



## 2nd Annual OTAC Academic Symposium

### VIRTUAL

Participate from anywhere you have a strong internet connection

RECORDING WILL BE AVAILABLE BY JULY 10, 2023 FOR REGISTRANTS.

#### DATE AND TIME

Fri, June 23, 2023  
8:15am to 4:00pm

#### Register Online

<https://bit.ly/23AcaSymp>

#### Register by Mail

(See registration form)

#### Register by Fax

916/294-0415

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact OTAC staff:

Email [staff@otaconline.org](mailto:staff@otaconline.org)

Call toll-free (888) 686-3225



### Agenda – 8:15am to 4:00pm – Earn 6 PDUs

**8:15am – 8:30am:** Welcome/Overview

**8:30am – 9:30am:** Questioning Our Foundations: Decolonizing Practice and Education

**9:30am – 10:30am:** Using an Integrated Model to Understand Student Resistance

**10:30am – 10:45am:** Break

**10:45am – 11:45am:** Applying Trauma-Informed Pedagogy to the College Classroom

**11:45am – 12:30pm:** Lunch on own

**12:30pm – 1:30pm:** Optimizing Student Engagement: Sensory Strategies in the Classroom

**1:30pm – 2:30pm:** Building Inclusive and Authentic Community in the Classroom

**2:30pm – 2:45pm:** Break

**2:45pm – 3:45pm:** Reconsidering Our Grading Practices: Assessing for Equity

**3:45pm – 4:00pm:** Wrap Up/Final Questions

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

	OT/OTA MEMBERS	OT/OTA NONMEMBERS	STUDENT MEMBERS	STUDENT NONMEMBERS
EARLY BIRD	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$139	<input type="checkbox"/> \$79	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109
<b>EARLY BIRD ENDS MONDAY, JUNE 5</b>				
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$139	<input type="checkbox"/> \$169	<input type="checkbox"/> \$99	<input type="checkbox"/> \$129

TOTAL DUE: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please review the cancellation/refund policy below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS: CHECK ONE

Check (make payable to OTAC)       MasterCard       Visa       AMEX

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ VCode \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUBMIT PAYMENT:

Fax to: 916/294-0415, or  Mail to: OTAC, 3620 American River Drive, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95864, or

REGISTER ONLINE - <https://bit.ly/23AcaSymp>

**Cancellation/Refund Policy.** \$25 is retained to cover cancellation/refund processing costs. Written notice must be received in the OTAC office by June 15, 2023, to be eligible for refunds. No refunds after this date.

Disclaimer: OTAC reserves the right to make changes to the program. No refunds will be made based on these changes. [Click here for OTAC's complete disclaimers/terms document of which you agree to.](#)

OTAC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be the collective voice representing the occupational therapy profession.

Occupational Therapy Association of California

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Email: [info@otaconline.org](mailto:info@otaconline.org) • [www.otaconline.org](http://www.otaconline.org)

### Schedule, Topic Descriptions, and About Our Presenters

Recording will be available by July 10, 2023 for registrants.

#### 8:15am – 8:30am - Welcome/Overview

#### 8:30am – 9:30am

##### Questioning our Foundations: Decolonizing Practice and Education

*Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L*

*Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP*

*Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L*

This presentation will describe an innovative pedagogical approach which introduced occupational therapy students to decolonization. Participants will have opportunities to identify instances of colonization in practice and education as well as approaches to decolonize.

#### 9:30am – 10:30am

##### Using an Integrated Model to Understand Student Resistance

*Jeni Dulek, OTD, OTR/L*

*Michelle Gorenberg, OTD, OTR/L*

The presenters will discuss an integrated model of student resistance that can help educators prevent and minimize factors that contribute to resistance. Addressing resistance has been shown to improve student learning and faculty satisfaction with teaching.

#### 10:30am – 10:45am – Break

#### 10:45am – 11:45pm

##### Applying Trauma-Informed Pedagogy to the College Classroom

*Candace Ro, MA, OTR/L*

This presentation is about how occupational therapy educators and administrators can use trauma-informed pedagogy to create inclusive classrooms and a safe place for learning, where students are co-facilitators of learning.

#### 11:45am – 12:30pm – Lunch on own

#### 12:30pm – 1:30pm

##### Optimizing Student Engagement: Sensory Strategies in the Classroom

*Linsey Grunes, OTD, OTR/L*

*Ling Yu (Elena) Meng, OTD, OTR/L*

*Merry Lee, OTD, OTR/L*

Occupational therapy (OT) graduate students report higher than average levels of stress that impact their mental and physical health, occupational balance, and learning and engagement in the classroom. This presentation will provide an overview of a program that integrates sensory and regulation strategies into the classroom context to support OT student engagement and mental health.

#### 1:30pm – 2:30pm

##### Building Inclusive and Authentic Community in the Classroom

*Myka Persson, OTD, OTR/L*

This presentation will discuss how to increase inclusivity within the classroom with course design, storytelling, and vulnerability. Specific examples and overall outcomes from making intentional changes will be provided.

#### 2:30pm – 2:45pm – Break

#### 2:45pm – 3:45pm

##### Reconsidering our Grading Practices: Assessing for Equity

*Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L*

*Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS*

This presentation will describe how grading practices can be inequitable, and how and why to shift these practices towards equity. Participants will reflect on current practices with encouragement to consider more equitable grading practices.

#### 3:45pm – 4:00pm – Wrap Up/Final Questions

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### About Our Presenters



**Jeni Dulek, OTD, OTR/L**, is an assistant professor in the School of Occupational Therapy at Pacific University. She has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 23 years specializing in

psychosocial practice and has been in full-time academic roles for the past nine years. Her teaching practices center on holistic care and concern for students, including methods that support belonging and mattering and involve students as partners in their learning and professional growth. Dulek has researched student resistance and has presented extensively on related topics such as advising, student belonging, and Universal Design for Learning, all which support student learning and may decrease resistance.



**Michelle Gorenberg, OTD, OTR/L**, is a clinical associate professor at the Institute for Occupational Therapy Education at Widener University. She has been a practicing occupational therapy practitioner for

the past 37 years, specializing in pediatric practice. Gorenberg has been an academic educator for the past 15 years and is honored to have received the AOTA's Distinguished Educator Award for 2023. Her teaching practices center on creating inclusive learning communities that support students' curiosity, risk-taking, and growth.



**Linsey Grunes, OTD, OTR/L**, was born in the United States but raised in Europe and Hong Kong. She completed her undergraduate, master's, and clinical doctorate degrees at the

University of Southern California. She is now an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy, providing instruction in the foundations of pediatric occupational therapy practice and school-based practice and participating in research projects for the USC Chan Division's Sensory Integration, Engagement, and Family Life Initiative. Grunes has more than 10 years of clinical experience in various pediatric settings and has served in leadership roles mentoring clinicians, developing and implementing programs, and coordinating fieldwork placements. She has extensive experience and additional training in sensory integration, pediatric and perinatal mental health, and promoting social and community engagement for children and families. Her doctoral work focused on program evaluation and quality improvement for group social skills programming.



**Janet Gunter, OTD, OTR/L**, is a clinical associate professor of occupational therapy. She has worked for more than 25 years as a pediatric occupational therapy practitioner, and specializes in working

with children with autism spectrum disorder, neuromotor disorders, and feeding and oral-motor difficulties and their families. She is also a co-owner and director of clinical operations at Therapy West, Inc., where she supports both administrative and therapeutic staff and enjoys mentoring practitioners in culturally humble care.

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**Jennifer Jones, OTD, OTR/L, BCP**, is an assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC) and appointed faculty at the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los

Angeles. Jones has over 15 years of pediatric experience working in homes, schools, clinics, and community settings with advanced training in sensory integration and feeding disorders. She is passionate about including families in intervention and providing client-centered and culturally humble care.



**Merry Lee, OTD, OTR/L**, received a Master of Arts in occupational therapy and an Occupational Therapy Doctorate from the University of Southern California. She also graduated from UC Davis with a BS in exercise biology and a BA in

psychology. Lee is originally from San Francisco and moved to the Los Angeles region for occupational therapy school. She currently works at Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network and is an adjunct assistant professor of clinical occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC), co-teaching the pediatrics immersion course and online USC Chan sensory integration continuing education certificate courses. Lee is certified in the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT), and has received advanced practice certification in Swallowing Assessment, Evaluation, or Intervention from the California Board of Occupational Therapy.



**Ling Yu (Elena) Meng, OTD, OTR/L, BCP**, earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in occupational therapy from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, prior to completing a Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy

(OTD) at the University of Southern California (USC). Both during her doctoral residency and now as a faculty member, Meng has worked closely with the *China Initiative* in supporting the dual-degree program of USC Chan with the Peking University Health Science Center (PKUHSC). Her current work focuses on assisting with the curriculum development and cultural adaptation of the dual-degree program and mentoring the PKUHSC-USC dual-degree students. Meng also teaches the pediatric practice immersion course in the Entry-Level Professional Master's Program at USC. She has trained at pediatric institutions internationally, including the National Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disabilities in Tokyo, Japan, the Montreal Children's Hospital in Montreal, Canada, and Pediatric Therapy Network in Torrance, California. She has completed the USC Chan Sensory Integration Continuing Education Certificate Program with hands-on clinical training (OT 610). Meng has practiced as an occupational therapy practitioner, providing pediatric clinic-based, school-based, in-home early intervention, and telehealth services.



**Tessa Milman, OTD, OTR/L**, teaches mental health, clinical reasoning, and qualitative research in the Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at USC, utilizing team-based learning and other learner-centered pedagogies. Her

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courses incorporate diverse perspectives and critical theories to support occupational therapy students to become culturally humble practitioners who care deeply about lived experiences and embody person-centered and trauma-informed approaches. Milman is passionate about integrating lived experience with academic knowledge within teaching and practice and embedding justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into occupational therapy practice and curriculum. She has practiced and supervised students in pediatric and adult mental health settings.



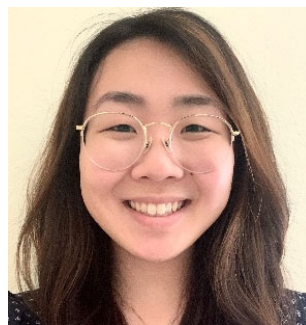
**Myka Persson, OTD, OTR/L**, is the program director for the MSOT program at Stanbridge University in Irvine, CA. She has over 10 years of experience teaching occupational therapy and pre-occupational therapy students. Her primary,

former clinical background is in Lifestyle Redesign®.



**Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS**, is the director of the professional program in occupational therapy at the University of Southern California (USC) and associate professor of clinical occupational therapy. She has been on the faculty since 2008 and has primarily taught adult

physical rehabilitation and kinesiology. Rafeedie has been an occupational therapy practitioner for 21 years, with additional practice interests in productive aging and geriatrics, pedagogy and higher education, mentorship, and volunteerism.



**Candace Ro, MA, OTR/L**, is a doctoral student at the University of Southern California (USC). She received a master's in occupational therapy from USC as well as a bachelor's in health and human sciences with minors in occupational

science and narrative structure. Candace is completing her residency in pedagogy, working especially with the occupational science minor program for undergraduate students. She has a clinical interest in pediatric mental health, school-based pediatrics, and college student mental health and hopes to either continue teaching or gain clinical experience in these areas after her residency.

### Symposium Coordinators

*Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM*

*Natalie Perkins, Med, OTR/L, FIIE, Program Director and Assistant Clinical Professor for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program, University of Pacific*  
*Samia Rafeedie, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS, Director of Professional Program in Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California*

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### UPCOMING VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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EDUCATION  
PASADENA  
NOVEMBER 9-12

### ABOUT THIS VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

#### This Symposium Will Be Recorded

This Symposium will be recorded. Participate virtually on June 23, 2023 and then re-watch at your convenience for the life of the recording on OTAC's platform. Recordings are generally available 7 days following the conclusion of the event.

**System Requirements.** OTAC webinars are broadcast through Zoom. A broadband internet connection is required. For minimum system requirements, visit the following page:

- Zoom - <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux>

#### Earned PDU's | MyOTlicense

PDU's will be entered into your MyOTlicense cloud-based PDU tracking 'filing cabinet.' (Must be an OTAC member or MyOTlicense subscriber. This service available only to OT/OTA licensees.)

#### Why OTAC Symposiums?

To support OTAC Core Value 7 - Professional Development:  
To provide quality education and resources to advance the knowledge, skills, and continued competence of occupational therapy practitioners.

#### Symposium Disclaimer

This Symposium is sponsored by OTAC for the purpose of professional development. The material presented is not intended to represent the only or the best methods appropriate for the occupational therapy and/or medical condition or professional development issues being discussed, but rather is intended to present the opinions of the presenters, which may be helpful to other health care professionals at arriving at their own conclusions and consequent application. Attendees participating in this professional development education program do so with the full knowledge that they waive any claim they may have against OTAC and its representatives for reliance on any information presented during this educational event.

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