

## State of the Journal, 2023



**Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**, is Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, and Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; [reynoldsse3@vcu.edu](mailto:reynoldsse3@vcu.edu)

The *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT) has maintained its top-ranking status in the field of occupational therapy, as evidenced by an increase in its 2-yr impact factor. As the Editor-in-Chief enters her second 3-yr term, the journal faces both challenges and opportunities stemming from trends in academic publishing. The editorial team seeks to navigate these shifts while fostering meaningful research dissemination and translation. Key outcomes for 2023 showcase the journal's dedication to addressing diverse occupational therapy needs. A special issue on autism and mental health in 2023 and upcoming themes on recovery after neurological injury and play in occupational therapy in 2024 exemplify AJOT's commitment to relevant topics. The *AJOT Authors & Issues* interview series and an active presence on social media platforms further bolster research engagement and translation. Despite challenges, AJOT's impact factor and rankings in the rehabilitation category have demonstrated its global influence and leadership. The journal's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is evident through initiatives such as AJOT's DEI Committee and DEI article collection, as well as AJOT's comprehensive approach to combating bias. As AJOT looks ahead to 2024, its goals include reviving State of the Science articles, updating our Author Guidelines to incorporate artificial intelligence and bias-free language policies, and fostering engagement through the AJOT Instagram account and monthly *AJOT Authors & Issues* discussions. With its dedication to rigorous research and meaningful translation, AJOT remains a crucial resource for occupational therapy professionals striving to make evidence-based decisions.

Reynolds, S. (2023). State of the journal, 2023. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7706070010. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.077602>

As 2023 comes to a close, I find myself now in my second 3-yr term as the Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT). I am thankful for the opportunities this position has provided me over the past 3 yr: opportunities to work with some amazing authors and editors, opportunities to read so many intriguing research articles, and opportunities to constantly learn and grow in the field of academic publishing.

One of my primary goals for my first term as editor was to expand the ways in which AJOT disseminated and translated research

findings for use in practice. The outcomes of this goal are seen in the *AJOT Authors & Issues* YouTube series, now entering its third season, and in the *AJOT Instagram account*, which in just 1 yr has posted 27 article summaries and amassed more than 700 followers. Although not as visible to readers, AJOT now has a more systematic communications plan with better integration with the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA's) communications team, allowing for promotion of AJOT content across all AOTA platforms. I hope that as these outlets continue to gain traction, we will see a faster

and more natural translation of research findings into practice, thereby improving the overall evidence base for the profession.

Another goal for my first term included improving the speed, transparency, and experience of the peer-review process for both authors and reviewers. To that end, AJOT has added more than 65 new reviewers in the past 3 yr, including reviewers with expertise in key areas, such as implementation science, occupational justice and equity, critical review methodology, psychometric analyses, and rehabilitation engineering (among many others). New reviewer resources

have been added to the *AJOT* website, and several of our ad hoc reviewers have transitioned into official reviewer roles. In 2022, *AJOT* also transitioned to a more efficient online submission system, ScholarOne, which has substantially decreased the time from manuscript submission to first decision and acceptance and has improved the overall submission and peer-review experience.

We have also worked to increase student engagement with *AJOT*, mentoring six *AJOT* student representatives over the past 3 yr. Student volunteers have helped to write research briefs and profiles for the *AJOT* Instagram account, served on the *AJOT* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and written scripts and conducted interviews for the *AJOT Authors & Issues* series. As we continue to mentor students, clinicians, and junior researchers into the *AJOT* fold, we hope to develop a pipeline for people to stay connected with the journal throughout their careers and move into leadership positions.

## Trends in Academic Publishing

Entering my second term as *AJOT* Editor-in-Chief feels more daunting in some ways than entering my first term. This apprehension stems primarily from the looming challenges (and opportunities) that artificial intelligence (AI) poses to the publishing world. As noted by Michael Upshall (2019), head of business development at UNSILO, AI is a “disruptive technology” (p. 3); it will absolutely change the way things are done. As someone who can be (admittedly) slow to change, I am feeling the pressure to make rapid decisions about how and when AI can and should be used in relation to *AJOT*. There is certainly the side of me that wants to say “nope” to any use of AI and continue doing things the way they have always been done, but obviously I would be a terrible leader if I took that stance. The world is changing, and as the leading occupational therapy journal in the world, *AJOT* has to stay ahead of the curve.

With that in mind, I see several opportunities for the use of AI at *AJOT*. First and foremost, emerging AI platforms, such as ChatGPT, a large language model that generates humanlike text, as well as existing AI editing tools, such as Grammarly, have the potential to level the playing field for authors who use English as a second language. Many high-impact health and medical journals, such as *AJOT*, require articles to be written in English for peer review or publication. For non-native English speakers, English grammar, syntax, spelling, and professional jargon can all create barriers to publishing what would otherwise be solid research (Telich-Tarriba, 2023; Zohny et al., 2023). Although AI cannot be listed as an author or coauthor of a manuscript (because AI tools are not human and cannot assume responsibility for the validity or originality of the generated work; Hartel, 2023), it can be used judiciously to enhance a manuscript before submission for peer review. These tools can also be used advantageously by native English speakers, who can save time and effort editing their drafts and direct more of their efforts toward the development of novel interventions, complex research designs, and sophisticated analyses. Given that AI is available to everyone, native and non-native English speakers alike, it could create greater equity in the publishing arena. As we move in this direction, authors will need to include a statement in their *AJOT* submission that discloses how AI was used in the preparation of their work and to take responsibility for the content of the publication (Telich-Tarriba, 2023). Our updated Author Guidelines spell out *AJOT*'s policy on the use of generative AI.

With the opportunities that AI offers to authors, we must also consider the threats it presents. First, it is fairly well accepted that AI systems can be developed with, or learn, biases, including political, racial, and gender biases (Meetoo & Rylance, 2018). This is because AI receives its information from human sources that are, in many ways, biased themselves (Motoki

et al., 2023). Most health-related journals have only just begun to strive for bias-free language and reduction of bias in medical reporting, so the greater use of AI presents another threat to these efforts. Second, AI systems, such as ChatGPT, present a threat of disseminating inaccurate, incomplete, or harmful text if authors do not validate the accuracy of AI-generated content (Leveridge, 2023); furthermore, AI cannot currently evaluate the quality of the content it draws from and cannot adequately cite (Zohny et al., 2023). In fact, ChatGPT has been known to “hallucinate” (a machine learning term) citations, making them seem legitimate and real when they are, in fact, fabricated (Welborn, 2023). Although we would hope authors would be vigilant about checking their articles for accuracy, editorial teams will also need to be more aware of an uptick in trustworthiness issues and prevent false information from being disseminated. Without this fortification of knowledge, there is a risk that trust in the journal could be undermined and standards of scholarly publishing as a whole could be questioned.

Finally, there is the potential for us to consider greater use of AI in our peer review and publishing processes. Our online submission platform, ScholarOne, already uses an AI-based plagiarism checker, and our article composition partner uses an AI tool that automates the process of comparing and matching in-text citations with their references. Are there other ways in which AI can help to enhance the speed or accuracy of peer review and publishing? Could AI be incorporated early in the review process to ensure that submitted manuscripts align with the journal's scope and mission, or could AI be used, as suggested by Heaven (2018), to identify statistical errors or inconsistencies? Personally, I am interested in how AI can help us digest research articles into manageable snapshots (brief reports or lay summaries) of information that can help with translation of findings into practice. Although I do not see

AI replacing the editorial team, I am interested to see how AI can be used moving forward to support editors and associate editors in doing their job. For now, our role at *AJOT* will be to keep up with current trends, communicate our expectations to stakeholders, and be transparent in our decision-making processes regarding the use of AI.

### Key Outcomes of 2023

The year 2023 was busy and exciting for the journal. In February 2023, we published a special section, “Mental

Health Needs for Clients With Autism,” which was guest edited by Dr. Anne Kirby, Dr. Claudia Hilton, and Lisa Morgan. Published in [Volume 77, Issue 2](#), this collection of articles highlights the needs of the autism community with regard to mental health services and the role occupational therapists can play in addressing those needs. The guest editorial for this special issue highlights the state of the science in this field and current gaps in knowledge. We are also in the process of preparing two new *AJOT* special issues

for Volume 78. The first of these issues, “Recovery After Neurological Injury,” will be guest edited by Dr. Amit Sethi, Dr. Jaclyn Stephens, Dr. Michelle Woodbury, and Dr. Sook-Lei Liew and published in Volume 78, Issue 2 (March/April 2024). The second special issue will be titled “Play in Occupational Therapy” and will be guest edited by Dr. Heather Kuhaneck, Dr. Anita Bundy, and an international team of play researchers; this issue is slated for publication in Volume 78, Issue 3 (May/June 2024).

**Table 1. *AJOT* Authors & Issues Sessions, 2023**

Session No.	Topic	Article DOI	Participating Authors
13	<a href="#">Navigating Ethical Tensions When Working to Address Social Inequities</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050071">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050071</a>	Hannah McArdle and Tim Barlott
14	<a href="#">Using Practice-Based Inquiry to Enact Occupation-Centered, Justice-Oriented Practice in an Acute Mental Health Setting</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050046">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050046</a>	MaryBeth Gallagher, Nancy Bagatell, Kimberly Conrad, and Darren Peters
15	<a href="#">Autism and Mental Health: The Role of Occupational Therapy</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050303">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050303</a>	Anne Kirby and Lisa Morgan
16	<a href="#">Ayres Sensory Integration® for Addressing Play in Autistic Children: A Multiple-Baseline Examination</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050169">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050169</a>	Heather Kuhaneck, Tara Glennon, and Renee Watling
17	<a href="#">Let’s Talk About It: Addressing Microaggressions in Occupational Therapy Education</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050125">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050125</a>	Ashley Burks and Linda Olson
18	<a href="#">Prevalence of Early Feeding Alterations Among Preterm Infants and Their Relationship to Early Neurobehavior</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050123">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050123</a>	Bobbi Pineda, Carolyn Ibrahim, and Molly Grabill
19	<a href="#">The Need for Occupational Therapist Eligibility for Formal Administrative Roles in Public School Systems</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050215">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050215</a>	Grace Franko
20	<a href="#">Examining Patient Outcomes at a Faculty-Led Clinic for Uninsured and Underserved Clients</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050024">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050024</a>	Chia-Wei Fan and Milly Rodriguez
21	<a href="#">Going Beyond Management and Maintenance: Occupational Therapy’s Role in Primary Prevention for Adults at Risk of Obesity</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050154">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050154</a>	Beth Fields, Chloe Muntefering, and Jeanette Reffstrup Christensen
22	<a href="#">Implementing Parent Coaching in Hospital-Based Pediatric Occupational Therapy: A Multisite Quality Improvement Project</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050243">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050243</a>	Kelly Tanner, Sara O’Rourke, and Valerie Duffin
23	<a href="#">Leadership Development of Women of Color in Occupational Therapy: A Qualitative Intersectional Analysis</a>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050331">https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.050331</a>	Ushantha Nirmul, Pamela Talero Cabrejo, and Cristina Reyes Smith
24	The Issue Is—A Call to Shift to Competency-Based Education	This session will be available on December 15, 2023.	Dawn Nilsen and Razan Hamad

*Note.* Each topic is linked to the interview session on *AJOT*’s YouTube channel. Each article is available Open Access on the *AJOT* site. *AJOT* = *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

In 2023, we also continued the *AJOT Authors & Issues* interview series, which can be accessed through our [YouTube channel](#) as well as through the [AJOT website](#). Since the series launched in December 2021, we have published 23 interviews with *AJOT* authors, tallying more than 6,000 views. Topics covered in the 2023 *Authors & Issues* sessions are listed in [Table 1](#). The most-watched episodes were related to addressing microaggressions in occupational therapy education; using Ayres Sensory Integration® to address play in autistic children; and using practice-based inquiry to enact occupation-centered, justice-oriented practice in an acute mental health setting. Each article featured in the series is also available through Open Access on the *AJOT* website, making translation into practice even more accessible.

We have also maintained, and added features to, our *AJOT* Instagram account ([ajoteditor](#)) and *AJOT* website. Our Instagram account features two monthly research briefs, editor spotlights, viewer polls, recaps of our *Authors & Issues* series, and opportunities to direct-message the Editor-in-Chief. Through this social media platform, we hope to engage readers in new ways and to make the work we publish more accessible for clinicians to translate into practice. Since its launch in August 2022, the *AJOT* Instagram account has accumulated more than 700 followers. Redesigned in 2021, the *AJOT* website continues to make finding relevant information faster and easier for users, including access to full-text articles, clinical practice guidelines, resources for potential reviewers and authors, AOTA INSPIRE conference abstracts, and article special collections. Three new collections were added in 2023 on (1) [DEI](#), (2) [functional cognition](#), and (3) [AOTA Practice Guidelines](#).

One of our goals for 2023 was to closely examine our Author Guidelines and copyediting policies and help ensure that information on race, gender, disability, and so forth is written and presented in

ways that do not, intentionally or unintentionally, perpetuate biases. As part of this process the *AJOT* DEI Committee recommended resources for the editorial team to read and a Bias-Free Language statement has been added to our Author Guidelines. In addition, Dr. Khalilah R. Johnson (*AJOT* Associate Editor) and I (*AJOT* Editor-in-Chief) presented on bias-free research reporting at the 2023 AOTA Education Summit in Denver, Colorado, and will conduct an expanded short course on the topic at the 2024 AOTA INSPIRE in Orlando, Florida. The goal of promoting equity and justice in our practices and procedures will be a continual process and commitment. We are also proud of the strides we have made as a journal and of our ongoing efforts to promote DEI in the occupational therapy community.

## Journal Metrics

### Journal Impact Factor

A journal impact factor (JIF) is a frequency measure that reflects the number of times, on average, articles have been cited in a specific time period. The 2- and 5-yr JIF scores are the most frequently reported and are used to rank journals in terms of significance. The calculation is determined by dividing the number of times articles were cited in the given period (i.e., 2 or 5 yr) by the number of articles published in the journal. Editorials and opinion-based articles (e.g., the *AJOT* “The Issue Is” column) are not included in this calculation. *AJOT*’s 2-yr impact factor increased from 2.813 in 2021 to 2.900 in 2022 ([Journal Citation Reports \[JCR\], 2023](#)). Its 5-yr impact factor fell for the second year in a row from 3.596 to 3.100 (see [Table 2](#)). The top 10 most-cited articles contributing to *AJOT*’s 2-yr impact factor are listed in [Table 3](#). Of these 10 articles, 4 were review articles.

JCR ranks journals in various categories on the basis of their JIF as well as other factors, such as citation and article counts, publisher

**Table 2. *AJOT* Journal Impact Factor, 2004–2022**

Year	2-Yr JIF	5-Yr JIF
2022	2.900	3.100
2021	2.813	3.596
2020	2.246	3.776
2019	2.231	3.220
2018	1.952	2.868
2017	2.493	3.325
2016	2.053	2.322
2015	1.806	2.113
2014	1.532	1.722
2013	1.552	1.831
2012	1.471	2.021
2011	1.697	2.009
2010	1.672	1.806
2009	1.419	1.408
2008	0.921	1.184
2007	0.673	0.971
2006	0.713	NA
2005	0.634	NA
2004	0.676	NA

Note. *AJOT* = American Journal of Occupational Therapy; JIF = journal impact factor; NA = not available.

information, and subject categories. Among all the ranked journals ( $N = 73$ ) in the category of rehabilitation, *AJOT* made a big jump up from a rank of 14 to a rank of 8. Within the rehabilitation category, *AJOT* is also first among all occupational therapy journals worldwide.

### Scopus

CiteScore is another journal evaluation metric based on citations recorded in the Scopus database. CiteScore 2022 is the number of citations in 2019–2022 for articles published in 2019–2022, divided by the number of articles published in 2019–2022 ([Scopus, 2022](#)). In 2023, *AJOT*’s CiteScore increased from 2.7 to 2.8, placing the journal in the 76th percentile of occupational journals. Although our CiteScore increased, this ranking is lower than our 2022 ranking, which was in the top 89% of all occupational journals.

**Table 3. Top-Cited Articles Contributing to AJOT's 2-Yr Impact Factor**

Authors	Article Title	Vol. (Iss.)	Online Publication Date	Publication Year	Article Type	No. of Citations
Lisa A. Juckett, Lauren R. Wengerd, Julie Faieta, & Christine E. Griffin	<a href="#">Evidence-Based Practice Implementation in Stroke Rehabilitation: A Scoping Review of Barriers and Facilitators</a>	74(1)	October 29, 2019	2020	Scoping review	16
Gordon Muir Giles, Dorothy Farrar Edwards, Carolyn Baum, Jeremy Furniss, Elizabeth Skidmore, Timothy Wolf, & Natalie E. Leland	<a href="#">Making Functional Cognition a Professional Priority</a>	74(1)	January 28, 2020	2020	Health Policy Perspectives column	15
American Occupational Therapy Association	<a href="#">Occupational Therapy in the Promotion of Health and Well-Being</a>	74(3)	April 29, 2020	2020	AOTA official document	9
Hsin-Chieh Lee, Fen-Ling Kuo, Yen-Nung Lin, Tsan-Hon Liou, Jui-Chi Lin, & Shih-Wei Huang	<a href="#">Effects of Robot-Assisted Rehabilitation on Hand Function of People With Stroke: A Randomized, Crossover-Controlled, Assessor-Blinded Study</a>	75(1)	December 11, 2020	2020	Research article	7
Lily L. Lai, Heather Player, Sherry Hite, Vikas Satyananda, Jennelle Stacey, Virginia Sun, Veronica Jones, & Jennifer Hayter	<a href="#">Feasibility of Remote Occupational Therapy Services via Telemedicine in a Breast Cancer Recovery Program</a>	75(2)	February 2, 2021	2021	Research article	7
Jennifer Kaldenberg & Stacy Smallfield	<a href="#">Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Older Adults With Low Vision</a>	74(2)	March 4, 2020	2020	AOTA practice guidelines	7
Catana Brown, Rebecca Karim, & Megan Steuter	<a href="#">Retrospective Analysis of Studies Examining Sensory Processing Preferences in People With a Psychiatric Condition</a>	74(4)	June 25, 2020	2020	Research article	7
Kathryn Eron, Lindsey Kohnert, Ashlie Watters, Christina Logan, Melissa Weisner-Rose, & Philip S. Mehler	<a href="#">Weighted Blanket Use: A Systematic Review</a>	74(2)	March 12, 2020	2020	Systematic review	7
Susan M. Cahill, Brad E. Egan, & Joanna Seber	<a href="#">Activity- and Occupation-Based Interventions to Support Mental Health, Positive Behavior, and Social Participation for Children and Youth: A Systematic Review</a>	74(2)	March 2, 2020	2020	Systematic review	6

*(Continued)*

**Table 3. Top-Cited Articles Contributing to AJOT's 2-Yr Impact Factor (cont.)**

Authors	Article Title	Vol. (Iss.)	Online Publication Date	Publication Year	Article Type	No. of Citations
Julie Ann Nastasi	<a href="#">Occupational Therapy Interventions Supporting Leisure and Social Participation for Older Adults With Low Vision: A Systematic Review</a>	74(1)	December 21, 2019	2020	Systematic review	6

Note. Each article title is linked to the article DOI. AJOT = American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

## 2023 Article Production Statistics

### Submissions

Between January 1, 2023, and September 1, 2023, AJOT had 351 total submissions (229 original, 122 revised), putting us on track to match the 452 total submissions (311 original, 141 revised) in 2022. Acceptance rates for the journal have remained stable over the past 5 yr, ranging from 24% to 30% (Table 4). AJOT received submissions this year from all over the world, representing a journal-high record of 31 different countries. Outside of the United States, Taiwan ( $n = 6$ ), Israel ( $n = 4$ ), Canada ( $n = 3$ ), Australia ( $n = 3$ ), and Spain ( $n = 3$ ) had the highest number of accepted articles for 2023. Other countries with articles accepted in AJOT in 2023 include Cyprus, France, Italy, Japan, Qatar, Romania, Switzerland, and Turkey. Acceptance rates were slightly higher for U.S. authors (33.0% of accepted articles) than for international authors (26.7% of accepted

articles); however, this gap is smaller than in previous years.

AJOT published Volume 77 in 2023, which included six regular issues and two supplements. In the regular issues, 107 research articles and 23 nonresearch articles (e.g., editorials, "The Issue Is" features, and clinical practice guidelines) were published. Of the 107 research articles published, 18.7% were instrument development or psychometric studies, 24.3% were effectiveness studies, 14.0% were critical literature reviews (e.g., systematic or scoping reviews), 18.7% were qualitative or exploratory in nature, and 20.0% were classified as basic articles focused on establishing relationships between conditions and occupational limitations, prevalence or incidence of conditions or client factors, predictors of outcomes, or taxonomies. A full breakdown of the types of articles published in 2023, including the evidence levels for these articles, is presented in Table 5.

After showing a steady increase over the past 5 yr, the number of funding sources identified for work

published in AJOT dropped from 47 sources identified in Volume 76 (2022) to 34 sources identified in Volume 77 (2023). Although the number of studies funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) rose slightly ( $n = 8$  vs.  $n = 6$ ), the number of studies funded by foundations dropped by more than half ( $n = 6$  vs.  $n = 13$ ). In addition, for the first time in 5 yr, no state agencies were identified as funding sources for articles published in AJOT. International funding sources continue to make up about one-third of all funding sources identified in AJOT publications, which is commensurate with the number of articles authored by international authors. A full listing of funding sources is presented in Table 6.

### Editing and Peer-Review Process

The masked peer-review process is at the core of the journal's ability to critique the rigor and trustworthiness of submitted articles. All submissions are screened for appropriateness by the Editor-in-Chief, then distributed to an associate editor for screening, soliciting reviewers, and working with authors and reviewers throughout the peer-review process. A minimum of two peer reviewers are solicited to evaluate the rigor and acceptability of the article for AJOT. From January 1, 2023, through September 1, 2023, our team solicited 660 reviewers, 430 of whom accepted our review request (65.2% acceptance rate). On average, authors submitting their articles to AJOT can expect to have a first decision

**Table 4. AJOT Acceptance Rates and Articles Published, 2019–2023**

Measure	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Acceptance rate <sup>a</sup> (%)	29.8	24.3	29.6	28.0	25.4
Total no. of published articles <sup>b</sup>	127	125	105	110	108
No. of published research studies <sup>b</sup>	107	100	91	93	91

Note. AJOT manuscripts submitted in a given calendar year may be accepted and published in that year, may be accepted but not published until the next year, or may still be undergoing peer review and revision at the end of the publication year (and as of this printing). Manuscripts that are withdrawn or never resubmitted after initial review are not included in this table. AJOT = American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

<sup>a</sup>Statistics for 2023 are through September 1, 2023. Previous years' statistics are for the full calendar year.

<sup>b</sup>Reflects all published and in-press manuscripts for 2023 plus additional articles published by AJOT that were not author-initiated manuscripts. Does not include AJOT supplements.

**Table 5. Research Type and Level of Evidence: AJOT Research Articles, 2019–2023**

Category	n (%)				
	2023 (N = 107)	2022 (N = 100)	2021 (N = 91)	2020 (N = 93)	2019 (N = 91)
Research type					
Effectiveness	26 (24.3)	20 (20.0)	18 (19.8)	22 (23.7)	24 (26.4)
Instrument development and testing	20 (18.7)	23 (23.0)	10 (11.0)	18 (19.4)	18 (19.8)
Basic <sup>a</sup>	20 (18.7)	17 (17.0)	15 (16.5)	15 (16.1)	23 (25.3)
Professional issues	1 (0.93)	6 (6.0)	4 (4.4)	1 (1.1)	8 (8.8)
Health services	5 (4.7)	6 (6.0)	1 (1.1)	0	0
Critical reviews <sup>b</sup>	15 (14.0)	18 (18.0)	20 (22.0)	24 (25.8)	8 (8.8)
Education	0 (0.0)	1 (1.0)	4 (4.4)	6 (6.4)	7 (7.7)
Methodology	0 (0.0)	2 (2.0)	1 (1.1)	3 (3.2)	3 (3.3)
Exploratory or qualitative inquiry	20 (18.7)	7 (7.0)	18 (19.8)	4 (4.3)	—
Level of evidence (effectiveness studies) <sup>c</sup>					
I	14 (43.7)	16 (53.3)	19 (59.4)	16 (41.0)	14 (48.3)
II	2 (6.3)	4 (13.3)	5 (15.6)	1 (2.6)	0
III	7 (21.9)	7 (23.3)	7 (21.9)	11 (28.2)	8 (27.6)
IV	9 (28.1)	2 (6.7)	1 (3.1)	8 (20.5)	3 (10.3)
V	0	1 (3.3)	0	3 (7.7)	3 (10.3)
Unable to be classified	0	0	0	0	1 (3.4)

Note. Research categories are based on those developed by Richards (2015). AJOT = American Journal of Occupational Therapy; — = not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies used to establish relationships between conditions and occupational limitations, prevalence or incidence of conditions or client factors, predictors of outcomes, or taxonomies.

<sup>b</sup>Includes systematic, mapping, and scoping reviews and meta-analyses.

<sup>c</sup>Effectiveness studies include systematic reviews of effectiveness studies but do not include scoping reviews; systematic reviews of instruments; or diagnostic, prevalence, or incidence studies. Levels of evidence are ranked on the following scale: I = systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials; II = two or more groups, nonrandomized (e.g., cohort, case-control); III = one group, nonrandomized (e.g., pretest-posttest, before and after); IV = descriptive studies that include analysis of outcomes (e.g., single-subject design, case series); V = case reports and expert opinions that include narrative literature reviews and consensus statements.

**Table 6. Funding of AJOT Research Articles, 2019–2023**

Funding Source	n (%)				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total funding sources reported	34	47	42	42	40
U.S. National Institutes of Health	8 (23.5)	6 (12.8)	12 (28.6)	8 (19.0)	16 (17.6)
Other U.S. federal agency	3 (8.8)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.4)	1 (2.4)	1 (1.1)
U.S. state or city agency	0 (0.0)	2 (4.3)	1 (2.4)	1 (2.4)	1 (1.1)
U.S. foundation or association	6 (17.7)	13 (27.6)	8 (19.0)	4 (9.5)	8 (8.8)
U.S. university	4 (11.8)	5 (10.6)	5 (11.9)	3 (7.1)	3 (3.3)
U.S. doctoral scholarship	0	0	0	1 (2.4)	0
International funding source	11 (32.4)	16 (34.0)	13 (30.9)	18 (42.9)	20 (22.0)
Industry	0	2 (4.3)	0	0	1 (1.1)
Private donation	1 (2.9)	0	1 (2.4)	2 (4.8)	0
Other <sup>a</sup>	1 (2.9)	2 (4.3)	1 (2.4)	4 (9.5)	0

Note. Some articles have more than one source of funding. AJOT = American Journal of Occupational Therapy; — = not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Includes U.S. organizations that do not fit the other categories, such as hospitals or societies.

**Table 7. Average Days From AJOT Submission to First Decision and Acceptance, 2022–2023**

Measure	2023	2022
Average days from submission to first decision (reviewed papers only)	19.1	23.3
Average days from submission to acceptance (reviewed and revised papers)	27.19	66.5

Note. Statistics for 2023 are for January 1, 2023, through September 1, 2023. The AJOT peer-review process transitioned to ScholarOne in January 2022. AJOT = American Journal of Occupational Therapy.

within 25 days; articles making it through the review process are generally accepted within a 3-month time frame (time from initial submission to final decision, including revisions and re-reviews; see Table 7 for details).

### Goals for 2024

AJOT continues to set a high bar for publishing rigorous research in the profession. As we move into 2024, we want to consider how we can also help to drive the work that needs to be conducted in the field. With this in mind, in 2024 we will reinstate publishing State of the Science (SoS) articles, which provide a brief narrative review of the state of the occupational therapy literature in a broad area of practice with the goal of creating a road map for researchers who are interested in conducting new and innovative research in this area. As such, we will be inviting groups of authors to submit SoS articles that help to outline where the state of the research is in a specific area of practice and to provide recommendations for what work needs to be done to move the profession forward in this area.


In 2024, we will continue to host monthly AJOT Authors & Issues sessions to help bridge the gap between research and practice and to make featured articles available through open-access platforms. We will also continue to post research briefs and editor spotlights on our Instagram account and include more polls to help engage followers.

Each of these initiatives continues to support our overarching goal of helping to translate occupational therapy research into practice. In summary, our editorial board has outlined the following specific goals for the 2024 volume year:

- Reinitiate the State of the Science articles.
- Update AJOT Author Guidelines and include policies on the use of AI and bias-free language.
- Hire new associate editors to replace those who have rotated off the board.
- Publish special issues on recovery after neurological injury and play in occupational therapy.
- Solicit articles for our new special issues (2025) on DEI and feeding practices in occupational therapy.
- Promote engagement with the journal through the AJOT Instagram account.
- Host monthly AJOT Authors & Issues discussions.

### Conclusion

While maintaining its position as the most-cited occupational therapy journal in the world, AJOT continues to be more than just a repository for research. Our efforts to translate research into practice and promote best practices in research reporting make our journal a valuable resource for the profession of occupational therapy. We believe in our product and its value, and we are committed to publishing and promoting peer-reviewed

research that is trustworthy so that occupational therapy professionals can make evidence-based decisions to inform their work. 

### References

- Hartel, R. (2023). AI and scholarly publishing. *Journal of Food Science*, 88, 1219–1220. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1750-3841.16568>
- Heaven, D. (2018). AI peer reviewers unleashed to ease publishing grind. *Nature*, 563, 609–610. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-018-07245-9>
- Journal Citation Reports. (2023). 2022 journal performance data for American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Retrieved July 28, 2023, from <https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr-jp/journal-profile?journal=AM%20%20OCCUP%20THER&year=2022&fromPage=%2Fjcr%2Fhome>
- Leveridge, M. (2023). This editorial about AI in publishing was definitely written by a human. *Canadian Urological Association Journal*, 17, 151–152. <https://doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.8424>
- Meetoo, D., & Rylance, R. (2018). AI: Revolution or apocalypse. *British Journal of Nursing*, 27, 1092–1093. <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2018.27.19.1092>
- Motoki, F., Neto, V. P., & Rodrigues, V. (2023). More human than human: Measuring ChatGPT political bias. *Public Choice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11127-023-01097-2>
- Richards, L. G. (2015). Editorial—State of the journal, 2015. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69, 6906070010. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2015.696003>
- Scopus. (2022). Source details for the American Journal of Occupational Therapy. Retrieved July 28, 2022, from <https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri>
- Telich-Tarriba, J. E. (2023). Unlocking the potential of AI in overcoming language barriers in academic publishing. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery*, 83, 298–300. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjps.2023.05.035>
- Upshall, M. (2019). Using AI to solve business problems in scholarly publishing. *Insights*, 32, 13. <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.460>
- Welborn, A. (2023, March 9). ChatGPT and fake citations. *Duke University Libraries Blog*. <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/blog/2023/03/09/chatgpt-and-fake-citations/>
- Zohny, H., McMillan, J., & King, M. (2023). Ethics of generative AI. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 49, 79–80. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jme-2023-108909>