The Neurobiology of Swallowing and Dysphagia—
Foundations of Normal and Abnormal Swallowing, Dysphagia Evaluation and Treatment of Swallowing Dysfunction

Kimberly Carter OTD, OTR/L, SWC attended USC for her undergraduate degree and completed her Master of Arts degree in occupational therapy in 2009. After completing her fieldwork at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), she joined the acute team. In addition, she has worked on CHLA's inpatient rehabilitation and outpatient settings, including the orthopedic hand clinic. Her areas of interest include feeding and swallowing, hand therapy, splinting/casting, UE motor control recovery, brachial plexus birth palsy recovery and complex pediatric trauma. Carter has spoken locally and nationally on topics including feeding and swallowing, disaster preparedness and pediatric trauma. She recently completed her OTD degree at USC with a focus on adult learning and clinical mentoring of doctoral students.

Kary Rappaport OTR/L, SWC is a pediatric occupational therapist at CHLA who works with families of infants and children who have eating and feeding difficulties. She also privately consults families throughout the Greater Los Angeles area who have children with feeding needs. Her areas of specialty include breastfeeding, feeding dysfunction in infants with cardiac defects, Modified Barium Swallow Studies and feeding aversion. Rappaport was recently published in the Journal of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Nutrition and lectures on these topics both locally and nationally. She is also a certified VitalStim® practitioner and is currently involved in the development of a laryngeal neuromuscular electrical stimulation protocol at CHLA.

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Earn 1.2 CEUs (12 contact hours)
Course Description

Working towards your SWC? This is the perfect foundational course to start your training. Seasoned dysphagia clinician looking for clarity? This course will deepen your understanding of the physiological foundations of feeding and take your treatment to a new level. This two-day workshop will provide an in-depth exploration of the biomechanical, neurological and sensory components of normal and abnormal swallowing. Participants will gain increased confidence in their understanding of the neuromuscular control of swallow physiology, and be able to confidently apply this knowledge to day-to-day practice. Through lecture, modified barium swallow study videos, case studies and interactive activities, course participants will acquire the knowledge to assertively address the complex occupation of feeding across the lifespan.

Learning Objectives

- Recall and describe the anatomical landmarks of the face, head and neck involved in swallow function.
- Demonstrate understanding of swallow physiology across the lifespan.
- Explain dysphagia and swallowing dysfunction from a neuromuscular and sensory perspective.
- Obtain a basic understanding of how to interpret Modified Barium Swallow Studies (MBSS).
- Guide treatment planning through the use of MBSS as a diagnostic tool.
- Determine evidence-based, problem-based treatment strategies for swallowing dysfunction.
- Progress a patient’s diet and design a therapy plan based on astute clinical observation and clinical reasoning.

Agenda

Friday, September 12
8:30  Registration and sign-in
9:00  Intro, objectives, background
9:30  Face, mouth, neck anatomy with group activity
11:00 Break
11:15  Swallow physiology (functional)
12:30 Lunch
1:30  Swallow physiology (dysfunctional) with group activity
3:00  Break
3:15  Application of neurobiology and physiology to function
3:45  MBSS interpretation and application

Saturday, September 13
8:30  Sign-in
9:00  Summary of swallow physiology, applications to patient care scenarios
9:30  MBSS & swallow assessment
11:00 Break
11:15  Swallowing treatment based on assessment findings & MBSS
12:30 Lunch
1:30  Treatment progression/clinical reasoning during treatment
3:00  Break
3:15  Case studies
4:00  Summary of assessment and treatment, explain swallowing problems with neurobiology
4:30  Post-test

Registering for Neurobiology of Swallowing and Dysphagia

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ___________________ State   Zip ___________________
Email ___________________________
Phone __________________________

☐ USC alumni  ☐ AOTA# __________________________

Fees and Discounts

$400  for regular enrollment
$360  for AOTA members, USC OS/OT alumni, and/or early registrants (at least four weeks prior to course day)

Ways to Register

To pay by check:
Make check payable to USC OSOT and mail to: Jackie Mardirossian, USC OSOT 1540 Alcazar St., CHP 133 Los Angeles, CA 90089-9003

To pay by credit card:
☐ MasterCard  ☐ Visa
Total Amount ___________________________
Card# ___________________________
Expiration ___________________________
CCV Code ___________________________
Signature ___________________________

Mail to the address above or fax to (323) 442-1540 attn: Jackie Mardirossian. You will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of registration.