

I. Description of Research in support of AOTF Research Categories/Goals/Priorities

The major line of research focuses upon adults, primarily middle age through older adulthood, and the impact of various environments upon their adaptation and occupational performance. This research focus addresses the following AOTF research categories, goals, and priorities:

1. Intervention that promotes function/wellness in people of all ages and those with chronic health conditions:

- Goal: create novel, theory based interventions for promoting activity/participation/occupation and improving quality of life

a. Priority: application of interventions that: are client-centered, manipulate occupation and environment, are theory-driven and manualized, and involve a priority population with chronic health conditions.

2. Basic research that examines body structures and functions supporting performance in daily life:

- Goal: examine relationships among impairment, activity, and participation

- Goal: examine extrinsic mechanisms (e.g. social support and culture) and how they support performance in daily life

3. Research training

- Goal: to increase occupational therapy's research capacity

a. Prepare doctoral students to conduct intervention research

II. Current research studies which would provide potential opportunities for doctoral students include:

- Relocation to long-term care and the implementation of an occupation-based, cultural heritage intervention to facilitate adaptation and quality of life for newly admitted residents. A R21 NINR two year grant project was just completed and a new grant submission is planned.
- Family care giving in the home setting for older adults with chronic health conditions.
- Activity-based dementia care with families dealing with early stage/young onset Alzheimer's.
- Examination of creativity and creative activities for its potential with graduate students, therapeutic interventions, and older clients.