

**Alison Rangel & Mandi Roberts** sincerely thanks all clinicians who provided fieldwork opportunities for our NYU students!

The Department has much to celebrate! 2022-2023 has been a busy, productive year. Our faculty, students, and alumni continue to excel in the healthcare field, garnering much-deserved recognition. We extend our congratulations to Tracy Chippendale and Janet Njelesani, who have both received tenure since our last report, and to Yael Goverover and Kristie Patten who are now Full-Professors. We were thrilled to be able to gather in person to celebrate Dr. Patten's 2022 Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecture at the AOTA Conference in San Antonio and enjoyed seeing at AOTA Inspire last April in Kansas City.

We are pleased to announce that we have resumed our post-professional OTD program. Our post-professional OTD program can be completed in 27-36 credits. Courses can be completed online and can be taken in the late afternoon and/or evening. For more information about our post-professional OTD or PhD programs please contact **Ginelle John** at [ginelle.john@nyu.edu](mailto:ginelle.john@nyu.edu).

We are also excited to share that we have recently submitted our Candidacy Application for an entry-level OTD program to ACOTE and the application is currently under review.

**Offiong Aqua, MD** has a joint appointment in the departments of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Communicative Science Disorders. In these departments, he teaches Cadaver Human Anatomy, Anatomy of Speech and Hearing Mechanisms, Applied Anatomy and Physiology of OB/GYN, Cardiology, Urinary System, Dermatology and Immunology. He has in recent years, introduced new beginner anatomy lecture and cadaver lab courses for undergraduates offered university-wide. As a health care member of NYU Africa House Institute, he has led a group which initiated top certification (American Heart Association) trainings for doctors and nurses in Nigeria. Part of this continuing global health care work includes helping establish a nerve center for nonexistent emergency medical services in the West African country.

**Tracy Chippendale's** clinical background and research interests are in geriatrics. Specifically, she focuses on developing and testing interventions that facilitate the ability of older adults to age in place. She recently published the results of an efficacy trial for Stroll Safe, an outdoor falls prevention program that she developed. She plans to create translated and culturally adapted versions of the Stroll Safe program. She currently has a study underway examining safety of public buses, which is an international collaboration. She continues to present her scholarship at national conferences and publish her work in occupational therapy and geriatrics journals.

**Patricia Gentile** is the program director for the entry level OT program and continues to teach in both the professional and post-professional programs. Patricia has authored the supervision chapter in the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Willard and

Spackman's Occupational Therapy. She has presented at the AOTA and the NYSOTA Conferences. In the Fall of 2022, she was the recipient of NYSOTA Certificate of Achievement.

**Yael Goverover** is the post professional program director and an associate editor with the AJOT. She continues to publish her research in top-tier journals such as Rehabilitation Psychology, and Journal of Multiple Sclerosis. Additionally, she was invited this year to present at the European Congress of Multiple Sclerosis and updated the chapter about cognitive rehabilitation in the new edition of Willard and Spackman.

**Tsu-Hsin Howe** is the Chair of the Department and an associate professor. In the role of the department chair, she has been working closely with the faculty on preparing the candidacy application for the entry-level OTD program. The NYU Department of OT plans to accept the first cohort of EL-OTD students in the Fall, 2024. Over the past year, she has published 4 peer-reviewed journal articles and one book chapter. She is currently working on the 5th edition of "Frames of reference for pediatric occupational therapy" textbook.

**Amy Hurst**, Director of the NYU Ability Project ([ability.nyu.edu](http://ability.nyu.edu)) has a joint appointment between Occupational Therapy and the Technology, Culture, and Society Department in the Tandon School of Engineering. Her research focuses on collaborating with end users to understand accessibility challenges and the potential for novel assistive technologies to address them. This year she published a journal article evaluating the impact of a web development workshop for screen reader users; tools to help blind and low vision musicians compose music, and an evaluation of tactile experiences in museums and historic sites. She is working on externally funded research to increase the accessibility of content in museums through a collaboration with the Intrepid Air, Sea, and Space Museum, and a grant from the National Parks service to increase accessible offerings at Fort Ticonderoga. In 2020 she received external funding in collaboration with CUNY Staten Island to develop appropriate assessment strategies for autistic students developing technical skills in game a design workshop in the Tech Kids Unlimited program.

**Grace Kim's** research encapsulates the intersection of technology, neurorehabilitation, and client-centered care. She is particularly interested in the use of affordable mobile and wearable technologies and shared decision-making approaches to maximize real-world outcomes for stroke survivors living in the community. Dr Kim was the recipient of the AOTF Intervention Research Grant in 2021, and the AOTA Emerging and Innovative Practice Award in 2022. Dr Kim teaches courses in Neurorehabilitation, Evidence-based Practice, and Ethics & Analytic Reasoning. She serves as a research and academic mentor for masters and doctoral students in the OT and Rehabilitation Science programs and for undergraduates in the R25 Research Education in Cardiovascular Conditions program at the NYU School of Nursing. Dr Kim serves as the faculty

liaison for NYU COTAD chapter and the chair the NYU OT Anti-racism Taskforce.

**Pamela Lawton**, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Lawton's area of clinical specialty is the hand and upper extremity her specific area of interest is Thumb Carpometacarpal Joint Dysfunction in the OA and Lupus (SLE) populations, and is the focus of her clinical investigation. She presented at a short course "Dynamic Stability Exercises for Management of Pain & Disability in Patients with Carpometacarpal Joint OA of the Thumb" at the NYSOTA 2022 Annual Conference. She also had a poster presentation "Interventions for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus for thumb Carpometacarpal Joint Dysfunction: A Scoping Review at the ASHT 2022 Annual Conference. She is currently the Faculty Advisor for the AOTF NYU Phi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Student Chapter.

**Marianne H. Mortera**, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, presented two core conference symposia at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) annual meeting on a proposed framework on measurement validity for rehabilitation professionals and stroke recovery predictive models in the fall 2022 semester. She also presented on complementary integrative medicine (CIM) in traumatic brain injury (TBI) rehabilitation at the International Brain Injury Association World Congress in the spring 2023 semester. She and a team of interdisciplinary ACRM researchers have also had three different research projects on the treatment of TBI and CIM published in *European Journal of Integrative Medicine*, *Brain Injury*, and *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. She and co-author, Sharon Gutman, have written the 4th edition of the textbook, *Quick reference neuroscience for rehabilitation professionals: The essential neurologic principles underlying rehabilitation practice*, which is currently in press.

**Janet Njelesani**, Associate Professor. Dr. Njelesani's research uses the critical occupational approach she developed to examine inequities in occupational experiences. She is currently conducting a study with caregivers of cancer survivors supported by her AOTF 2022-24 Implementation Research Grant and is also carrying out knowledge mobilization activities for her National Academy of Education (NAEd)/ Spencer funded study that examined school violence against students with disabilities. Over the past year, she presented at WFOT 2022, AOTA INSPIRE 2022, and the SSO 2022 Conference, and published her work in occupational therapy, education, and global health journals. She serves as the new Associate Editor of the Occupational Science Section in *OTJR: Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*.

**Kristie Patten** continues in her role as Vice Dean of Academic Affairs for Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development and was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She was named Co-Chair of the Research Collaborative for the Center for Global Inclusion

in partnership with Special Olympics. Dr. Patten was also named as an advisor to Chancellor Banks' Special Education Advisory Council to help reimagine special education in NYC. Dr. Patten was awarded, as Co-Principal Investigator, a NSF grant entitled "Making Mentors: Enhancing Access to STEM Careers for Autistic Youth through Mentorship Programs in Makerspaces" that works with autistic college students to mentor autistic high school students in STEM careers in a strength based model.

**Anita Perr**, Clinical Professor. Dr. Perr's areas of interest continue to focus on helping OT students understand the importance of people with disabilities participating in the activities they choose; in the locations they choose. This often requires adaptation in techniques and environments as well as the use of adaptive equipment and assistive technology. After 27 years on the OT faculty, Anita will be retiring from NYU in December 2023. She will likely continue teaching in the OT department and through the NYU Ability Project as an adjunct professor.

**Sally E. Poole**, with Karen Buckley and Diana Chen Wong revised their chapter "Occupation and Activity Analysis" for the 5th edition of *The Texture of Life: Occupation and Related Activities*. And, after 30 years at NYU OT, Sally has decided to retire at the end of the 2023 calendar year. She reports that it has been a long and wonderful experience with faculty, staff, and students at NYU OT. She will continue to work part-time at the hand clinic (now under new ownership) she and her former partner, (Joan Sullivan, also an NYU OT graduate) established in 1995.

**Gerald Voelbel** has three lines of research: identifying cognitive deficits, cognitive remediation, and neuroplasticity. He works with many neurological populations including concussions, traumatic brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and cognitive deficits in cancer patients.

For additional faculty, student and alumni news, please visit **spotlight**, the official blog of the NYU Steinhardt Department of Occupational Therapy.  
<http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/site/spotlight>

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