

OCT PRACTICE

JUNE 16, 2008

Learning Every Day

Genesis Rehab Services'
Student Program



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Qualitative Studies as Evidence

Certification for Academic Faculty

News, Capital Briefing, & More!



AOTA Updates

**BPPC
Reviews Bylaws**

The Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (BPPC) will begin work on revisions to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Bylaws at the September meeting. Changes will then be posted on the AOTA Web site (www.aota.org) for review by the membership prior to approval at the 2009 Representative Assembly (RA) and Annual Business Meeting at AOTA's Annual Conference & Expo in Houston. A copy of the current Bylaws is posted on the AOTA Web site in Leadership & Governance, Reference Documents, at <http://www.aota.org/Govern/RefDocs.aspx>. If you have any revisions to be considered, please e-mail them to ra@aota.org.

**Annual
Capitol Hill Day**

Mark your calendar and make your reservations to be in Washington, DC, for the 2008 AOTA Capitol Hill day on Monday, September 22. Join colleagues from around the country to discuss the occupational therapy profession with policymakers on Capitol Hill. AOTA will begin accepting RSVPs in July. Click on the AOTA Legislative Action Center at www.aota.org for more information as it is made available.

For the latest news affecting you and your profession, visit AOTA's Web site at www.aota.org.

Contact AOTA's Federal Affairs office with any questions or comments at fad@aota.org.

**AOTA Professional
Development
Discontinuation
Notice**

■ Effective **June 30, 2008**, the Self-Paced Clinical Course *Occupational Therapy: Making a Difference in School System Practice* (Product #3013) will be **discontinued.*** All participants will have until **June 30, 2009 (1 year)**, to return their examinations to the AOTA Professional Development Office for continuing education credit.

■ Effective **June 30, 2008**, the Self-Paced Clinical Course *Work: Principles and Practice* (Product #3016) will be **discontinued.*** All participants will have until **June 30, 2009 (1 year)**, to return their examinations to the AOTA Professional Development Office for continuing education credit.

If you plan to submit your completed exam for Colorado State University nondegree graduate credit, you have until **September 1, 2009**, to do so. Please refer to the Continuing Education section of the AOTA Web site for updated credit costs and the address for submitting the forms you received with your original purchase.

*When an SPCC is discontinued, examinations must be submitted within 1 calendar year of the date of discontinuation to receive AOTA continuing education credit. Product discontinuation notices are posted on the AOTA Web site, in AOTA periodicals, and in

the *AOTA Product Catalog for Occupational Therapy*.

Research Highlights

**Activity Program
Helps with Dementia**

The *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* published an article in its March 2008 issue on a study conducted by the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health; the School of Health Professions and the Department of Occupational Therapy at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia; and Sycamore Consulting, that tested whether the Tailored Activity Program (TAP) reduces dementia-related neuropsychiatric behaviors, promotes activity engagement, and enhances caregiver well-being. Intervention for the study involved eight sessions of occupational therapy involving neuropsychological and functional testing, selection and customization of activities to match patient capabilities identified in testing, and instruction to caregivers in use of the activities. The study included research and support from many occupational therapists, and concluded that tailoring activities to the capabilities of patients with dementia and training families in activity use resulted in clinically relevant benefits for both the patients and the caregivers. This intervention minimized trigger behaviors for nursing home placement and reduced objective caregiver burden; the researchers noted that depressed caregivers effectively engaged in and benefited from the intervention.

**OT Grant to
Support Caregivers**

The team of **Karie Angstadt**, OTR/L, director of Dementia Services with Fox Rehabilitation Geriatric Therapy at Home, and **Laura Gitlin**, PhD, director of the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health at Thomas Jefferson University, is one of five national recipients of the Quality Care Connections grant. Through its partnership with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, Johnson & Johnson funded five innovative partnerships between researchers and practitioners working to implement evidence-based programs to support family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease. The grant will allow Fox Rehabilitation occupational therapists to be trained in Gitlin's Environmental Skill-Building Program. The therapists then will implement the evidence-based program into daily practice, training caregivers of persons with dementia to better manage challenging behaviors and reduce caregiver burden.

Industry Update

**New Minor
in Occupational
Science**

The Occupational Therapy Department at Ithaca College in New York will offer a new minor this fall in occupational science. The program will be open to all majors, and will teach students about the relationship between a person's environment and his