

Break Out Session One 8:15-9:15 (1.0 CEU)

Innovating the Everyday: Reading as Occupation in Vision Rehabilitation

Karla Sternberg Cover OTR, SCLV, CLVT

Reading is a fundamental occupation that supports independence, participation, and quality of life across the lifespan. For individuals with visual impairments or visual–cognitive dysfunction, the ability to read is often significantly compromised, impacting essential daily tasks such as medication management, communication, employment, and leisure engagement. This presentation examines reading through an occupational therapy and vision rehabilitation lens, integrating the science of reading with visual and cognitive performance factors.

Occupational Therapy's Role in Designating Risk of Future Cerebral Palsy

Gerri A. Duran PhD, MS, OT/L, FAOTA

A 2022 paper discussed the importance of using a "designation" of risk for Cerebral Palsy. This presentation offers considerations for designating infants' risk for CP.

OT/AT - Writing a LMN for DME

Robin Leinwand MOT, OTR/L Hallie Taylor OTD, OTR/L

Session offers guidance for writing an effective LMN for DME that aligns with information needed for insurance approval. Case study: Bath Aids. Resources will be provided.

Root-Cause Approaches to Chronic and Neuropathic Pain

Shara Ogin OTR/L CEAS, GCFP®

Learn alternative, root-cause approaches to chronic pain management — using manual techniques and movement sequences (based in the Feldenkrais® method), to stimulate the vagus nerve and improve patient outcomes.

2026 NMOTA Conference Presentations

Break Out Session Two: 1:00-2:00 (1 CEU)

Collaboration That Works: Practical Strategies for School-Based OT Teams

Daniel Soliz, MAT, COTA/L

The purpose of this presentation is to help school-based OTs & COTAs learn how to work effectively with teachers, partner with SLPs, PTs, and special ed staff, align therapy goals with classroom routines and move beyond “therapy in isolation.”

OT/AT - 3D printed assistive devices in clinical practice

Anna Wilder OTR/L

3D printing is an affordable and customizable way to make supports for the use in outpatient pediatric and community occupational therapy practice.

Innovating Everyday Agency: Teaching Self-Advocacy through the Kawa Lens

Heidi Sanders OTR/L, PhD Kathleen "Mo" Taylor OTR/L

This session examines strategies for teaching self-advocacy skills to neurodivergent individuals, using the Kawa Model as a framework to identify and remove obstacles.

Unlocking the secrets of the shoulder complex (Part 1)

Ginny Rossberg, MOTR/L

Familiarize yourself with the shoulder anatomy, common shoulder injuries and diagnoses, education for your patients, and successful treatments to improve shoulder function.

2026 NMOTA Conference Presentations

Break Out Session Three: 2:15-3:15 (1.0 CEU)

Birth Is Not Exempt: Standardizing Acute Postpartum Rehabilitation

Nadya Loughrey OTR/L, TIPHP

Birth is routine, but postpartum rehab is not. This session addresses the gap in acute OT care, showing how standardized hospital consults and follow-up telehealth improve maternal outcomes and everyday caregiving.

OT/AT - Assistive Technology: Using Tools to Enable Any Student to Succeed

Melodye Thomas OTD, OTR/L

Introductory review of assistive technology to help students with vision, hearing, physical, communication, and cognitive impairments succeed in a variety of settings.

OT/AT - From Function to the Front Seat: The Role of the Generalist OT

Cheri Quinton OTR/L, DRP

Clinicians frequently encounter patients asking when they can resume driving; this presentation reviews assessment and intervention tools available to generalist occupational therapists.

Take an innovative deep dive into the shoulder

Ginny Rossberg MOTR/L

This session will focus on manual techniques, including palpation, joint manipulations, trigger point release and more, to decrease pain, increase tissue pliability and increase ROM.

2026 NMOTA Conference Presentations

NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know

Kelly Kelley OTD, OTR/L

Connect with NBCOT and hear about the best approaches to achieve your goal for Occupational Therapy Certification.

AOTA's Official Documents in Practice

Tim Dionne BS/MS, PhD, OTR/L

A practical tour of AOTA's official documents — how they're made, what they say, what they require, and how practitioners can use evidence to guide practice.

Plenary Session: 3:25-4:55

OT/AT - Plenary Session - Dr. Suzanne Burns, PhD, OTR/L

Associate Professor University of New Mexico School of Medicine, OT Grad Program

Dr. Burn's research has primarily focused on the development, testing, and implementation of mobile health (mHealth) assessments and interventions to improve community living outcomes for people with disabilities. A second major research focus is on addressing health and participation disparities among people living with the effects of stroke through the development and evaluation of tailored and technology-enhanced interventions.