



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ROUND TABLE

Moderator: Margaret Mansfield, OTR/L



Marny Mansfield

Occupational Therapist

Moderator

- Marny Mansfield, MS, MSOTR/L is an Associate Professor in Therapeutic Horsemanship BT degree program and the Program Director at the State University of New York (SUNY) Cobleskill. Marny is a PATH Intl. Master Certified Instructor, Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor (CTRI), Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL), Registered Therapist, Mentor, Faculty/ Evaluator, and former member of the PATH Intl. Riding Certification Sub-committee. She earned a Masters of Science in Animals and Public Policy from Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and a Masters in Occupational Therapy from Colorado State University. She received the PATH Intl. Professional of the Year nationally and for Region 2 in 2014. She has practiced in the field of Therapy for 20 years, Equine Assisted Services for 25 years and is a lifelong horsewoman. She has taught and presented regionally, nationally, and internationally.

- Email: mansfmr@cobleskill.edu

Lauren Janusz

Occupational Therapist

- Lauren Janusz is an Occupational Therapist and owner of Brandywine Occupational Therapy, LLC in Wilmington, Delaware. Her practice offers school-based therapy and outpatient therapy, sometimes incorporating horses and equine movement. She obtained her Master of Occupational Therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. In 2012 she became a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Hippotherapy. She has served on the boards of the Delaware Occupational Therapy Association, the Florida Occupational Therapy Association and the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc, where she is currently the Board President. She is a life-long equestrian. When not at the barn, she enjoys adventures with her family and friends.
- Email: lauren.janusz@yahoo.com





Esther Nofziger Occupational Therapist

- Esther Nofziger (formerly Schlegel) is an Occupational Therapist, Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist (HPCS) and Canadian Therapeutic Senior Riding Instructor (CTRSI). She has founded, manages and works as therapist in her private practice Aufsteiger - Therapeutische Konzepte unter Einbezug des Pferdes in Germany. Besides treating children and adults with different medical diagnoses, she enjoys teaching Occupational Therapy students, providing consulting services, clinics and webinars for Adaptive Riding Instructors and Kindergarten teachers. Esther serves on the International Membership Sub-Committee for the American Hippotherapy Association and is part of their 2022 Conference committee.
- Email: schlegel.e@gmx.de

Sarah-Michelle Senécal Occupational Therapist

- Sarah-Michelle Senécal is a licensed Occupational Therapist in Manitoba. She works for the french school division Division Scolaire Franco Manitobaine and provides services to school aged children and early intervention to preschoolers in the province. She is also the lead clinician and owner of Stable Connections, a private practice offering occupational therapy services incorporating the use of equine movement and interactions. She is also a trainer for the Low Arousal Approach, providing workshops to school staff to help them learn better ways to interact positively with children experiencing challenging behaviors.
- Email: info@stableconnections.ca





Audrey Darby

Occupational Therapist

- Audrey Darby is an Occupational Therapist (BScOT) working in ChildVision, the National Education Centre for Blind Children in Ireland. Audrey supported the development of an Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy service in the centre over the past 10 years, where over 100 children are seen weekly for therapeutic input using the horse and equine activities as the therapeutic medium. Clientelle includes children with a Visual Impairment alongside other issues including MDVI (Multiple Disabilities with a Visual Impairment), Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Sensory Processing Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Anxiety disorders, and a range of other challenges.
- Audrey is one of the founder members of Equine Assisted Ireland (EAI), and is a member of EEFTN (European Equine Facilitated Therapy Network). She has presented at a number of conferences including HETI Dublin 2019, ISAZ Sydney 2018, ISAZ Barcelona 2016. She is working on a project with Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) assisting the development of a syllabus for a new education program for Equine Assisted Services in Ireland.
- Email: audreydarby@childvision.ie

QUESTIONS: (Posed to panel)



- Terminology has been an important topic in so many areas of our industry. Appropriate terminology is so important to us all clearly defining our services and for research. From your perspective and the scope of practice in your country, describe the importance of terminology and clarity between Therapy and Adaptive Riding.
- What is the role of occupational therapists with regards to assisting or mentoring adaptive or neurotypical riding instructors? What knowledge or skills do we have to offer that can be helpful to instructors?
- Occupational therapists have a role in the mental health and during the COVID 19 pandemic that role has become even more pronounced. How have you seen mental health needs of OT clients change in the past year?
- How are occupational therapists providing trauma informed care and meeting the needs of clients and their families with the help of the horse? What changes or effects are you seeing?



Questions from
the audience?

Thank you!