

CURRICULUM VITAE

Shirish Lala, EdD, MHS, OTR/L
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Education

Doctor of Education May 2021
Mind, Brain, and Teaching
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Plucker, PhD
Dissertation: Occupational therapy stakeholders' perspectives of Level I fieldwork opportunities: A mixed methods comparison.

Master of Health Science (Major: Occupational Therapy) December 2008
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
Capstone Advisor: Dr. Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, FGSA
Project: Deep brain stimulation in Parkinson's disease: An evidenced based review and implications for driving.

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy April 2004
Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College & General Hospital
Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Mumbai, India.
Project Advisor: Dr. Anuradha Pai, MS, OT
Project: Normative Data for Simple Reaction Time: A function of visual and auditory stimuli.

Licensure

Occupational Therapist, State of Florida, License # 12101 since October 2005.
Occupational Therapist, State of California, License # 11895 since May 2011.

Certification

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
OTR Certification: 1073502. Initial Certification since September 25, 2004.

Career History

Nova Southeastern University, Department of Occupational Therapy (OT)

Tampa Bay Regional Campus

Title/Rank: Associate Professor October 2023- Current Job

Title/Rank: Adjunct Instructor January 2023-October 2023

Blended Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program

Supervisor: Dr. Ricardo C. Carrásco, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

- Duties: Instructor/co-instructor for the following courses:

Winter 2023	OTD 8282	Professional Leadership
	OTD 8104	Neuroscience of OT
Summer 2023	OTD 8111L	Movement in Occupation Lab (Ft. Lauderdale)
	OTD 8234/8234L	Innovations & Technology (Ft. Lauderdale)
	OTD 8241/8241L	OT Interventions 1: Mental Health, Wellness, & Community (Ft. Lauderdale)
	OTD 8274	Level I: Mental Health, Wellness, & Community Fieldwork (Ft. Lauderdale)
	OTD 8100	Functional Anatomy for OT (Tampa Bay)
Fall 2023	OTD 8161	Evidence in OT Practice: Qualitative Design
	OTD 8364	Research Project II – Dissemination & Exit Colloquium
	OCT 8101	The Health Professional as Academic Educator (Ft. Lauderdale)
Winter 2024	OTD 8162	Research Design: Quantitative
	OTD 8263L	Research Project I Lab – Analysis, Interpretation & Paper
Summer 2024	OTD 8104	Neuroscience of OT
	OTD 8100	Functional Anatomy for OT (Tampa Bay)
Fall 2024	OTD 8161	Evidence in OT Practice: Qualitative Design
	OTD 8364	Research Project II – Dissemination & Exit Colloquium
	OCT 8101	The Health Professional as Academic Educator (Ft. Lauderdale)
	OCT 7015	Introduction to Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Daytona State College, Daytona Beach, FL

August 2009- December 2022

Title/Rank: Academic Clinical Coordinator & Tenured Professor

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program

Supervisor: Ms. Geraldine H. Rimstidt, MS, MT (ASCP)

- Duties: Development and instruction of the following courses:

OTH 1001	Introduction to OT
OTH 1114/1114L	Analysis of Human Motion
OTH 1014/1014L	Skills & techniques in OT I
OTH 2261/2261L	Skills & techniques in OT II
OTH 2264/2264L	Skills & techniques in OT III
OTH 2410	Conditions in OT
OTH 1802	OT Level I Practicum
OTH 2840	OT Supervised Level II Clinical Practice.
OTH 2841	OT Supervised Level II Clinical Practice
- Taught at least 12 credit hours per semester in classroom/lab in OTA classes.
- Established fieldwork sites to ensure that students are offered well-rounded training opportunities in various occupational therapy settings required for successful entry-level practice.
- Placed, monitored and management of students enrolled in Level I and Level II fieldwork courses.
- Coordinated and presented training sessions for on-site fieldwork educators and provide pre-fieldwork orientation to students.
- Developed fieldwork objectives in collaboration with training sites and maintain communication with fieldwork educators to monitor students' progress and fieldwork needs.
- Participated in OTA program re-accreditation process (May 2011 & February 2021).

EBS HealthCare, West Chester, PA

March 2012- August 2018

Title: Per Diem/Travel Occupational Therapist

- Duties: Provide occupational therapy evaluation, treatment and consultation independently to clients, under the prescription of a physician and within the guidelines designated by regulatory bodies and payor sources.
- Worked at the following locations through MBS, a division of EBS HealthCare:
- May 21, 2018-August 16, 2018: Sherwood Oaks Health Center, Fort Bragg, CA.
 - August 4, 2017-August 18, 2017: Tulare Nursing and Rehab Center, Tulare, CA.
 - July 10, 2017-July 19, 2017: Lake Merritt Healthcare Center, Oakland, CA.
 - December 22, 2016– January 6, 2017: Sherwood Oaks Health Center, Fort Bragg, CA.
 - August 5, 2016 – August 19, 2016: Brentwood Nursing & Rehab, Red Bluff, CA.
 - June 16, 2016 – July 20, 2016: Orange City Nursing & Rehab, Orange City, FL.

- May 23, 2016 – June 14, 2016: Kings Nursing and Rehab and Hanford Nursing and Rehab, Hanford, CA.
- November 8, 2012 – May 15, 2016: Hunter’s Creek Nursing & Rehab, Orlando, FL.
- July 1, 2015- August 14, 2015: Sarasota Point Rehabilitation Center, Sarasota, FL.
- June 1, 2015-June 30, 2015: Majestic Oaks-John Knox Village, Orange, FL.
- May 29, 2014- August 4, 2014: Arbor Trail Nursing and Rehab Center, Inverness, FL.
- March 10, 2014- March 14, 2014: Shore Acres Rehab Center, St. Petersburg, FL
- December 23, 2013-December 28, 2013: Lake Eustis Care Center, Eustis, FL.
- June 3, 2013- August 1, 2013: Villages Rehab and Nursing Center, Lady Lake, FL.
- February 16, 2012- March 16, 2012: Flagler Pines, Bunnell, FL.
- May 29, 2012- August 10, 2012: Lexington of Elmhurst, IL.
- March 1, 2012- May 1, 2012: Oakwood Gardens of Deland, FL.

Impaq Rehabilitation Services, San Francisco, CA

May 2011-August 2011

Title: Staff Occupational Therapist

Supervisor: Mr. Gurpreet Bhullar, OTR/L

- Duties: Provided direct patient care services in continued care retirement communities and skilled nursing facilities.

Orange City Nursing & Rehab Center, DeBary, FL

May 2006- August 2009

Title: Staff Occupational Therapist

Supervisor: Ms. Deborah Jones, RPM, OTR/L

Duties: Provided direct patient care services in a skilled nursing and long-term care center. Evaluated and treated primarily older adult residents with conditions that are physically, mentally and/or emotionally disabling, and addressed their ability to perform basic and instrumental tasks of daily living.

- Presented in-service education, training of patients/caregivers and instruction of nursing assistants and restorative nursing staff regarding safety and optimum levels of functional performance.
- Mentored and served as fieldwork educator for occupational therapy students.

Medical Solutions Provider, LLC, Edison, NJ

October 2005-May 2006

Title: Travel Occupational Therapist

Supervisor: Ms. Sophia B. Pasierski, PT

Duties: Provided direct patient care services in four different skilled nursing and long-term care centers as traveling therapist.

Anjana's Physiotherapy Clinic, Mumbai, India

July 2004- July 2005

Title: Assistant Occupational Therapist

Supervisor: Dr. Anjana Shah, PT

Duties: As part of the rehabilitative team provided OT services for multiple patient populations, including but not limited to, neurological and orthopedic conditions on an outpatient basis. Provided home health OT services to clients with complex medical conditions who were home-bound.

- Performed regular OT assessments and routine follow-ups, documented data and implemented treatment programs.

Memberships

- Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA) since 2009.
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) since 2006.

Continuing Education

- 20th Orlando Orthopedic Update Conference, August, 2024.
- Burn Bright: The Resilience Advantage, Center for Creative Leadership, February 2022.
- Florida Occupational Therapy Association Virtual Conference, November 2021.
- The Neuropsychology of Emotional Disorders: A Framework for Effective Interventions, General & Special Education Conference, Orlando, FL, February 2020
- Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes, General & Special Education Conference, Orlando, FL, February 2020.
- Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute Training, Chicago, IL, May 2019
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Education Summit, Ft. Worth, TX, October 2017
- Centennial AOTA National Conference and Expo, Philadelphia, PA, April 2017.
- 96th AOTA National Conference and Expo, Chicago, IL, April 2016.
- 94th AOTA National Conference and Expo, Baltimore, MD, April 2014.
- Assistive Technology Industry Association's Conference, Orlando, FL, January 2014.
- Florida Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Daytona Beach, FL, November 2013.
- 93rd AOTA National Conference and Expo, San Diego, CA, April 2013.
- Florida Occupational Therapy's Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, November 2012.
- Annual Interdisciplinary Spinal Cord Course, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, June 2012.
- Florida Occupational Therapy's Annual Conference, St. Augustine, FL, November 2011.
- Item Writer Workshop, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, June 2011.

- Florida Occupational Therapy's Annual Conference, Sarasota, FL, February 2011.
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) Accreditation Evaluator Workshop, Bethesda, MD, November 2010.
- 90th AOTA National Conference and Expo, Orlando, FL, April 2010.
- A-ONE Certification course for clients with cognitive -perceptual dysfunction, Colombia University, New York, NY, March 2010.
- Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences: Fieldwork struggles, successes, and paperwork workshop, Orlando, FL, March 2010.
- American Occupational Therapy Association's Fieldwork Educator Certificate Program, Sanford, FL, January 2010.
- CarFit® Event Coordinator & Technician Training, Daytona Beach, FL, October 2009.
- Practical Approach to Movement disorders and Multiple Sclerosis, 3rd Annual Multiple Sclerosis & Movement Disorders' Conference, Palm Coast, FL, September 2008.
- Dementia Therapy: Intermediate Class. Dementia Care Specialists, Rosemont, IL, August 2008
- Interactive Metronome Certification Workshop, Orlando, FL, June 2008.
- Treatment for Visual Impairments, Daytona Beach, FL, May 2008.
- Florida Occupational Therapy Educational Consortium's Fieldwork Educator's Certification Workshop, Daytona Beach, FL, January 2008.
- Dementia Therapy: Achieving Positive Outcomes for Persons with Dementia, Orlando, FL, April 2006.
- Right Alignment, Right Equipment, Right Position, Rehab Works, Lake Mary, FL, March 2006.
- Theory & Practice of Physical Agent Modalities, University of St. Augustine, St. Augustine, FL, February 2006.

Publications

- Yoshikawa, H., Carrasco, R. C., **Lala, S.**, Sames, K., Rahaman, T. (September 2024). *Introduction of Research Projects on Ikebana as Occupation*. Japanese Society for the Study of Occupation, Hokkaidō, Japan.
- **Carrasco, R. C. & Lala, S.** (2024). Occupational Disruption: An Undeniable Reality for Occupational Beings, Part I. FOCUS Quarterly. https://www.flota.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=12&day=09&id=113:occupational-disruption-an-undeniable-reality-for-occupational-beings-part-i.

DIRECTED STUDENT LEARNING

Dissertation Committee Member. (Current). The influence of individual and environmental factors on maternal occupational engagement in the co-occupation of oral feeding her preterm infant in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Advising: Parvathy Ragesh

Presentations

- Carrasco, R.C. & **Lala, S.** (January 2025). *Let's Talk about Occupational Disruptions in Life and in Practice.* 2024 Annual Conference Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Conversations that Matter. Nova Southeastern University, Clearwater, FL.
- Carrasco, R.C. & **Lala, S.** (January 2025). *Identifying and Measuring Occupational Disruption: Practical and Clinical Applications.* 2024 Annual Conference Florida Occupational Therapy Association, Conversations that Matter. Nova Southeastern University, Clearwater, FL.
- Presented a virtual poster titled: Applying cognitive neuroscience research to occupational therapy introductory fieldwork training: A mixed-methods comparison at the Society for Neuroscience's 2024 Conference held during September 26 – November 10, 2024
- Presented a platform session titled: Stakeholder Perspectives of Level I Fieldwork Opportunities in OT: A Mixed Methods Comparison at the American Occupational Therapy Association's Education Summit on November 12, 2022.
- Presented a short course titled: Pedagogical Content Knowledge: Integrating Student Training with Evidence about Subject-Centered Learning, Pedagogy, and Learning Contexts at the Florida Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference on November 6, 2022.
- Co-presented a session on: Using standardized patients to train allied health students at Stetson University's Colloquium on Teaching and Learning Innovation on April 5, 2019.
- Co-presented a workshop on: Practical Strategies for Ethical challenges in Fieldwork at the Centennial American Occupational Therapy Conference on March 31, 2017.
- Co-presented a workshop on: Ethics and Fieldwork education at the Florida Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference on November 6, 2015.

- Co-presented a short course on: Assistive Technology to prevent musculoskeletal disorders in healthcare professionals and caregivers at the Assistive Technology Industry Association's Conference in Orlando, FL on January 30, 2014.
- Co-presented the Florida Occupational Therapy Educational Consortium Fieldwork Educator Certification Workshop at:
 - University of Florida, Gainesville May 24, 2019
 - Wolfson Children's Hospital March 17, 2017
 - Florida State College, Jacksonville August 27, 2016
 - Shands Rehab Hospital, Gainesville January 9, 2016
 - Florida State College, Jacksonville August 22, 2015
 - Florida State College, Jacksonville January 17, 2015
 - Daytona State College, Daytona Beach November 8, 2013
 - University of Florida, Gainesville February 27, 2010

Awards/Achievements

- Presented the 2018 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award by the University of Florida, Department of Occupational Therapy for excellence in professional practice and exceptional leadership in the advancement of public health and health professions.
- Granted sabbatical leave during the Fall 2019 term to focus on research activities for the Doctor of Education degree.
- Awarded the Hemera Foundation fellowship for contemplative practice in Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 to pursue meditation retreats at Insight Meditation Society in Barre, MA.
- Selected as the Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence by the Office of Professional Development, Daytona State College for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.
- Received the 2021 Dr. John J. Guthrie, Jr. Award by Daytona State College Faculty Senate for outstanding achievement in research and professional development.
- Served as an Ambassador of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy for the state of Florida August 2021-December 2022.
- Awarded the Faculty Scholarship Award by the College of Health and Public Services, Daytona State College in August 2022.

Service Activities

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy:

- Exam Item Writer, October 2010- 2019
- Item Enhancement Meeting, September 2013-2018
- Standard Setting Meeting, March 2013
- Validation Committee, September 2012, March 2013, July 2013
- Ambassador for the State of Florida, 2021-2022

American Occupational Therapy Association:

- Volunteer, 90th National Conference & Expo, Orlando, FL, April, 2010
- Fieldwork Panel Speaker, National Student Conclave, Jacksonville, FL, November 2013

Daytona State College:

- College Connection Committee August 2014-2022
- Teaching and Learning Committee January 2014- 2022
- Scholarship Committee, August 2011-August 2012
- ACOTE® On-site reaccreditation visit, May 2011, February 2021
- Abilities Awareness Day, October, 2009
- Women's Center Resource Fair, September 2009
- CarFit® Technical Volunteer: August 2009- 2019

References

- Ms. Geraldine Rimstidt, MS, MT(ASCP)
Chair, School of Health Careers
Daytona State College
Daytona Beach, FL
Contact: 386-506-3823
Email: Geraldine.Rimstidt@DaytonaState.edu
- Dr. Jonathan Plucker, PhD
Julian C. Stanley Professor of Talent Development
School of Education
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Contact: 812-325-7608
Email: jplucke1@jhu.edu