



Hosted by Ibn Tofail University and organized by the
Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco

6th Annual International Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco المؤتمر السنوي الدولي السادس للجمعية المغربية للعلاج الوظيفي

***“Research and Evidence Based Practice to improve
Patients’ Outcomes”***

Presenters from five continents

محاضرات ومحاضرين من خمس قارات



The Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco is a full member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. WFOT has been in official relations with the World Health Organization since 1959, undertaking a collaborative work programme with the aim of improving world health.

ترجمة مباشرة خلال المؤتمر

Live Interpretation During the Conference



Free Registration and Live Streaming

www.OTAMO.org

Saturday January 6th, 2024

8 AM - 4 PM



6th Annual International Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco المؤتمر السنوي الدولي السادس للجمعية المغربية للعلاج الوظيفي



Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco





6th Annual International Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco المؤتمر السنوي الدولي السادس للجمعية المغربية للعلاج الوظيفي



**Saturday January 6th, 2024
Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco**

07:30-08:15 Registration

08:15-08:30 Introduction & Logistics

Dr. Mohammed Larbi Kerkeb, Dr. Hubert Benitez, and Dr. Said Nafai

08:30-09:00 Keynote Presentation

Dr. Rawan AlHeresh, PhD, OT, Jordan/USA

09:00-09:15 Distinguished Guest Speaker Dr. Alyson D. Stover, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP. AOTA President, USA

09:15-09:30 Distinguished Guest Speaker Dr. Hubert Benitez, DDS, PhD. USA

09:30-09:45 Tracey Patridge-Tricker. New Zealand

09:45-10:00 Dr. Hassan Sarsak. Jordan/Saudi Arabia

10:00-10:15 Wafa Bennani. Morocco/USA

10:15-10:30 Dr. Peter Ndaa. Ghana

10:30-10:45 Keltoum Mbirkou. Morocco

10:45-11:00 Dr. Allison Sullivan

11:00-11:45 Awards, Tea/Coffee Break & Posters Session

(See posters section for more details)

11:45-12:00 Dr. Abderrazak Hajjioui. Morocco

12:00-12:15 Emeline Quesada. France

12:15-12:30 Dr. Hajar Hamadi. Morocco

12:30-12:45 Alice Hortop. UK

12:45-13:00 Ismail Bouzerkraoui Alaoui. Morocco

13:00-13:15 Dr. Allen Romero Espelita. Philippines/USA

13:15-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-14:30 OT Students Panel: Safaa Aharchaou. Morocco, Gabrielle Burgess. USA, Esmé Erdynast. USA, Meryem Imaloui. Morocco., Moderated by Dr. Razan Hamed. Jordan/USA

14:30-14:45 Amy Caterina. USA

14:45-15:00 Mohamed Elghiyam. Morocco

15:00-15:15 Sophia El Ouazzani and Maryam Zegumouni. Morocco

15:15-15:30 Erin Cantwell. USA, Alanna Gracia. USA, Hiba Benyahia. Morocco, and Ismail Iziki. Morocco

15:30-15:45 Amina Chegraoui. Morocco, Salma El Gueddari. Morocco, and Siham Guermah. Morocco

15:45-16:00 Senthil Vadivel. India

16:00 Conclusion of Conference & Moroccan Traditional Music Show

Conference Chair

Dr. Said Nafai



OTD, OTR/L, CLT, CAPS, Morocco/USA

President of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco

Associate OT Professor, American International College, USA

Morocco Delegate to World Federation of Occupational Therapists

President of the Arab Occupational Therapy Regional Group to the World
Federation of Occupational Therapists

Co-Founder of the Arab American Occupational Therapy Group

Dr. Said Nafai was born and raised in Morocco. He received his doctorate from Boston University. He is considered “The Father of OT in Morocco”. Dr. Nafai is known for his advocacy and promoting OT worldwide. He provides OT services in rehab hospital and rehab facilities. He is a member of the GATE Community a group of the World Health Organization that aims to improve access to assistive technology worldwide. He has presented worldwide about the distinct value of OT. He is a certified aging in place specialist, a certified lymphedema therapist, and a board member of the Lymphedema Advocacy Group that aims to improve lymphedema treatment in the United State of America. <https://lymphedematreatmentact.org/>

Board Members of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco



Dr. Said Nafai
OTD, OTR/L, CLT, CAPS, Morocco/USA
OTAM Founder and President



Dr. Maryam Fourtassi
MD, PhD, Psychiatrist, Morocco
OTAM Treasurer



Dr. Abderazzak Hajjioui
MD, Psychiatrist, Morocco
OTAM Secretary General



Mariam Chrifou
MS, OT, Morocco/Netherlands
OTAM Board Member



Ismail Iziki
1st Alternate Moroccan Delegate
to the World Federation of
Occupational Therapists



Oussima Agzannay
MS, OT, Morocco/Spain
OTAM Board Member



Naima Souidi MS, OT
PhD Candidate, Morocco/Spain
OTAM Board Member



Abdelfettah Oubaali BS,
OT, Morocco/Denmark
OTAM Board Member



Hiba Benyahia
2nd Alternate Moroccan Delegate
to the World Federation of
Occupational Therapists

Conference Committee



Safia Abajad
BS, OT, Morocco



Oussima Agzannay
MS, OT, Morocco/Spain



Mourad Benkirane
Manager, UNE Tangier Campus



Hiba Benyahia
BS, OT, Morocco



Amine Belmzoukia
MS, Kenitra, Morocco



Hinda Bouhbouch
BS, OT, Morocco



Abdeljabbar El-Kass
BS, OT, Morocco



Pr. Jaafar Abouchabaka
Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Razan Hamed
PhD, OTR/L, Jordan/USA



Ismail Iziki, OT
BS, OT, Morocco



Dr. Khadija Ouadi, PhD
Ibn Tofail University, Morocco



Abdelhakim Lahna
BS, OT, Morocco



Mohamed Lamhandaz
BS, OT, Morocco



Valerie Lechain
OT, France/Morocco



Elizabeth Stevens-Nafai, MS, OTR/L,
Worcester Public School, USA



Safiya Nafai
Student at UNE, USA



Hamza Bakouch
OT/s, Morocco



Dr. Kris Winston, PhD, OTR/L,
UNE, USA



Meryem Imaloui
OT/s, Morocco



Meryem Zegumouni
BS, OT, Morocco

08:15-08:30

Introduction

Honorary Host



**Dr. Mohammed Larbi Kerkeb
President of Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco**

Honorary Guests



Dr. Hubert Benitez, DDS, PhD

President and Chief Executive Officer
American International College, USA
OTAM 2024 Leadership Excellence
Award Recipient



Dr. Mounir Tantaoui El Araki, PhD

Rector of International
University of Casablanca

Hanny Brun Award

جائزة هانري برن

Hanny Brun Award is given to individuals who did an exceptional work and effort to advance and move forward the occupational therapy practice and education in Morocco.

جائزة هانري برن تقدم لأشخاص تميزوا في تفانيهم وعملهم من أجل الدفع الأمام لممارسة أو تدريس العلاج الوظيفي بالمغرب.



Dr. Mohammed Larbi Kerkeb, PhD
President of Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Adil Echchel, PhD
Vice President of Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Jamal Al Karkouri, PhD
Dean at Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Ahmed Ferhane, PhD
Vice Dean in Charge of Scientific
Research Faculty of Human and Social
Sciences Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Khadija Ouadi, PhD
Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco

6th Annual Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco Conference

Awards Ceremony



Leadership Excellence Award



جائزة التميز القيادي



Dr. Rawan AlHeresh, PhD, OTR/L

Associate Professor, MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, USA Keynote Speaker
Founder and Director of Toward an All-Inclusive Jordan



Dr. Hubert Benitez, DDS, PhD

President and Chief Executive Officer
American International College, USA
OTAM 2024 Leadership Excellence Award Recipient



Dr. Joumana El Turk, PhD

Dean of School of Health Sciences
International University of Casablanca



Dr. Razan Hamed PhD, OTR/L, Jordan/USA

Associate Professor & Associate Director, Programs in Occupational Therapy
Department of Rehabilitation and Regenerative Medicine
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University, USA



Dr. Mounir Tantaoui El Araki, PhD

Rector of International University of Casablanca

6th Annual Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco Conference

Awards Ceremony



Leadership Excellence Award



جائزة التميز القيادي



Dr. Peter O. Ndaa PhD, OT, Ghana

Senior Lecturer at the Department
of Occupational Therapy,
University of Ghana



Dr. Fatima Zohra Serghini

MD at the Morocco Ministry of Health
Director of Mohamed VI Center for
Disability, Tangier, Morocco



Dr. Said Nafai, OTD, OTR/L

Associate Professor, American
International College, USA
President of the Occupational
Therapy Association of Morocco



Dr. Hassan Sarsak PhD, OT, Jordan

Associate Professor, Batterjee Medical
College, Saudi Arabia



Dr. Alyson Stover, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP

University of Pittsburgh, USA
President of the American Occupational
Therapy Association

Hanny Brun Award

جائزة هاني برون

Hanny Brun Award is given to individuals who did an exceptional work and effort to advance and move forward the occupational therapy practice and education in Morocco.

جائزة هاني برون تُقدَّم لأشخاص تميزوا في تقائهم وعملهم من أجل الدفع إلى الأمام لممارسة أو تدريس العلاج الوظيفي بالمغرب.



In 1959, thousands of Moroccans became sick after consuming oil that was poisoned.

Several medical teams came to Morocco to help with the recovery.

3 occupational therapists from Switzerland and 2 from Canada were parts of the team.

Hanny Brun was one of them. She is the first occupational therapist in Switzerland and the only one who is still alive from her team. Dr. Nafai visited Hanny in 2018 and she shared with him what she did in Morocco from January until April in 1960.

To honor Hanni, OTAM created this award in Hanni Brun name.

Here is a link to watch Dr. Said Nafai interview with Hanny Brun in her house in Switzerland.

<https://youtu.be/SVjWKfZIrek>

<https://youtu.be/Ad11svCZdds>

March 2017, meeting in ISPITS Rabat to discuss some of the aspects to begin the occupational therapy program at ISPITS Rabat, Morocco



July 2017, Cecile visited Dr. Said Nafai at his house in Kenitra to discuss occupational therapy curriculum of the new program in ISPITS Rabat.



Conference Keynote Speaker

8:30-9:00

Dr. Rawan AlHeresh, PhD, OTR/L. Jordan/USA



Dr. Rawan AlHeresh is an occupational therapy scientist with expertise in cross-cultural adaptation and access to rehabilitation measures and interventions to underserved communities like refugees, asylum seekers, and non-English speakers. Dr. AlHeresh is the founder and Director of the "Toward an All-Inclusive Jordan," an academic-community partnership program serving as a platform for education, clinical training, and advocacy for the rights of people with disabilities using Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) in the Middle East. In addition, Dr. AlHeresh is a strong advocate for refugees and asylum seekers in the US and globally, especially those with disabilities and non-English speakers.

- **Title:** Outlook of occupational therapy in the Arab World: Community-engaged practice
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Identify the trends of occupational therapy practice and research in the Arab world.
 2. Discuss elements of community-engaged practice
 3. Discuss the potential of utilizing community-engaged practice and research in the Arab world.

Distinguished Guest Speaker

9:00-9:15

Dr. Alyson D. Stover, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP. USA



Dr. Alyson Stover is an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh. She owns a private outpatient pediatric practice and co-founded a non-profit organization that uses occupations to address community, societal and population needs. She is humbled and honored to serve as the President of the American Occupational Therapy Association and is eager to hear the voices of all members of the occupational therapy community.

- **Title:** Appreciating the “me” to build a stronger “we”: Growing the distinct value of occupational therapy through individual diversity
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Generalize and apply concepts of strengths-based practice, trust, and interdisciplinary leadership to expand their current practice of occupational therapy to meet the needs of a global society.
 2. Recognize new ways to express, value, and represent their diversity as a mechanism for equity, inclusion, and belonging in global wellness.
 3. Apply the concepts presented to their practice of advocacy for the profession, for the consumer, and for self.

Distinguished Guest Speaker

9:15-9:30

Dr. Hubert Benitez, DDS, PHD. USA
President and Chief Executive Officer
American International College



Dr. Hubert Benitez, DDS, PhD, serves as the twelfth president of American International College (AIC). As president, Dr. Benitez is responsible for the overall administration of the institution, while guiding the College's vision. Dr. Benitez is an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is committed to changing lives through education. He is passionately committed to access and opportunity, social justice, and working with first-generation and diverse student bodies. While Dr. Benitez has dedicated the last two decades to higher education as an academic, administrator, and faculty member, he additionally spent fifteen years as a clinician. Dr. Benitez has significant experience in academic administration and leadership, strategic planning, academic program development, health sciences education, and with institutional and programmatic accreditation.

- **Title:** The Role of Higher Education Leadership in Creating Innovative, Entrepreneurial, Diverse, and Interdisciplinary Environments
- **Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Understand the factors impacting the directions of higher education
 2. Recognize how collaboration, transformation and innovation requires fostering curiosity, initiative, adaptability, and critical thinking
 3. Discuss an approach to making diversity and inclusion a priority.

9:30-9:45

Tracey Partridge-Tricker, MS, OT, PhD Candidate. New Zealand



Tracey Partridge-Tricker is the Vice President Finance for the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. She lives in New Zealand and provides occupational therapy for adults with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) relating to sexual trauma and those with a traumatic brain injury. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney researching the value of occupational engagement for adults with sexual trauma histories. She has a background in management and governance, previously holding the Occupational Therapy New Zealand - Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa President and the WFOT Delegate positions.

- **Title:** WFOT: Research and Evidence Based Practice

- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Explore the purpose and direction of research and evidence-based practice in the occupational therapy profession
2. Gain knowledge of WFOT resources related to research and evidence-based practice
3. Provide mechanisms to enable global exchange

9:45-10:00

Dr. Hassan I. Sarsak, PhD, OT, Jordan/Saudi Arabia



Dr. Hassan Sarsak developed in 2017 the Wheelchair Training Program to become the first ISWP approved Arabic training program and the first ISWP-WHO recognized Arabic-speaking trainer. In 2019, he developed an OT Program to become the first WFOT approved OT program in Saudi higher education private sector and is currently the Head of the Program. In 2020, he developed the Enriching Arabic Content in OT Project and authored five OT books in Arabic language. Dr. Sarsak has recently developed the OT Dictionary Mobile Application to become the first electronic OT Dictionary worldwide.

- **Title:** Enriching Arabic Content of Occupational Therapy in the Arab World Project
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Identify level of satisfaction among practicing Arab occupational therapists about current available Arabic content of occupational therapy.
 2. Understand needs assessment results, current challenges and difficulties, and project action plans.
 3. Identify project highlights: initiatives, contributions, and recommendations for future directions of research.

10:00-10:15

Wafa Bennis Bennani, RN. Morocco/USA



Wafa Bennis Bennani is a registered nurse with a master's degree in Nursing Leadership and Management, a specialty in neonatal intensive care and community health, and a huge passion for improving healthcare in Morocco. Since 2005, she has led several medical educational missions with American and Moroccan doctors and nurses to improve nursing and medical care in major Hospitals in Morocco and provide medical and dental care at several orphanages in Morocco.

She is a co-founder of Home of Moroccan Educators and Moroccan Students in America focusing for the past 3 years on advocating for the recognition and complete medical coverage of Phenylketonuria (fen-ul-key-toe-NU-ree-uh) PKU disease in Morocco, educating healthcare professionals, and providing essential medical formula and nutrition for the proper management of PKU.

- **Title:** The Role of Occupational Therapy in the Management of PKU
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Understand the diagnosis of PKU
2. Learn the management of PKU
3. Know the role of the occupational therapists in managing PKU patients

10:15-10:30

Dr. Peter O. Ndaa PhD. Ghana



Dr. Peter O. Ndaa is a Senior lecturer at the Department of Occupational Therapy (OT), University of Ghana. He helped establish and still manages the Occupational Therapy professional course in Ghana. Among his many researches in enabling independence, Peter has recently worked with a team of researchers from Ashesi University (GH), University of Cape Town (SA), University of Gondar (ETH) and Queens University (CA) on 'Transition of Youths with Disabilities in Education Systems'. He is currently researching into 'Persons with Disability and their Carers'.

- **Title:** Transition of Youths with Disabilities in Education Systems: A study involving South Africa, Ghana & Ethiopia
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Learn about the key barriers and facilitators to education access experienced by youth with disabilities in Ethiopia, Ghana & South Africa
 2. Understand how these experiences align and differ across cultural context and educational levels
 3. Learn how might practices be adjusted to better enable youth with disabilities participate and excel in education

10:30-10:45
Keltoum Mbirko. Morocco



Keltoum Mbirko retired French language teacher. After accomplishing her mission, she found herself confronted with a horrible disease: Alzheimer's, about which she did not know much. She wrote a book, which includes testimonies from some families whose lives were turned upside down. In her book, she wants to make people aware that compassion and knowledge are essential in supporting people with Alzheimer's. At the same time, she wrote and published five works, which deal with various subjects of life. She is an active member of the League of Writers of Morocco. Her daily experience is a real obstacle course for her husband to maintain maximum lucidity.

- **Title:** The Challenges of Family Caregivers of People with Alzheimer's
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Learn about the struggle of people with Alzheimer's
 2. Learn about some of challenges of caregivers of people with Alzheimer's
 3. Learn about ways to ease some of the challenges of caregivers of people with Alzheimer's

10:45-11:00

Dr. Allison Sullivan, DOT, MS, OTR/L. USA



Dr. Allison Sullivan, DOT, MS, OTR/L, Professor of Occupational Therapy at American International College in Springfield, MA, is the Lead Faculty for AIC's Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PP-OTD) program. Her research interests include pedagogy in occupational therapy education, mental health, cognitive disabilities, and trauma-informed care. In April of 2023, Dr. Sullivan was honored to receive a Recognition of Achievement award from AOTA for her innovation as a social media health care educator.

- **Title:** Social Emotional Learning: The MLK-AIC OT Collaborative Community Health Program
- **Learning objectives:** At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 1. Identify the barriers and facilitators encountered by a community center, an elementary school, and a college OT program in collaborating for the first time to provide trauma-informed skill development and social-emotional learning for children and families with limited support and access to care
 2. Describe how a social emotional intervention tailored to children at risk for and with mental health needs initially appears to have improved socially acceptable self-direction when implemented by trained members of the community
 3. Understand how the availability of a trauma-informed, evidence-and- community-based program initially appears to have improved the desirability of working with this population for OT students

11:00-11:45

Tea/Coffee Break



11:00-11:45

Posters Session

Poster Title: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Schizophrenia



Hamza Bakouch, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Safae Aharchaou, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Meryem Imaloui, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Noussair El Bahloul, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Asmae Saghiri, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Najoua El Hiani, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco

Poster Title: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Cerebellar Syndrome



Imane Regrag, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Sabah Sarsri Jebaria, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Yousra El Bahri, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Nouhaila Maghrane, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Salma El Griche, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Wissal Wijja, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco

Poster Title: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Breast Cancer



Bilal Mlilah, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Ikram El Wadi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Jaouad Sehbi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Othmane Laarouch, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Ayoub Ouboulman, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Abdellah Zabour, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco

Poster Title: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Dysgraphia



Houcine Jedi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Saloua Ouhmane, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Laila Bouzian, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Asmaa Hajjar, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Hamza Ait Bensaid, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Taleb Ali Habibi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco

Poster Title: The Role of Occupational Therapy with Hemiplegic Patients



Hafsa Cherrat, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Chaimae El Mahmoudi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Hanaa Agdoud, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Zahra Bilal, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Khaoula Rachidi, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



Karima Dandoun, OT/s
ISPITS of Rabat, Morocco



**Cassidy Spencer, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**

Poster Title: Furry Friends Field Trip



**Nadia Elcock, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**



**Fangyin Ge, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**



**Rachel Moore, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**

Poster Title: You've Got a Friend in Me: Field Day



**Maria Socarras, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**

Poster Title: Ismailia Association Sensory Room



**Grace Beaupre, BS, OT/s,
American International College, USA**



Poster Title: The Use of Virtual Reality in Identifying Bias and Microaggression



Mary Gardner, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA



Heleni Trihas, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA

**Poster Title: Boxing as a Therapeutic Intervention for Youth with Autism
Spectrum Disorder: A Preliminary Study**



**Emily Cohen, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**



**Enmanuel Bencosme, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**

Poster Title: **Burnout in OT Students & Coping Mechanisms to Manage Stress**



**Casey Dugan-Moran, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**



**Nicole Salazar, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**



**Carly Wyatt BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**

Poster Title: Exercise and Coping Mechanisms Among Graduate OT Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Period of Civil Unrest: A Descriptive Study



**Jonathan Mariani, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**



**Mariana Molina, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**



**Shirley Vilsaint, BS, OT/s,
Columbia University, USA**

**Poster Title: Integration of Large Scale Pressure Swing Adsorption
Units in Local Hospitals in Morocco: Design, Simulation and
Performance Evaluation**



Lina Benkirane, PhD Candidate. Morocco
University Abdelmalek Essaadi, Faculty of Sciences and Technologies,
Laboratory of Chemical Engineering and Valorisation of Resources,
Tangier, Morocco

11:45-12:00

Dr. Abderrazak Hajjioui MD. Morocco



Dr. Abderrazak Hajjioui is a Medical Doctor, MPM. He is a Professor at Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tangier, Morocco. He is consultant and expert in the field of rehabilitation and the health system. Expert in promoting physical activity and health, Co-Chair of the World Rehabilitation Alliance Workforce Workstream, and the President of the Moroccan Society for the Promotion of Rehabilitation Sciences and Disability Prevention. He is the Secretary General of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco.

Title: Together to strengthen Rehabilitation in the Morocco Health Care System: Moroccan Rehabilitation Network.

Learning Objectives: At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

- 1.** Understand the importance and vital role of rehabilitation in health care.
- 2.** Identify challenges and opportunities to improve rehabilitation in their health system.
- 3.** Promote collaboration and engagement to advocate for strengthening rehabilitation in the health system and collaborate with other health system actors to achieve this goal.

12:00-12:15

Emeline Quesada BS, OT. France



Emeline is a French occupational therapist. She holds a degree from the Bordeaux Academy. Her comprehensive education prepared her to address a variety of health and well-being challenges. Throughout her career, Emeline has worked in various healthcare domains, ranging from psychiatry to rehabilitation. In France and abroad, she has dedicated her expertise to promoting inclusive education for children with disabilities. She is currently assisting children with learning disabilities in Morocco. Her work abroad reflects her genuine desire to contribute to worthy causes worldwide.

- **Title:** Inclusive Education: A Challenge and a Necessity
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Define the type of population concerned, disability and disabled situations
 2. Learn about the challenges of inclusive education
 3. Learn about the impact of occupational therapy on educational success

12:15-12:30

Dr. Hajar Hamadi MD. Morocco



Dr. Hajar Hamadi is a medical doctor born and raised in Marrakech. Currently, she's a neurosurgery resident at the University Medical School (CHU) Mohamed 6th of Marrakech. She's an aspiring artist, a fitness addict and yoga aficionado who believes in mind-body connection especially in the field of healthcare. In addition, she's a regular contributor to volunteer activities especially in remote areas for either health education purposes or to provide medical care.

Title: Evidence-Based Practice in the Management of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Learning Objectives: At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Understand a local epidemiological assessment on spinal cord injury in Morocco
2. Recognize the role of research and evidence-based care in the treatment of patients with SCI
3. Discuss future possibilities and treatment options for SCI management

12:30-12:45

Alice Hortop MS, OT, PhD Candidate, UK



Alice Hortop is the in the UK. She qualified from Liverpool University in 1999 and is studying for her doctorate in Brighton University exploring 'belonging'. She has worked in mental health, physical health, learning differences, education, and public health both in the UK and through international volunteering. She loves to learn, collaborate, research and share resources, occupational therapy is her life calling.

- **Title:** The Importance of Belonging and Cultural Appreciation in Occupational Therapy Practice
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Explore belonging within OT practice
 2. Appreciate cultures of belonging, making connections to OT practice
 3. Consider how your OT practice could grow through your cultural appreciation

12:45-13:00

Ismail Bouzerkraoui Alaoui MS, PT. Morocco



Ismail Bouzerkraoui Alaoui (MSc) is a sports physical therapist and clinician in performance and exercise at the National Center of Sport Medicine, Morocco. Ismail is also a part-time lecturer at Mohamed VI University of Health Sciences. Within the same institute, he held the position of director of the university's sports physiotherapy diploma. Ismail is recognized as a TPI expert for the North Africa region by the Titleist Performance Institute.

- **Title:** The Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain Management in Physical Therapy: The Emergence of New Research and Clinical Understanding
- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Use clinical reasoning with up-to-date knowledge of clinical anatomy, biomechanics and physio-pathology of the shoulder
 2. Integrate the new shoulder assessment models such as the Shoulder Symptom Modification Procedure
 3. Incorporate current scientific findings into shoulder rehabilitation

13:00-13:15

Dr. Allen Romero Espelita OTD, OTR/L. Philippines/USA



Dr. Allen Romero Espelita, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, CLT, CPAM, CEAS I, received a Bachelor of Science in OT in 1999 in Manila, Philippines, and earned a Post-professional OT Doctorate in April 2019. He has 25 years of diverse clinical experience. He is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). He is a former Vice President of the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association. He is currently serving as The American OT Political Action Committee Ambassador in the State of Nevada. He has presented at both local and international conferences.

- **Title:** Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT) and Occupational Therapy: Enhancing Occupation

- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Understand the principles of Neurodevelopmental Treatment.
2. Explore the role of NDT in occupational Therapy.
3. Discuss NDT techniques and applications in occupational therapy.

13:15-14:00

Lunch Break



14:00-14:30

Panel Discussion Title: Stressors in OT Student Experiences in Morocco and in the USA. Moderated by Dr. Razan Hamed, PhD, OTR/L. Jordan/USA



Dr. Razan Hamed is an associate professor at the occupational therapy programs at Columbia University. She teaches courses in Statistics and Research Methods. She has taught various courses in different academic institutions including leadership and management, mental health, and psychosocial occupational therapy. She has extensive research experience in adapting culturally relevant assessment tools for occupational therapists in Arab countries. She is a strong advocate for cultural humility, diversity, equity, inclusion, non-discrimination, and justice. She is the founder of the Arab American Occupational Therapy Group and a board member of the American Occupational Therapy Association.



**Gabrielle Burgess, BS,
OT/s, Columbia
University, USA**



**Safae Aharchaou,
OT/s, ISPITS of Rabat,
Morocco**



**Esmé Erdynast, BS,
OT/s, Columbia
University, USA**



**Meryem Imaloui,
OT/s, ISPITS of Rabat,
Morocco**

14:30-14:45

Amy Caterina BA. USA



Amy Caterina is an investor relations and corporate communications consultant in the biotechnology industry, providing investor relations, public relations, marketing communications and corporate communications consulting services. Mrs. Caterina is currently a board member for the Lymphedema Advocacy Group, a non-profit organization focused on advancing lymphedema care in the United States. Mrs. Caterina is a graduate of Simmons College with a BA in International Business and lives in Del Mar, California.

- **Title:** The Importance of Advocacy: The Lymphedema Treatment Act as an Exemplary Case
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of advocacy
2. Learn about some of the challenges of people with lymphedema
3. Learn about the Lymphedema Treatment Act

14:45-15:00

Mohamed Elghiyam MS, Morocco



Mohamed Elghiyam is the President and the founder of the Balsam Association for People with Autism in Kenitra. He is a community activist in the field of autism, father of an autistic child. He is the Deputy Consul at the Moroccan Consulate General in Murcia, Spain.

- **Title:** Balsam Association's Intervention in the Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorder

- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify the problems and difficulties facing autistic children and their families
2. Learn about the importance of the role of civil society organizations' intervention in improving the lives of people with autism - Balsam Association as an example
3. Learn about the prospects of the Balsam Association in approaching autism spectrum disorder

15:00-15:15

Sophia El Ouazzani MS, OT, PhD Candidate.Morocco/Canada



Sophia El Ouazzani is a dedicated and passionate PhD candidate in the field of Global mental health at University College London. With a profound interest in occupational justice in global health contexts, she has been actively researching cross-cultural psychiatry and cultural adaptations to mental health services across cultures, including in Morocco and with ethnoculturally diverse groups such as immigrants, refugees, and asylums seekers in Canada. She is excited to share her latest findings and insights at the Moroccan Occupational Therapy Association's Conference and contribute to the ongoing evolution of occupational therapy practices in Morocco

Maryam Zegumouni BS, OT. Morocco



Maryam graduated from the third cohort of the occupational therapy program in Rabat, Morocco. She works at the Hassan 2 Regional Hospital Center in Agadir.

She is a member of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco and member of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

She is passionate about occupational therapy and seeks to promote it in Morocco.

- **Title:** Mental Health Rehabilitation in Morocco: a Cross-Cultural Exploratory Study
- **Learning Objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

- 1.Understand the Moroccan perspectives around key mental health rehabilitation concepts such as severe mental illness, mental health disability and recovery
- 2.Learn about the approaches to mental health rehabilitation and recovery-orientated practices in Morocco
- 3.Understand relevant cultural adaptations to recovery-orientated practice in Morocco's mental health settings.

15:15-15:30

Noussaïba Ait Nacer BS, OT. France



Noussaïba Ait Nacer is an occupational therapist who graduated in June 2023 from the Haute École Léonard de Vinci in Brussels, Belgium. Originally from France and proudly Moroccan, she is the co-founder of the organization World OT Advancement, an education institute for healthcare professionals in Morocco and different countries around the world. As an independent occupational therapist, she specialized in home adaptation and work rehabilitation at the Rééduc'actif clinic in Brussels. Her mission is to contribute to the promotion of occupational therapy in Morocco.

Hiba Benyahia BS, OT. Morocco



Hiba Benyahia graduated as an occupational therapist from the 3rd OT cohort in Rabat, Morocco. She is the second Alternate Delegate of Morocco to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and a member of WFOT member. She is a member of the Occupational Therapy Association of Morocco and Member of the Euro-Moroccan Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology. She is currently offering pediatric occupational therapy services for children with autism in Meknes.



Erin Cantwell MS, OTR/L. USA

Erin Cantwell graduated from American International College with her Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2021. She is a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Occupational Therapy in 2019 at AIC. Erin has been working for Preferred Therapy Solutions as a Rehabilitation Team Leader managing a Rehabilitation Department in the geriatric population.

Alanna Gracia OTR/L. USA



Alanna Gracia is a graduate from American International College where she graduated with a Masters' of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2021. During her time at American International College, Alanna was a four-year member of the women's soccer team, and captained the soccer team for her sophomore, junior and senior seasons. Since graduating, Alanna has been working at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI. She works in both acute and outpatient settings. Alanna's clinical specialties include feeding and burn care.

Ismail Iziki BS, OT. Morocco



Ismail Iziki holds a degree in engineering technology and a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy from the University of "Higher Institutes of Nursing Professions and Health Techniques" (2020). Registered with the World Foundation of Occupational Therapy, he began in COVID services before joining the "National Center for the Disabled, Mohamed VI" in 2021. Specializing in treating those aged birth to 18, he prioritizes fostering independence. Certified in hand splints, his expertise spans various diagnoses, focusing particularly on motor and neurodevelopmental dysfunctions like Cerebral Palsy and Down syndrome.

- **Title:** Transitioning from Occupational Therapy Students to Therapists
- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Learn about transitioning from students to therapists
2. Learn about challenges during this transition that face new therapists
3. Learn about ways to ease this transition process

15:30-15:45

Amina Chegraoui BS, OT. Morocco



Amina Chegraoui from Rabat. She graduated in the fourth cohort of the occupational therapy program in Morocco in 2023 from the High Institute of Nursing Professions and Health Technic of Rabat (ISPITS). She is currently working as an occupational therapist at the Psychiatric Clinic of LaVallee in Tamsena, she has great interest in autism's disease with her two colleagues, they completed their end of school project helping children with autism by arranging their living space to improve the quality of life.

Salma El Gueddari BS, OT. Morocco



Salma El Gueddari is from Ain Aouda, Morocco. She graduated in the fourth cohort of the occupational therapy program in Morocco in 2023 from the High Institute of Nursing Professions and Health Technic of Rabat (ISPITS). She shares a profound interest in autism spectrum disorder alongside her two colleagues. Together, they successfully undertook an end-of-school project aimed at aiding children with autism by creating a room design that enhances their quality of life.

Siham Guermah BS, OT. Morocco



Siham Guermah from Safi, Morocco. She graduated in the fourth cohort of the occupational therapy program in Morocco in 2023 from the High Institute of Nursing Professions and Health Technic of Rabat (ISPITS), she has great interest in autism. She, with her two colleagues, completed their end of school project helping children with autism by arranging their living space to improve the quality of life.

- **Title:** Occupational therapy at the heart of the environment of children with autism: Arranging their living space to improve the quality of life
- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:
 1. Understand autism and its effects on children and their environment
 2. Learn about the significance and impact of partitioning and organizing autistic children living space to enhance their overall quality of life
 3. Understand the occupational therapy role in customizing an autistic children's rooms to meet their specific needs

15:45-16:00

Senthil Vadivel MS,OT. India



Senthil Vadivel has Bachelor's and Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from India, as well as Pursuing Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy from Thailand. Over 20 years of clinical and teaching experience in India, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia Pediatrics and mental health are areas of his special concern. He is currently employed as a lecturer and quality assurance officer at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University of Health Sciences in Al Ahsa, Saudi Arabia.

- **Title :** Occupational Therapy Perspectives of Technological Addiction in this Era

- **Learning objectives:** At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe technological addiction
2. Find and construct tools for measuring technological addiction from occupational and psychosocial perspectives
3. Develop and implement an occupational therapy intervention for technological addiction

Roster Of Leadership Excellence Award

جائزة التميز القيادي



Dr. Mohamed Bouaazzaoui, Morocco

Director of Higher Institute of Nursing Professions and Health Techniques Rabat, Morocco



Khadija El Qorti

President of Jannat Association for Women with Cancer Rabat, Morocco



Dr. Azeddine Ibrahimi, PhD

Head of Biotechnology Lab at the Rabat Medical School in Rabat and Professor of Medical Biotechnology at the University Mohammed V Rabat, Morocco.



Dr. Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L

Past President of the American Occupational Therapy Association Clinical Professor and Director of Post Professional Doctorate Degree in Occupational Therapy, Boston University, USA



Dr. Anouar Majid, PhD

Vice President of Global Affairs, University of New England Morocco/USA

Roster Of Leadership Excellence Award

جائزة التميز القيادي



Dr. Wendy Hildenbrand, PhD, OTR/L

President of the American Occupational Therapy Association, USA



Dr. Zouhair Lahna, MD

"The Poor People Doctor"
Director of the Injab Center for Reproductive Health for Refugees and the Deprived, Casablanca, Morocco



Dr. Taoufik Lahlou

President of the Islamic Charity
Kenitra, Morocco

Roster Of Leadership Excellence Award

جائزة التميز القيادي



Nour Bendahman

President of the Nour Association of Alzheimer's
Kenitra, Morocco



Dr. Khalid Benhassan, MD

Director of the King Mohammed VI National
Center for People with Disability
Rabat, Morocco



Khadija Bouebaidi

President of the Association La Crèche de
Tangier for Newborn and Abandoned Children
Tangier, Morocco



Dr. Mohamed Tricha MD, PhD

Head of Rehabilitation and
Neurosciences Department
Rabat, Morocco

5th OTAM Conference 2023

Roster Of Leadership Excellence Award

جائزة التميز القيادي



Dr. Allal Boutajangout, PhD

Associate Professor of Neurology,
Neuroscience and Physiology at New
York University (NYU), USA



Dr. James D. Herbert, PhD

President of the University of New
England, Morocco/USA



Dr. Mohammed Rhachi, PhD

President of Mohammed 5th
University, Rabat, Morocco



Samantha Shann, MS, OT

President of the World Federation of
Occupational Therapists, United
Kingdom



Dr. Gail Whiteford, PhD, OT

Occupational Therapy Researcher &
Scholar, Australia

16:00

Closing Remarks



Dr. Adil Echchelh
Vice President of Ibn Tofail University
Kenitra, Morocco

Conclusion & End of Conference
Moroccan Traditional Music Show