



A SHARED PURPOSE

USC Chan Division of Occupational
Science and Occupational Therapy



BEYOND

Sensory Adapted Dental Environments

Dr. Sharon Cermak collaborates with USC dentists for her research studying how altering the sensory characteristics of the dental environment can reduce children's anxiety and contribute to safer, more efficient, and less costly treatment.



inspire Lab

Led by Dr. Grace Baranek, the Innovations in Neurodevelopmental Sensory Processing Research (inspire) Lab is a multidisciplinary team committed to advancing our knowledge of early risk signs of autism spectrum disorder and related neurodevelopmental disorders. We partner with local artists, engineers, clinicians, and families to employ cutting-edge technologies to design novel screening tools and effective interventions.



EXTRAORDINARY

At USC Chan, we lead innovation to transform health and well-being through meaningful occupations.

Guided by our core values — integrity, collaboration, inclusion, distinction, innovation, and compassion — we are optimizing people's engagement in the ordinary and extraordinary activities of life. We invite you to see how USC Chan is helping to shape the future of occupational science and occupational therapy.

SYNERGISTIC COLLABORATION

At USC Chan, we leverage our unique strengths across education, research, and practice to create an enterprise that is more than the sum of its parts.

Research

Dr. Beth Pyatak collaborates with front-line providers at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center, one of the largest public hospitals in the country, to explore the impact of chronic conditions such as diabetes and arthritis on health and well-being. Students from across the USC educational programs work and train in Dr. Pyatak's lab.



“As a master’s student, it was my opportunity to volunteer in research that helped me decide to pursue my PhD. I’m excited for my future research to benefit clinical practice and improve policies for the betterment of those who are underserved.”

— DOMINIQUE COMO
PhD Student



“We are developing clinicians, researchers, and educators prepared to meet the complex healthcare needs of society through synergistic collaboration and problem-solving.”

— DR. JULIE MCLAUGHLIN GRAY
Associate Chair for Curriculum and Faculty

Teaching

46 percent of our teaching faculty members are practicing occupational therapists at one or more of our 10 USC-affiliated clinical sites. More than 150 USC Chan students receive clinical experience across these sites as well. The latest evidence and clinical practice examples are incorporated into our educational programs.

Faculty Members

We have 97 faculty who are working together to educate the next generation of occupational therapists, conduct research to improve health outcomes, and provide patient care to individuals and communities.



97 Total Faculty



Teaching, clinical, and research faculty are collocated to allow for greater collaboration.

Research Labs

A total of 11 research labs employ students across all levels, from undergrad bachelor's students to postdoc fellows.

- 1 A-Z Lab
- 2 Boundary Crossings Laboratory
- 3 Healthy Aging Research & Technology Laboratory
- 4 Innovations in Neurodevelopmental Sensory Processing Research (inspire) Laboratory
- 5 Lifestyle Redesign® for Chronic Conditions (LRCC) Laboratory
- 6 Musculoskeletal Sonography and Occupational Performance (MSOP) Laboratory
- 7 Neural Plasticity and Neurorehabilitation Laboratory (NPNL)
- 8 Occupational Reconstruction and Social Transformation Laboratory
- 9 Sensory Adaptations in Dental Environments (SADE) Laboratory
- 10 SensoryLab
- 11 Tailored Environmental Modifications (TEM) Laboratory

Clinical

Our USC Chan Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice provides many Lifestyle Redesign® services, including ergonomic evaluations and interventions. Because it is located adjacent to Dr. Shawn Roll's Musculoskeletal Sonography and Occupational Performance Laboratory, the same clients who receive clinical services are able to participate in USC Chan research studies. Conversely, participants may be identified as good candidates for occupational therapy services at the Faculty Practice.



“I have been able to leverage my role as a faculty mentor to bring an occupational therapy presence to components of the continuum of homeless services in Los Angeles’ Skid Row.”

— DR. DEBORAH PITTS
Associate Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy



“In my course, titled *Bridging Global Perspectives on Occupation and Justice*, students from USC Chan connect with students at the University of Cape Town in South Africa in real time to discuss occupational justice.”

— DR. REBECCA ALDRICH
Associate Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy

Innovation Award Competition

The Mark and Semira Moshayedi Innovation Award Competition was established in 2014 to foster innovation, technological advancements, and entrepreneurship for USC Chan students. Thanks to the couple’s generous pledge, this competition will continue for 20 years. Competition winners are awarded \$5,000 and ongoing mentorship to support the continued development of their innovation.

Previous winners of the Mark and Semira Moshayedi Innovation Award Competition:

2016 Daniel Luo for “ArmsFree”
Luo designed a wearable stroke therapy sleeve that leverages trace muscle contractions remaining in the arm after stroke.

2017 Tonia Nguyen for “Outhandle”
Nguyen developed a smartphone accessory for people with limited fine motor abilities.

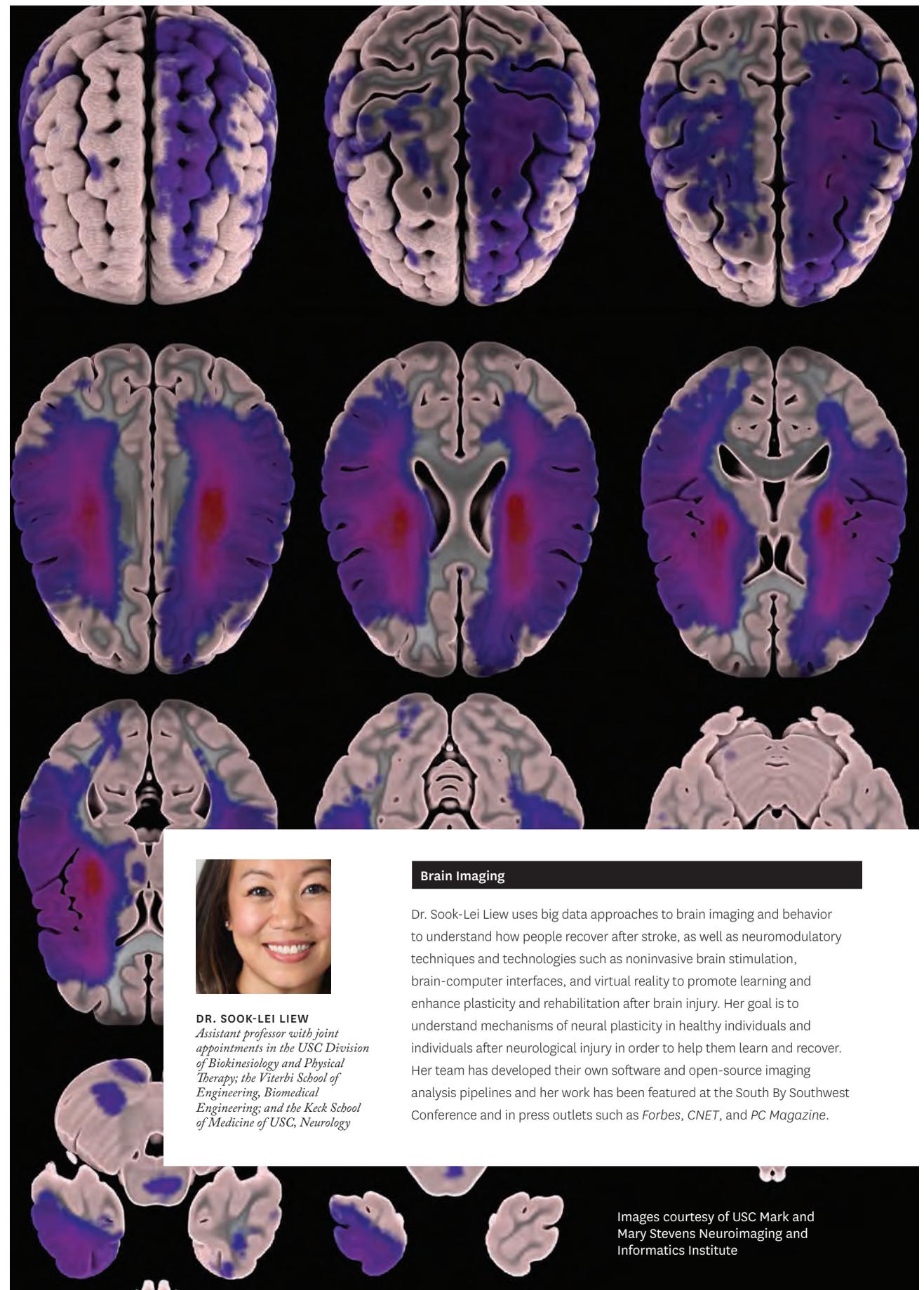
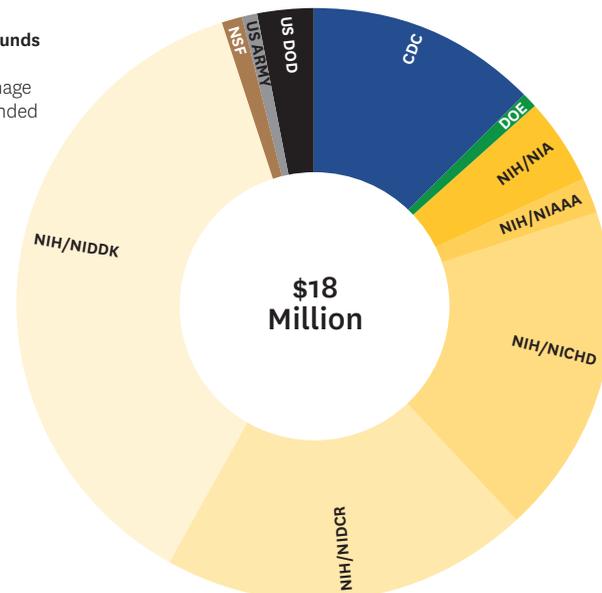
2018 Harshada Patil for “Saksham-15”
Patil designed an alternative universal cuff that could be produced very inexpensively.

2019 Janice Choi for “Grab and ErGo”
Choi designed a laptop case that converts into a stand to improve the ergonomics of “gig economy” professionals working at cafes and coffee shops.

GROUND-BREAKING APPROACHES

At USC Chan, our groundbreaking approaches generate and integrate knowledge to advance occupational science and occupational therapy at large.

Current Research Funds
Together USC Chan faculty actively manage \$18M in federally funded research grants.



DR. SOOK-LEI LIEW
Assistant professor with joint appointments in the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy; the Viterbi School of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering; and the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Neurology

Brain Imaging

Dr. Sook-Lei Liew uses big data approaches to brain imaging and behavior to understand how people recover after stroke, as well as neuromodulatory techniques and technologies such as noninvasive brain stimulation, brain-computer interfaces, and virtual reality to promote learning and enhance plasticity and rehabilitation after brain injury. Her goal is to understand mechanisms of neural plasticity in healthy individuals and individuals after neurological injury in order to help them learn and recover. Her team has developed their own software and open-source imaging analysis pipelines and her work has been featured at the South By Southwest Conference and in press outlets such as *Forbes*, *CNET*, and *PC Magazine*.

Images courtesy of USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute

Programs That Span Higher Education

	Minor in Occupational Science	Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy	Entry-Level Master's in Occupational Therapy	Post-Professional Master's in Occupational Therapy	Post-Professional OTD	PhD in Occupational Science	Postdoctoral Fellowship	Continuing Education Courses & Certificates
	UNDERGRADUATE		GRADUATE			LIFELONG LEARNING		
Annual Number of Students	150 Pipeline into our degree programs and mechanism for increasing visibility for occupational therapy	40 Exclusive program for outstanding undergraduate applicants to complete their BS and MA degrees in just 5 years	270 Utilizes a practice immersion structure to link theory and practice with immersions in pediatrics, mental health, and adult rehabilitation	25 Designed for international students seeking to gain an advanced degree and clinical experience in the U.S.	65 Preparing leaders in advanced clinical practice, policy and administration, clinical research, and education	21 Immersion in a lab with training in research methodologies, grant writing, and publication to become a career scientist	4 Advanced research opportunities with USC Chan faculty members who are subject matter experts	800 The largest programs are Life Management and Sensory Integration, with courses taught domestically, internationally, and online

LEADERSHIP

At USC Chan, we are preparing diverse leaders with a strong identity and understanding of occupation and its power to transform people and society.



“As the only occupational therapist on the National Quality Forum’s 25-member Opioid and Opioid Use Disorder Technical Expert Panel, I am able to use my expertise in Lifestyle Redesign® to offer feasible, practical solutions to empower people for better managing their pain in the real-world in order to avoid or reduce the opioid option.”

— DR. KATIE JORDAN
Associate Chair of Clinical Services

SUPPORT FOR AOTA

In fall 2018, USC Chan hosted the AOTA Specialty Conference for Adult Rehabilitation with over a hundred attendees and presentations from many USC Chan faculty and alumni with rehabilitation expertise.

DEVELOPMENT



“It is important for our graduates to be culturally responsive and reflective to meet the needs of our diverse society and reduce healthcare disparities. I am able to support these goals in our admissions process and on the USC Chan Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee.”

— DR. ARAMEH ANVARIZADEH
Director of Admissions



Helping College Students THRIVE

In a 1-unit course for USC undergraduate students titled *THRIVE*, Drs. Ashley Uyeshiro Simon and Kate Crowley (pictured above, at center) are working to address the nationwide concerns for adolescent and young adult mental health. *THRIVE* was developed in collaboration with the USC Undergraduate Student Government and Provost Office and addresses important life skills and topics including self-care, time management, human connection, and redefining success.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

At USC Chan, we are accelerating the dissemination and movement of discoveries into active use for broader societal impact.



“Our specialty continuing education courses have been taken by over 3,300 people and offered in over 15 different countries across 4 continents.”

— DR. STEFANIE BODISON
Assistant Professor of Research and Instructor for Sensory Integration Continuing Education Certificate



“We are actively working to disseminate innovative discoveries and interventions to impact practice and policy. We are committed to ensuring that we positively impact the health and lives of individuals, families, and communities.”

— DR. MARY LAWLOR
Associate Chair of Research

Occupational science was established at USC Chan and this year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding with our 26th Occupational Science Symposium.

The central focus of occupational science is the phenomenon of occupation itself — the complex array of personal, social, community, behavioral, developmental, sociocultural, and environmental factors that influence how we engage in life’s activities and how our participation shapes our health, identity, sense of purpose, and fulfillment.

More than 75 graduates from our PhD in Occupational Science program are working around the country and throughout the world.



Outcomes



USC Chan PhD Alumni are advancing our shared purpose at these institutions nationwide.



“I found out my autism diagnosis when I was a master’s student at USC Chan and was fortunate to receive support from the Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice as a client. I am now a successful occupational therapist, an online influencer in OT and autism, and the only OT to speak at more than one TEDx event. I am extremely proud to be an alumnus of USC Chan!”

— DR. BILL WONG
USC Chan Alumnus

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

At USC Chan, we are improving health equity, well-being, and quality of life across local, national, and global communities.



“For 15 years, I have had the privilege of taking USC Chan students to Ghana to gain clinical experience abroad, provide opportunities for leadership development and train current and future professionals working with people with disabilities in West Africa, to improve health access and equity.”

— DR. BONNIE NAKASUJI
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy



At USC Chan,

46%

of our faculty members actively practice at USC-affiliated clinical sites

850+

Over 850 active fieldwork sites across 37 states and 7 countries



Multidisciplinary service-learning programs empower students to impact local populations.

OPTIMAL LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

In partnership with the National MS Society, students learn how to offer a program that aims to enhance the quality of life for participants with mild to moderate MS.

USC STUDENT-RUN CLINIC

Using and learning approaches to care, USC health profession students operate monthly clinics at a community center in Los Angeles’ Skid Row district.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

In partnership with a local school and science museum, students design and implement a science and social skills curriculum to advance community-based participation for children with autism spectrum disorders.

GERIATRIC WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, this program provides advanced training to create a pipeline of future professionals prepared to provide quality care for older adults.



60K+

Annual patient encounters by USC Chan faculty at our academic medical center

TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

At USC Chan, we are establishing impactful partnerships across the globe.



Message from the Chair

Occupational therapists across the country and around the globe have a shared purpose — to help people engage in the ordinary and extraordinary activities that life has to offer. This is not a mission that can be achieved in isolation, as the success of any one of us can be felt by all of us.

Since 1942, the University of Southern California has worked toward realizing that shared purpose. For more than 75 years, USC has trained thousands of occupational therapists who have, in turn, used their skills for the good of people and populations throughout the country and across the world. From Mary Reilly to Elizabeth J. Yerxa, A. Jean Ayres to Florence Clark, USC has been an incubator of revolutionary ideas that have truly transformed our profession.

Today, our fundamental vision remains steadfast. We believe that excellent research must make an impact in communities beyond our own neighborhoods; we believe that educational programs must build an outstanding workforce; we believe that at the heart of every true leader is a deep desire to serve others. Together with you, we are all united in a shared purpose to serve occupational therapy.

Sincerely,

Grace Baranek

DR. GRACE BARANEK
Associate Dean, Chair and Mrs. T.H. Chan Professor
of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy



“As one of the first students from China to come to USC Chan as part of the *China Initiative*, I am so excited to be a part of the curriculum development for Peking University Health Science Center and to be able to impact the future of occupational therapy in China.”

— YIJUN LIU
OTD Student



“In USC Chan Global Initiatives, we have created relationships with occupational therapy partners around the world, allowing our students to visit those countries and hosting students, practitioners, and scholars here. We also provide support for our own international student community.”

— DR. DANNY PARK
Director of Global Initiatives

It's a shared purpose — innovative and collaborative approaches that **elevate occupational therapy for all.**

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Science and Occupational Therapy

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