

10th Cognitive Symposium – Redondo Beach, CA – November 6-8, 2014

Alphabetical Listing of Presenters with Biographies

Allen, Claudia Kay, MA, OT, FAOTA, Retired, La Verne, California

Claudia's deep concern for the dignity of individuals with cognitive impairments and her years of passionate drive to help therapists better identify, understand and support this often poorly served population has resulted in the Allen Cognitive Levels. Acknowledgement of the model and the Allen Cognitive Level's usefulness continues to grow within the field of occupational therapy and in other areas of healthcare. Claudia's work spans nearly four decades and has been embraced by many students and therapists drawn to her steadfast commitment to meeting the needs of persons with cognitive disabilities. She has taught courses to thousands of therapists and students within the U.S. and abroad. Her accolades include the Eleanor Clark Slagle Lectureship in 1987 and the World Federation of Occupational Therapy keynote speaker in 1990 in Melbourne, Australia. As of this 2014 Cognitive Symposium, Claudia is launching an app to facilitate interactive access to the Allen Cognitive Levels and revising the 6 levels to identify goals and methods for an evidence-based practice. Claudia is an ex-officio member of the board of the Allen Cognitive Network and Advisors, Ltd and a member of the Allen Cognitive Group/ACLS and LACLS Committee. Most recently, she co-authored the *Manual for the Allen Cognitive Level Screen-5 (ACLS-5) and Large Allen Cognitive Level Screen-5 (LACLS-5)* (Allen, Austin, David, Earhart, McCraith & Riska-Williams, 2007).

Almon-Matangos, Susan, MS/CCC-SLP, Aegis Therapies, Ephrata, Pennsylvania

Susan Almon-Matangos, MS/CCC-SLP, Director of Clinical Services with Aegis Therapies, has over 25 years of experience in SLP and long-term care. She creates interdisciplinary training programs related to rehabilitation needs of adults across the continuum of care through the Education/Innovation function of the Aegis Therapies Clinical Department.

Alonzi, Dana, OTR/L, John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Dana Alonzi, OTR/L, has been a certified, licensed Occupational Therapist for 16 years and is the clinical coordinator of rehabilitation services for the Johns Hopkins Bayview Specialty Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Ms. Alonzi was responsible for designing the role of the Occupational Therapists and the initial program development for the dementia program at the specialty hospital. She worked closely with Dr. Laura Gitlin to develop the Occupational Therapy assessment and intervention protocol for the Tailored Activity Program (TAP) research study at the specialty hospital. Ms. Alonzi was a trained interventionist for the (TAP) research study and continues to collaborate with Dr. Gitlin to present the outcomes of the study and implement TAP as a standard of care for the dementia program. In addition to her work with the TAP study, Ms. Alonzi is a certified stroke rehabilitation specialist, is NDT trained, and AMPS calibrated.

Alviso, Chantal, MS, OTR/L, Sonoma Healthcare Center, Sonoma, California

Chantal graduated with her Master's in 2009. She has specialized in geriatrics, working in post-acute rehabilitation settings. She is the Director of Rehabilitation at Sonoma Healthcare Center, and is a certified AOTA clinical fieldwork educator. She integrates the Cognitive Disabilities Model into fieldwork experiences and clinical services.

Childers, Christine, PT, MS, GCS, University of St Augustine for Health Sciences, San Marcos, CA

Ms. Childers received her Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. In 1998, she moved to the United States with her husband then serving active duty in the United States Air Force. Based in Utah, she completed the requirements to practice in the United States and worked for 8 years primarily in the Skilled Nursing arena developing a passion and specialty in Geriatrics. While in Utah, she earned her Master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Utah and is currently working on her PhD in Health Psychology from Walden University. In 2005, Ms. Childers became a Geriatric Clinical specialist (GCS) the same year she moved to California to continue working as rehabilitation director in skilled nursing facilities. After 14 years, she moved to a full time faculty role at the University of St. Augustine but maintains her clinical skills through home health visits which are predominantly to the Geriatric population. Ms. Childers is currently developing her research agenda which involves the Geriatric community and fall prevention, hopefully, to develop a more appropriate measurement tool for the community dwelling elderly population and to include the impact of fear of falling on fall awareness in providing treatment.

10th Cognitive Symposium – Redondo Beach, CA – November 6-8, 2014

David, Sandra, MHE, OTR/L, Heritage Healthcare, Inc., Augusta, GA

Sandra David serves on the board for the Allen Cognitive Group/ACLS and LACLS Committee and was a board member of ACN from 2003-2011 where she also served as ACN Website Administrator and ACN President from 2004-2006. Sandra is co-author of the ACLS-5/LACLS-5 Manual (2007). She received AOTA Recognition of Achievement Award for Greatly Increased ACL Clinical Information and Use.

Donovan, Mary Lou, PhD, MEd, OTR/L, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota

Dr. Donovan has been an Occupational Therapist for 35 years. For the past 19 years, she has taught at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. Her area of expertise is gerontology and she uses the Allen Cognitive Model often with students, as well as, in community education settings for professional and family caregivers.

Earhart, Catherine, BA, OT Cert., OTR/L, LAC+USC Healthcare Network Psych Services, Los Angeles, CA

Catherine A. Earhart serves on the board of the Allen Cognitive Group/ACLS and LACLS Committee and was an ACN Board Member from 2002-2012. Catherine is a co-author of the ACLS-5/LACLS-5 Manual (2007) and the best selling text, "Occupational Therapy Treatment Goals for the Physically and Cognitively Disabled" (1992). She is also the primary author of the Allen Diagnostic Module Manual-2nd Edition and ADM assessments (2006) and a co-author of the chapter on "The CDM in 2011" in N. Katz (2011). *Cognition, Occupation, and Participation across the Life Span*, (3rd Ed). Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

Edney, Angela, OTR/L, MSA, Clinical Director of Clinical Services, Aegis Therapies, Oveida, Florida

Angela Edney, MS, OTR/L, Director of Clinical Services for Aegis Therapies, has 20+ years of long term care management experience. She provides field support to execute clinical reasoning strategy, coordinate trainers and clinical support, and assess skills/roles. Angela works with operational partners to establish clinical plans and focus areas.

Farrell, Stella, MA, OTR/L, LAC-USC Healthcare Network-Augustus Hawkins, Los Angeles, California

Stella Farrell is a Staff Occupational Therapist and Clinical Fieldwork Instructor at LAC+USC Healthcare Network at Augustus F. Hawkins in Los Angeles, CA. She has been using the CD model for 14 years (and counting...) and has interests in developing performance-based assessments and sharing her clinical knowledge of the CD model with others.

Hill, Cathy, BOccThy, Older Persons' Mental Health, Metro South Health, Queensland, Australia

Cathy is a mental health Occupational Therapist with a wide range of experience in mental health in Australia and overseas. Cathy attended a training workshop with Delaune Pollard and since then has used the Functional Cognition model extensively in her work. She currently works in an Older Person's Mental Health service and travels Australia providing training in cognitive disabilities theory.

Howell, Teresa, MHS, OTR/L, Center for Innovation Disabilities Rehabilitation Research (CINDDR) North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville, Florida

Teresa Howell is a Research Interventionist at the NF/SG VHS for the project "Nonpharmacologic Management Challenging Behaviors in Veterans with Dementia". This project is also known at the Tailored Activity Program in the VA system (TAP-VA). Teresa evaluates and provides intervention to veteran/caregiver dyads per the approved IRB protocol. She is a current ACN board member and the CE Administrator.

Jackson, Sharon, COTA/L, Dementia Care Specialists, Peninsula, Ohio

Sharon has spent of majority of her career working in skilled nursing facilities and has been utilizing the CDM since 2001. Sharon was empowered by the CDM to implement change on a dementia unit and now works as a consultant for CPI and Dementia Care Specialists to assist others in focusing on people's strengths rather than their weaknesses.

Janeslatt, Gunnel, PhD, OT, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Gunnel Janeslätt, PhD, OT (reg) is a Researcher at SUF Resource Centre, Associated to Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Disability and Habilitation, Uppsala University, Sweden. Prior to getting her PhD she worked with children with disabilities. Her area of interest is in collecting knowledge when developing and evaluating methods for assessment and intervention in time-processing ability and management of one's time in daily life and in parenting when parents have cognitive limitations.

10th Cognitive Symposium – Redondo Beach, CA – November 6-8, 2014

Kercher, Julie, OTR/L, Coast to Coast Therapy, Inc, Therapists Unlimited, San Diego, California

Julie Kercher is in her first year of working as an Occupational Therapist, but she has many years of experience as a hospice volunteer while working as an engineer. Julie joined the ACN as a student and now works as a school-based therapist in San Diego. One of her career goals is to improve the lives of dementia patients.

Kvedar, Tristen, OTR/L, John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Tristen Kvedar, OTR/L, has been a certified, licensed Occupational Therapist for 5 years and is a member of the Department of Rehabilitation Services at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Specialty Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Kvedar was a trained interventionist for the Tailored Activities Program (TAP) research study at the specialty hospital and performed the majority of the assessments and interventions for the study. She continues to collaborate with Dr. Laura Gitlin to present the outcomes of the study and implement TAP as a standard of care for the dementia program. In addition to her work with the TAP study, Mrs. Kvedar is a dementia care specialist and has developed a sensory room and treatment protocol for the dementia program at the specialty hospital.

McCraith, Deane, MS, OT/L, retired professor, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Deane McCraith serves on the board of the Allen Cognitive Group/ACLS and LACLS Committee and was an ACN board member, 2002-2012. She currently serves as the outgoing ACN Database Manager. Before her retirement, Deane was a practicing occupational therapist and clinical educator, as well as a Clinical Associate Professor in Occupational Therapy at Boston University for over 25 years. She has presented extensively nationally and internationally. Deane co-authored the ACLS-5/LACLS-5 Manual (2007) and the chapter on "The CDM in 2011" in N. Katz (2011). *Cognition, Occupation, and Participation across the Life Span*, (3rd Ed). Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

McCumber, Sara, MS, RN, CNP, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota

Assistant Professor in Graduate Nursing, The College of St. Scholastica. Twelve years of work experience with adults as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. Currently, Sara works in clinical practice in Neurology Dementia Care Management.

Metzger, Lizabeth, MS, OTR/L, West Suburban Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

Lizabeth Metzger is an Occupational Therapist; a graduate of Boston University's Sargent College. She has worked with older adults in a rehabilitation setting and has been using the cognitive disabilities model over the past 2 years. Since the 2012 Cognitive Symposium, Liz has served on the ACN board's website committee.

Moore, Karen, OTR/L, The Sensory Connection Program, New Hampshire

Karen Moore is an Occupational Therapist and a graduate of Worcester State College who worked in mental health at Worcester State Hospital and on the Acute Adult Psychiatric Unit at UMASS Medical Center. Her career long commitment to the study and use of sensory modalities for treatment in psychiatric care culminated in the writing of her book, "The Sensory Connection Program: Activities for Mental Health Treatment" (2005). She developed a sensory-based treatment group which is a popular group for patients with cognitive and language difficulties. This group continues to run daily at UMASS in the occupational therapy program based on the Cognitive Disabilities Model. On this unit, she also studied the relationship of Allen Cognitive Level Screening results and patient demographics, diagnosis and disposition (Henry, Moore, Quinlivan, & Triggs, 1998). In 2001, she collaborated with Dr. Alexis Henry and Deane McCraith in an AOTA supported study on "The Usefulness of the Cognitive Disabilities Model in Predicting Community Functioning among Persons with Mental Disorders" which was presented at the Cognitive Symposium in Tampa, Florida, 2002. In addition, she led a clinical research project on the efficacy of using the Wilbarger Protocol, an intensive sensory treatment program, with patients with psychiatric diagnoses along with sensory defensiveness, PTSD, and self-injurious behaviors (Moore & Henry, 2002). Over the years, Karen has presented on use of the cognitive disabilities model and sensory related treatment to hospitals, behavioral units, community programs, college programs, nursing homes, and at numerous occupational therapy conferences including MAOT, NHOTA, OTAC and SSOT/SK. Karen's latest publication is a new curriculum for a self-regulation group entitled, "The Sensory Connection Self-Regulation Program for Group Treatment".

Ostrove, Barbara, MA, OTR/L, Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island

Barbara Ostrove, MA, OTR/L is Director of Occupational Therapy at Butler Hospital. She has 34 years of experience in mental health settings. She is a member of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. She has presented on sensory modulation, mental health practice, occupational therapy evaluation and fieldwork education.

10th Cognitive Symposium – Redondo Beach, CA – November 6-8, 2014

Platt, Mary, OTR/L, Owner - Changing Minds, Portland, Oregon

Mary Platt is an Occupational Therapist in private practice, specializing in dementia. She is a consultant, author and lecturer. Her business, Changing Minds, informs elder care management via functional cognition and sensory processing. Her book, "At Home with the Allen Cognitive Levels", is used by ACL trained clinicians around the world.

Pordage, Susan, OTR, Spotc, Quakers Hill, New South Wales, Australia

Susan Pordage is an Occupational Therapist with more than 20 years experience in various roles. She has a passion for assisting individuals with cognitive disabilities. She has had her own private practice since 1998. Currently, Susan works part-time for Western Sydney Area Health Service as an Occupational Therapist working in the Specialist Mental Health Service for Older People (SMHSOP). She works in the Transitional Behavioural Assessment & Intervention Service (T-BASIS) Unit and the community team. Her role is to facilitate and maximize an individual's ability to function by assessing their ability to function, how the mind works as a global unit to carry out daily activities of clients and advise the multidisciplinary team on ways of modifying the human and physical environment in order to facilitate function. In 2010, Susan began using the Allen Cognitive Disability Model (ACDM) in private practice. Funding was provided by GP Network Northside for behavioural management programs using the Allen Cognitive Levels (ACL) to assist residents with cognitive disabilities requiring low level care. She now provides consultation services for clients living in residential care settings, as well as, in the community. Reports are competed to medico-legal standards and have been used with good outcomes. Recently, Susan presented at the Carers NSW Biennial Conference (March 2013) on how to use the ACL to assist caregivers of individuals with a cognitive disability. In November 2012, she participated in a roundtable presentation at the Cognition Symposium in San Diego, US. Susan has recently presented a paper titled "Using the Allen's Cognitive Level and the Cognitive Disability Model in Assisting Older People with Mental Health Difficulties" at the Mental Health Forum (September 2013) organized by OT Australia. Finally, Susan Pordage is a member of the Allen Cognitive Network. Since 2010, Susan has been a regular attendee and currently chairs the Ageing Brain Interest group, organized by OT Australia. Currently, she is receiving regular mentoring with Claudia Allen which she greatly appreciates.

Raber, Christine, PhD, OTR/L, Shawnee State University, Xenia, Ohio

Dr. Christine Raber, Professor, Master of Occupational Therapy Program, Shawnee State University, has extensive clinical experience in a broad range of practice settings, and supervises service-learning in long-term care settings. Her research focuses on volition of elders with dementia, and she has presented on the role of volition in dementia care at state, national, and international conferences.

Riska-Williams, Linda, MA, OTR/L, Clinical Specialist, Dignity Health, St. John's Regional Medical Center, Oxnard, CA

Linda Riska-Williams serves as the president of the Allen Cognitive Group/ACLS and LACLS Committee Board of Directors and was a founding director and ACN board member from 2002-2010. Linda is a co-author of the ACLS-5/LACLS-5 Manual (2007) and author of the Riska Object Classification (ROC) test included in the Dynamic Lowenstein Occupational Therapy Cognitive Assessment D- LOTCA and DOTCA-ch.

Ryan, Jane, MBA/HCM, LOTR, CLT; Director of Therapy Program, Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital, Denham Springs, Louisiana

Jane Ryan has been an OTR for 33 years, working in mental health, acute care, Skilled Nursing, home health and inpatient rehabilitation setting. She graduated from the University of the Free State in 1980, and the University of Phoenix-online in 2005. In 1993, she relocated to the USA from South Africa. She has been on the ACN Board since 2009.

Schonberg, David, MHA, Schonberg and Associates, Metairie, Louisiana

David is owner of Schonberg and Associates. With degrees in Business and Healthcare Administration and a passion for seniors to thrive, he owns and operates numerous assisted living communities. David is expert in the strategy behind developing and building top-notch Assisted Living and Memory Care communities, and the management and operations.

Simons, Dianne, PhD, OTR/L, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Dr. Simons has 11 years of full time clinical experience working in mental health and has taught psychosocial courses for 18 years at VCU. She received her Ph.D. degree in Instructional Technology from UVA. This research combines her interest in technology with providing services for clients with mental illness affected by the digital divide.

10th Cognitive Symposium – Redondo Beach, CA – November 6-8, 2014

Tucker-Roghi, Gina, MHS, OTR/L, Ensign Facility Services, Santa Rosa, California

Gina has served geriatric clients throughout her career, and specializes in the needs of persons with dementia. As a Therapy Resource for Ensign Services, she trains therapists in an Abilities Care Approach based on the Cognitive Disabilities Model. Gina is an AOTA certified Fieldwork Educator and welcomes OT interns into her programs and trainings.

Urish, Christine, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH, FAOTA, St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa

Christine has utilized the Cognitive Disabilities Model as a practitioner, educator and has worked to bring the model to Northeastern Brasil. She is currently working on a mental health assessment textbook and looks forward to inclusion of the model in this important text. She is passionate about expanding the use of the model worldwide.

Warchol, Kim, OTR/L, DCCT, Dementia Care Specialists/Crisis Prevention International, Cornelius, North Carolina

Kim Warchol is an Occupational Therapist specializing in dementia management. She is President of Dementia Care Specialists, a CPI specialized offering, which is an international training and consulting organization. Kim has educated thousands of health professionals and consulted to numerous long-term care living environments to facilitate quality dementia care.

White, Suzanne, MA, OTR/L, SUNY Downstate Medical Center Occupational Therapy Program, Brooklyn, New York

Suzanne White, MA, OTR/L is a Clinical Associate Professor at SUNY Downstate Medical Center's Occupational Therapy Program. She is recognized for designing a national Wellness intervention: "OTs Walk with NAMI". She has created a practice-based evidence intervention program for persons with co-occurring disorders in time management and organization: "Occupational Therapy: Let's Get Organized".