

44th Awards Luncheon & Symposium

November 7, 2025

CFOT Board of Directors

President.

Michele Berro

Vice President

Bonita Kraft

Secretary

Lora Woo

Treasurer

John Goodfellow

Awards & Recognition Chair

Diana Su-Erickson

Conference Chair

Kathryn Gundersen

Development Chairs

Stephen Lofy

Danielle Meglio

Publicity Chair & Newsletter Editor

Lisa Deshaies

Research Advisory Chairs

Judi Palladino

Heidi McHugh Pendleton

Incoming Chairs

Deborah Bolding

Jean Koketsu

Scholarship Chairs

Winifred Schultz-Krohn

Laura Weiss

CFOT Members-at-Large

Linda Florey

Patricia Nagaishi

Julie Shaperman

Lynn Yasuda

President Emeritas

Evelyn Jaffe

MISSION STATEMENT

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy is a non-profit (501c3) public benefit foundation whose mission is to advance the science and practice of occupational therapy to enhance health, well-being, and participation in life activities for all individuals, communities, and populations through supporting and promoting occupational therapy research, education and public awareness.

CFOT Donors October, 2024 - September, 2025

CFOT MAJOR DONORS						
DIAMOND (\$25,000)	PLATINUM (\$20,000 - \$24,999)	GOLD (\$10,000 - \$19,999)	SILVER (\$5,000 - \$9,999)	BRONZE (\$2,500 -\$4,999)		
			Evelyn Jaffe Bonita Kraft Swati Shah	John Goodfellow Michael & Lisa Kanazawa Susan Knox		

CFOT DONORS						
BENEFACTOR (\$250 - \$2,499)						
Luis Arabit	Lisa Deshaies	Stephen Lofy	Winifred			
Michele Berro	Bryant Edwards	Patricia S. Nagaishi	Schultz-Krohn			
Richard Bookwalter	Alison George	Heidi McHugh	Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith			
Sarah Bream	Gordon Giles	Pendleton	Marlene Steele			
Sharon Cermak	Maureen Herwood	Terry Peralta-Catipon	Diana Su-Erickson			
Michelle Clark	Mary Lawlor	Samia Rafeedie	Laura Weiss			
PATRON (\$100 - \$249)		DONOR (\$5 - \$99)				
Allison Baker	Jean Koketsu	Deborah Bolding	Barbara McCarrick			
Grace Baranek	Diane Laszlo	Lauren DeBrosse	Jennifer Moreno			
Erin Dolin	Jackie Mardirossian	Lisa Dittbenner	Phyllis Nayak			
Domenique Embrey	Danny Pavlovich	Cindy Garcia	Lauren Newhouse			
Mary Evert	Linda Reed	Amy Godwin	Karen Park			
Joyce Fries	Jhennylyn Rivera	Florence Gold	Mari Pelletier			
Kathryn Gundersen	Elizabeth Russel	Susan Healey	Rive Plate			
Kate Hayner	Shelley Wear	Ada Boone Hoerl	Cindy Reyes			
Michael Heaton	Lynn Yasuda	Heather Javaherian	Susan L. Spitzer			
Christine Jackson Heather Kitching	Yan Zhou	Katrina Long	Ciara Stewart			

CFOT Endowed Donors and Legacy Circle Members

ENDOWED DONORS

Michele Berro
Linda Florey
Maureen Herwood
Evelyn Jaffe
Bonita Kraft
Susan Knox
Julie Shaperman
Lisa Test

With donations totaling \$25,000 you will be recognized as an Endowed Donor.

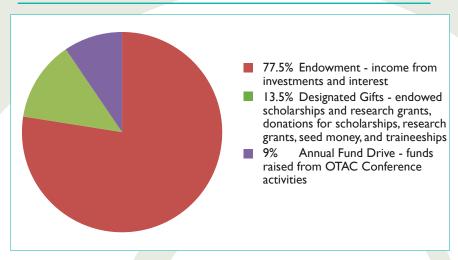
LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Michele Berro
Lisa Deshaies
Linda Florey
Joyce Fries
John Goodfellow
Evelyn Jaffe
Susan Knox
Bonita Kraft
Bonnie Nakasuji
Judi Palladino
Heidi McHugh Pendleton
Shawn Phipps
Winifred Schultz-Krohn
Julie Shaperman

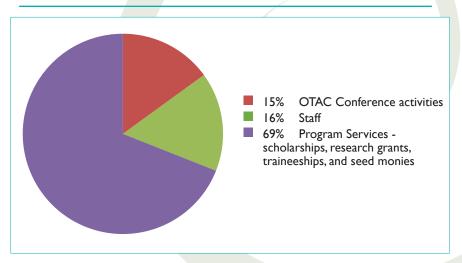
With donations totaling \$2,500 you will be recognized as a Legacy Circle Member.

Where Do Your CFOT Contributions Go?

REVENUE



EXPENSES



These two charts show our revenue and expenses for 2024-2025.

Our Board of Directors and members are all volunteers. They give generously of their time, money, and effort to support the development of the profession, the education of students, and cutting-edge research.

We appreciate your support through your time, contributions, and gifts. THANK YOU!

CFOT Humanitarian Award

Purpose:To honor

individuals or groups

who, through their

humanitarian activities, have

demonstrated exceptional

commitment to the

philosophical principles of

occupational therapy

and to the mission and

goals of CFOT.

HUMANITARIAN AWARDEES

Frank and Lori Biehl	
Fred Sammons	1994
Aerial Gilbert and her guide dog,	
DeeAnn	
Patsy and Hal Hollister	2000
Barbara Phillips	200 I
Dr. Ernie Bodai	2002
Tom Hale	2003
Nancy Somerville	2004
Foster N.Anderson	. 2005
Debra Uhles Tanaka	2006
Judith Gail Rodgers	2008
Bonnie Nakasuji	2009
Fr. Gregory J. Boyle	. 2010
Joan Surfus	2011
Diane Mayfield	. 2013
Heather Javaherian-Dysinger	2014
Michelle Craft	2015
John Hwang	2016
Winifred Schultz-Krohn	
Vijay Gupta	2018
Elyse Gordon	.2019
Steven Rubin	. 2020
Laguna Beach Assistance League	. 2023
Rancho Works Café & Gift Shop	
Esther Yejin Suh Kwon	
	5_5

2025 CFOT Humanitarian Award

Esther Yejin Suh Kwon, MA, OT/L



Esther Yejin Suh Kwon, MA, OT/L, is a traumainformed occupational designer (occupational therapy practitioner + cosmetologist) with a focus on community-based and mental health practice, leading the field of occupational therapy (OT) service provision in anti-human trafficking and pro-human thriving work. Through her unique OT and beauty industry lens, Esther is using her experiences to uplift and create opportunities for women who have experienced oppression and institutional dependency to transition into inspired independent living. In 2015, she co-founded the first occupational therapy-based nonprofit, Dwelle Collaborative - Qualified, serving survivors of human trafficking and restoring occupational justice in the areas of wellness, life/job skills, and community integration. Esther believes that when survivors are empowered to use their choices and voice to navigate their own recovery and thriving occupational journey. their achievements are limitless and success unstoppable.

For more information contact Esther at estherskwon@dwellecollaborative.com.

2025 CFOT Meritorious Service Awards







Judi Palladino and Heidi McHugh Pendleton

CFOT is pleased to honor Judi and Heidi for their many years of service to the CFOT Board as co-chairs of the Research Advisory Committee. In their roles for more than a decade, they have raised awareness of the importance of research for the advancement of OT practice. Judi and Heidi have also championed increasing the amount of research and seed money dollars awarded to OT students, residents, and clinicians to fund worthy proposals that ultimately benefit the lives of those occupational therapy practitioners serve.

Laura Weiss

CFOT is pleased to honor Laura for her 15 years of service to the CFOT Board as co-chair of the Scholarship Committee. Laura has been primarily responsible for receiving and vetting scholarship applications, recruiting scholarship reviewers, organizing the rating and selection process, and notifying recipients. She has overseen tremendous growth in the number of annual scholarship applicants from 6 to 62 and the number of scholarships available from 3 to 20!

Thank you to our three recipients who have generously donated their time and talents and have demonstrated outstanding devotion to CFOT in its mission to support current and future generations of occupational therapy practitioners!

2025 CFOT Scholarship Awards

Ascend's Future OT Leaders Scholarship

Sheridan Lopez, California State University Dominquez Hills

Ascend's OT Excellence Scholarship

Georgia Crowe, Samuel Merritt University

Michele Berro Scholarship (in memory of Mary Ann Epstein)

Morgan Kam, San Jose State University

Frank J. Biehl Scholarship

Dominique Soriano, California State University Dominquez Hills

Ardith Breton Scholarship

Jacob Lopez, Loma Linda University

CFOT In Memoriam Scholarship

Erin Kim, California State University Dominquez Hills

Linda Florey Scholarship

Victoria Rioflorido, San Jose State University

Maureen Cunningham Herwood Scholarship

Sophie Perez, University of Southern California

Evelyn Jaffe Scholarship

Tracy Nguyen, California State University Dominquez Hills

Susan Knox-Hirsch Scholarship

Brittany Trevino, University of Southern California

Janice Matsutsuyu Scholarship

Madeline Meadows, University of St. Augustine

Jhennylyn Rivera-Villano, University of Southern California

Guy McCormack Scholarship

Mariah Plaza, Samuel Merritt University

Jaynee Taguchi Meyer Scholarship

Kimberly Nguyen, San Jose State University

Margaret (Meg) Mitani Moss & Gaylord E. Moss Scholarship

Emily Suk, Loma Linda University

Fred Sammons Scholarship

Giselle Santos, California State University Dominquez Hills

Chuck Strauch Scholarship

Rekha Todker-Sulkar, Southern California University of Health Sciences

Lisa Test Scholarship

Peri Hernandez, Dominican University of California

Wilma West Scholarship

Antonio Johnson, University of St. Augustine

Dorothy (Dottie) Wilson Scholarship

Lydia Hong, University of Southern California

2025 REVIEWERS

Thank you to our Scholarship Reviewers!

Deborah Bolding

Sue Bowles

Sarah Bream

Cindy Burt

Marianne Estournes

Stephanie Foster

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger

Kristen Krumanaker

Katrina Long

Grace Lopez

Bonnie Nakasuji

Harold Neuendorff

Wendy Nitsche

Andy Whalley

Kathryn Wise

Kit Wolins

2025 CFOT Traineeship Awards

TRAINEESHIPS

CFOT Traineeship
Kendra Mitchell, Santa Ana College

Maureen Cunningham Herwood Traineeship Kelsey Bowles, Sacramento City College Janice Matsutsuyu Traineeship Angelou Dimson, CBD College

Jaynee Taguchi Meyer Traineeship Kevin Eldridge, Clovis Community College

2025 CFOT Research Awards

We are very grateful

to all those individuals

who have established

grants to support the

research of practicing

occupational therapists,

academicians, and post-

entry level students

engaged in independent

advanced practice,

doctoral level, or post-

doctoral level research.

RESEARCH AWARDS

Elisa Adams, OTS: Creating Pathways: Building Community Through Art

California State University Dominguez Hills

Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor

Funding provided by the Bonita Kraft Research Grant and the CFOT General Research Fund

Cesar Arada, OTD: Use of Remote Artificial Intelligence in the Rehabilitation of Hand Orthopedic Conditions in Clinical Settings

San Jose State University

Funding provided by the CFOT General Research Fund

EvaRose Celeste, OTS: Programming Aquatic Occupational Therapy for POTS

California State University Dominguez Hills

Tracy Becerra-Culqui, PhD, Faculty Advisor

Bianca Callier, OTD, Site Mentor

Funding provided by the CFOT General Research Fund

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD: Occupational Therapy Programming for Adults who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence

Loma Linda University

Funding provided by the Lisa Test Research Grant and the Dr. Robert B. Jaffe, MD Research Grant

2025 CFOT Research Awards

Kristin Jones, PhD: An Early-Career Occupational Therapy Mentorship Program for Occupational-Based Practice: A Feasibility Study

Dominican University of California

Funding provided by the CFOT Legacy Circle Fund

Melisa Kaye, EdD: Project RISE-UP: Advancing Graduate Student Success in Healthcare Pathways

San Jose State University

Funding provided by the CFOT General Research Fund

Ann E. McDonald, PhD: Creation of a Health, Occupational Engagement and Lifestyle Impact (HOELI) Scale

Keck Graduate Institute

Funding provided by the Dorothy (Dottie) Wilson Research Grant

Lauren N. Newhouse, OTD & Sheryl J. Ryan, PhD: Enhancing Well-Being Through Mental Health Metrics: Can Therapeutic Self-Monitoring Improve Graduate Student Wellness?

California State University Dominguez Hills Funding provided by the CFOT General

Research Fund

Graham Teaford, OTD: Development of a Vietnamese Version of the Revised Self-Report Assessment of Functional Visual Performance (R-SRAFVP)

San Jose State University

Funding provided by the Margaret (Meg) Mitani & Gaylord E. Moss Research Grant, the Julie Shaperman Research Grant in Memory of Dr. Martin Shaperman, and the CFOT General Research Fund

2025 REVIEWERS

Thank you to our Research Grant Reviewers!

Lynne Andonian

Courtney Boitano

Deborah Bolding

Christy Bullock

Megan Chang

Dominique Embrey

Chiao-lu Fang

Kate Hayner

Michael Heaton

lean Koketsu

Donna Lashgari

Kitsum Li

Stephanie Moon

Bonnie Nakasuji

Sharon Pavlovich

Terry Peralta-Catipon

Bobbi Pineda

Sheryl Ryan

Winifred Schultz-Krohn

Michelle Tipton-Burton

Robyn Wu

CFOT depends on a large community of volunteers who wholeheartedly support OT research and are willing to lend their expertise to review grant applications, ensuring CFOT's resources are distributed fairly and ethically. If you are a clinician or academician interested in contributing as a reviewer, please email Research@CFOT.org.

2025 CFOT Seed Money Awards

SEED MONEY AWARDS

Edith Alba, Molly Hargon, & Jasmine Henley, OT Students

- Commensality Groups as a Form of Resilience Programming for Occupational Therapy Graduate Students
- Caroline Umeda, OTR/L, PhD, Faculty Advisor
- · Dominican University of California

Kimberley Ancheta, Elizabeth Abarca, Roshini Gammanpila, & Melissa Huynh, OT Students

- Building Perspectives: A Pilot Study of Stakeholder Insights, Learning Needs, and Preferences on Exoskeleton Use for Adults with Disabilities
- Chiao-Ju Fang, PhD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Rachel Kuai Baumbach, OT Student

- Occupational Therapy Staff Training Program for Improved Engagement for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Adult Day Centers
- Guy Reavis, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- University of Southern California

Monique Afram Baumer, OTR/L & Kaila Osborn, OTR/L

- Sensory Room
- · Hillmont Psychiatric Center

Jordan Bellamy, OT Student

- Mindful Moves: OT and Yoga-Based Pathways to Educational Participation
- Eric Hwang, Amber Borchert, Sheryl Ryan, & Abbie Bryant, Faculty Advisors
- California State University Dominguez Hills

Emily Canigiula, OT Student

- Family-Level Impacts of Equine-Assisted Therapy for Children with Disabilities:An Exploratory Mixed-Methods Pilot Study
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L & Graham Teaford, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisors
- · San Jose State University

Julia Cheng & Kevin Vu, OT Students

- Exploring Identity Through Occupation: A Multicultural-Based Engagement Program for Older Adults
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Erin Chung, OT Student

- A Sensory-Friendly Waiting Area at Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network
- Winny Soenaryo, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- University of Southern California

Katherine Francisco, Jillian Barallon, Issac Lee, & Jennifer Ng, OT Students

- Understanding Occupational Therapy Practitioners Perspectives on Mentorship
- Arezou Salamat, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- Loma Linda University

Samantha Hammer & Elin Lennox, OT Students

- Stories Through the Seasons
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

2025 CFOT Seed Money Awards

Seed monies of up to \$300 are awarded to occupational therapy practitioners, faculty, and entry-level occupational therapy students (individually or in groups) for pilot studies, needs assessments, or developing new interventions, client education programs, or projects.

Sharon Han, OT Student

- Implementing Outcome Measures to Assess Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy Intervention in Community-Based Pediatric Mental Health
- Janis Yue, OTD, OTR/L & Stephani Gharehptian, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisors University of Southern California

Travis Joyner & Francis Balanon, OT Students

- Developing Social Skills with Transitional Aged Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- · San Jose State University

Shelley Kellogg & Glen Ilagan, OT Students

- Animal Assisted Happiness Program
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Pirathahini Mahalingam & Gabriela Canotal, OT Students

- Self-Regulation Empowerment for Unhoused Children & Families
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Leticia Martinez, OT Student

- Co-Creating a Manual for Sustainable Artistic Employment: A Summer Pilot Program at Painted Brain
- Sarah Bream, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- University of Southern California

2025 CFOT Seed Money Awards

Francisco Mora, OT Student

- Oral Hygiene Among Persons who Have a Spinal Cord Injury: Multiple Perspectives
- Heather Javaherian, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- Loma Linda University

Eriza Navarro, OT Student

- Skill Builders: Your Toolkit for Everyday Success
- Graham Teaford, OTD, OTR/L & Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisors
- · San Jose State University

Kimberly Nguyen & Twila-Skye Tran, OT Students

- Brewing Confidence: Coffee & Career Training
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Tanny Tani, Anamaria Chavarria, & Kimberly Lucas, OT Students

- Growing Together at the Parent Lounge (GTPL)
- Courtney Boitano, OTD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

Alexis Wells, OT Student

- Evaluating the Efficacy of Project RISE-UP: Advancing Graduate Student Success in Healthcare Pathways
- Melissa Kaye, EdD, OTR/L, Faculty Advisor
- San Jose State University

CFOT Honored Lecturers

HONORED LECTURERS

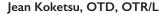
Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1983
Lois Barber, OTR/L, FAOTA1984
Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1985
Florence Cromwell, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA
Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1987
Mary Reilly, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1988
Claudia Allen, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA 1989
Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1990
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA 1991
Linda Florey, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1992
Carlotta Welles, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA 1993
Mary Foto, OT/L, FAOTA 1994
Diane Parham, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1995
Ruth Zemke, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1996
Susan Knox, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 1997
Sandra Greene, MA, OTR/L1998
Heidi Pendleton, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. 1999
Dorothy Wilson, OTR/L, FAOTA 2000
Guy McCormack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA2001
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 2001
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA 2001
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 2002
Diane Hendricks, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA 2003
Mary Margaret Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA2004
Marcia Goodman-Lavey, Esq, OTR/L 2005
Marti Southam, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA 2006
Y. Lynn Yasuda, MSEd, OTR/L, FAOTA 2007
Kathleen Barker Schwartz, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA2008
Bonnie Nakasuji, OTD, OTR/L2009

Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	10
Pam Richardson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	11
Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA	. 20	12
Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	13
Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L	. 20	14
Deborah Bolding, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	15
Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/Ret., FAOTA	. 20	16
Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L	. 20	17
Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	18
Shawn Phipps, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	19
Luis Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	20
John Goodfellow, OTD, OTR/L	. 20	21
Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM	. 20	22
Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT	. 20	23
Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA	. 20	24
Jean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L	. 20	25

2025 CFOT Honored Lecturer

Friday, November 7, 2025

HONORED LECTURER



Ask Yourself, "WHY Not?": Answer and Activate!

Jean Koketsu describes herself as an average, hardworking "risk-averse-front-line-bread and buttergeneralist-OT" who left the safety net of a traditional healthcare setting after a dozen years to say "yes" to untested options. Jean will describe how answering "Why not?" to opportunities opened doors to experiences and impacts beyond what she originally imagined. In this presentation, Jean will also share insights on how to survive and thrive in challenging healthcare climates.



BIOGRAPHY

lean Koketsu, OTD, OTR/L, was born and raised in Los Angeles in the Westside/Venice area. She received an undergraduate degree at University of California Los Angeles, MS in occupational therapy at San Jose State University (SJSU), and OTD at Eastern Kentucky University. She has over 30 years of experience in occupational therapy (OT) traditional healthcare settings in acute care, inpatient rehab, outpatient hand therapy, and community settings. Jean currently works as an OT at On Lok PACE with older adults and in a private practice as a sleep coach with national and international clients. She has been a lecturer at SISU since 2009 and has taught on a variety of topics. Jean has presented on the topic of sleep and sleep routines at OTAC conferences, the Society for the Study of Occupation conference, at SISU special events, and with community-dwelling older adults. Her interest in sleep started 16 years ago when she worked as an OT in a home health setting where all her clients had sleep issues. This started her on a path to research the topic of sleep. lean authored or co-authored chapters on sleep and rest and ADL in three editions of Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice Skills for Physical Dysfunction and co-authored a chapter on sleep in an upcoming edition of a pediatric occupational therapy textbook. She co-authored an article on sleep routines in the Journal of Occupational Science in 2023. Her vision is that all occupational therapy practitioners in all practice settings will help people across the lifespan with sleep. Her mission is to educate occupational therapy practitioners and students about sleep so that they can help more people with this important restorative occupation.



3620 American River Drive, Suite 230 Sacramento, CA 95864

www.cfot.org | info@cfot.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA









Scan the QR Code or mail your donation to 3620 American River Drive, Suite 230 Sacramento, CA 95864