

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PHYSICAL REHABILITATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

### **What is unique about Casa Colina's Occupational Therapy Fellowship Program?**

Casa Colina's program offers fellows the opportunity to gain clinical experience with mentorship in 3 different areas of practice (inpatient, outpatient, and transitional living) and with a variety of orthopedic and neurologic patient populations. Fellows benefit from mentoring with skilled clinicians with various areas of expertise; each fellow has a minimum of three mentors throughout the year-long program. Designed to model the demands and responsibilities of practicing clinicians, the program requires fellows to be self-directed in designing their activities for the year. This allows for a more personalized program that is tailored to the interests of each individual fellow.

### **What are fellow directed activities?**

Fellow directed activities are self-selected to meet the needs and achieve personal goals of the fellow. These activities are the fellow's responsibility to plan and execute with guidance and assistance from the program faculty as needed. Activities may include a variety of opportunities in the areas of education (teaching in local OT programs, giving lectures to students on campus, staff in-services, etc.), research (participating in current or starting a new research project, journal club, etc.), and professional and community development (involvement in local/state/national OT association activities, community service events, etc.). These activities are not limited to what has been listed here, and are individualized between the fellow and program directors.

### **When does the program begin? What is the length of the program?**

The program runs for 52 weeks and starts in mid July annually.

### **When is the application deadline?**

The application deadline is April 1. Selected applicants will be notified by the end of April regarding an onsite interview in May.

### **Are fellows paid during the program?**

Fellows are compensated for all clinical care hours (typically 32 hours per week); full benefits including paid time off are offered.

### **What is a typical schedule for a fellow?**

During a typical week, the fellow works for four days in clinical practice (one of these days will be a weekend day or the fellow may choose to work every other Saturday and Sunday) including 6-7 hours of mentor sessions. The remainder of the week is spent completing fellow directed activities as determined by the fellow and program faculty, and participating in the Occupational Therapy Fellowship Consortium (6-webinars)

### **Where do fellows practice during the program?**

Fellows rotate through 3 clinical settings at Casa Colina's Pomona campus during the year-long program.

1. *Inpatient Rehabilitation:* Fellows will primarily see patients with Brain Injury and Stroke. The fellow shares the role of the primary therapist with another staff member and will work closely with an interdisciplinary team. The fellow will direct care for 11-13 patients

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with the assistance of an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

2. *Transitional Living Center*: This residential and day treatment facility provides 5 hours of therapy 6 days per week to persons with Stroke, Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury. Similar to inpatient rehabilitation, the fellow will share the responsibilities of a case-load with another therapist. The fellow will begin on the Spinal Cord Injury team and have the option to transition to one of the two Brain Injury/Stroke teams midway through this experience. The fellow is part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, neuropsychology and recreation therapy. Most of the care is provided in a group setting with regular community outings.
3. *Outpatient*: Fellows will see patients with a variety of diagnoses. Special emphasis will be placed on patients with chronic neurologic diseases (eg. Parkinsons, Multiple Sclerosis)

### **What is the Occupational Therapy Fellowship Consortium?**

Several OT fellowship programs across the country have joined forces to offer six webinars pertinent to fellowship education. Webinars are presented live; recordings are available for anyone unable to participate live. Webinars are offered once per month starting in the fall of the fellowship year.

### **Are applicants required to have their OT license?**

Yes. All fellows must have an OT license in the state of California prior to clinical start date..

### **Is an interview required for applicants?**

Yes. Interviews are held on site at Casa Colina in May each year. Select applicants will be invited to interview following review of all online applications. The interview will include a session with a patient, completing a documentation sample, and a panel interview.

### **Who can applicants contact for additional information?**

Please contact [OTresidency@casacolina.org](mailto:OTresidency@casacolina.org)