MSHA has received approval from the board to support this initiative. Iota has been approached by MPTA for support. MiOTA is currently in discussion on best approach to support the bill and MPTA. Discussion regarding the deregulation of OT and SLP continued as well. Currently, there appears to be no current threat for OT or SLP to be de-regulated due to the efforts of both the associations individually. However there is continued encouragement for educating legislators regarding the practices of these professions.

The group shared information on the Meridian Health Insurance reimbursement difficulties for services. Discussion was made re: OT/SLP "cut out" of services unless through the ABA with Autism bill. OT: individual patients and therapists are advocating on their own behalf and Meridian is getting frustrated. Iota lobbyist suggested we approach Meridian as a group. MPTA offered to help if needed.

BCBS issues within Michigan were discussed. MPTA is meeting next week with BCBS. OT is continuing to work on getting splint codes reimbursed.

## **MiOTA Master Clinician Award**

Katherine Konosky has made numerous contributions to the practice of Occupational Therapy. She has a history of becoming specialized in therapeutic approaches to specific patient populations. Recently she became trained in lymphedema and has expanded upon that expertise into the area of cancer treatment. Kathy has touched the lives of many patients in very significant ways. Kathy has consistently treats patients in a very dignified manner and is respectful of all aspects of the patient's life. She leads patients to follow the motto of "living life to the fullest". Not only does Kathy treat patients but she shares her knowledge and skills readily by educating her peers and other medical providers on the specialized interventions she has become so skilled at providing. This award is to recognize her commitment to the field of Occupational Therapy and expanding the practice areas and expertise of the medical providers.



## MiOTA Awards

### Distinguished Service Award

Jaclyn West-Fraser received the distinguished service award due to her significant contributions toward the advancement of the MiOTA organization. She tirelessly pursued the re-activation of the MiOTA PAC which is now known as the Friends of OT in Michigan. In 2012 prior to the AOTA conference, Michigan was faced with the possibility of de-regulation. Upon hearing about this over lunch at the AOTA conference she initiated the concept of re-activating the PAC. It took an extreme amount of courage to step forward to volunteer during for this effort especially not knowing what it would entail. In less than 2 years the obstacles that had to be overcome were achieved and the PAC is now up and running. Due to these efforts all Occupational Therapists within the state of Michigan will benefit from the ability to be known among the political figures within Lansing especially in this time of health care reform. Our profession needs to remain strong and due to the re-activation of the PAC, it will.

Debra Lindstrom-Hazel received the distinguished service award due to her significant contributions toward the advancement of the MiOTA organization. She tirelessly pursued the re-activation of the MiOTA PAC which is now known as the Friends of OT in Michigan. In 2012 prior to the AOTA conference, Michigan was faced with the possibility of de-regulation. Upon hearing about this over lunch at the AOTA conference she initiated the concept of re-activating the PAC. It took an extreme amount of courage to step forward to volunteer during for this effort especially not knowing what it would entail. In less than 2 years the obstacles that had to be overcome were achieved and the PAC is now up and running. Due to these efforts all Occupational Therapists within the state of Michigan will benefit from the ability to be known among the political figures within Lansing especially in this time of health care reform. Our profession needs to remain strong and due to the re-activation of the PAC, it will.

### Award of Excellence

Lynnette Rasmussen has made numerous contributions to the practice of Occupational Therapy. She is certified in Pilates and Red Cord and is seeking advanced training in BioCored. She readily integrates her specialties into the patient populations she treats from adults with various conditions to pediatric patients with Neonatal Brachial Plexus Palsy. Her enthusiasm and creativity with these techniques have enhanced the lives of many patients in very significant ways. Not only does she integrate this into her practice as a therapist, she has also taught morning workout routines for attendees at the MiOTA annual conference. This award is to recognize her commitment to the field of Occupational Therapy and expanding the practice areas and expertise of the medical providers.

Dr. Barbara Rider, advocate, clinician, educator, researcher, administrator, and civic leader, epitomizes the gold standard for an occupational therapy professional. From her initial board certification as an occupational therapist in the early 1960's to her current clients for whom she actively provides occupational therapy services today, Dr. Rider has been a tireless and authentic advocate for improving the lives of many, many clients through occupational therapy. As a clinician, her genuine regard, compassion, endless enthusiasm, and intellect has resulted in significant and sustained positive change in those she serves. Her exceptional record of skillful leadership as the Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University, while actively teaching courses, facilitating research and scholarship long before it became a requirement across programs in the U.S., established her legacy as a tireless, effective advocate for the development of occupational therapy as a respected and viable profession. Her continuous engagement and participation in MiOTA, AOTA, and the WFOT, demonstrates her unparalleled contribution to our profession on a local, national, and international venue. Her contribution to her community as a past county commissioner, an active member and participant in the local, state and national AMBUCS organization, as well as many organizations in her local community has rounded out the wide circle of influence she has established to share her knowledge about the profession of occupational therapy for which she has a deep passion and genuine love by all who know her.

## MiOTA AWARDS Continued from page 7

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Joel Phillips' words are "I can".

His actions are extraordinary leadership and pioneering contributions to the field of occupational therapy.

The Centennial Vision has set forth parameters for each clinician to reach outside the box to promote, educate, and secure the validity of occupational therapy. He is a driven, passionate, balanced individual; to take this challenge and succeed abundantly- Joel Phillips has demonstrated outstanding leadership at Western Michigan University and creative pioneering contributions at the Family Health Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan earning his candidacy for this award "certification of appreciation".

As a clinical faculty specialist at Western Michigan University, Joel Phillips actions in and out of the classroom demonstrates outstanding leadership role. Joel has mentored hundreds of students, created community leadership integration programs with Southwest Michigan First, and has fostered countless collaboration with the academia and private practices throughout the state. Joel has found a balance with understanding technology, social media, and cutting edge treatment approaches in his classroom to advance those students with relevant "real time" learning material. Usage of a 3 dimensional computer/scanner technology to make adaptive equipment on site, facilitating an Exos sponsored splinting lab, and volunteering to maintain the OT program's web site are a few additional endeavors that has demonstrated his integrated leadership qualities. Joel is the chair of the student recognition program, and sits on additional advisory and consultative committees at the university. His drive to foster the best education for future OT practitioners to be more well-rounded, informed, and driven, is displayed by his consistent leadership actions.

In addition to his fulltime commitment to the university, Joel was driven to give back more to his profession and his community. In 2010, Joel began discussion with community leaders about affordable skilled therapy accessible to all. His pioneer work to take occupational therapy out of the academia setting, out of the hospitals, and private practices and bring it to everyone in need was the drive for this endeavor. Fast forward to May 2013, Joel opened the FIRST occupational therapy department at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Out of 7,000 FQHC's in the nation, Joel's vision demonstrated the intuitive potential; hence he was given the contract to put this dream into action. This program will serve as a model clinic for future skilled therapy FQHC's to open throughout the nation. The Kalamazoo FQHC services 50,000-60,000 underserved individuals in Kalamazoo and surrounding areas. The onsite occupational therapy clinic is open, running, and has quadrupled its growth in two months servicing the low income and disparity population. Children, youth, adults, and seniors now have access to receive occupational therapy so they too can have the "I can" motto and put their newly gained life skills into meaningful occupations and actions.

Take note from those that lead through the quietness of actions...Leader - Pioneer Joel Phillips has contributed a wealth of knowledge, direction, and opportunities for the field of Occupational therapy exuding the essence of pose, consistency, and dedication.

### Roster of Fellows

Through her significant mentorship of many occupational therapy students as a professor of occupational therapy at Western Michigan University Dr. Debra Lindstrom has established a consistent record of facilitating the professional transition from student to clinician to leaders in the profession. Many of these graduates, who are now active members of MiOTA as well as AOTA, have identified Dr. Lindstrom as a key influence in their desire and interest to be advocates of their profession as well as continuing to enhance their professional knowledge and skills by enabling a path to independent learning by her skillful and influential teaching practices. She has continuously served as a role model for both her students and her peers by way of persistent advocacy for the creation and implementation of opportunities for persons with disabilities through occupation based technology and specialized programs such as Car Fit, workplace ergonomics, and occupation based orthotics and adaptive devices. In addition, she has consistently provided opportunities for research and scholarship by way of a highly productive record of peer reviewed publications in professional journals and professional presentations at the local, national, and international levels with students often co-authoring and co-presenting with her. Her interest in international professional development led her to international travel to develop and implement an approach to enhance clinical reasoning skills among Bangladesh occupational therapists. Her active commitment to strengthening the status of Michigan occupational therapists by way of creating the "Friends of OT" initiative has resulted in increased support for the retention of the Michigan licensure law enacted in 2009 yet now vulnerable to challenges within the state legislature. She is a consummate professional which is recognized and celebrated by her student and the clients she continues to serve as an educator, researcher, clinician, and advocate.

Angeline (Angie) Bayci is awarded the Roster of Fellows award in recognition of her outstanding contribution in both professional development and continuing education of MiOTA members. Angie Worked tirelessly to bring the Annual Conference back to the membership. She traveled throughout the state in search of cost effective conference sites, negotiated Contracts, recruited vendors, scheduled speakers and developed conference brochures. Once conference began Angie was ever present to problem-solve or trouble shoot if there were problems. Particularly noteworthy is that during the six years that Angie co-chaired the Annual Conference a profit was realized every year. MiOTA members can be proud that thanks to Angie's effort a professional conference is once again a member benefit I am proud to nominate Angie Bayci for this most important award and cannot think of anyone more deserving to use the title of Fellow of MiOTA.





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The MiOTA Newsletter is always looking for article ideas or sharing from you what works in your practice area. If you have an idea to share contact Donna Case at [casedo@northvilleschools.org](mailto:casedo@northvilleschools.org)

**Deadlines for  
MiOTA Newsletter**

**Issue Deadlines:**

Winter January 01, 2014  
Spring April 01, 2014  
Summer July 01, 2014  
Fall October 01, 2014