

FUNDING STREAMS AND FUNDED PROJECTS

Advancing the Evidence Grants

Advancing the Evidence Grants of between £80 and £100k have been offered each year since 2008. These grants aim to support projects that clearly address an identified professional research priority area and develop the research capability of occupational therapists.

Facilitating Leisure Participation (FLiP) after stroke: co-creation of a complex intervention

Principal Investigator: Dr Kathryn Jarvis, University of Lancashire

Grant awarded: 2025

Anticipated end date: 2027

Co-creating the future: the use of multifunctional robots in occupational therapy and dementia

Principal Investigator: Dr Fiona Maclean, Edinburgh Napier University

Grant awarded: 2024

Anticipated end date: 2026

The cultural adaptation of Occupational Therapy as a complex intervention for Somalis in the United Kingdom

Principal Investigator: Dr Antia Atwal, London South Bank University

Grant awarded: 2023

Anticipated end date: 2026

Writing in the Digital Age – Keyboard versus Pen in Adolescents with Handwriting Difficulties

Principal Investigator: Dr Mellissa Prunty, Brunel University London

Grant awarded: 2019

Completed: 2025

Comparing a Reusable Learning Object with Face-to-face Training for Occupational Therapists in Advising on Fitness for Work (CREATE)

Principal Investigator: Dr Carol Coole, University of Nottingham

Grant awarded: 2018

Completed: 2020

Enabling Self-care in Children with Developmental Disabilities: Pre-protocol Research for a Cluster Randomised Trial

Principal Investigator: Dr Niina Kolehmainen, University of Nottingham

Grant awarded: 2018

Completed: 2021

Cognitive Management Pathways in Stroke Services (COMPASS): the identification of cognitive problems by community stroke teams

Principal Investigator: Professor Avril Drummond, University of Nottingham

Grant awarded: 2017

Completed: 2019

Values Based Occupational Therapy Practice: Identifying our Professional Values

Principal Investigator: Dr Yvonne Thomas, University of Worcester

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2019

A pilot randomized controlled trial (RCT) of mirror box therapy in upper limb rehabilitation with sub-acute stroke patients

Principal Investigator: Dr Alison Porter-Armstrong, University of Ulster

Grant awarded: 2014

Completed: 2018

Occupational Therapy and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy: facilitating occupational performance of people with dementia

Principal Investigator: Professor Susan Corr

Academic host institution: The University of Northampton

Grant awarded: 2013 Completed: 2017

National guidance for measuring home furniture and fittings to enable user self-assessment and successful fit of minor assistive devices

Principal Investigator: Dr Georgia Spiliotopoulou, Brunel University London

Grant awarded: 2012

Completed: 2016

Development of a web-based decision aid to assist occupational therapists to make optimal fitness-to-drive decisions for disabled and older drivers

Principal Investigator: Dr Priscilla Harries, Brunel University London

Grant awarded: 2012

Completed: 2015

Description and measurement of visual scanning training in Occupational Therapy for patients with visual search deficits following stroke

Principal Investigator: Dr Ailie Turton, University of the West of England

Grant awarded: 2011

Completed: 2014

A qualitative research synthesis examining the effectiveness of interventions used by occupational therapists within mental health

Principal Investigator: Dr Katherine Wimpenny, Coventry University

Grant awarded: 2011

Completed: 2012

The UK-Evaluation of Daily Activity Questionnaire (UK-EDAQ) in Musculoskeletal Conditions; psychometric testing and functional evaluation

Principal Investigator: Prof Alison Hammond, Salford University

Grant awarded: 2010

Completed: 2014

An investigation into the experiences of occupational gain in people with inflammatory

arthritis receiving antiTNF α treatment

Principal Investigator: Dr Margaret McArthur, University of East Anglia

Grant awarded: 2010

Completed: 2012

A study of long term economic consequences of short term stroke occupational therapy rehabilitation

Principal Investigator: Dr Philippa Logan, University of Nottingham

Grant awarded: 2008

Completed: 2011

Research Starter Grant

Research Starter Grants of up to £20K have been offered each year since 2008. The grant aims to build a cadre of occupational therapy researchers with the skills and ability to become our future research leaders.

Evaluation methods used to assess the impact of general practice based occupational therapy services within the context of value-based healthcare

Grant recipient: Laura Ingham

Grant awarded: 2025

Anticipated completion date: 2026

Practice readiness of newly qualified occupational therapists in the United Kingdom

Grant recipient: Dr Brightlin Nithis Dhas

Grant awarded: 2024

Completed: 2025

The ATUS24, activity-focused time-use intervention to improve mental health and well-being in adolescents, an acceptability study

Grant recipient: Dr Jackie Parsonage-Harrison

Grant awarded: 2023

Completed: 2024

The occupational therapy contribution to good home environment design to support the participation and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities

Grant recipient: Audrey Yong

Grant awarded: 2023

Anticipated end date: 2026

Exploring discharge risk management and positive risk-taking in intermediate care services in the context of COVID-19

Grant recipient: Craig Newman

Grant awarded: 2022

Completed: 2024

An enquiry of the usability of a fatigue ecological momentary assessment (fatigue smart-EMA) in supporting fatigue management

Grant recipient: Dr Leisle Ezekiel

Grant awarded: 2022
Completed: 2023

The process of assistive technology needs for assessment for effective delivery of services for people living with dementia at home

Grant recipient: Dr Eleanor Curnow
Grant awarded: 2021
Completed: 2022

Occupational therapists' attainment, maintenance and development of confidence and capability to use research-based evidence to inform their practice: An exploration of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) culture of the United Kingdom (UK) post-registration

Grant recipient: Dr Nikki Daniels
Grant awarded: 2020
Completed: 2024

Co-production of recommendations for a best-practice model of occupational therapy-led pulmonary rehabilitation

Grant recipient: Dr Gemma Bradley
Grant awarded: 2019
Completed: 2022

Developing an occupational therapy tool that can enable support workers to meaningfully engage people with intellectual disabilities in activity

Grant recipient: Dr David Haines
Grant awarded: 2019
Completed: 2022

The Lived Experience of Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood for Young People with Cerebral Palsy

Grant recipient: Paul Boyle
Grant awarded: 2018
Completed: 2021

A Qualitative Study to Explore How People with Early Stage Dementia Respond to Offers of Psychosocial Interventions

Grant recipient: Becky Field
Grant awarded: 2018
Completed: 2020

The Impact of Therapeutic Relationships on Self-management Outcomes after Cancer Rehabilitation: Understanding Participant Perceptions Using a Modified Delphi Technique

Grant recipient: Wendy Wilkinson
Grant awarded: 2018
Completed: 2020

A window of opportunity: Developing an early occupational therapy intervention for

people who have dementia and their family carers

Grant recipient: Bethan Mair Edwards

Grant awarded: 2017

Completed: 2022

How do people with intellectual disabilities (ID) experience work?

Grant recipient: Diana Ramsey

Grant awarded: 2017

Completed: 2018

Occupational therapists and digital care records: exploring health and social care integration through ethnography

Grant recipient: Dr Paul Sugarhood

Grant awarded: 2017

Completed: 2018

A systematic mapping review of peer mentoring interventions for people with acquired brain injury including stroke

Grant recipient: Dr Joanna Fletcher-Smith

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2017

A detailed examination of the physiological and cognitive mechanisms of handwriting difficulties in children with Developmental Coordination Disorder: the role of attention, fatigue and joint hyper-mobility

Grant recipient: Dr Mellissa Prunty

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2017

Transitioning gender through occupation: An exploration of the lived world of transitioning and non-formative gender identities through occupational narratives

Grant recipient: Rebecca Swenson

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2020

Engagement of general practitioners in falls prevention assessment and referral to allied health practitioners

Grant recipient: Dr Anne McIntyre

Grant awarded: 2015

Completed: 2016

Revising an evidence-based community intervention for people with affective or personality disorder and preparation for an intervention study grant application

Grant recipient: Dr Mary Birken

Grant awarded: 2014

Completed: 2016

Developing a service-user informed occupational therapy intervention to facilitate meaningful occupation for people with primary Sjögren's syndrome in the NHS

Grant recipient: Katie Hackett
Grant awarded: 2014
Completed: 2017

Determination of wall positions taking account of manual handling when access planning for assisted wheelchair users

Grant recipient: Dr Brian Abraham
Grant awarded: 2013
Completed: 2015

How do people living with mental health and substance misuse problems experience belonging and social connectedness?

Grant recipient: Dr Alison Blank
Grant awarded: 2013
Completed: 2015

An exploration of the meaning of occupation to people who seek asylum in the United Kingdom

Grant recipient: Helen Claire Smith
Grant awarded: 2012
Completed: 2014

A survey and feasibility RCT of pre-discharge home visits for patients with a stroke. The HOVIS Trial (Home Visits After Stroke)

Grant recipient: Phillip Whitehead
Grant awarded: 2010
Completed: 2012

The application of health informatics to rehabilitation goal-setting

Grant recipient: Gary Derwent
Grant awarded: 2009

Longitudinal study exploring the value of occupation in the recovery of mental health service users within the Kawa Model framework

Grant recipient: Kee Hean Lim
Grant awarded: 2009
Completed: 2011

Brief interventions in general hospital (BIG trial)

Grant recipient: Jean McQueen
Grant awarded: 2009
Completed: 2012

Daily activity patterns and the effect of energy conservation advice in clients with CPD

Grant recipient: Dr Louise Sewell
Grant awarded: 2008
Completed: 2010

Synthesising the Evidence Grant or Scoping Review Grant

This grant of up to £20,000 supports efforts to extend the assimilation and development of the evidence base underpinning occupational therapy.

Effectiveness of interventions to increase the proportion of older adults admitted with fragility fracture with an advanced care plan: a systematic review

Grant recipient: Lenise Clothier

Grant awarded: 2025

Anticipated end date: 2026

What is the use of Artificial Intelligence in Occupational Therapy Practice, Education, and Research? A scoping review

Grant recipient: Julian Jeyasingh-Jacob

Grant awarded: 2024

Completed: 2025

Mapping service improvement in occupational therapy: A scoping review

Grant recipient: Katherine Roddick

Grant awarded: 2023

Completed: 2024

Interventions to improve prosocial occupational participation for people released from prison: A systematic review

Grant recipient: Dr Catriona Connell

Grant awarded: 2021

Completed: 2022

The impact of occupational therapy on the self-management of rheumatoid arthritis: a mixed methods systematic review

Grant recipient: Emeritus Professor Jo Adams

Grant awarded: 2021

Completed: 2023

Occupational therapy interventions for informal carers and implications for carer support: a systematic review

Grant recipient: Kerry Micklewright

Grant awarded: 2020

Completed: 2021

The effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions supporting return to work for people who sustain serious injuries or develop long term (physical or mental) health conditions

Grant recipient: Dr Jain Holmes

Grant awarded: 2020

Completed: 2021

Involving People in Research Grant

This grant of up to £2,000 supports efforts to include people with lived experience in developing grant applications. It has been offered since 2025.

Co-producing research in secure environments: Developing a Research Protocol

Grant recipient: Rhona Macleod and Karen Morris

Grant awarded: 2025

Completed: 2025

Can personal technology support self-management for people with mild traumatic brain injury?

Grant recipient: Victoria Carruthers

Grant awarded: 2025

Anticipated end date: 2026

Feasibility study evaluating use of a computer-based cognitive rehabilitation (CBCR) intervention within vocational rehabilitation for young stroke survivors

Grant recipient: Preetee Gokhale

Grant awarded: 2025

Completed: 2026

Co-designing best practice for patient and public involvement in occupational therapy education: a rights-based consultation

Grant recipient: Juman Simaan

Grant awarded: 2025

Anticipated end date: 2026

Developing and designing advisory groups for an evaluation of needs-led community care for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Grant recipient: Samantha Armitage

Grant awarded: 2026

Anticipated end date: 2026

UKOTRF/University of Nottingham Doctoral Research Fellowship Grant

In 2013 COT (as it was at the time) in collaboration with the University of Nottingham invited applications for the above funded position, for a 3-year full-time doctoral research fellowship based within the School of Medicine, Division of Rehabilitation and Ageing of the University of Nottingham. Applicants were expected to develop a research proposal within one of three areas of neurological rehabilitation: facilitating return to work through early specialist-based interventions; studying how people with stroke regain confidence; development of peer-led coaching interventions.

An exploration of barriers and enablers to the implementation of a complex specialist vocational rehabilitation intervention for people with traumatic brain injury in the NHS

Grant recipient: Jain Holmes

Grant awarded: 2014

Completed 2017

Pressalit Care Research Award

The Pressalit Care Research Award of £5,000 was offered between 2008-2010 to support a BAOT member's research activity that would contribute to the evidence base for occupational therapy by demonstrating occupation-focussed research broadly relevant to bathroom or kitchen solutions. The UKOTRF is grateful to Pressalit Care plc for providing support towards the following research activities:

genHOME project (a UKOTRF /COTSS – Housing collaboration)

Grant recipient: Maria Parks

Grant awarded: 2011

Determining the relationship between the forces applied and the space required when manoeuvring four-caster chairs with heavy occupants (100kg)

Grant recipient: Brian Abraham

Grant awarded: 2009

Completed 2010

Institute of Social Psychiatry Scholarship

The Institute of Social Psychiatry (ISP) Scholarship was launched in July 2008. A total of £30K was made available to the UKOTRF by the Trustees of the Institute of Social Psychiatry to support three projects at doctoral or early post-doctoral level which demonstrated relevance to occupational therapy and social psychiatry. The UKOTRF is grateful to the Institute of Social Psychiatry for supporting the following research activities:

Participatory action research using photovoice to explore user experiences of recovery in acute mental health occupational therapy facilities

Grant recipient: Dr Wendy Bryant, University of Essex

Grant awarded: 2012
Completed: 2015

An action research study to identify and pilot an outcome measure for an occupation and recovery based service for people with mental health conditions

Grant recipient: Dr Carly Reagon, Cardiff University
Grant awarded: 2012
Completed: 2013

Mental health occupational therapy supported education and its influence on the recovery journey of service users: lived experiences explored

Grant recipient: Norma Clark
Grant awarded: 2011
Completed: 2013

Irwin Mitchell Research Award

The Irwin Mitchell Research Award was offered in the 2011 funding round. The grant was supported by Irwin Mitchell LLP, a firm specialising in personal injury that works with many occupational therapists. The theme of the research had to demonstrate 'restoring life through occupational therapy involvement'. The UKOTRF is grateful to Irwin Mitchell for supporting the following research activity:

An exploration of factors that impact the return to paid work of individuals following a brain injury

Grant recipient: Karen Beaulieu
Grant awarded: 2011
Completed: 2013

The Elizabeth Casson Trust Postdoctoral Award

In summer 2014, The Elizabeth Casson Trust entered into a collaboration with RCOT to provide an annual grant of up to £10,000 for three years to support BAOT members who are early stage postdoctoral researchers. The UKOTRF is grateful to the Trustees for supporting the following research activities:

Identifying occupational therapy interventions in children and young people's mental health: A mixed methods systematic review

Grant recipient: Dr Rob Brooks
Grant awarded: 2017
Completed: 2019

Homecare Enablement Services for people with dementia: the experiences of

service users within local authorities

Grant recipient: Dr Pat Chung

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2019

Return to Work after Stroke – feasibility four to five year follow-up.

Grant recipient: Dr Julie Phillips

Grant awarded: 2016

Completed: 2017

The Elizabeth Casson Trust Research Grant

The Elizabeth Casson Trust Research Grant was offered for the first time in 2009. A total of £30K was made available to the UKOTRF by the Trustees of The Elizabeth Casson Trust to provide support towards projects at doctoral or early post-doctoral level with a focus on return to work. The UKOTRF is grateful to the Trustees for supporting the following research activities:

Supporting workers with musculoskeletal conditions: a survey of occupational therapists' communication with patients and their employers

Grant recipient: Carol Coole

Grant awarded: 2012

Completed: 2013

Return to Work After Stroke

Grant recipient: Mary Grant

Grant awarded: 2010

Completed: 2013

Commissioned Research Grants

In 2010 the UKOTRF published a call for proposals for research activity that would support the commissioning of occupational therapy services. The aim of the initiative was to inform commissioners about service outcomes, benefits to service users and to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of occupational therapy services. Proposals were required to demonstrate collaborative partnerships between academic and practice settings. The call resulted in the commissioning of three projects:

A study of a single observation assessment tool for use in mental health

Principal Investigator: Dr Donald Maciver, Queen Margaret University Edinburgh

Grant awarded: 2011

Completed: 2012

The effectiveness of occupational therapy local authority social services' interventions for older people in Great Britain

Principal Investigator: Dr Jillian Riley, Cardiff University

Grant awarded: 2011

Completed: 2012

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) and interface pressure: using activity to maximise tissue viability

Principal Investigator: Dr May Stinson, University of Ulster

Grant awarded: 2011

Completed: 2012

Urgent Research Priorities

In June 2005 BAOT/COT Council agreed to support the development of a Foundation for Occupational Therapy Research. Recognising that the ongoing work needed to make this a reality would inevitably take a considerable length of time, agreement was given that an interim funding allocation of up to £250,000 would be made available from the College's reserves to meet urgent research priorities. Preference was given to proposals incorporating PhD training for a BAOT member. A total of £200,335 was disbursed to support three projects:

Evaluation of the Impact of the Implementation of Government Policy on Occupational Therapy; Using Assertive Outreach as an Exemplar (EAGER)

Principal Investigator: Dr Katrina Bannigan

PhD student: Simon Hughes

Institution: York St John University College

Completed: 2010

To evaluate an early intervention model of occupational rehabilitation for people with multiple sclerosis

Principal Investigator: Dr Diane Playford

PhD student: Joanna Sweetland (completed 2012)

Institution: Institute of Neurology, University College London

Completed: 2011

Return to Work after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Cohort Comparison and Economic Analysis

Principal Investigator: Dr Kathryn Radford

PhD student: Julie Phillips (completed 2013)

Institution: University of Nottingham

Completed: 2010