

Occupational Therapy Course

Faculty Biographies

***Denotes member of the Planning Committee*



****Sue Berger, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA**, is Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at Boston University College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College in Boston, MA.

Dr. Berger's research focuses on individuals living with neurological changes, specifically those with stroke and Parkinson's disease, and older adults with vision loss, exploring the barriers and strategies to participation in social and leisure occupations. Her extensive clinical experience with adults and older adults spans the health care continuum, including environments of acute care, rehabilitation, long-term care and home care. She is the American Occupational Therapy representative for the partnership for Health in Aging and a recipient of the BU Sargent College Whitney R. Powers award for teaching excellence.



****Erin R. Foster, OTD, MSCI, OTR/L.**, is Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, Neurology, and Psychiatry at Washington University.

Dr. Foster received her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy and completed postdoctoral training in clinical neuroscience and cognitive neuropsychology at WUSM. During her postdoctoral fellowship, she was selected for a multi-disciplinary clinical investigation-training program and received her Master's of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) in May 2009. She is a current recipient of an NIH-K23 Career Development Award and several other research grants related to cognition in Parkinson disease (PD). Dr. Foster's primary research focus is on understanding everyday cognitive functioning in PD and its relevance to occupational performance, participation and quality of life. She studies how cognitive dysfunction in PD impacts everyday life and how occupational therapy can best address it. Clinically, Dr. Foster is involved with the Program in Occupational Therapy's Community and In-Home Services as a consultant for therapists treating clients with PD or related movement disorders.



Sotirios A. Parashos, MD, PhD, is a neurologist with the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, the Clinical Research Lead at the Struthers Parkinson's Center, a National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence, and Clinical Professor of Neurology at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Parashos' research into Parkinson's disease focuses on non-dopa-responsive symptoms such as falls and cognitive dysfunction, the natural progression of Parkinson's disease, and the role of the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary care in the management of Parkinson's disease. He has co-authored many articles published in peer-reviewed journals, a book on *Navigating Life with Parkinson Disease*, and has given numerous lectures on

Parkinson's disease to professional and lay audiences.

Dr. Parashos serves on the Community Advisory Board of the Struthers Parkinson's Center, on the Work Group for Parkinson's Disease Physician Performance Measure Development of the American Academy of Neurology, and on the Parkinson's Outcome Project of the National Parkinson Foundation.

He completed his basic medical training at the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece; a two-year Fogarty Fellowship in Neuropharmacology at the Experimental Therapeutics Branch of the NINDS/NIH, in Bethesda, MD; a Neurology residency at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, MN; a Ph.D., in Experimental Physiology of the Nervous System, at the Aristotle University; and an Advanced Clinical Fellowship in Movement Disorders, at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.



****Ingrid Sturkenboom, OT BSc, MA**, is an occupational therapist and junior researcher at the Radboud university medical center in The Netherlands. She worked for 10 years as an occupational therapist in England, New Zealand and Tanzania before starting in 2005 at her current post.

Her expertise and interests are in the area of neurology and in specific in Parkinson's Disease. Since 2007 she is the national Coordinator for occupational therapy in ParkinsonNet (nationwide regional networks of professionals specialized in Parkinson's Disease). She is first author of the Dutch guideline for occupational therapy in Parkinson's Disease (available in English) and provides extensive training for occupational therapists who are specializing in Parkinson's disease. In 2009 she started a PhD research on the effectiveness of occupational therapy in Parkinson's disease: the OTiP study. She intends to finalize and defend her thesis late 2015.



****Linda Tickle-Degnen, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, is Professor of Occupational Therapy at Tufts University in Medford, MA. Dr. Tickle-Degnen holds additional appointments in the Psychology Department and in the Interdisciplinary Cognitive Science Program at Tufts. She is also the Director of the Health Quality of Life Lab, which studies quality of life and wellness in people living with chronic health conditions that affect their ability to participate in daily life activities. Her primary focus is on understanding how people living with Parkinson's disease and their care partners are able to participate in their personally-

valued activities and social roles. She develops rehabilitation interventions that promote health and satisfying participation in life activities. The US National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation fund her work. Dr. Tickle-Degnen has received national and international recognition for her leadership in the field of occupational therapy and rehabilitation.

Planning Committee members not on faculty

Hui-ing Ma, ScD,OT**

Professor at National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Visiting Fulbright Professor at Health Quality of Life Lab, Arts & Sciences, Tufts University

Elizabeth Pollard**

Vice President, Education