



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Est. 1944 in Detroit

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Carnegie  
Foundation  
R1 ranked  
institution



100% NCBOT  
pass rate  
over the past  
3 years



Since 2018, OT faculty  
engaged in funded  
research projects worth  
over \$14 million



Interim Dean Cathy Lysack (left) and  
OT Program Director Doreen Head

*Wayne State is a premier public research university located in the heart of Detroit and flanked by world-class medical institutions including the Detroit Medical Center, Henry Ford Hospital System, Children's Hospital and more.*

Dear colleagues,

It brings me great joy to address you not only as dean of the Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, but as an occupational therapist myself. As dean, I wear my occupational therapist hat every day, and I know that my decades in this profession bring some extra heart and TLC to my leadership role here.

Wayne State is a premier public research university located in the heart of Detroit and flanked by world-class medical institutions including the Detroit Medical Center, Henry Ford Hospital System, Children's Hospital and more. Our student and faculty activities consistently point toward our urban mission to improve the health and well-being of our city's most vulnerable populations – as well as those beyond our community through research and scholarship.

I have been part of Wayne State's OT faculty since 1997, so I know first-hand that our curriculum, our professors, students and alumni are truly exceptional. Program Director Doreen Head is also an alumna, and she brings tremendous enthusiasm, expertise and tenderness to her role. I am glad to have her at the helm as we transition our program to a full master's level curriculum in 2020.

You'll see in this report that our faculty interests and expertise in training and inquiry cluster in the areas of mental health and disabilities, as well as aging and health disparities. Our faculty are well-funded and highly respected in their fields, contributing theoretically, via discovery, and through translational work to the advancement of occupational therapy and occupational science. What's more, they are as accomplished and committed to teaching as they are to research, as is reflected in our students' 100% NCBOB pass rate over the last three years.

We hope this report gives you a better sense of who we are and how we are contributing in significant ways to occupational therapy in the U.S. and beyond. Please accept my warmest thanks for perusing these pages and getting to know Wayne State OT.



*Cathy Lysack*

Catherine L. Lysack

Interim Dean

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Wayne State University

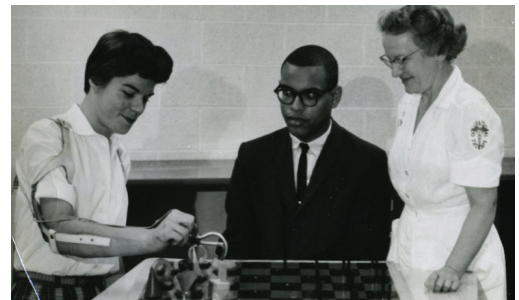


## Wayne State OT celebrates diamond anniversary

In 2019, the Wayne State University Occupational Therapy Program celebrated its 75th anniversary. In September, we hosted an intimate luncheon for alumni from the 1950s and '60s, including tours of our latest building and labs, and each had a chance to share their memories with their classmates and our faculty. In November, more than 200 guests helped us celebrate this milestone at a gala event with alumni attendees from as far back as the Class of 1952, current students, faculty and friends.

*“Our OT program is among the earliest and most steadfast in the training of excellent occupational therapists. The gala celebration brought together generations of experienced OTs and gave them the opportunity to interact with the future professionals in the Class of 2020. Networks expanded, and inspiration and renewed enthusiasm were in the air.”*

– Interim Dean Catherine L. Lysack



Wayne State faculty and students are driven to address health disparities and barriers to care that affect the local communities they serve. In 2019, our OT faculty engaged in a variety of projects to improve health and well-being in Detroit and surrounding areas.



Regina Parnell (left), Doreen Head (center), and OT students at Covenant House

## Bringing clinical care to the homeless

With fewer and fewer mental health sites available for fieldwork, Program Director Doreen Head and Regina Parnell, both assistant professors, sought to create community-based, psychosocial experiential opportunities for Wayne State OT students. Statistics reveal that more than 10,000 individuals in Detroit face homelessness, including 3,000 children and youth, so they decided to focus their efforts on the homeless population in the neighborhoods surrounding our campus.

The duo has spent the last four years collaborating with Covenant House, a 45-bed facility that offers shelter and support services for young adults experiencing homelessness in Detroit. The collaboration started off with a simple premise: Occupational therapy students could enhance their academic and clinical skills by working with needy community dwellers, and community-based programs could enhance their services by partnering with Wayne State's OT program. The collaboration was further formalized in 2016 through the creation of a unique Level I mental health fieldwork experience.

For eight sessions each fall, roughly a half dozen OT students create and direct life skills activities for Covenant House residents based on each resident's specific needs and goals. The collaboration accomplishes the goal of having OT students develop and practice entry level mental health clinical skills in the community, while representatives from Covenant House – both staff and residents – also give back to OT students through formal and informal feedback, lectures and presentations.

Following the same process for community-based collaborations, Head and Parnell have also forged a relationship with the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) in Detroit, which provides temporary housing and social services for mothers experiencing homelessness. OT students now have the opportunity to assist with delivery and evaluation of an eight-session life skills program focused on emotional coping, social support, self-esteem building and financial management skills. These unique fieldwork opportunities benefit WSU OT students, community service organizations and those most in need in the city of Detroit.

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## Alleviating stress and anxiety in graduate students

Rates of anxiety and related mental health concerns are skyrocketing across college campuses. Assistant Clinical Professor Christine Johnson and her certified therapy dog, Stella, decided to tackle the problem head on using Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI).

Though AAI has become more accepted, the majority of interventions focus on undergraduate students. Johnson was concerned about the mental health of graduate students, especially considering data suggesting that nearly half of the 19,664 graduate and professional students that responded to a recent mental health survey disclosed receiving a mental health treatment or a diagnosis within the previous year (ACHA, 2018). Additionally, 60.4% felt overwhelming anxiety; 6% seriously considered suicide.

Johnson is now conducting a cluster randomized control trial to better understand the effect of AAI on the graduate student population's mental health with the support of the Wayne State University Schnebly Fund. As an added advantage, Wayne State OT students have the opportunity to assist with the research. Because AAI is an understudied area, Johnson's innovative work will provide some of the first insights into how occupational therapists could use AAI to improve mental health. Of course, none of this would be possible without the devoted help of Stella.



*Stella and Christine Johnson*

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*The Wayne State OT program has longstanding connections to the university's Institute of Gerontology, which results in innovative research addressing issues at the heart of aging and health disparities.*

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*Heather Fritz, Malcolm Cutchin and Wassim Tarraf (left to right)*



## Collaborative research that breaks down barriers to care

Wayne State OT professors Heather Fritz, Malcolm Cutchin and Wassim Tarraf hold joint appointments with the Institute of Gerontology. Their work has been funded by various foundations and the National Institutes of Health, and it creates important opportunities to involve OT students in high quality, impactful research.

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**Assistant Professor Heather Fritz** is an occupational therapist, occupational scientist and social gerontologist. Her research combines behavioral science and rehabilitative treatments to address the behavioral and environmental factors that facilitate health and wellbeing, independence, and the ability to engage in necessary and meaningful everyday activities. Her previous and current work has been focused on addressing disparities among socially disadvantaged populations, including racial and ethnic minorities as well as rural and low-income populations.

She is currently the PI on a two-year, externally funded study through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to develop and refine a program designed to reduce/delay the progression from prefrailty to frailty among prefrail older African Americans. The study is the first of its kind to address prefrailty among an at-risk, prefrail African American population. Her new NIH/NIA R15 funded project will focus on addressing challenges that older African Americans face with chronic condition self-management, issues that exist at the intersection of age and race.

Fritz is the director of the WSU Habits, Occupation, and Participation Lab, and she lectures nationally and internationally on habits and the role of occupational therapy in chronic condition prevention and treatment.

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**Professor Malcolm Cutchin** is a health geographer, occupational scientist and gerontologist. His most recent research focuses on social determinants of health, especially the environmental influences on stress and well-being in different populations. A recently completed study of older African Americans' neighborhoods, stress and daily activities in Detroit resulted in publications in top gerontology and occupational science journals.

Cutchin is Co-Principal Investigator on a new NIH/NCI R01 funded project assessing the neighborhood/community, interpersonal and personal level influences on the health-related quality of life for African American cancer survivors. Cutchin also is a Co-Principal Investigator on a National Institute of Justice study examining the role of neighborhood environments on the stress, health and behaviors of police officers who patrol them. He is a Co-Investigator and Core Co-Leader for the NIEHS P30 funded Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES).

Cutchin recently co-edited *Geographical Gerontology: Perspectives, Concepts, Approaches* (2018), and he continues to publish on the transactional perspective, especially as it pertains to community development and community-based inquiry.

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**Assistant Professor Wassim Tarraf** is a gerontologist, methodologist (with expertise in using large, complex datasets), health services researcher, and policy analyst. In the previous five years alone, Tarraf has been Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on 13 externally funded research projects and an author on over 40 peer reviewed publications.

Currently he is an affiliated investigator on the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL), the largest epidemiological study of diverse Hispanic/Latinos in the United States. He is the director of analytics for the SOL-INCA Lab, which is a joint lab between Wayne State and the University of California, San Diego, with members located at WSU's Institute of Gerontology and the UCSD Department of Neurosciences.

In addition, he is the site Principal Investigator (Statistical Analyses Core) and lead biostatistician on three NIA-funded (R01) ancillary studies focused on cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia risk factors among Latinos, and two exploratory (R21) grants funded by NIA and NHLBI to examine sleep as a risk factor for unhealthy aging among Latinos.

**Recent research awards related to aging and health disparities can be viewed on page 11.**

While Wayne State's OT faculty excel in research and service, teaching is at the heart of what we do every day.



Kimberly Banfill (center) with students at the college's January IPE event

## Interprofessional education (IPE)

IPE is an essential element of the education of health professional students. IPE is also becoming increasingly important for successful accreditation and future stability of professional programs. Because the Wayne State OT program is situated within the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (EACPHS), OT students can easily interact with students of physical therapy, pharmacy practice, physician assistant studies and more.

In 2019, a new Interprofessional Education Task force was charged with creating interprofessional education programming among the health programs within

EACPHS. The task force identified pain management as a new area ripe for interprofessional education and collaboration.

One of the college's first events of 2020 brought together faculty and students from pharmacy, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, physical therapy and nurse anesthesia to learn together through a pain management case study that highlighted the exponential benefits of a team-based approach to patient outcomes. The occupational therapy student cohort was led by Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Kimberly Banfill.

## Blending IPE and care for the city's most vulnerable

Prior to graduation, most students have little experience treating clients in the home setting. Even more daunting is how to do so in the context of an interprofessional team. The Interprofessional Team Visit (IPTV) initiative provides opportunities for OT students to provide home based care for older adults as part of an interprofessional team. Assistant Professor Christine Johnson coordinates OT student

participation in these visits, during which they are paired with students from medicine, social work, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy and/or physician assistant studies. Students work together to complete an IPTV at an older adult's home in the metro Detroit area. During this visit, students learn to work interprofessionally to assess clients.



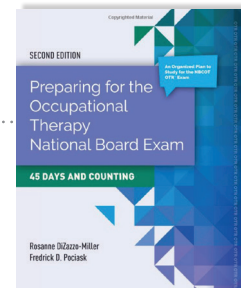
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## Diabetes Education and Wellness (DEW) Clinic

Perhaps no other chronic disease necessitates interprofessional collaborations more than assisting individuals with diabetes to manage the condition over the course of their lives. The DEW Clinic is a student-run, nonprofit organization located at SAY Detroit, a veterans' housing facility. The goal of the DEW Clinic is to provide support and assist people in managing or preventing diabetes and its potential complications.

Led by Assistant Professor Christine Johnson, OT students in the clinic provide personalized, holistic

treatment plans. Upon entering the clinic, clients rotate through multiple stations and receive consultation and support from OT students as well as those in pharmacy, physical therapy, social work and medicine. At the OT station, students utilize skills learned in their movement assessment and conditions courses to assess if any occupations are impaired due to complications from diabetes, secondary to sensation or ROM deficits.



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## WSU OT professor publishes National Board Certification Exam test preparation books

For many years, Associate Professor Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller has been assisting students from across the country in preparing for the board exam. She formalized those efforts as the lead editor of two books that provide a comprehensive overview for occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students preparing to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.

Both the OTR and OTA texts utilize a well-received health and wellness focus and include tips and self-assessment forms to help prospective test takers to develop effective study habits. Unlike other OTR examination review guides, these texts provide a more structured and holistic approach to exam preparation, including a detailed calendar and plan of study for the 45 days leading up to the exam.

Each new print copy of either book includes Navigate 2 Preferred Access that unlocks a complete eBook, Study Center, Homework and Assessment Center, Navigate 2 TestPrep, and a dashboard that reports actionable data. More than a study guide, these texts can provide course-ready capstones in addition to the resources and activities already incorporated into the text.

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DiZazzo-Miller, R., & Pociask, F. D. (2018). *Preparing for the OT National Board Exam: 45 Days and Counting* (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

DiZazzo-Miller, R., Pociask, F. D., & Hughes, T. (2018). *Preparing for the OTA National Board Exam: 45 Days and Counting*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

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## PLAY Project

Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Assistant Professor Kimberly Banfill created a new collaboration between occupational and speech therapy students. This collaboration gives students the opportunity to provide therapeutic interventions to pediatric clients and their families within the Detroit community.

The program runs annually during the spring and summer semesters. Students have the opportunity to work with children with a wide range of diagnoses including, but not limited to: developmental delay, autism, and sensory and cognitive impairments. OT students assist with providing services under the supervision of occupational therapists and faculty.

Wayne State OT faculty members Malcolm Cutchin, Heather Fritz and Catherine Lysack were invited to be part of a prestigious group of aging researchers to participate in the AOTF planning workshop titled "Stimulating Research to Enhance Aging in Place: A Continuum of Home and Community-based Services." The workshop was held in Washington, DC, July 21-23, 2019. Researchers and aging scholars from across the U.S. and Canada met to generate and prioritize novel research questions during the workshop that will stimulate occupational therapy research in aging. The short-term post-workshop goal was to establish research teams that will develop new collaborative research grant proposals that move the evidence base forward in the priority areas identified.



**Assistant Professor Heather Fritz** was awarded \$60,000 to hire a postdoctoral fellow through a competitive selection process for Wayne State faculty members. The postdoctoral fellow, Yi-Ling Hu, earned a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Participation Science at Washington University in St. Louis. She arrived at Wayne State in June 2019. Hu earned her master's degree in occupational therapy from National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan; at WUSTL, she was a member of the Participation, Environment and Performance Laboratory since 2013 and trained in the PEP Lab for evidence-based research involving themes such as home modification. Her research is focused on an in-home exercise program and medication management for older adults.



**Associate Professor Preethy Samuel** is an expert in family level outcomes evaluation of children, adolescents and adults living with disabilities. Her contributions to the study of family quality of life of children with disabilities, particularly those from underserved minority groups, led to her being selected to serve as reviewer for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).



**Associate Professor Rosanne DiZazzo-Miller** was recognized with Wayne State University's prestigious President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes faculty who go above and beyond their peers in ensuring students' academic success. Students had no shortage of accolades to bestow on Dr. D (as the students call her). Her students describe her as someone with superior knowledge while also highlighting her commitment to her students and the field. Students particularly praised DiZazzo-Miller for her strength, warmth, and ability to go beyond medical information and share real-life examples and experiences, which help her students to "connect the dots."

She was also selected to be a fellow of the inaugural 2019 class of the Wayne State Academic Leadership Academy, which aspires to increase the number and broaden the impact of skilled leaders who can contribute to the mission of the university and enhance the lives of its students, employees and surrounding community members.

## Externally funded research awards active from 2018-present

Funder, Award Number	Project Title	Dates	Faculty Member	Role
NIH R01 CA232514	African American Resilience in Surviving Cancer (ARISE)	2019-2024	Malcolm Cutchin	Co-PI
NIJ 2017-R2-CX-0045	Neighborhoods, Stress, and Police Behavior: Understanding the Relationships	2018-2020	Malcolm Cutchin	Co-PI
NIH P30 ES020957	Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES)	2017-2022	Malcolm Cutchin	Co-I
NIH R15 AG063087	DO TELL-Digitized Stories to Bridge the Gap Between Patients and Providers Perceptions of Disease Self-management Challenges	2020-2022	Heather Fritz Malcolm Cutchin	PI Co-I
Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Frailty Prevention in Older African Americans	2018-2020	Heather Fritz Wassim Tarraf	PI Co-I
ACS 14-238-04-IRG	Reducing Metabolic Syndrome and Unmet Needs among Rural Breast Cancer Survivors During the Survivorship Transition	2018-2021	Heather Fritz	PI
Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Feasibility of the Nursing Home Checklist Mobile Application	2018-2020	Heather Fritz	Co-I
Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Michigan Older Caregivers of Emerging Adults with Autism and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (MI-OCEAN) Family Support Project	2019-2021	Preethy Samuel	Co-I
NIH R01 AG 061022	Neurocognitive Aging, MCI and Alzheimer's Disease DNA Methylation among Diverse Latinos (INCA-DNAM)	2019-2021	Wassim Tarraf	Site PI
NIH R21 HL140437	Sleep Apnea Phenotypes in Latinos (SLEPT)	2019-2021	Wassim Tarraf	Site PI
NIH P30 AG 01528	Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research	2018-2023	Wassim Tarraf	Co-I
NIH R21 AG 056952	Exploring Sleep in Neurocognitive Aging and Alzheimer's Research (SANAR)	2017-2019	Wassim Tarraf	Site PI
NIH R01 AG 054548	Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging: MRI Study (INCA-MRI)	2017-2022	Wassim Tarraf	Site PI
NIH R01 AG 48642	Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (INCA)	2015-2020	Wassim Tarraf	Site PI

**Wayne State's innovative and productive faculty consistently contribute to the science of occupational therapy and beyond. The following publications reflect work from 2018 to present.**

**Cutchin, M. P.** (2020). Habits of social inquiry and reconstruction: A Deweyan vision of democracy and social research. In J. Wills & R. W. Lake (Eds.), *The power of pragmatism: Knowledge production and social inquiry*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Margot-Cattin, I., Kühne N., Kottorp A., Öhman A., **Cutchin, M.**, & Nygard, L. (2019). Development of a questionnaire to evaluate out-of-home participation for people with dementia. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 73(1), 7301205030p1-7301205030p10.

Zilioli, S., **Fritz, H. Tarraf, W.**, Lawrence, S., & **Cutchin, M. P.** (2019). Socioeconomic Status, Ecologically Assessed Social Activities, and Daily Cortisol among Older Urban African Americans. *Journal of Aging and Health*. Epub ahead of print.

**Cutchin, M. P.** (2018). Commentary on The inescapable corporeality of occupation: Integrating Merleau-Ponty into the study of occupation. *Journal of Occupational Science*, 25, 234-236.

Buschmann, R. N., Prochaska, J. D., **Cutchin, M. P.**, & Peek, M. K. (2018). Stress and health behaviors as potential mediators of the relationship between neighborhood quality and allostatic load. *Annals of Epidemiology*, 28, 356-361.

Maersk, J., **Cutchin, M. P.**, & la Cour, K. (2018). Identity and home: Understanding the experience of people with advanced cancer. *Health & Place*, 51, 11-18.

Skinner, M., Andrews, G., & **Cutchin, M. P.** (Eds.). (2018). *Geographical gerontology: Perspectives, concepts, approaches*. London: Routledge.

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**Cutchin, M. P.**, Skinner, M., & Andrews, G. (2018). Geographical gerontology: Progress and possibilities. In M. W. Skinner, G. J. Andrews, & M. P. Cutchin, (Eds.), *Geographical gerontology: Perspectives, concepts, approaches* (pp. 320-331). London: Routledge.

Skinner, M., Andrews, G., & **Cutchin, M. P.** (2018). Introducing geographical gerontology. In M. W. Skinner, G. J. Andrews, & M. P. Cutchin, (Eds.), *Geographical gerontology: Perspectives, concepts, approaches* (pp. 1-10). London: Routledge.

Andrews, G., **Cutchin, M. P.**, & Skinner, M. (2018). Space and place in geographical gerontology: Theoretical traditions, formations of hope. In M. W. Skinner, G. J. Andrews, & M. P. Cutchin, (Eds.), *Geographical gerontology: Perspectives, concepts, approaches* (pp. 11-28). London: Routledge.

El Masri, D., Piatt, G., Koscielniak, N., **DiZazzo-Miller, R.**, Arnetz, J., & Jaber, L. (in press). Barriers and facilitators to diabetes self-management in Arab American patients with diabetes. *Primary Care Diabetes*.

Morgan, R., & **DiZazzo-Miller, R.** (2019). The occupation-based intervention of bathing: Cases in home health care. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 32(3), 306-318.

Hu, Yi-Ling., Patel, P., **Fritz, H.** (in press). Detecting Prefrailty: Comparing subjective frailty assessment and the Paulson-Lichtenberg Frailty Index. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*.

Jessen-Winge, C., Ilvig, P., Jonsson, H., **Fritz, H.**, Lee, K., & Reffstrup Christensen, J. (in press). *Obesity intervention: A role for occupational therapists? Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

**Fritz, H.**, Hu, Y. L.\*, **Tarraf, W.**, & Patel, P. (2019). Feasibility of a habit formation intervention to delay frailty progression among older African Americans: A pilot study. *The Gerontologist*.

**Fritz, H.**, Hu, L., Gahman, K., Almacen, C.\*, Ottolini, J. (2019). Intervention to modify habits: A scoping review. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*.

**Fritz, H.**, **Cutchin, M. P.**, Gharib, J., Haryadi, N., Patel, M., & Patel, N. (2019). Neighborhood characteristics and frailty: A scoping review. *The Gerontologist*. Epub ahead of print.

**Fritz, H.**, **Tarraf, W.**, Brody, A & Levy, P. (2019). Feasibility of a behavioral automaticity intervention among African Americans with metabolic syndrome. *BMC Public Health*, 19, 1-12.

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**Fritz, H.,** Seidarabi, S., Barbour, R., & Vonbehren, A. (2019). Occupational therapy intervention to improve outcomes among frail older adults: A scoping review. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 73(3), 1-12.

Dillaway, H., **Fritz, H., Tarraf, W., Lysack, C.,** & Marzolf. (2019). Experiences of reproductive and sexual health and health care among women with disabilities. *The handbook of women's sexual and reproductive health*. J. Ussher, J. Perz, & J. Chrisler. (Eds). United Kingdom: Routledge.

**Lysack, C., Fritz, H.** (in press). Qualitative Research. *Foundations of clinical research* (4th ed.). L. Portney (Ed). Philadelphia: FA Davis.

**Fritz, H., Cutchin, M. P.,** & Cummins, E. (2018). Loss of trust in the neighborhood: The experience of older African Americans in Detroit. *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 73, e108-e119.

Crites, A, & **Samuel, P. S.** (in press). Chapter 42. Rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. In D. Powers Durette & S. A. Gutman (Eds.), *Occupational therapy for physical dysfunction: 45 Days and Counting* (8th ed., pp.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.

**Samuel. P. S., & DiZazzo-Miller, R.** (2019). Family quality of life: Perspectives of family caregivers of people with dementia. *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics* (37)2, 94-107.

**Tarraf, W.,** Kaplan, R., Daviglius, M., Gallo, L.C., Schneiderman, N., Penedo, F.J., Perreira, M.P., Lamar, M.S., Chai, A., Vásquez, P.M., González, H.M., (in press). Cardiovascular risk and cognitive function in middle-aged and older Hispanic/Latinos: Results from the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL). *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

Toseef, M. U, Jensen, G. A., & **Tarraf, W.** (in press). How effective is foreign aid at improving health outcomes in recipient countries? *Atlantic Economic Journal*.

Ramos, A. R., **Tarraf, W.,** Wu, B., Redline, S., Cai, J., Daviglius, M. L., ... & Zeng, D. (in press). Sleep and neurocognitive decline in the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

González HM, **Tarraf, W.,** Schneiderman N, Fornage M, Vasquez PM, Zeng D, Youngblood M, Gallo LC, Daviglius ML, Lipton RB, Kaplan R, Ramos AR, Lamar M, Thomas S, Chai A, DeCarli C. (2019). Prevalence and correlates for Mild Cognitive Impairment among diverse Hispanics/Latinos: Study of Latinos – Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging results (HCHS/SOL). *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*.

González HM, **Tarraf, W.,** Fornage M, González K, Chai A, Youngblood M, De Los Angeles Abreu M, Zeng D, Thomas S, Talavera GA, Gallo LC, Kaplan R, Daviglius M, Schneiderman N. (in press). A research framework for cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease among diverse US Latinos: Design and implementation of the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos – Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA). *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*.

Vásquez, P.M., **Tarraf, W.,** Doza, A., Marquine, M., Perreira, M., Schneiderman, N., Zeng, D., Cai, J., Isasi, C., Daviglius, M., González, H.M. (in press) Cognitive stimulation factors and cognitive function among Latino adults in HCHS/SOL. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions*.

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Toseef, M. U., Jensen, G. A., & **Tarraf, W.** (2019). Is enrollment in a Medicaid health maintenance organization associated with less preventable hospitalizations? *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 16, 100964.

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## OT IN DETROIT

Learn more about the Wayne State Master of Occupational Therapy program online, or get in touch with us directly.

Program Director Doreen Head  
**doreenh@wayne.edu**  
 313-577-5884 | [cphs.wayne.edu/ot](http://cphs.wayne.edu/ot)

## “75 AND SUNNY” Legacy scholarship reflects care, optimism of 1959 alumna

In 1998, Wayne State OT alumna Barbara Henderson Miller '59 established an endowed scholarship for OT students who have, in her words, “pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps.”

Program Director Doreen Head explained, “Barbara Miller was and continues to be a blessing to our program. Her scholarship helps second- or third-year students who are most improved – those who have raised their grade point average,” she said. “The scholarship rewards hard work and determination to do well in the program.”

Before her death of angiosarcoma in 2013, Miller found joy in getting to know the recipients of her scholarship and made it a priority to keep up with their personal and professional updates.

“She referred to her scholarship recipients as ‘grandkids’ and, like any proud grandmother, she would be genuinely interested in their career plans and their families,” said Tiffany Cusmano, community engagement specialist at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

EACPHS also hosts an annual luncheon to celebrate the achievements of the Miller scholars, a tradition now carried on by her husband George and their daughter, Siouxsan.

“My mom’s story becomes part of the life of each student who earns her scholarship,” said Siouxsan. “This preserves her memory not only at her beloved alma mater, but through the career and long-term impact of every one of the OTs who are touched by her generosity. She would be so proud that her scholarship serves as cheerleader to help those who just need a little encouragement to achieve their goals.”

Miller spent more than 22 years as an occupational therapist, working with toddlers, preteens and adults at Detroit Receiving, Sinai and Beaumont hospitals and the Society for Crippled Children and Adults. She was an ardent volunteer throughout her life, including lifelong participation in Alpha Gamma Delta, reading to first-graders at Pierce Elementary School and leading children's groups at the Belle Isle Aquarium, serving as a Detroit Zoo docent for decades, and much more.

Miller carried her optimism and generosity of spirit to every personal interaction, even changing her answering machine message to reflect the weather. "75 degrees and sunny," of course, was her favorite forecast to share with her callers.

"Any time she could touch someone else's life, she would," said Siouxsan. "She had a special way of connecting with people, and every conversation she had with people left them feeling better than they did before."

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*Scholarships encourage students to achieve their goals. For more information about creating an OT scholarship fund, contact Jon Goldstein at 313-577-1095 or [jgoldstein@wayne.edu](mailto:jgoldstein@wayne.edu).*

Barbara Henderson Miller



The 2019 Miller Scholars with Doreen Head, Siouxsan and George Miller

## IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Beider '47  
 Miriam Freeling, *program director 1978-1992*  
 Georgiana Herzberg, *former faculty member*  
 Suesetta McCree '54, *former program director*  
 Anna Moy '54  
 Karen Olds '73  
 Martha Schnebly, *former program director and deputy dean*  
 Gary Senatore '89  
 Marcia Stynes '55  
 Helen Williams '53

“The Wayne State OT program has said goodbye to some wonderful leaders and friends in the past several years, people who have significantly shaped our curriculum and core values. Their contributions are forever part of our history and will guide our future for decades to come.”

— Program Director Doreen Head