



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michele Berro, CFOT President



It is my honor to serve as the new president of the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT). I am currently a Clinical Manager at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. As an OT clinician and manager for 40 years, I have had the opportunity

to lead teams, implement programs, and see initiatives through to completion. Throughout my career I have held a variety of volunteer positions in both CFOT and OTAC (Occupational Therapy Association of California), all of which have prepared me to serve in this new role.

During the past 10 years as Secretary of CFOT I gained a good working knowledge of the Foundation and had the opportunity to work alongside a stellar group of volunteer leaders from whom I have learned so much. We truly believe that our mission of funding scholarships and research grants to support occupational therapy students, clinicians, and researchers will advance our profession and ultimately transform the lives of those benefitting from Occupational Therapy.

CFOT's recent partnership with the Association Resource Center (ARC) has provided necessary infrastructure and support to position the Foundation for growth with a focus on enhancing outreach, increasing our donor base, and

engaging in professional collaborations. A new, bold strategic plan provides us with a roadmap for the future. The Board has both the experience and dedication to advance CFOT and realize our ambitious goals. We are eager to forge partnerships and promote our profession to the community at large. I am delighted to lead CFOT in these endeavors.

Having served with CFOT's visionary founders, I am mindful of the incredible legacy they bestowed, and it is my steadfast desire to move the Foundation forward while safeguarding it for future generations of occupational therapists. Forty years in, I remain passionate about our profession and truly believe that the work we do makes a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the CFOT.

IN THIS ISSUE

- CFOT Legacy Circle2
- CFOT in Action at CSUDH2
- CFOT Financial Update..... 3
- CFOT Funding Opportunities4
- CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium6
- CFOT 2023 Honored Lecture.....8
- CFOT Past Honored Lecturers9
- Connect with CFOT on Social Media10
- CFOT Board of Directors11
- Donate to CFOT Today11

CFOT LEGACY CIRCLE

By Bonita Kraft, CFOT Vice President



The Legacy Circle is an endowment fund that was established in 2016 to ensure that CFOT can continue to provide scholarships and research grants to support OT students and practitioners in California with the goal of advancing the profession of occupational therapy into the future.

To be a member of the CFOT Legacy Circle, you must make a contribution of \$2,500. This contribution can be made in installments over five years. Once the full donation has been made, you will be recognized as a member of the CFOT Legacy Circle. Current members are:

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

CFOT IN ACTION AT CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS CAREER FAIR

by Lora Woo, CFOT Secretary



The California Foundation of Occupational Therapy was invited by Dr. Heather Kitching, CSUDH's MSOT Program Director, to participate in the 2023 OT Career Fair along with the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC). As CFOT's newly elected Secretary, I was honored to represent the Foundation at this event. Held on the CSUDH campus in Carson on April 17th, this was an opportunity for the OT students to network with potential employers as well as learn more about CFOT and OTAC.

Many students were not fully aware of the Foundation's mission and the opportunities awaiting them. Garnering student's attention with the question of "would you like free money?" allowed me to share information on the scholarships available to OT students as well as traineeships for OTA students. Additionally, as soon-to-be practitioners,

students were informed of CFOT awarding research grants and seed monies for research and projects/program development. As new OT practitioners, students can utilize their research knowledge in clinical practice with CFOT as a potential funder of their research or program development ideas.

Visit cfot.org to learn more about scholarships, grants, seed monies, or to donate in support of CFOT's mission.

[VISIT CFOT.ORG](http://cfot.org)
CLICK HERE

MAINTAINING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FURTHER CFOT'S MISSION

By John Goodfellow, CFOT Treasurer



The Board Members of CFOT place a great emphasis on maintaining a conservative budget to ensure that a significant portion of the funds we raise can be directed toward supporting occupational therapy research and student scholarships. While our primary objective is to allocate resources effectively, we also allocate a small percentage of our budget to cover essential office expenses and honor our contract with Association Resource Center (ARC). ARC specializes in assisting foundations and non-profit organizations to optimize their operations and maximize cost efficiency.

In the fiscal year 2022-2023, CFOT acquired funds from diverse sources. Donations received by CFOT serve as our primary revenue stream and are instrumental in enabling us to fulfill our mission: “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.”

In 2022, approximately 50% of our financial resources were obtained through generous donations, demonstrating the invaluable support we receive from occupational therapy practitioners and advocates of occupational therapy. A

significant portion, amounting to 48%, was derived from our investment portfolio. The remaining 2% of our income is sourced from various other channels.

Our overall revenue is earmarked for the provision of traineeships, scholarships, seed funding, and research grants for occupational therapy students and researchers. In 2022 alone, CFOT disbursed over \$38,000 through these avenues, reflecting CFOT's commitment to advancing the field of occupational therapy through research and education.

Our overall revenue is earmarked for the provision of traineeships, scholarships, seed funding, and research grants for occupational therapy students and researchers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY CFOT

By Heidi McHugh Pendleton and Judi Palladino, CFOT Research Advisory Co-Chairs.



All occupational therapy practitioners and students in occupational therapy curricula in the state of California who are members of OTAC are eligible to submit proposals for research grants or seed money.

RESEARCH GRANTS

CFOT awards Research Grants up to \$6,000 each year. There are also several named Research Grants which aim to support research in the donor's area of interest.

Awards for Research Grants are available to practicing occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (licensed in California) including academicians and post entry-level students engaged in independent advanced practice or entry-level doctoral, doctoral level, or post-doctoral level research. These requests can be used to help fund items such as equipment, consultation fees, printing, postage, communications, and supplies used for individual research.

Research funds must be Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved and awarded only to an individual(s), not an organization. Please see the CFOT website for Research Advisory Committee member contact information, submission guidelines, and applications (cfot.org/research). Research Grants are awarded each year at the CFOT Annual Awards Luncheon and Symposium during the OTAC Annual Conference. Grant requests must be submitted by June 15 each year.

SEED MONEY

CFOT awards Seed Money up to \$250 per request to support either research or program development in the field of occupational therapy.

Projects typically funded include pilot studies, needs assessments, or research conducted by entry level OT students individually or in groups under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Seed money is awarded to students and practitioners developing a new treatment program, educational program or project designed for the public benefit.

Please visit the CFOT website for guidelines and applications. Seed Money applications are accepted throughout the year and the Research Advisory Committee meets quarterly to determine which requests will be funded.

APPLICATIONS
CLICK HERE

CFOT

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Photo by Unseen Studio on Unsplash.com

ABOUT CFOT

CFOT is a nonprofit, public benefit organization to help support students, practitioners, and researchers advance their knowledge and skills, thereby enhancing occupational therapy services to the public.

ELIGIBILITY

All licensed occupational therapy practitioners or students in occupational therapy curricula in the state of California who are members of OTAC are eligible to submit proposals for Research Grants or Seed Money, or applications for Scholarships. Awards will be announced at the CFOT Awards Luncheon and Symposium during the Annual OTAC Conference.

RESEARCH GRANTS

(All Submissions to Focus on Occupation-Centered Practice)

CFOT awards occupational therapy practitioners, academicians, and students general Research Grants of up to \$6,000 each year. In addition, there are several named Research Grants in the following practice areas:

- Women's Health Issues
- Physical Rehabilitation Research
- Mental Health Research
- LGBTQ Research
- Pediatric Research

Deadline for submissions is June 15th each year.

SEED MONEY

CFOT awards Seed Money up to \$250 per request to support either research or program/project development in the field of occupational therapy. Applicants are typically occupational therapy practitioners or entry-level occupational therapy students. Applications are accepted throughout the year and the Research Advisory Committee meets quarterly to determine funding.

SCHOLARSHIPS

CFOT awards up to fourteen Scholarships annually. These Scholarships are for occupational therapy students who are:

- California residents planning on working in California upon completion of their degree
- Enrolled in an OT program at a university in this state, having completed at least one term with a 3.0 GPA or better

Deadline for submissions is March 31st each year.

TRAINEESHIPS

CFOT awards up to six Traineeships of \$800 designed to support Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) during their clinical affiliations. Candidates are nominated by OTA program directors.

**PLEASE SEE THE CFOT WEBSITE FOR SUBMISSION
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATIONS.**

Apply - cfot.org

CFOT Annual Awards **LUNCHEON & SYMPOSIUM** AT THE OTAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 11:30AM – 1:00PM

TICKETS ARE \$85

OTAC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON.

By Kathryn Gundersen, Conference Chair

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) looks forward to seeing YOU at the OTAC Annual Conference this fall. We are a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) 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. We will have a table in the registration area where you will find everything you always wanted to know about CFOT, and more. You will also find us in the Exhibit Hall where you can join trivia games, purchase donation drawing tickets for some FABULOUS prizes, and make your donations to support the future of OTs in California.

CFOT is proud to further the professional growth of California Occupational Therapists as we award 2023 Scholarships, Traineeships, Research Grants and Seed Money to support worthy students, practitioners, and researchers at our Awards Luncheon and Symposium November 10 during the OTAC Conference. In addition, Lisa Deshaies will be giving a stimulating presentation as our 2023 Honored Lecturer (PDUs will be earned). This elegant lunch (\$85 per person) will be unopposed, so you will not miss another session. Students may choose to join us in a special seating area for only \$10 - just bring your own lunch. Visit us at cfot.org for further details.

We look forward to seeing you there!



CFOT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON AND SYMPOSIUM



DONATIONS NEEDED!

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) is a not-for-profit public benefit foundation that relies on the support of our donors to continue to provide much-needed scholarships and grants to occupational therapy students and researchers.

Are you a recipient of a traineeship, scholarship, or research grant from CFOT? Curious about how you can pay it forward? Are you an OT Practitioner who wants to support CFOT? The CFOT Internal Development Committee is seeking in-kind donations, including gift cards, merchandise, chance drawing items, movie tickets, and more, to use for our chance drawing fundraiser at the CFOT booth during the OTAC Conference and Expo.

The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy is an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax identification number is #95-3537219.

Your tax-deductible donations help us to continue CFOT's work and are greatly appreciated.

For further questions or to donate:

DANIELLE MEGLIO
Chair of Internal Development
development@cfot.org

DONATE TODAY!
[CLICK HERE](#)

CFOT TABLE SPONSORS

By Danielle Meglio, CFOT Internal Development Chair



The CFOT Annual Awards Luncheon and Symposium at the Annual OTAC Conference is an opportunity to celebrate our awardees and gain inspiration from our Honored Lecturer.

We would like to acknowledge our board members that have generously offered to sponsor tables this year:

- Michele Berro, CFOT President
- John Goodfellow, CFOT Treasurer
- Bonita Kraft, CFOT Vice President

We appreciate all of our donors and look forward to recognizing them during our luncheon and throughout the conference.

If you are interested in donating to CFOT, please visit us at our CFOT booth at the OTAC Expo during conference or click the link below.

DONATE TODAY!
[CLICK HERE](#)

NOURISHING AND FLOURISHING OUR ROOTS

2023 HONORED LECTURER: LISA DESHAIES

By Diana Su-Erickson, CFOT Awards Recognition Chair



Our profession's deep roots in occupation are indeed something to be celebrated. But how well are they being tended to? Are we leaving this to others or are we actively engaged in protecting and fortifying them? Together, let's explore how we each can and must contribute to the propagation of our roots and unleash the power of

practitioners, students, and patients that have cultivated my "occupassion" of being an OT.

Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT is a 1986 graduate of the University of New Hampshire who headed west to California with a plan to train and work at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center for a couple of years. 36 years later, she continues there as a Clinical Instructor for Outpatient OT Services. Lisa has specialized in complex fractures, burns, amputations, arthritis, and other upper limb orthopedic conditions, obtaining her Certified Hand Therapist credential in 1995. She has taught "Principles of Hand Therapy" as Adjunct Clinical Faculty for the Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California for over 20 years. Lisa has published in OT and hand therapy textbooks and has presented locally and nationally on topics related to hand therapy and occupation-based care. Outside of work, she values her time spent at the beach, on the water, exploring a trail, traveling, and fanatically rooting for her beloved New England sports teams.



**CFOT 2023
HONORED
LECTURER**

Lisa Deshaies
OTR/L, CHT

occupation in ourselves and for our clients. This session will invite you to reflect on your past and future practice and offer insights harvested from OT scholars, researchers, educators,

CFOT HONORED LECTURERS



Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1983	Diane Hendricks, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA	2003
Lois Barber, OTR/L, FAOTA	1984	Mary Margaret Evert, MBA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2004
Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	1985	Marcia Goodman-Lavey, Esq, OTR/L	2005
Florence Cromwell, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA	1986	Marti Southam, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2006
Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	1987	Y. Lynn Yasuda, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2007
Mary Reilly, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA	1988	Kathleen Barker Schwartz, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA....	2008
Claudia Allen, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1989	Bonnie Nakasuji, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2009
Elizabeth Yerxa, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1990	Mary Lawlor, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2010
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA	1991	Pam Richardson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2011
Linda Florey, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1992	Winifred Schultz-Krohn, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA..	2012
Carlotta Welles, MA, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1993	Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2013
Mary Foto, OT/L, FAOTA	1994	Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L.....	2014
Diane Parham, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1995	Deborah Bolding, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2015
Ruth Zemke, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	1996	Lela Llorens, PhD, FAOTA.....	2016
Susan Knox, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	1997	Ada Boone Hoerl, MA, COTA/L.....	2017
Sandra Greene, MA, OTR/L	1998	Jerilyn (Gigi) Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2018
Heidi McHugh Pendleton, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	1999	Shawn Phipps, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2019
Dorothy Wilson, OTR/L, FAOTA	2000	Luis Arabit, OTD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2020
Guy McCormack, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.....	2001	John Goodfellow, OTD, OTR/L.....	2021
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2001	Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM.....	2022
Evelyn Jaffe, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA	2001	Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT.....	2023
Gordon Giles, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA	2002		

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



California Foundation
for Occupational
Therapy - CFOT



@cal_fot



@ca_fot

Follow, like and forward
our posts to spread
the good work that
CFOT is doing!



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

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Evelyn Jaffe

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Danielle Meglio

PUBLICITY CHAIR & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Vacant

RESEARCH ADVISORY CO-CHAIRS

Judi Palladino
Heidi McHugh Pendleton

SCHOLARSHIPS CO-CHAIRS

Laura Weiss
Winifred Schultz-Krohn

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Linda Florey
Patricia Nagaishi
Julie Shaperman
Lynn Yasuda

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Evelyn Jaffe

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Occupational Therapy transforms lives through individualized, innovative strategies for everyday living. You can help to ensure the future of our profession and benefit those we serve through your donations to CFOT.

Every gift counts! A donation to CFOT is an investment in the future of Occupational Therapy students, practitioners, and researchers.

Make a difference
and donate today!

DONATE TODAY!
[CLICK HERE](#)

Click on the donate button above or
mail your donation to

CFOT
3620 American River Drive, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95864

MISSION STATEMENT: The California Foundation for Occupational Therapy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) 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

