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Editorial Welcome

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TSO

Translational Science in Occupation

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Editorial Welcome

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Editorial Welcome

Welcome to *Translational Science in Occupation*! The mission of *Translational Science in Occupation* (TSO) is to freely exchange knowledge about occupation and the practice of occupational therapy with others to advance health and wellness.

Three occupational therapy faculty at the University of Nebraska Medical Center perceived a gap in the connection between translational science and occupational therapy. We identified a scholarly journal as the vehicle for conversation. We began brainstorming, then included students and a resource librarian in the process of development. We want the journal to be a place to *challenge assumptions, inspire conversation, and facilitate communication*. Open access allows content to be online and readily available to a variety of knowledge users.

Translational science bridges a gap between knowledge and practice. We intend the journal to be a place and opportunity for knowledge users to come together, to learn from each other, and to explore how best to integrate evidence into everyday practice. Translational science in occupation takes collaborative effort. This is one place to move collaborations forward.

Translation is a central part of occupation and embedded within occupation. *Translational Science in Occupation* intentionally uses the preposition *in* to describe something as part of a whole. The concepts are interconnected, integrated in an essential relationship. Translation is not something set apart from research, evidence-based practice, or conversations with team members. Rather, translation needs to be embedded in all we do. We want this journal to embody the importance of translational science as an essential occupation.

The voices of knowledge users are necessary for the translation of knowledge into practice. Translational science is a community-driven process meant to disrupt academic-only inquiry and to make work public. It values participation of knowledge users throughout the process of asking relevant questions, providing insightful answers, and analyzing and interpreting information in a way that makes sense to the broadest audience possible. Translational and occupational scientists come in all shapes and sizes. Translational and occupational scientists come from a variety of health and social service professions, or from no profession at all. Translational and occupational scientists are curious, innovative, collaborative, and connected. As such, the editorial board of *TSO* includes interprofessional and international voices. Each journal submission requires a description of the inclusion of or consultation with knowledge users and a translation takeaway. To encourage collaboration across knowledge users, future issues will include a plain language summary of each article.

Knowledge users can share information in a variety of formats. Therefore, *TSO* accepts several types of submissions. Traditional research can be submitted through original research, review, and case study submissions, while less traditional work may be suitable for scholarship of teaching and learning, theoretical, or policy paper types of submissions. Commentaries can be submitted through brief knowledge exchanges. Creative work is accepted in the humanities category. Regardless of the type of submission, all publications will have a clear connection to knowledge translation through the knowledge translation takeaway and plain language summary.

This inaugural issue of *TSO* marks the beginning of the conversation about translational science, occupation, and occupational therapy between knowledge users. Each co-editor provides commentary to start the conversation. Martino (2023) discusses the parallels between translational science and occupational therapy while Smallfield and Mahoney (2023) illuminate the occupations of translational science. In a humanities format, Krusen (2023) uses photography to assist us in visualizing knowledge translation in the natural and built environment. In addition to these commentaries, this first issue includes three original research articles. Fortuna and colleagues (2023) share information about the effectiveness of pre-visit materials to enhance the museum experience for those with autism. McAndrew, Sturtevant, & Kaskutas (2023) describe a brief chronic pain education program in easy-to-understand language that has potential for educating people about chronic pain. McAndrew, Baniqued, and Kaskutas (2023) report outcomes of a student experiential hand therapy clinic.

Thank you for joining us on this journey into translational science in occupation! We look forward to your contributions.

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