

VIRTUAL

This Forum will be recorded and made available to attendees approximately Jan. 31.

DATE AND TIME
January 21, 2025
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Register Online
<https://otac.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1918294&group=>

Register by Fax
916/294-0415

Register by Mail
Send form with payment to:
OTAC,
3620 American River Dr.,
Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95864
Registration must be received
by January 17, 2025

QUESTIONS?
Contact OTAC staff:
Email staff@otaonline.org
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Advocating for Occupational Therapy Practitioners' Roles in Pediatric Settings (1.5 PDU)

Allison Q. Phillips, OTD, OTR/L; Rachel Eckerling, OTD, OTR/L; Joan M. Surfus, OTD, OTR/L

There is compelling evidence for pediatric occupational therapy practitioners' (OTP) roles in primary care (PC). OTPs are uniquely skilled at developmental screening and monitoring to promote development and engagement in meaningful occupations. OTPs bridge a gap in the continuum of care for families because primary care providers (PCPs) often lack the knowledge, training, time, or resources to support the initiation of early intervention and other necessary services. Although caregivers desire to have an OTP on their team of PCPs, more advocacy is needed to continue highlighting the importance of OTPs in this setting. In this discussion, participants will learn how to foster connections and advocate for OTPs' positions in PC settings, including high-risk infant follow-up.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand OTPs' roles in pediatric primary care settings to advocate for their position.
- Describe the process of building collaborations with primary care providers and establishing OTPs' roles in implementing developmental screening into primary care practice.

REGISTRATION FORM *One form per person. Please type or print clearly. Check appropriate boxes*

MEMBERS \$19 NONMEMBERS \$39

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ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



Rachel Eckerling, OTD, OTR/L, is the lead acute care pediatric occupational therapy practitioner for the pediatric intensive care unit and children's step-down unit at Guerin Children's at Cedars-Sinai. She works with an interdisciplinary team to spearhead protocols and procedures for both units. Eckerling also provides

evaluations and connects families to community resources at the High-Risk Infant Progress Clinic at Cedars-Sinai. When not working, she spends her time providing respite care to a child with a rare genetic condition.



Allison Q. Phillips, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC) Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Within the Chan division, she

works primarily in the Innovations in Neurodevelopmental Sensory Processing Research (insp!re) laboratory. As the lab's clinical assessment training coordinator, Phillips trains doctoral and master's level students and administers early autism screening tools and assessments. Her research interests include investigating early markers of autism in infancy and early childhood, as well as screening infants who are at an elevated likelihood for autism. She is passionate about bridging the gap between research and clinical practice to better educate and serve families across a variety of settings.



Joan M. Surfus, OTD, OTR/L, is an adjunct assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC) Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Surfus owns and

operates Surfus Pediatric Feeding and Occupational Therapy, providing consultation, assessment, and intervention for pediatric clients, specializing in pediatric feeding disorders, autism, sensory integration, and development. Surfus also works part-time at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center providing occupational therapy services in the NICU/PICU and High-Risk Infant Progress Clinic. When not working, she spends her free time volunteering abroad providing services for children with special needs and education for their families.

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ABOUT THIS SPECIAL TOPIC FORUM

Professional Development Units (PDUs)

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Special Topic Forum - VIRTUAL

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