Dear Therapist,

Thank you for your interest in an advanced course in sensory integration offered through the University of Southern California (USC) Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, known as OT 610 or SI 610. OT 610 is offered for 4 academic units that can be counted towards a degree; SI 610 is a workshop alternative. With the exception of the units received, both alternatives offer the same opportunities.

Dr. A. Jean Ayres founded this training program in sensory integration theory and practice in 1977. Since Dr. Ayres’ retirement in December 1984, her colleagues associated with USC have continued the tradition of maintaining this course in an outstanding clinical setting. The course offers intensive learning experiences both in an academic seminar format and through closely supervised, hands-on clinical practice.

OT/SI 610 takes place in Torrance, California (in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area) at Pediatric Therapy Network (PTN), a not-for-profit interdisciplinary clinical center founded and directed by colleagues of Dr. A. Jean Ayres. Terri Nishimura, PTN’s Chief Executive Officer, and Erna Blanche, OT/SI 610 Coordinator at USC, worked and studied under Dr. Ayres and continue to find innovative and exemplary ways to further her important work.

OT/SI 610 is offered three times per year, in three month sessions, using the same general format established by Dr. Ayres. The dates for the 2015 calendar are as follows:

- Spring session: January 5 – April 11, 2015
- Summer session: April 13 – July 18, 2015
- Fall session: September 8 – December 18, 2015

The tentative weekly session schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OT/SI 610 Weekly Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therapists enrolled in OT/SI 610 spend approximately 28 hours per week at Pediatric Therapy Network involved in seminar discussions and direct hands-on intervention. Therapists also have the ability to choose optional instructional time in SIPT administration and interpretation on an additional day at no additional cost.

University of Southern California
1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 133, Los Angeles, California 90089-9003 • Tel: 323 442 2850 • Fax: 323 442 1540 • info@chan.usc.edu
Therapists enrolled in OT/SI 610 provide mentored intervention services for children with various types of neurological disorders. Treatment sessions are primarily individual, but some group treatment experiences may also be incorporated into the schedule. Many of the children have diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, or developmental delays. In the seminars, the students discuss theory and research, analyze individual treatment problems, and learn about systematic ways of documenting progress. During the course, therapists may also develop strategies for interacting with families and become familiar with the logistics of managing a private practice. Periodically, therapists may participate in clinical research projects at Pediatric Therapy Network. It is important to note that therapists enrolled in OT/SI 610 begin providing mentored intervention services immediately. Therapists are assigned a caseload of clients for whom they will provide intervention, document services, and meet with families as needed. For the safety and well-being of the clients being served and the therapists participating in this course, it is required that therapists enrolled in OT/SI 610 physically be able to lift a minimum of 25 pounds.

OT/SI 610 fulfills the course requirements for certification in sensory integration through the USC-WPS Comprehensive Program in Sensory Integration. For more information on this program, go to http://ot.usc.edu/academics/usc-wps-certification. OT/SI 610 fulfills the requirements of all 4 courses of the USC-WPS Comprehensive Program in Sensory Integration.

As noted earlier, OT 610 is a graduate-level university course. As such, there are several course assignments that are designed to enhance therapists' ability to critically analyze assessment and treatment methods. In addition, therapists assume professional responsibility for writing progress reports and discharge summaries on children assigned to their caseload. These course assignments do require some time outside of the regular course schedule outlined on page 1 of this letter. However, most therapists successfully manage the demands of the course while working part-time elsewhere.

All occupational and physical therapists and speech-language pathologists are eligible for enrollment. The total cost of SI 610 is $3500 (the workshop alternative). USC accepts major credit cards or cashier’s check as a means of payment of fees.

Although occupational or physical therapists or speech-language pathologists are eligible to apply for the course, admission to a particular session may be competitive, since only a small number of therapists are admitted at a time. There are no specific admission deadlines, however, qualified applicants are admitted on a first come, first served basis once applications are complete. An application is complete once all of the following items listed on the next page have been submitted.

**Application Materials for OT/SI 610**

1. A completed application form (attached)
2. A letter of intent indicating *your reasons for wishing to take the course*
3. Your resume or curriculum vitae, indicating educational attainments, professional experience, publications, and research
4. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from clinical supervisors
5. College transcripts including professional program grades
6. A copy of registration and/or licensure as an occupational or physical therapist
7. *If English is not your native language and you are not an American citizen*, TOEFL transcript with scores

You may submit application materials via mail, FAX or email. Send completed materials to:
Thank you for your interest in this advanced training course in sensory integration. If I can be of further assistance in answering any questions you may still have regarding the course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erna Imperatore Blanche, PhD, OTR/L
Associate Professor of Clinical Practice