

Faculty Scholarship Agenda

OTD Program Scholarship Agenda: The scholarship agenda for Keck Graduate Institute's OTD program aims to contribute to the profession by producing quality evidence that spans the depth and breadth of the field of occupational therapy. In collaboration with our doctorate students, the faculty seek to advance the profession through engagement in scholarship of discovery, scholarship of application, scholarship of integration, and scholarship of teaching and learning. Reflecting the KGI mission, OTD program mission, and contributing to the American Occupational Therapy Association's Vision 2025, the collective scholarly work of the OTD faculty will result in an innovative and collaborative environment dedicated to meeting the occupational needs of persons, groups, and populations through applied science, lifestyle medicine approaches for whole person care, innovations in practice, and a focus on health equity and occupational justice. Scholarship will be grounded in theory and science and completed in collaboration with trusted community partners or within our program. While opportunities for scholarship exist throughout the OTD curriculum, the program's scholarly agenda primarily coincides with the "Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice" and capstone course series. These course series allow for strong peer-mentor relationships as well as facilitate development of capstone projects, further contributing to the program's culture of professionalism and collegiality. With a key emphasis on dissemination to professional and scientific communities, the ultimate goals of the scholarship agenda are: 1) to create pathways for students to develop as leaders and innovative scholars of practice dedicated to translating advances into a wide range of occupational therapy contexts, and 2) to create cohesion between faculty scholarly efforts and the program's mission and strategic plan.

Faculty Member: Christy Billock, PhD, OTR/L, DipACLM

Areas of Interest

Narrative:

Dr. Billock's research agenda aims to contribute to the occupational therapy, occupational science, and lifestyle medicine bodies of knowledge through the scholarship of discovery, integration, application, and teaching and learning.

Generally, Dr. Billock seeks to examine relationships between occupational engagement and health behaviors to promote health, well-being, and human potential. Dr. Billock places a high value on the therapeutic potential of occupation and innovating ways to for occupational therapy to provide services in new realms. Specific areas of interest for potential research projects include college student health and well-being, role of spirituality and meaning-making to promote stress resilience, and lifestyle medicine in occupational therapy curricula.

In addition, Dr. Billock is interested in exploring occupational therapy's role in population health. Research projects in this realm would likely address issues of occupational justice, social determinants of health, and health disparities for a variety of ages and contexts. Preventive mental health projects for underserved communities are of particular interest.

Areas of Interest

Other areas of interest include biomarker research relating to occupational participation, preventing burnout for health care providers, employee wellness, integrating positive psychology strategies into occupational therapy practice to promote human flourishing. In addition, Dr. Billock is interested in exploring interprofessional collaborations with engineers and designers for innovative product development to promote occupational participation and thriving.

Relationship to Curricular Threads

Dr. Billock's scholarly pursuits support the mission and vision of the OTD program, as well as its learning outcomes and curricular threads. Drawing from the therapeutic potential of occupation to meet society's needs now and in the future, research projects will offer students the opportunity to extend what they have learned in the OTD curriculum into new contexts. Specific curricular threads will include occupational as change agent and healing modality, innovations in practice, lifestyle medicine for whole person care, and cultural responsiveness. Additionally, research projects relating to the scholarship of teaching and learning offer the potential for students to integrate curricular threads with research, dissemination of scholarly knowledge, and the development of professional experience in educating others.

Approach to Student Collaboration

Dr. Billock highly values a collaborative approach for scaffolding the development of students as scholars of practice. Growth as a scholar happens best in a collegial and supportive community where ideas are mutually respected and scholarly capacity broadens. A student group will be invited to explore specific areas of interest fitting within Dr. Billock's scholarly agenda. Dr. Billock will work collaboratively and mentor student groups through the research course series from trimester two through four where they will design, implement, and disseminate the outcomes of a research study.

Community Partner Collaborators

The Claremont Colleges Services
Occupational Therapy Association of California
Women Rise Psychological and Wellness Center



Scholarship Agenda	
<i>The following list includes ongoing or future project topics and respective timelines</i>	
Project topic	Timeline (new/future, ongoing, in dissemination)
Systemic Racism in Occupational Therapy (collaboration with Occupational Therapy Association of California)	Ongoing

Completed Scholarship				
<i>To be reviewed annually</i>				
Scholarship Activity Name	IRB Approval	Student Names, if applicable	Scholarly Deliverable	Date