

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY March 2021

- Professor Pamela Miller, MA, OTR will be retiring as our academic fieldwork coordinator as of June 2021. Phyllis Simon, OTD, OTR/L, FNAP will be replacing her at that time.
- Dr. Phyllis Simon graduated with a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree in 2020. She was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Amanda Sarafian graduated with a Doctor of Education degree in 2020. She was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Lenin Grajo was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.
- Eight students graduated from our post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctoral degree.
- We welcomed Rochelle Mendonca, PhD, OTR/L to our faculty in 2020. Dr. Mendonca is an Assistant Professor and teaching both in our OTD program and Health Policy in our Masters Program. Her research focuses on assistive technology.
- Dr. Pat Precin won the 2020 NBCOT Innovation Award, which recognizes practitioners who demonstrate the delivery of an evidence based, effective, and innovative program or intervention that enhances quality of life. Dr. Precin won the award for her Living Skills Recovery Curriculum for clients with dual diagnosis and a history of homelessness, hospitalizations, and severe performance impairments.
- Dr. Sharon Gutman won the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award. This award recognizes an occupational therapy practitioner who has made substantial and lasting contributions to the profession.
- Dr. Phyllis Simon was inducted as a Fellow into the National Academies of Practice for Interprofessional Health Care.
- Dr. Amanda Sarafian presented at the 2021 Japanese Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (JACPDM) conference.
- Dr. Lenin Grajo presented "The Role of Occupational Therapy in Functional Literacy: Assessment and Best Practices" in a two-day webinar for the University of the Philippines Manila.
- Our faculty continues to be prolific scholars, with numerous presentations and publications. Members of our faculty Dr. Rochelle Mendonca, Dr. Pat Precin, Dr. Lenin Grajo, Dr. Katherine Dimitripoulou, Dr. Phyllis Simon, and Dr. Sharon Gutman will present at the AOTA Annual Conference.
- Faculty publications include 3 books, 25 journal articles, and 34 book chapters.
- In 2020, our students founded a chapter of Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD).
- Our students have taken active roles participating in Columbia's **CSSC (COVID-19 Student Service Corp.)**, a student led organization responding to community needs in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very proud of their work!
- Our students continue to partner with medical students, providing services at the Columbia Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership, a student-run free clinic on 125th Street.
- Our program has been ranked #8 by US News and World Report. We are tied for #1 in the State of New York, and #1 in the NY Metropolitan Area (including NJ and CT).

As always, we thank you for collaborating with us in the education of our students. We are particularly grateful during these unprecedented times for your dedication and commitment to fieldwork education and our profession.

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