

A Shared PURPOSE





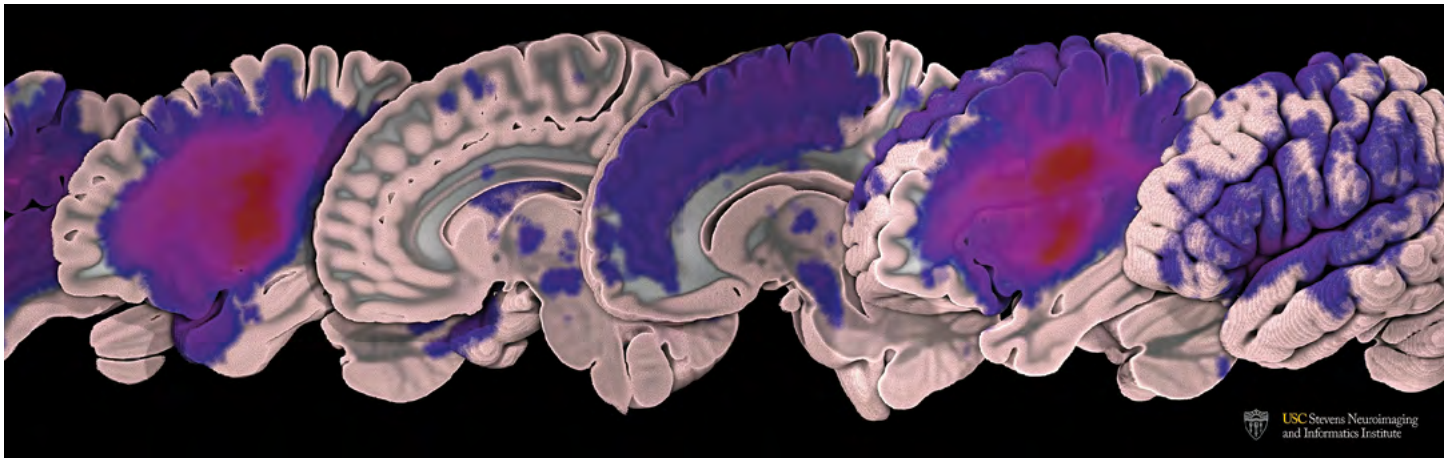
The **USC Peace Garden**, a project led by Dr. Camille Dieterle, is transforming an under-utilized and under-loved lot near USC's downtown Los Angeles campus into a garden space for education, research and wellness programs serving the community. Its purpose is to promote and demonstrate environmental sustainability, social and environmental justice, greenspace access, health promotion and community safety.

A Shared **PURPOSE**

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. See how USC Chan is helping define the present and shape the future of occupational therapy.

Innovative RESEARCH APPROACHES

At USC Chan, our scientists generate, integrate and apply knowledge that advances individual and societal well-being.

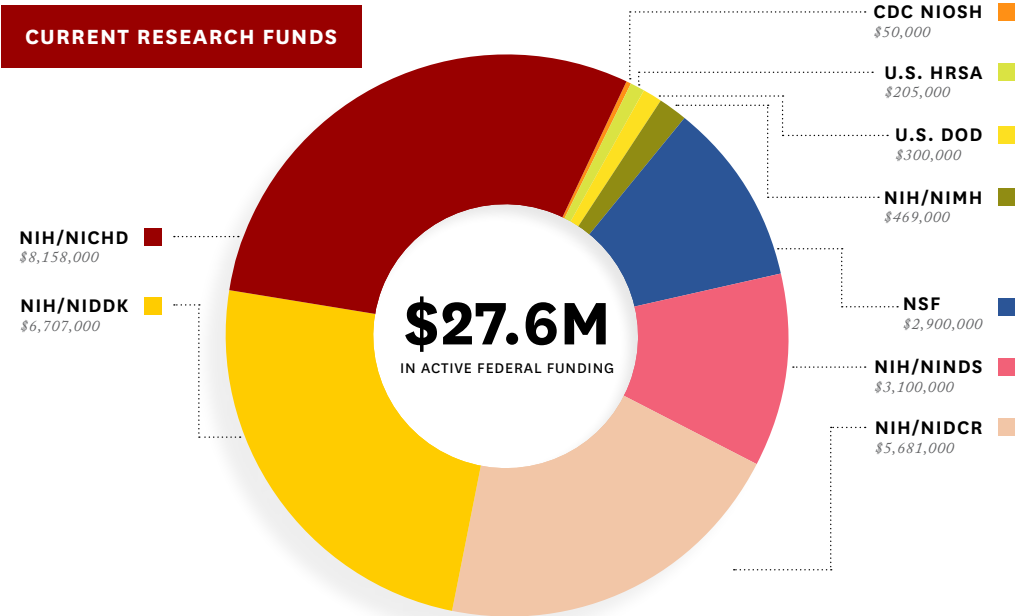


ENIGMA STROKE RECOVERY WORKING GROUP

Dr. Sook-Lei Liew leads the ENIGMA Stroke Recovery Working Group, a worldwide collaborative using an open-source database of stroke survivors’ MRIs in order to develop individualized, precision stroke rehabilitation therapies. In 2023, a new article in *Neurology* from the ENIGMA group, with Liew as first author, found that younger “brain age”—a neuroimaging-based assessment of global brain health—is associated with better post-stroke outcomes. These findings could lead to better ways to predict post-stroke outcomes and offer insights on new potential treatment targets to improve recovery.



CURRENT RESEARCH FUNDS



DREAmS LAB

Dr. Amber Angell leads the Disparity Reduction and Equity in Autism Services, or “DREAmS” lab, working to identify, measure and reduce disparities in autism diagnosis and services. Dr. Angell’s grants include paid positions for neurodiverse consultants, and the lab employs neurodiverse staff members. In 2022, Angell and the DREAmS team published a new analysis in *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* of data collected from more than 82,000 autistic children across seven years, revealing significant differences in their healthcare utilization according to sex, race and ethnicity.



RESEARCH LABS

Boundary Crossings

Center for the Neuroscience of Embodied Cognition (CeNEC)

Disparity Reduction and Equity in Autism Services (DREAmS)

Health and Empowerment Action Lab (HEAL)

Healthy Aging Research & Technology (HART)

Human Occupation, Precarity, and Employment (HOPE)

Innovations in Neurodevelopmental Sensory Processing Research (inspire)

Lifestyle Interventions for Health Promotion and Prevention

Lifestyle Redesign® Laboratory for Chronic Conditions (LRCC)

Musculoskeletal Sonography and Occupational Performance (MSOP)

Neural Plasticity and Neurorehabilitation (NPNL)

NICU Therapy

Rehabilitation and Functional Recovery Studies in Health Services (ReFRoSH)

Sensory Adaptations in Dental Environments (SADE)

Tailored Environmental Modifications (TEM)

Mobilizing KNOWLEDGE *for Use*

At USC Chan, we accelerate the movement of discoveries and best practices into active uses that lead to broader impacts.

104

full-time faculty

24

adjunct + part-time faculty

16

honorees

of the AOTA Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award, including its most recent recipient in 2023, Dr. Mary Lawlor

4

presidents

of the American Occupational Therapy Association

14

inductees

to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation's Academy of Research

97

inductees

to the American Occupational Therapy Association's Roster of Fellows

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

In the past year, our faculty...

PRODUCED

112

publications

GAVE

224

professional presentations

KEY PUBLICATIONS

A 2023 article published in *Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open* demonstrates the effectiveness of sensory environmental adaptations for improving the quality of dental care experiences for autistic children, without compromising the quality of care provided in the adapted environment as compared to the control environment.

"So many interventions try to change the person," said lead author Dr. Leah Stein Duker. "Instead, this intervention sees children for who they are—it does not try to fix or change them—focusing the intervention to modify problematic environmental factors as a way to empower the child and family to engage successfully in occupation."

In 2023, eight USC Chan faculty members co-authored chapters in *Primary Care Occupational Therapy: A Quick Reference Guide*, the definitive text for all primary care occupational therapy practitioners and those interested in lifestyle-based interventions for conditions typically encountered in primary care settings. Another 2023 textbook, *50 Studies Every Occupational Therapist Should Know*, has chapters co-authored

by 18 current USC Chan faculty and staff members as well as 16 of our alumni and students. The book highlights 50 key research studies that inform contemporary occupational therapy practice and includes a summary of research questions, methods, findings and implications for practice.



Healthy PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES

At USC Chan, we improve health, well-being and quality of life of people across Los Angeles and around the country.

49

Patient Care Faculty

12

Clinical Sites

~12,000

Unique Patients Annually

~50,000

Patient Encounters Annually

During and after the pandemic, USC Chan's hospital-based faculty members emerged as the **go-to experts for occupational therapy best practices in the acute management of Covid-19**. Faculty members Jamie Wilcox, John Margetis, Kelsey Peterson and Carnie Lewis were authors or co-authors of an online CE course offered by the American Occupational Therapy Association, an AOTA Live Webinar, a position paper published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* and a case study also published in *AJOT*.

Beginning in 2021, Dr. Ashley Halle treated Morgan Stephens, a budding journalist and long-Covid patient referred to **occupational therapy through the COVID Recovery Clinic at Keck Medicine of USC**. As Stephens describes, occupational therapy services at USC were critical to her functional recovery: "Halle and I met over Zoom to discuss my capacity, triggers and pacing. We started tracking my migraines on an app. After a month of working together, I told her that we'd accumulated

enough small victories that I was ready to go for a big win: I would try going back to work at CNN. I was terrified, but I needed to see what I was cognitively and physically capable of. I quickly found that five days a week was too exhausting—plus, I needed time for my doctor's appointments. I sometimes had multiple appointments a week with different specialists. But I was able to work again. A year after being treated, I felt good enough to close my long COVID chapter."

With interdisciplinary colleagues at Keck Medicine of USC, Dr. Nora Dixon developed **Lifestyle Redesign® for Gender Affirmation**, an intervention approach that treats gender as an occupation, rather than as a status or condition. During Lifestyle Redesign® for Gender Affirmation sessions, Dixon works alongside clients to identify concrete activities, habits and routines that help them diminish perceptions of gender dysphoria, while building a plan to more frequently or more easily engage in those that enhance gender

euphoria. Here's how one of Dixon's clients described the clinical process: "I felt really happy to have occupational therapy as a component of my recovery and an additional source of support, because I encountered so much uncertainty after things didn't go as planned after my surgery. I felt very well understood and supported during OT, with creative suggestions and strategies for healing and continuing daily activities after surgery."



Click here to read faculty members' COVID-19–related critical illness case report published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.



Click here to read Stephens' full account of her long-Covid journey.



Click here to read more about how Lifestyle Redesign® supports transgender and gender expansive clients.

Confident and Diverse LEADERS

At USC Chan, we are diversifying the occupational therapy workforce and empowering the next generation of leaders with a strong understanding of occupation and its capacity to enhance participation and well-being.

The USC Chan **Diversity Mentorship Program** supports current and prospective USC Chan students who are first-generation college students and/or who identify as belonging to underrepresented groups. The program is coordinated by the USC Student Recruitment and Admissions teams, in collaboration with the Student Ambassadors and the Diversity, Access, and Equity Committee. Prospective students can benefit from support and guidance through the application process, and current students can benefit from support during their academic experience. Through this initiative, we endeavor to increase access and decrease barriers for students in order to further diversify the profession of occupational therapy and

discipline of occupational science, and reduce health disparities both nationally and globally.

In 2021, **Karrie Kingsley** was named Associate Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer for Faculty and Staff Success for the entire university. In this role, they work to build a more connected and collaborative community across the university keeping DEI issues, including dis/ability, at the fore.

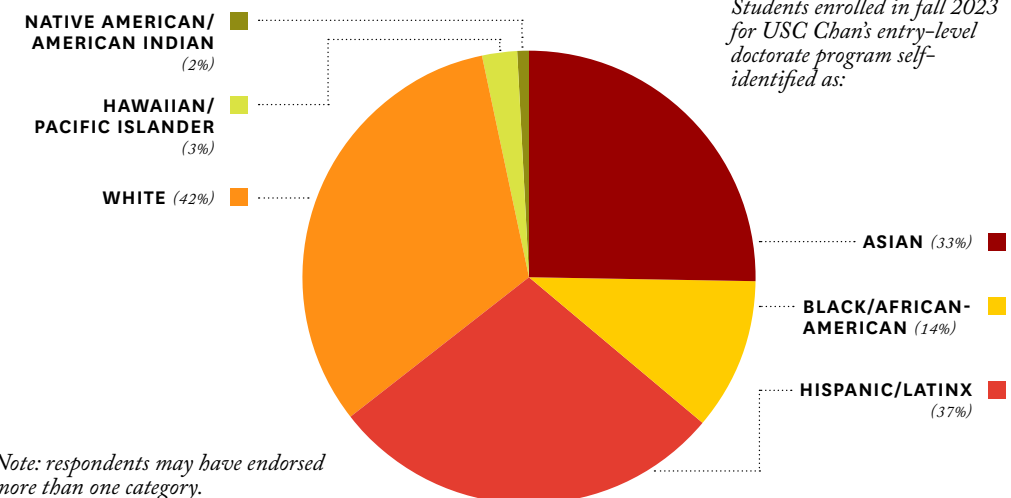
In 2022, **Jesús Díaz** was named the first Associate Chair of Diversity, Access and Equity for USC Chan. An integral member of the division's leadership team, he oversees the development of initiatives, practices, programs and policies across the division's educational, research and practice/service missions.



DR. KARRIE KINGSLEY
USC Associate Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer for Faculty and Staff Success



DR. JESÚS DÍAZ
Associate Chair of Diversity, Access and Equity



OUR COMMITMENT

The USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is committed to preparing diverse leaders with a strong identity and understanding of occupation and its power to transform people and society. Increasing diversity in the occupational science discipline and the occupational therapy profession is a division priority because we believe in preparing a workforce that reflects the diversity of the clients and communities that we serve. USC Chan has one of the most diverse student populations among the universities that provided data to the American Occupational Therapy Association for its Academic Programs Annual Data Report. Across the board for all academic programs at USC Chan, the division has maintained or improved diversity for the past few years.

Excellence Across HIGHER EDUCATION

At USC Chan, our students span the higher education spectrum, from undergraduates to postdoctoral scholars and graduate certificants.



COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

USC Chan offers **Certificate, Certification, and Graduate Certificate** programs in Lifestyle Redesign® and Sensory Integration. These flagship programs are intended for those looking to develop their expertise in these advanced practice areas.

Once completed, graduates will be able to apply their new knowledge and skills to clinical practice, research, advocacy and education. On average, USC Chan supports nearly 100 students each year with **Conference Travel Awards in order to support their attendance at professional conferences**. While students experience conferences, they also mobilize knowledge about their own projects and passions with peers around the nation and world. Some of the organizations

to which USC Chan students receive conference travel awards include the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, the International Society for Occupational Science, Society for the Study of Occupation: USA, the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Occupational Therapy Association of California. A unique and signature element of USC Chan's Entry-Level OTD program is the **Level II Fieldwork-to-Capstone Pathway** across the entire third year of the program.

Students' second Level II fieldwork occurs for 24 weeks, followed by the Doctoral Capstone in the same practice setting for 14 full-time weeks. This allows USC students to develop in-depth knowledge and skills through a combined, year-long immersion in one setting. Entry-Level OTD students can **complete their third year remotely** in order to increase occupational therapy's presence in underserved, rural and international sites.

Number of Students Enrolled in Our Programs

104

Minor in Occupational
Science Students

42

Bachelor of Science in
Occupational Therapy Students

30

Post-Professional Master of Arts
in Occupational Therapy Students

302

Entry-Level OTD Students

93

Post-Professional OTD Students

28

PhD in Occupational
Science Students

MORE THAN
5,200

alumni living in 16 countries on
6 continents





STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Asociación Hispanohablante de Terapia Ocupacional (AHTO)

The mission of the Asociación Hispanohablante de Terapia Ocupacional (Spanish-speaking Occupational Therapy Association) is to improve the educational experience of Latinx and/or Hispanic-identifying occupational therapy students, to serve as a resource for community members to support one another and to advance clinical care for Spanish-speaking/Latin American populations.

Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD)

The goal of USC's Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) chapter is to build diversity and inclusion within the Chan Division by increasing the profession's visibility and accessibility to underrepresented groups and increasing cultural humility by sharing and learning about different lived experiences.

Interdisciplinary Community Outreach (ICO)—Occupational Therapy

Our mission is to offer volunteer opportunities for students to get involved in interprofessional health teams (PharmD, PA, PT, and MD) to promote health education and access to comprehensive care to the chronically ill and underserved communities of Los Angeles.

Occupational Therapy and Science Council (OTSC)

The Occupational Therapy and Science Council represents OS/OT student interests to the division and the university, provides students with opportunities to network and interact with students of other programs and provides access to volunteer and fundraising opportunities around the world.

OTs for OutReach

OTs for OutReach aims to build and strengthen the sense of community for LGBTQ students and allies by providing opportunities for social engagement and professional development.

Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE)

Pi Theta Epsilon is the national honor society for occupational therapy students and alumni.

Pre-Occupational Therapy Club

The Pre-OT Club is open to all USC undergraduate students who are interested in learning more about occupational therapy; it provides students with the opportunity to attend club activities and events on campus at USC and throughout the Los Angeles area.

Community ENGAGEMENT and CONNECTIONS

At USC Chan, we engage in service-learning, community projects and campus outreach to optimize the reach and relevance of occupational therapy at large.



HALL OF HONOR

The renowned **Dr. Lela Llorens** was inducted into USC Chan’s “Hall of Honor,” a who’s who of the most influential Trojans to have indelibly influenced the profession, in 2022. Llorens was a USC adjunct faculty member from 1998-2007. During her career spanning more than 50 years from the 1950s into the 21st century, she has been an outstanding scholar, exemplary educator and consummate ambassador for occupational therapy.

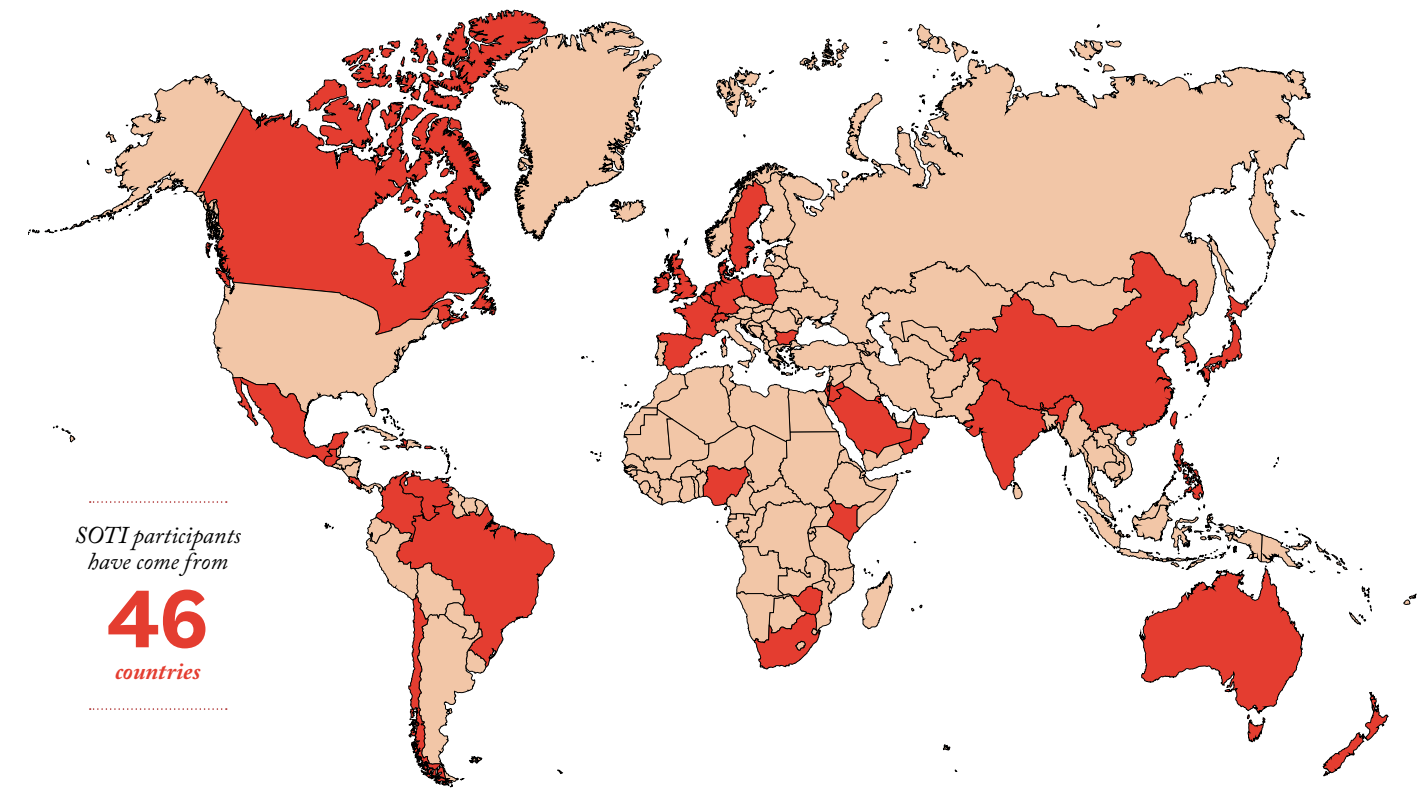
CAPITOL HILL

Every year, USC Chan students visit Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, as part of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Hill Day. During their visits, students engage in impactful advocacy efforts by meeting with state representatives to discuss critical legislation that directly impacts the future of the occupational therapy profession.



SUMMER OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IMMERSION

For the past 10 years, the **Summer Occupational Therapy Immersion** program has hosted more than **450 international occupational therapists** and **occupational therapy students** from **46 countries** who are interested in learning about OT practice, education and research in the United States. Every July, SOTI participants spend four weeks in Los Angeles, but they form relationships that last a lifetime.



Impactful PARTNERSHIPS

At USC Chan, we engage in transformative collaborations near and far that collectively address pressing priorities.

CHINA INITIATIVE

China Initiative (中国项目) is a dual-degree program in which Chinese students receive an entry-level master's degree in rehabilitation therapy (occupational therapy track) at Peking University Health Science Center (PKUHSC), then earn a Post-Professional OTD degree at USC Chan. We just welcomed the third cohort of dual-degree China Initiative students at USC, and the first alumni are now back in Beijing educating the next generation of mainland China's OT workforce.

"As part of the PKUHSC team of instructors, we have met and discussed with the USC Chan teaching faculty to get their ideas, experiences and advice on how to transition and adapt OT learning and teaching in China. We also have China Initiative team members and OTD residents who are well-versed in both the American and Chinese culture and context. This team is like a bridge between cultures, with USC Chan in the US, and PKUHSC in China. I am confident that this graduate program will train more and more members who have very strong leadership, enthusiasm and ambition to move the profession forward."



DR. LIGUANG QUAN (钱李果)
Dual-degree alumnus and current instructor at Peking University Health Science Center



SENSE (SUPPORTING AND ENHANCING NICU SENSORY EXPERIENCES)

Dr. Bobbi Pineda's **SENSE (Supporting and Enhancing NICU Sensory Experiences)** program was developed by and for clinicians working in the NICU to ensure high-risk neonates in the NICU are exposed to multi-modal positive sensory experiences. The comprehensive program includes descriptive education materials that engage parents in providing developmentally appropriate sensory exposures to their infant(s). During the past five years, clinicians at more than 400 hospitals across the US and throughout the world have implemented the SENSE program.

SENSORY PROCESSING AND AUTISM NETWORK (SPAN)

Sensory Processing and Autism Network (SPAN) is a community-based research network (CBRN) and the leading hub for the highest level of evidence-based sensory processing research that improves outcomes for individuals with sensory processing challenges and their families in everyday life. The six SPAN community partners are Therapy West, Inc., Therapy in Action, Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network (PTN), Center for Developing Kids (CDK), Carrico Pediatric Therapy, Inc. and the USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Learn more at chan.usc.edu/community/span.

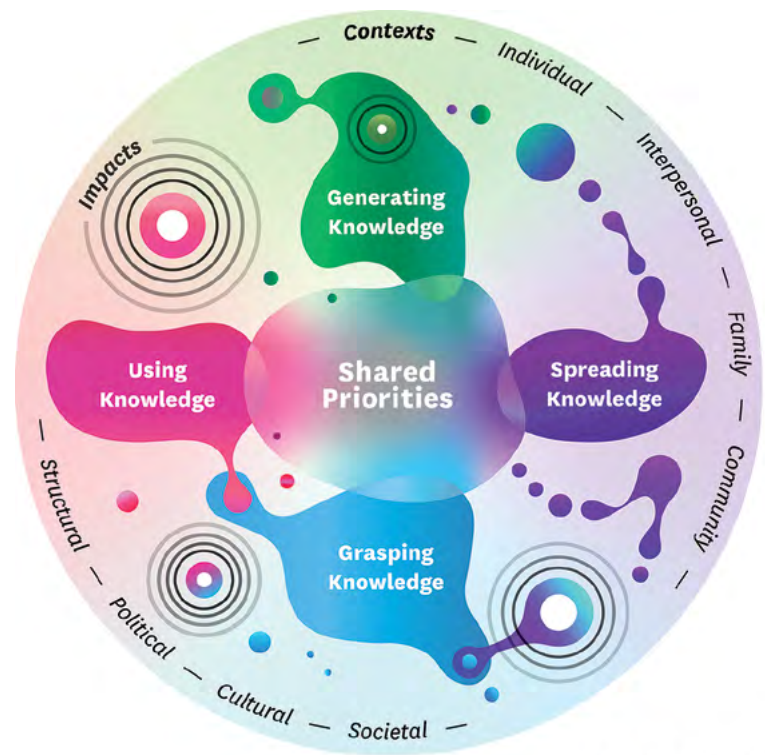
INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS WITH \$2.9M NSF FUNDING

Dr. Shawn Roll is Co-Principal Investigator on two multimillion-dollar grants with co-PIs from the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and the USC Institute for Creative Technologies. Their first project aims to understand the sensory information and environment necessary for safe remote operation of construction equipment and vehicles and is funded with a \$1.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The second project is using sensing technologies to build models for personalized, customized plans for stress management in the workplace and is funded by a \$1.1 million NSF grant.

A Shared PURPOSE

With partners and colleagues throughout the nation and across the world, we at USC Chan are united with a shared purpose to shape the future of occupational therapy.

This year, USC Chan launched a refreshed **Strategic Plan 2023-2028**, an inspirational and implementable document outlining the future vision and actionable strategies for our programs, priorities and growth through fiscal year 2028. The four goals and two cross-cutting themes included in Strategic Plan 2023-2028 are:



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MODEL OF KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Since 2018, USC Chan faculty have been developing a **model of knowledge mobilization** relevant to occupational scientists and occupational therapy practioners accelerating the movement of discoveries into active use for the greater good. This non-linear, dynamic model demonstrates how knowledge centered upon shared priorities is mobilized in order to realize impacts that fundamentally alter the contexts in which they are enacted.



Message from THE CHAIR

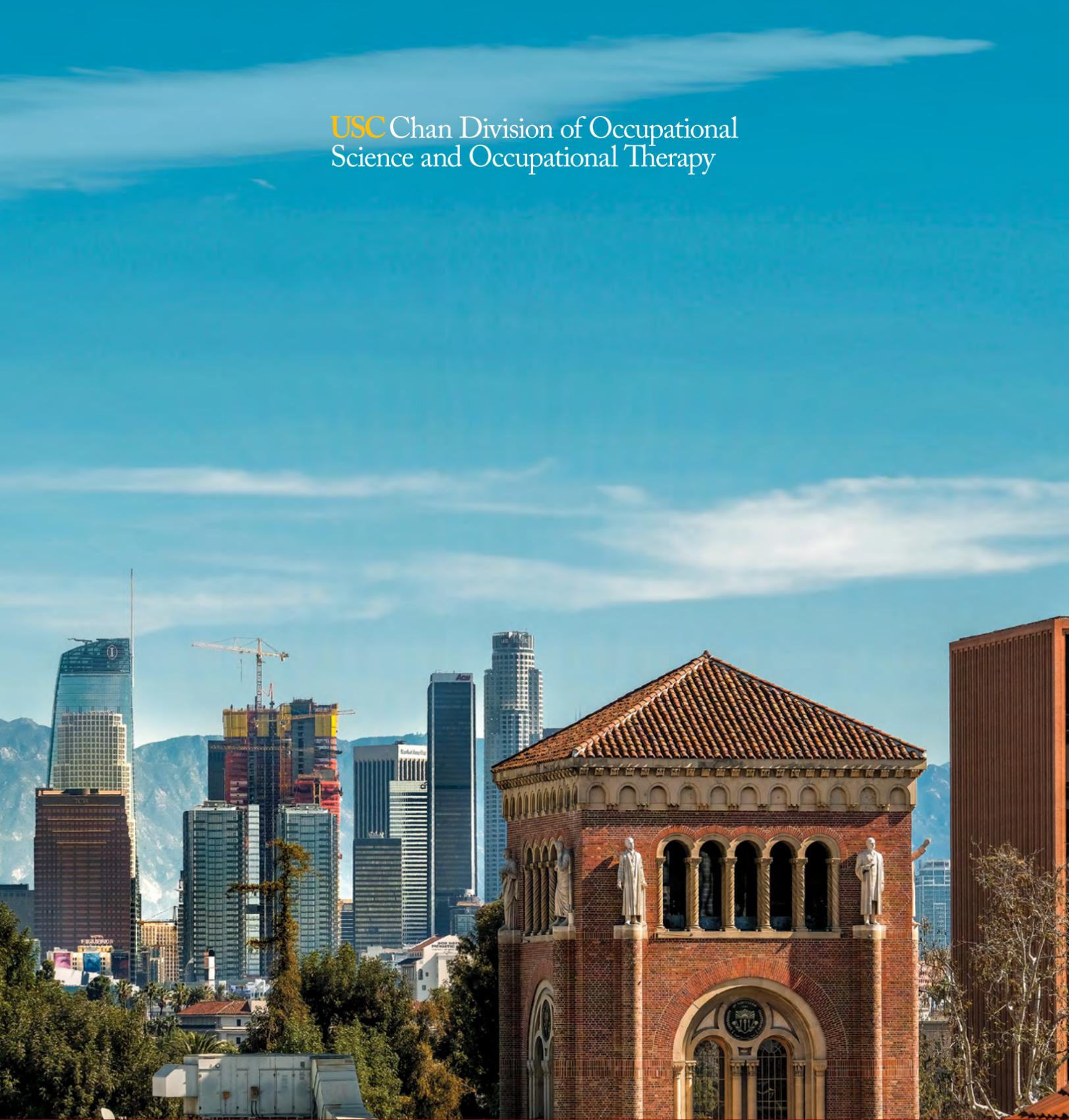
Occupational therapists across the nation and around the world are bound together by a shared purpose—to help people engage in all the ordinary and extraordinary activities that life has to offer. This mission transcends institutions, disciplines and borders; the success of any one of us resonates with all of us.

Since 1942, the University of Southern California has worked toward realizing that shared purpose. In that time, USC has trained more than 5,000 occupational therapists serving people and populations the world over. From Mary Reilly to Elizabeth J. Yerxa, A. Jean Ayres to Florence Clark to Lela Llorens, USC has been a hub of innovation and leadership that has collectively advanced our profession, and that vision remains unwavering to this day. We believe that educational programs must prepare a diverse workforce to reduce health disparities and enact occupational justice; we believe that every authentic leader is driven to ameliorate the conditions of people’s daily lives.

Working together with you, let’s meet society’s post-pandemic needs, in this decade and beyond, by advancing our vital and vibrant profession of occupational therapy.



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



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Science and Occupational Therapy

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