DEPARTMENT OF

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

New Faculty

- **Dr. Breanna Howell**, Clinical Assistant Professor, joined the Department in Summer 2025, previously adjunct Research Assistant Professor in the Department and pediatric occupational therapist at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL
- **Dr. Sharon Medina**, Clinical Assistant Professor, joined the Department in Summer 2025, previously a post-doctoral scholar at the University of South Florida and graduate of the RSD program
- **Dr. Chien-Te (Vince) Wu**, Associate Professor, joined the Department in Fall 2024, previously Associate Professor at The University of Tokyo, Japan

New Staff

- **Anita Cottrell**, Fiscal and HR Assistant, joined us from IFAS
- **Sharon Nelson**, Chair Assistant, previously worked in UF College of Medicine Research
- **Anna Pryyma**, Department Administrator, joined us from the College of Medicine

US News & World Report Rankings

- Overall national ranking: #9
- Highest ranking for public universities to date: #5

Research

Accomplishments of our six tenured and tenure-track faculty:

- 22 grants submitted (majority to external funders)
- 19 grants awarded (majority from external funders, including NIH, PCORI, NIDLRR, VA)
- 33 publications accepted (impact factors ranging from 1.5 – 5.6)
- 31 presentations at scientific conferences
- **I-DAPT (Institute on Driving, Activity, Participation, and Technology)**: 6 affiliated labs with total research revenue of $1,815,611.39
- **Dr. Sherrilene Classen:** Received department's first multi-site NIH R01 with OT as the submitting site
- **Dr. CJ Liu:** Established collaboration with the Brooks Rehabilitation Bartram Crossing Skilled Nursing Facility to promote group therapy in short-term rehabilitation and invited by NASA to share her research and tips for healthy aging

Education

RSD Program

- 8 OT-mentored students in 2024/2025, 2 graduates, 1 new student to start Fall 2025
- Fall 2023 graduate now in second year of postdoctoral fellowship at the Measurement and Regulatory Science (MaRS) Fellowship Program, Duke University

OTD Program

- 53 graduates in December 2024
- Admitted 62 students for Fall 2025- our largest cohort!
- 100% (n = 57) NBCOT pass rate
- 100% Graduate employment
- BHS-OTD Program graduated six students in Spring 2025 who are now full-time OTD

Education-related accomplishments of faculty and staff

- 7 faculty teaching in the OTD program recognized by the Dean for Excellence in Teaching (evaluations 4.8 or higher)
- Funding received to create simulated hospital bays for med-surg and ICU simulations
- Continuing to build and sustain community relationships, including new contracts with New Creation Adult Training Center in Gainesville
- Received $10K gift from Bob and Grace Dunlevy to support capstone projects and student support at Transitions Life Center and Marion Senior Services in Ocala
- **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**: 9 submissions, 11 publications, 14 conference presentations
- Education Grants awarded:
- **Dr. Lindsey Telg:** Creative B, College of the Arts: Healthcare professionals prescribe art to combat workplace burnout | News | College of the Arts | University of Florida
- **Dr. Anna Galloway**: Faculty Enhancement Opportunity, FY2025-26, Specialized Training and Mentorship in Medical Improv

Clinical Service

SmartDriver™:

- 178 clients served; Revenue = $70,640.89
- Approved to be a Vocational Rehabilitation provider
- Revised customer service survey using content validity index analysis and input from subject matter experts- results ranged from 9.12 to 9.58 out of 10, average rating of 9.38
- 5 UF OTD students completed shadowing experiences, 1 UF OTD student completed a one-week fieldwork experience

OT Equal Access Clinic:

- 72 clients served- Partnership with UF Care One Clinic has increased patient referrals
- Collaborations with the PT EAC and SmartDriverTM
- Exploring opportunities to expand OT service delivery to improve clinic accessibility

2025 Sandra Edwards Colloquium

- Department's annual research conference with 150 attendees
- Theme: Innovations for Occupational Therapy Research and Practice: AI, Robotics, and Autonomous Technology
- Highlighted the application of AI and various technologies in the evaluation and intervention for older adults, people with Parkinson's disease, stroke, or the pediatric population

Awards & Recognition

- **Taylor Atkins**: Superior Accomplishment Award winner of Division 5 in the category of Sustained Excellence for the College of Public Health and Health Professions
- **Dr. Anna Galloway**: Invited to present at the PHHP Days for the Pillar Presentation
- **Dr. Christine Myers**: Elected Chair-Elect of AOTA's Commission on Continuing Competence
- **Dr. Becky Piazza**: Selected as a National Academies of Practice (NAP) Distinguished Fellow of the Occupational Therapy Academy and to the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC) Mentoring Program Cohort
- **Dr. Linda Struckmeyer**: Received Commendation from AOTA for three years of service on Board of Directors as secretary, elected to a three-year term as Chair of AOTA Productive Aging Special Interest section