

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Laura Kula, OTD, OTR/L, c/NDT, cSIPT

Date Revised: Aug 2024

Education:

- 2018 Clinical Massage Therapist, Soma Institute, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Department of Health Sciences, Creighton University.
- 1993 Master of Science, Occupational Therapy, Rush University.
- 1986 Bachelor of Science in Medical Records Administration, Illinois State University.

Special Training:

- 2015-17 EASI: Sensory Integration Standardized Assessment: Evaluator for implementation of testing items.
- 2005 Competencies for occupational therapy in neonatal intensive care unit.
- 2004 Certification in the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests, Sensory Integration International.
- 1992 Center of Neurodevelopmental Studies (CNS), Phoenix, AZ: Intensive use of sensory integration theory interventions for students with autism.
- 1991-1992 Cook County Burn Unit, Chicago, IL: Occupational therapy interventions for patients with 2nd-3rd degree burns.

Academic Experience:

- 2009-2017 Adjunct Faculty, Rush University, Chicago, IL: Responsible for teaching 36 students in courses including pediatric assessments, pediatric interventions, assistive technology, and occupational therapy history and philosophy. Responsibilities included Lead for student research groups, Academic Advisor, Faculty lead for Rush Occupational Therapy Student Association, and interview committee member for incoming students.
- 2009 Student Teaching Rotation, Pediatric Course, Occupational Therapy Department, Rush University, Chicago, IL.

Professional Service and Professional Organizations:

2018-Present: **American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA).**

2012-2018 **REHABILITATION ENGINEERING and ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA (RESNA).**

1994-2022 **AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION**
Member #7899.

1994-2015 **ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION**
Member #4750.

Certification and Licenses:

License Massage Therapist Illinois

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy #987022 (current)

License/Registered, State of Illinois #056-003035. Held license continuously since 1994 when licensure was first enacted.

Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests, Sensory Integration International (April 2004).

Neurodevelopmental Treatment Certification (December 2014)

American Heart Association CPR for healthcare providers

Competencies in neonatal intensive care unit occupational therapy services at Advocate Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL.

Early Intervention Certified for occupational therapy services in Illinois (October 2004-November 2009).

Professional Experience:

2018-Present

Equestrian Connection, Lake Forest, IL: Occupational therapist responsible for evaluation and treatment of patients of all ages including a variety of diagnoses. Evaluation and interventions using hippotherapy to address performance skills and functional limitation in occupations.

2013 – Present

Shirley Ryan Ability lab/Pathways, Inc., Chicago/Glenview, IL: Occupational therapist responsible for evaluation and treatment of pediatric of all ages including a variety of diagnoses. Interventions vary depending on child's performance skills and functional limitations in occupations. Treatment may include sensory regulation, fine motor,

splinting, activities of daily living skills, visual motor, visual perception, executive function, assistive technology, handwriting skills, neurodevelopmental techniques, and sensory integration using a dynamic system's model.

10/2004 - 8/2024

Round Lake School District, Round Lake, IL: Occupational Therapist responsible for evaluation and treatment of students needing educationally based occupational therapy services ages 3-18.

1998-2009

Northern Illinois McHenry Center Hospital (NIMC), McHenry, IL: Occupational Therapist responsible for acute inpatient and rehabilitation patients. Diagnoses include a variety of orthopedic and neurological conditions for adults. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Responsible for Special Care Nursery occupational therapy developmental evaluations and interventions, including family training.

1997- 2007

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Lake Zurich Pediatric Therapy Site, Lake Zurich, IL. Occupational Therapist responsible for evaluation and treatment of pediatric clients ages 6 months to 16 years old. Interventions included fine motor skills, splinting, burn care, visual motor, visual perception, handwriting skills, neurodevelopment techniques, and sensory integration. Responsibilities from January 2005 until May 2007 included special care nursery evaluations and treatments after receiving neonatal intensive care training and competencies at a Level III neonatal intensive care unit at Advocate Christ Hospital.

2003 -2005

North Shore Pediatric Therapy, Highland Park, IL: Occupational therapist responsible for evaluation and treatment of pediatric ages 6 months to 16 years old. Treatments included fine motor, splinting, visual motor, visual perception, handwriting skills, neurodevelopmental techniques, and sensory integration.

1995-2005

Highland Park Hospital, Highland Park, IL: Occupational therapist responsible for inpatient acute care, skilled nursing inpatients, and outpatient occupational therapy services that included a variety of neurological and orthopedic diagnoses. Fabrications of dynamic and static splinting were a high volume need in outpatient department.

1995 -1998

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), Chicago, IL: Registry occupational therapist responsible to cover inpatient rehabilitation patients. Diagnoses ranged from spinal cord injuries to knee replacements.

1993 - 1995

Arlington Hand Therapy, Arlington Heights, IL: Occupational therapist responsible for treatment for pre-operative and post-operative therapy for upper extremity diagnoses.

Interventions included use of modalities, education of conservative management techniques, range-of-motion, fabrication of dynamic and static splinting, strengthening, and work hardening. Diagnoses ranged from carpal tunnel syndrome to traumatic amputations.

1990-1993:

Rush University, Chicago, Illinois: Medical recorders coder. Responsible for reviewing medical diagnosis and co-morbidities, assigning proper ICD and DRG codes

1986-1990:

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL Medical Records Coder, Tumor Register, and Quality Assurance Reviewer. Responsible for reviewing medical diagnosis and co-morbidities, assigning proper ICD and DRG codes. Researching cancer stages, obstetric, and orthopedic risk management complications.

Grant Recipient:

2012: **Infinitec TeachTown Grant:** The Teachtown®/Infinitec grant demonstration provided an opportunity to model new and innovating interventions for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), provided additional mode of learning that has been available to families, and enhanced the home-school connection by providing resources and activities that parents can engage in with their child at home. Teachtown®'s software would provide an essential component to empower parents of students with disabilities in meeting their child's unique needs.

2011: **Impact Grant: Educator Grant Program Application:** Recipient of school site which provided an opportunity to teach innovating sensory interventions to teachers and students and addressing students' sensory modulation needs in the educational setting to be more effective learners. Education on sensory processing differences provided an essential component to empower teachers and students to understand and meet each student's unique sensory needs to function at their optimal level.

Publications

Reinoso, G., Kula, L., & Blanche, E. (2022). Incorporating nature in the context of sensory integration treatment. In E.I. Blanche, C. Giuffrida, M. Hallway, B. Edwards, & L.A. Test (Eds), *An Evidence-Based Guide to Combining Interventions with Sensory Integration in Pediatric Practice*: Pp.153-166. Routledge, New York.

Kula, L. (2017): Assistive Technology in Schools. *Illinois Occupational Therapy ILOTA Communique*

Kula, L. (2016) An overview of assistive technology. In A. Wagengeld, J. Kaldenberg, & D.Honaker (Eds), *Foundations of Pediatric Practice for the Occupational Therapy Assistant 2nd ed.* Routledge, New York.