
WVU Occupational Therapy E-News

From occupationaltherapy@hsc.wvu.edu



Davis named chair of Occupational Therapy at the WVU School of Medicine

[Diana Davis, Ph.D., MA, OTR/L](#), has been named chair of the West Virginia University School of Medicine [Division of Occupational Therapy](#), effective August 15, 2025.

“WVU is a special place, and I am very excited for the opportunity to lead the Division of Occupational Therapy,” Davis said. “The faculty, students and alumni are key to our success, and I look forward to working with

them to increase the recognition of our innovative educational programs, as well as our work in advancing occupational therapy practice.”

Davis joined WVU in 1999 and currently serves as an associate professor of occupational therapy and director of the doctoral program in occupational therapy. Davis also served as the vice chairperson for the Division and recently completed her term as Chairperson of the University Faculty Senate.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Hello! It is a pleasure to provide you an update of all of the wonderful things happening in the Division of Occupational Therapy this year. The students, alumni, and faculty of this program always amaze me in their achievements. Below you can read about the amazing research and program development our MOT and OTD students are doing as part of their education. Also look at our Clinical Educator series, many of our alumni have been featured for their valuable service ensuring OT students get a high-quality clinical education.

In May we celebrated the graduation of the 2nd cohort of OTD students. At the award ceremony before commencement, we recognized several students for their achievements in research, service, and their capstone while in the program. We also recognized Cara Daubenspeck with the Outstanding Alumni Award. Cara is an entrepreneur OT in Charleston who owns and operates Connections OT, offering infant OT and lactation services. Cara has been a consistent supporter of WVU OT and has participated in continuing education offerings and has served as a site mentor for an OTD student completing their capstone experience.

The fall semester is always busy. We just hosted our annual welcome back picnic and crowned our newest Cornhole Champions, Matt Lilly and Cody Hively, 2nd year OTD students.

The amount of support for Dr. Amanda Acord-Vira has been amazing, and she has given me permission to provide an update. She has fought hard for the past year and is currently cancer-free. YAY!! She continues to work hard in rehab to recover from the effects of the lymphoma and is hopeful that she may begin a transition back to work soon.

Thank you for all you do to support the Division of Occupational Therapy, and be on the lookout for new and exciting initiatives. If you are interested

in supporting the program and our students, we appreciate any gift. You can donate using the button below. Let's Go!

EXPLORE MORE

WVU occupational therapy student helps advance AI tools for infant motor development research

Aiden Aiello, a [Master of Occupational Therapy](#) (MOT) student, is working alongside a team of faculty researchers to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can assess head and neck control in infants during tummy time, an essential component of early motor development.



Aiello is collaborating with [Ketaki Inamdar, PT, Ph.D.](#), [Valeriya Gritsenko, Ph.D.](#) and [Breanna Adkins, Ed.D., MOT, OTR/L](#), on this interdisciplinary project that connects technology and pediatric occupational therapy.

Occupational Therapy doctoral students present capstone projects

May graduates of the WVU [School of Medicine's Occupational Therapy Doctoral](#) (OTD) program presented their capstone projects, each in a specialized area of occupational therapy of their choice.



The OTD capstone project is a mentored experiential learning opportunity that enables students to explore a specific area of occupational therapy that interests them. Students are assigned to community sites where they gain hands-on experience in a specialized skill area and make a direct impact.

WVU School of Medicine Occupational Therapy students receive white coats, begin clinical rotations

The West Virginia University [School of Medicine's Division of Occupational Therapy](#) hosted a pinning ceremony for 32 master's and doctoral program students on



April 27 at the Okey Patteson Auditorium in Morgantown.

Receiving their white coats marks a distinct transition from classroom instruction to hands-on clinical learning, where students apply the foundational knowledge they received and work in real scenarios with patients in need of their services.

“The White Coat Ceremony marks a pivotal milestone in students’ educational journeys, symbolizing the transition from didactic coursework to the clinical phase of their training,” [Breanna Adkins, EdD, OTR/L](#), assistant professor in the Division of Occupational Therapy, said. “It reflects their preparedness to engage with real clients and underscores the significance of this achievement. This ceremony not only honors their hard work, but also fosters a sense of confidence as they step into their professional roles. As one of their instructors, it is so gratifying to witness their readiness for this next phase and reflect on how much they have excelled thus far. Seeing them reach this milestone is both a proud and inspiring moment.”

Clinical Educator Spotlight

Meet the 14 featured clinical educator spotlights. These occupational therapists served as Level II fieldwork supervisors over the Summer 2025 semester for students in the MOT and OTD programs at WVU. Through their supervision, support, and feedback, these clinicians facilitate the transition from classroom student to entry-level clinician. We appreciate their support of our students and the profession of occupational therapy.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



[Jacob Greenfield, OTD, OTR/L, ATRIC, CSRS, CST, CBIS](#), is one of a limited number of brain injury experts in the state. Earning the Certified Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS) credential, Greenfield demonstrates the education, professional experience, knowledge, and skills to perform various

roles and functions for individuals with brain injury. He earned his MOT degree from WVU in 2018 and his post-professional OTD from Chatham University in 2022. He is currently enrolled in the WVU Higher Education Administration EdD Program. His clinical background includes neuro-inpatient rehabilitation. His specialty areas include stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injuries, adolescent transitions, and sexuality. Greenfield serves as an assistant professor in the WVU Division of OT and provides clinical care in the WVU MBRCC Brain Tumor Clinic and the OT Faculty Practice clinic.



[Breanna M. Adkins, EdD, OTR/L, BCP, IMH-E](#), MOT class of 2014, was selected for the WVU School of Medicine Distinguished Teacher Awards. Given annually, these awards recognize and reward exceptional teaching and/or innovation in teaching methods, course and curriculum design, and instructional tools. The faculty are nominated by students to identify and recognize the exceptional teaching, at any rank, in the School of Medicine.

Know WVU OT alumni who should be featured? [Submit nominations via our online form.](#)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



[B. Seth Powers, MOT, OTR/L, CHT](#), shared a summer outreach campaign on [firework safety for the Fourth of July](#). Powers noted that “Teens aged 15-19 have the highest rate of ER visits related to firework injuries, while children aged 5-9 have the second highest rate.” He urged everyone to seek care even if the injury only results in burns as these can be very severe and lead to infections or significant scarring that can limit the movement of the hand. “In hand therapy, we see an increase in fireworks injuries around the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve. These injuries range from hand and finger burns to individuals with more significant injuries, such as multiple fractures or fingers amputated because a firework detonated in their hand.”

Drowning is a leading pediatric cause of death, according to [Breanna Adkins, EdD, OTR/L, BCP, IMH-E](#), assistant professor in the WVU School



of Medicine, who added that children with disabilities such as autism have 160 times the risk of drowning compared to children without disabilities. Over the summer, her outreach campaign focused on providing [water safety for neurodiverse families](#).

“Using social stories can be an excellent way to educate your child about appropriate behaviors for enjoying the water safely. An example would be to create a story featuring your child’s favorite character, such as Spider-Man, and how Spider-Man always takes an adult with him to the pool or creek.”

CONNECT WITH US

Know a student who would make a great addition to the profession of occupational therapy? Invite them to [schedule a visit](#), where they can register to attend an open house and information session. WVU students are also invited to join the [WVU Pre OT Club](#).

Let’s go, Mountaineers!

[*Diana Davis, PhD, OTR/L*](#)

*Associate Professor & Chairperson
OTD Program Director
Division of Occupational Therapy
School of Medicine
West Virginia University*

Stay Connected

Interested in learning more? Follow us on social media.



Support Occupational Therapy

Division of Occupational Therapy

WVU School of Medicine
64 Medical Center Drive | P.O. Box 9100
Morgantown, WV 26506-9600

Phone: 304-293-1953
occupationaltherapy@hsc.wvu.edu

© 2025 West Virginia University.
West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)