

NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THANK YOU

The New York Institute of Technology Occupational Therapy Department would like to thank all our fieldwork educators for their continued support of our students and their dedication to this wonderful profession.

OUR PROGRAM

New York Tech is proud to offer a master's degree in occupation therapy. Our MSOT program has been fully accredited since 1999. We continue to grow and transform to meet societal needs. In 2020, we accepted our first class for our new OTD program. This entry level doctoral degree is awarded in 3 years of full-time study, including the 14-week doctoral capstone experience.



OUR FACULTY

Alexander Lopez, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Occupational Therapy Program. As a licensed attorney and occupational therapist Dr. Lopez has spent much of his career engaging in grassroots movements to meet the needs of underserved communities. Dr. Lopez finds great professional and personal satisfaction in the joy of building innovative science and occupation-based programs. His goal is to providing quality, compassionate services to those who need it most.

Melanie Austin, Associate Professor and Assistant Chair of Occupational Therapy & Community Relations, is an alumna of NYIT. Dr. Austin's research focuses on wellness, disease prevention and empowering youth, young adults, women, student-athletes and vulnerable populations. She is an NIH NHLBI PRIDE Scholar and she represents NYIT as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and is a Faculty Associate with NYIT's Center for Sports Medicine.

Christina Finn, Assistant Professor, holds a Doctor of Education in Transformational Leadership from the University of New England and a master's degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Scranton. She has extensive experience working with individuals diagnosed with various neurological conditions, with a specialty in post- concussion, visual, vestibular and perceptual rehabilitation. Dr. Finn's current research interests include the role of occupational therapy in concussion, return to learn, and return to play protocols for students who have sustained concussion.

Robert G. Gallagher, Clinical Associate Professor, earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from New York Chiropractic College and a Master of Business Administration from St. John's University. Dr. Gallagher has been teaching in the health sciences and fitness fields for 20 years. His focus has been on anatomy, kinesiology, rehabilitation, and strength and conditioning.

Pamela Karp, Assistant Professor and MSOT Program Director earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Stony Brook University, her Master in Health Science degree from the University of Florida and her Doctor of Education degree from Concordia University. Dr. Karp is a Certified Hand Therapist with over 20 years of experience in the area of upper extremity/hand rehabilitation. Her research interests include translation of knowledge with a focus on student carryover from classroom to fieldwork and professional practice.

Michael A. Pizzi, Associate Professor and Doctoral Capstone Coordinator, has his PhD in Community Health/Health and Wellness and is the Doctoral Capstone Coordinator at NYIT. Dr. Pizzi has published over 60 chapters and peer reviewed articles and has lectured nationally and internationally on HIV rehab, hospice and end-of-life care, childhood obesity and health, well-being and quality of life. Dr. Pizzi is co-owner of Clear Function Rehab which focuses on mental and behavioral health and well-being issues for all populations.

Ling Wan-Albert, Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Stony Brook University, and a post-professional doctoral degree in occupational therapy from Thomas Jefferson University. She has experience in adult rehabilitation across the spectrum of care, including acute care, inpatient, outpatient, and subacute rehabilitation. Dr. Wan-Albert developed a particular interest working with individuals with Parkinson's disease, and is a Rock Steady Boxing Coach. Her research interests include Parkinson's disease fatigue management protocol and group-based cognitive behavioral approach.

Beth Elenko, Associate Professor, earned her Bachelors of Science in OT from Eastern Michigan University, her advanced master's and doctoral degrees in Applied Research in OT from New York University. Dr. Elenko has brought her continued passion for early intervention practice and research to NYIT. She has presented locally and nationally, is actively involved in AOTA's Early Childhood workgroup, and is a mentor in AOTA's Academic Education Special Interest Section (AESIS) New Educator Mentoring Program (NEMP). She continues to have an active early intervention practice, currently engaging in telehealth practice.

Mary Squillace, Associate Clinical Professor, earned her PhD in Occupational Therapy from Nova Southeastern University and her DrOT, post professional degree, from Temple University. Dr. Squillace specializes in early intervention and the medically complex child. She has published chapters on the topics of prematurity and the occupations of disability and mechanical ventilation. Dr. Squillace has published research on the topic of young adults and pediatric multiple sclerosis and continues her work on future research and manuscripts. She has presented internationally and nationally and is currently active in pediatric telehealth evaluations, interventions, and consultations.