



Dear Colleagues,

In accordance with the Institute of Medicine's recent report (Eden, Wheatley, McNeil, & Sox, 2008; Sox & Greenfield, 2009) calling for greater effectiveness studies to determine the most effective and cost efficient practice methods, *AJOT* is embarking upon an initiative to increase the amount of effectiveness studies published in the journal. Such research is critical to support occupational therapy's continued role in health care amidst increasing challenges from competing professions and third party payers.

In light of such demands, *AJOT* is instituting the **Research Scholars' Initiative**—a program in which OT researchers will be invited to participate as members for a 2-3 year term in which time they will generate 1-2 manuscripts regarding the effectiveness of OT interventions. Types of studies considered appropriate include the following:

- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
- Secondary analyses of large datasets on interventions on non-primary outcomes, patient satisfaction, or cost-effectiveness
- Pilot RCTs with intent to treat (ITT) analyses
- Pilot RCTs without intent to treat analyses
- High quality intervention studies (randomized or nonrandomized, controlled pretest-posttest)
- Feasibility studies (piloting intervention and testing preliminary outcomes)

The **benefits** of participating in the Research Scholar's Initiative include (a) expedited publication in the journal;(b) acknowledgement by formal letter and certificate from AOTA presented at the annual AOTA conference; and (c) publicity of manuscripts in *OT Practice*, AOTA One Minute Updates, and possible press releases for the most rigorous studies.

If you are interested in participating in this initiative or would like to learn more about this program, please contact me by email at sg2422@columbia.edu. Please include a one page plan of your proposed research with a timeline and listing of colleagues/contributors.

I am confident that if we work together for this united cause we will be able to generate the research evidence that is direly needed to become the widely respected and valued profession whose services are known to positively impact society—in accordance with the *Centennial Vision*.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Gutman', written over a light blue background.

Sharon A. Gutman, PhD, OTR, FAOTA
AJOT Editor-in-Chief sg2422@columbia.edu



References

- Eden, J., Wheatley, B., McNeil, B., & Sox, H. (2008). Institute of Medicine. Knowing what works in health care: A roadmap for the nation. Washington, DC: National Academic Press.
- Sox, H. C. & Greenfield, S. (2009). Comparative effectiveness research: A report from the Institute of Medicine. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 151(3). Retrieved from <http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/000605-200908040-00125v1>