

## **Faculty Scholarly Agenda**

Faculty Name: Meredith Gronski, OTD, OTR/L, CLA

Capstone Group: Early Childhood Health and Occupations (E.C.H.O)

Date: December 2021

## **Department Scholarly Agenda Statement:**

Our departmental faculty scholarship agenda seeks to build quality evidence that spans the depth and breadth of the occupational therapy profession. The OTD program faculty, in collaboration with our students, strive to advance the profession through scholarly engagement, enrichment, and empowerment. Collectively, our scholarly work will create a well-rounded, creative, and collaborative environment that uses a multidisciplinary approach to incorporate the basic and applied sciences, including rehabilitation science, health and wellness, social sciences, and engineering.

Pragmatically, our research is grounded in theory (e.g. PEOP), molded by the grantwriting process (e.g. NIH), and executed in clinical and community-engaged settings. Simultaneously, our faculty scholarship agenda coincides with the evidence-based practice and research course series, allowing us to build a strong peer-mentor relationship with our OTD students and foster student-led capstone scholarship. The ultimate goals of our work are to create evidence-driven occupational therapists and scientists who will contribute to advancing human health and wellness through participation in everyday life activities.

## Individual Scholarly Approach (Mission, Threads, Approach to Student Collaboration)

**Mission**: Early Childhood Health and Occupation (ECHO) Lab aims to improve the health, educational, and occupational outcomes of young children and their families. Scholarly activities and research studies focus on measuring the factors that limit and support the occupational performance, learning, and participation of children birth to five years.

**Threads**: movement and learning, pediatric chronic disease self-management, access to early mobility, unstructured and nature-based play, toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences,

**Approach to Student Collaboration:** Students are given the opportunity to propel the faculty member's scholarly activities forward by taking ownership of one aspect of interest and completing the next steps or aims. Students are encouraged to take initiative and work collaboratively with the faculty mentor and their fellow student colleagues working on similar projects. During the spring semester, students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the curriculum will participate in the capstone meetings and activities to support training, reflection, and development of their colleagues in the second year of the curriculum. Students may work individually or in pairs on a scholarly capstone project, depending on scope.

The following is a list of ongoing or future project titles or topics and their respective estimated timelines.

Scholarly Agenda	
Project Title/Topic	Timeline  ☐ New/Future ☐ Ongoing ☐ In Dissemination
Participation and resilience in early powered mobility (Go Baby Go)	Ongoing
Movement and school readiness in traditional & nature-based early childhood programs (Timbernook)	Ongoing
Early childhood educator perspectives on movement and learning	Ongoing
First steps for food allergy families	New/Future