

Fall 2021

AHTF Mission and Vision

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The mission of the American Hand Therapy Foundation is to improve patient outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice through funding clinical and scientific research and education.

Our vision is for all evaluation and treatment methods in hand and upper extremity therapy to be based on well documented evidence.



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Message from AHTF Chair

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Jim King, OTR, PhD, CHT

As we continue to deal with the difficulties related to the world-wide COVID pandemic, my hope at this moment in time is that this message finds you and your family, friends, and colleagues to be safe and in good health. There is not a single one of us, now, who has not experienced hardship of varying degrees, sadness due to illness, and even death of someone close to us. For everyone who has experienced loss, and for all, the American Hand Therapy Foundation wishes you patience, tolerance, and understanding as we continue to promote our profession and move ahead to enhance hand and upper extremity rehabilitation during these challenging times. Despite these challenges, this year we have experienced amazing support from so many people who have generously donated their time, talents, and money to help AHTF achieve its goals and promote its mission, to improve patient outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice through funding clinical and scientific research and education.

The year started with AHTF supporting the American Society of Hand Therapists' 2020 virtual annual meeting with a \$10,000 grant, in recognition of ASHT's on-going and unwavering support of the Foundation. AHTF and ASHT continue to work closely together to support each other and both organizations' goals.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed by volunteering and / or made a financial donation to the Foundation this year. We are only able to continue this great work with your contributions.

I am happy to announce that this year, AHTF engaged the professional services of Association Headquarters, Inc. (AH) (https://associationheadquarters.com/), a New Jersey-based association / foundation management group, as its first comprehensive management firm. We welcomed our new Executive Director, Anna Shnayder, who is already making an impact - helping the Foundation take rapid steps to expand and enhance our fundraising activities and administer our many grants and educational events.

I invite you to meet our Board of Directors (https://www.ahtf.org/about/board), who continues its selfless volunteer work – driving the Foundation's vision that all evaluation and treatment methods in hand and upper extremity therapy to be based on well documented evidence.



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Jim King, OTR, PhD, CHT

Our Vice-Chairman, Gary Solomon is a tireless fundraiser and oversees AHTF governance. New board member and Secretary, Linda Klein, has enhanced the Foundation's organization and communication, while new Treasurer, Gretchen Bachman has overseen the Foundation's transition to the financial services at AH. Our two key oversight directors: Dorit Aaron – Development, and April Cowan – Grants have, managed the Foundation's complex fund raising and grant administration functions with expertise. All of our Board members contribute; Barbara Winthrop is chair of our largest fundraiser, "Happy Hour with a Scholar" (see you in St. Louis or virtually on October 8th!); Mike Epstein, an eminent hand surgeon, provides his wisdom and access to the physician community.

Caroline Jansen is heading up AHTF's practice survey to establish research priorities (hope you participated!). Marsha Lawrence is a well-connected member of the PT community, whose greatest accomplishment this year was the cataloging of AHTF's impact - see for yourself the amazing impact that the Foundation has had on the way YOU practice by viewing the list of publications and presentations here in the newsletter or on our website. We want to welcome two new Board members, Alex Mackenzie and Marisol Monasterio, both of whom are already contributing to our success. The AHTF Advisory Board Chairman is our past chairman, Greg Pitts. Thank you to all for your contributions! Many great people have contributed to AHTF's success, but few greater than Elaine Fess, who retired from the Board this year after over 30 years of involvement and support of AHTF's mission. We thank Elaine for the impact she has made on the Foundation and our profession. Elaine remains active on special projects for the Foundation, with our gratitude.



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Jim King, OTR, PhD, CHT

A few other highlights from this year (so far):

- We recorded our very first podcast. If you haven't listened to it yet, we invite you to do so now by clicking here:
 https://www.ahtf.org/ahtf-funding-foundation-goals/.
 This podcast was made possible through a generous collaboration with ASHT and their Hands in Motion Podcast series (https://www.asht.org/podcasts).
- We launched a new promotional video, all about the AHTF; and we invite you to listen by clicking here: https://youtu.be/F2fjBqT__wA.
- We successfully participated in the 2020 ASHT virtual Annual Meeting including our scholar event which was virtual and presented without cost to over 1500 people!
- We launched the practice survey to develop our research agenda.
- We had a very successful virtual run fundraiser (https://www.ahtf.org/2021-virtual-run-walk-for-hand-therapy-research/), which continues to grow with the involvement of so many people and organizations around the country.
- We look forward to seeing you in person or virtually at our upcoming events, "Happy Hour with a Scholar" (https://www.ahtf.org/ahtf-2021-happy-hour-with-a-scholar) and the holiday Silent Auction extravaganza.
- We established the Chairman's Fund, which will be a special fundraising effort headed by AHTF's chair the initial \$10,000 recipient of the fund is the Scientific Session at this year's ASHT annual meeting.

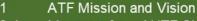
As you can see, the Foundation continues to grow and serve the profession. We can only do this important work with your help. Please donate (https://www.ahtf.org/donations/donate/) to the American Hand Therapy Foundation today! Your contributions make a difference. We promise to be good stewards of your contributions.



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AHTF Grant Committee Update 2021

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April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT,

There have been several positive changes within the AHTF Grant Committee over the past year to report. The Grant Committee's primary purpose within AHTF is to review applications for funding for research related to upper limb rehabilitation and determine awardees for the AHTF grants and scholarships. There are currently eight grants and scholarships for which to apply, which are listed below. The AHTF relies on external reviewers for the grant application review process. Their collective efforts allow the Grant Committee to assess the validity, quality, and originality of proposed research projects from the perspectives of content experts, hand therapy clinicians, and researchers. Thank you to all the reviewers, we could not do this without your help and expertise! We are thrilled to announce that there have been numerous publications and presentations resulting from grants awarded in recent years, listed below.

We are also pleased to announce that for the 2021 Grant Committee cycle, the Joint AFSH & AHTF Collaborative Research Grant has been reviewed and an announcement regarding the award is pending. The surgeon/hand therapist team project is planned to start in October 2021 and run for a year with a target completion date of October 2022. Please watch for the announcement from the American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand (AFSH) and more details about this exciting collaborative research endeavor!

Each committee member has contributed greatly over the past year. Marsha Lawrence expanded the post-award follow up process including contacting all awardees for updates. She has created a comprehensive summary of AHTF funded projects, including a list of formal presentations and publications included below. Caroline Stegink-Jansen has kept the Grant Committee operating smoothly by offering historical perspectives on procedures and being a driving force for special projects, such as the AHTF Research and Education Survey. Thank you to all the therapists who filled out the survey questionnaire! The newest member is Anna Shnayder, the AHTF Executive Director, and in that capacity, she assists with promoting funding opportunities, collaboration with the American Society of Hand Therapists, and efforts to improve the efficiency of Grant Committee procedures overall. To each of them I offer my sincere thanks for another successful year!



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April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT,

The AHTF Grant Committee does have a problem, namely a shortage of applications for the research grants and scholarships. For the 2021 Grant Committee cycle, very few submissions were received, and they unfortunately did not meet the award criteria. Please start early with your projects and spread the word to your colleagues about the availability of AHTF funding for research!

Reach out to us if you need assistance with making an application or even starting a project. For more detailed information, visit https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/. For questions, contact April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT, at acowan@ahtf.org. If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing funded research, the expanded opportunities for the AHTF upper extremity rehabilitation Grant Committee funding in 2022 are listed below.

Thanks again to all volunteers, applicants, donors, grant committee members, and therapists creating and using evidencebased practice to help their patients flourish in their daily activities!

Burkhalter New Investigator Grant

Novice researcher or research team; initial clinical research efforts.

Funded up to \$15,000

Funded by AHTF with support from Doris Ann Slack Research and Innovation Fund Application window: Jan 1 – Mar 1

https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/burkhalter-new-investigator-Committee/

Judy Bell-Krotoski Grab the Evidence Grant

Skilled researcher or research team; research seed funds; pilot project.

Funding up to up to \$15,000

Funded by AHTF with support from Doris Ann

Slack Research and Innovation Fund Application window: Jan 1 – Mar 1

https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/judy-bell-

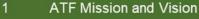
krotoski-grab-the-evidence-award/



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For more detailed information, visit https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/

For questions, contact April Cowan, OTD, OTR, CHT, at Committees@ahtf.org

Tri-Alliance Grant Honoring ASHT Founders

Established researchers; meaningful hand therapy research.

Funding up to \$45,000

Funded by ASHT, HTCC, & AHTF Application window: Jan 1 – Mar 1

https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/asht-founders-award/

Evelyn Mackin Traveling Hand Therapist Award

Support for educational travel to underserved areas or innovative use of technology, esp. telerehabilitation.

Funding by AHTF

Application window: April 1 – June 1

https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/evelyn-mackin-Committee/

Joint AFSH & AHTF Collaborative Research Grant

Physician and hand therapist teams; any surgical or therapy related topics

Funding up to \$20,000

Funded by AFSH & AHTF and administered by AFSH

Application window: Through March 29, 2021

https://www.afsh.org/s/ahtf-Committee

Ida M. Stern Research Education Grant

Support for education on research skills and methods

Funding up to \$500

Funded by a generous donation and administered by AHTF

Application window: May 1 - June 1

https://www.ahtf.org/the-ida-m-stern-research-

education-Committee/

Janet Albrecht Memorial Scholarship

Pursuit of hand therapy certification or an advanced degree.

Funding up to \$1,000

Funded by a generous donation and

administered by AHTF

Application window: Aril 1 – June 1

https://www.ahtf.org/Committees/thejanet-albrecht-memorial-scholarship/

Mary Kasch Hand Therapy Certification Scholarship

Assistance in becoming a certified hand therapist

Funding up to \$1,500

Funded and administered by HTCC

Application window: Jan 1 – Mar 1

www.htcc.org/mary-kasch-hand-therapy-certification-scholarship



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AHTF 2021 hybrid "Happy Hour with a Scholar" Friday, October 8, 2021, 6 pm – 7:30 pm CST

Click HERE to become a "Partner of AHTF" and other Co-Sponsor opportunities.

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Please join the AHTF Board of Directors and Co-Sponsors on Friday, October 8, 2021, for our annual "Happy Hour with a Scholar" event in conjunction with the ASHT Hybrid Annual Meeting.



This year's Honoree is **Susan Mackinnon**, **M.D.**, **F.R.C.S.**(**C**), **F.A.C.S.**, the Minot Packer Fryer Professor of Plastic Surgery in the Washington School of Medicine and Chief of the Department of Plastic Surgery from 1996-2020. Her Scholar lecture will be "There is No Crying in Innovation" which will review how major paradigms in nerve surgery have shifted from nerve repairs to grafting to transfers.

"Happy Hour with a Scholar" has become AHTF's signature fundraising event, honoring a Scholar in the field of hand therapy and surgery research. A minimum donation of \$35/ticket, as well as co-sponsor opportunities are available. This event will be live streamed with the opportunity to ask questions and interact with Dr. Mackinnon from wherever you are.

For those who will be coming to St Louis for the ASHT Annual Meeting, please join us for Happy Hour where we will watch her presentation together. **The event will be live streamed and on-site check-in will begin at 6 pm for those attending in-person.** Attendees will receive 1 CEU. Please note: The event will not be recorded and won't be available as part of the on-demand content of the ASHT Annual Meeting.

Your participation in this event provides you the opportunity to network with colleagues, engage with a fascinating Scholar and support the future of the hand therapy profession. The AHTF is grateful for our co-sponsors and attendees. We welcome any of you who would like to co-sponsor (this can be an individual, a combination of individuals, a special interest group, business, university or association). You can see the level of donations by clicking on the link at the top of the page, please indicate your "gift" is for the "Scholar" event.

AHTF would like to thank Dr. Scott Kozin for his 2020 presentation, <u>"When You Have Nothing, A Little is a Lot - Nerve Transfers in Distressed Patient Populations"</u>. For those who would like to view Dr. Kozin's lecture, click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdqqdK6s BY



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AHTF 6th Annual 5K Run / Walk for Research

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Thank you to all of you who participated in our 6th Annual Virtual 5K Run/Walk for Research! We are so proud of all of our colleagues and their families who joined together to support the AHTF Grants.

This year we had over 150 participants from across the country participate in this event! We hope participation in this event gives therapists a creative way to share their passion for the hand therapy specialty with colleagues and family. Each individual that participated and each team that joined together to run for the event, as well as those that simply chose to donate are sincerely appreciated.

We also need to extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, listed below who were extremely supportive in making this event such a success!

2021 AHTF Silent Auction

We are looking forward to our annual AHTF Silent Auction! This will be the second year that the auction has been held as an online event. There was an extremely positive response last year, as in this format everyone is able to participate. Please join us!

Follow these easy steps:

1. How to send items:

- a. Choose any item that you would like to donate to AHTF for the bidding. It can be books, paintings, memorabilia, jewelry, tickets to events, and conference registrations among other items.
- b. Email the following information to: mmonasterio@ahtf.org
 - i. Send picture of the item
 - ii. Send a short description of the item.
 - iii. Indicate the value of the item.
 - c. Process after bidding is closed.

Please take into consideration that the donor of the item will be responsible for shipping the item to the highest bidder at the completion of the online auction no later than 30 days after its completion. The information about the highest bidder will be provided by AHTF as soon as the bidding is closed.

2. How to bid:

Log into "Bidding Owl" starting on November 2nd using the link that will be provided after October 31st. Have fun shopping and donating for a great cause!!

Important dates:

Soliciting items start on September 14, 201 and ends on October 31st.

Open bidding: November 2nd, 2021 Close bidding: December 12th, 2021



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2021 AHTF Board Members

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James W. King OTR, PhD, CHT

Gary Solomon MBA, MS, OTR/L, CHT

Gretchen L. Bachman OTD, OTR/L,

MBA/HCM, CEAS, CHT

Linda Klein, OTR, CHT

April C. Cowan OTR, OTD, CHT

Dorit Aaron OTR, MA, CHT, FAOTA

Caroline W. Stegink Jansen PT, PhD, CHT

Michael Epstein MD

Marsha Lawrence PT, DPT, CHT

Barbara Winthrop OTR, MA, CHT, FAOTA

Marisol Monasterio MOT, OTR, CHT

Alexandra MacKenzie OTR/L, CHT



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Linda Klein

Linda Klein graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1978 with her degree in Occupational Therapy. She quickly developed a passion for hand and upper extremity therapy and discovered that this was the direction she wanted to take professionally.

She earned her Certification in Hand Therapy in 1991 and joined Hand to Shoulder Specialists of Wisconsin (HSSWI) that same year. She is currently Manager of Hand Therapy of HSSWI with over 40 years of clinical experience.

Linda has been involved with continuing education for 30 years and has authored several book chapters on therapy related topics. She served as ASHT Times Editor for 3 years and has volunteered on the ASHT Board of Directors for 9 years, including as ASHT President from 2018-2019. She continues to serve ASHT as Chair of the International Committee. Linda joined the AHTF Board of Directors in late 2020 and is currently serving as Secretary.

She is excited for this next chapter of her professional career to positively influence patient outcomes and the future of the profession by supporting growth of the body of evidence needed as a foundation for the practice of hand and upper extremity therapy. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family, crafting, swimming, and long walks with her dogs. "It has been a joy to watch and participate in the growth of this field. Seeing the development of new generations of hand and upper extremity therapists brings me joy, and I hope to be able to continue to contribute to this growth."



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Marisol Monasterio

Marisol Monasterio is originally from Caracas, Venezuela. She received her undergraduate degree in Kinesiology and Psychology from the University of Houston in 1997, and Master of Occupational Therapy degree from Texas Woman's University in 2001.

Ms. Monasterio received her Certification in Hand Therapy in 2006. She has been trained in advanced orthotics for the upper and lower extremity and has specialized in complete upper extremity post-surgical treatment. She is the Occupation Therapy Supervisor at Advanced Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Clinic in Houston.

She is a current member of the American Society for Hand Therapists and is active both at a national and state level. Marisol has been a speaker in national and local conferences as well as at the CHT review course. She was awarded Best Clinical Poster at the 29th ASHT annual meeting. She has multiple publications in the Journal of Hand Therapy. She has served as the Education Coordinator and Historian for the Texas Chapter of ASHT, and received the Shining Star Award in 2015. She was President of The Texas Society for Hand Therapy from 2017 to 2020. Marisol became a board member of the American Hand Therapy Foundation (AHTF) in November of 2020.

She believes that the best treatment not only requires knowledge and skills, but the emotional and personal interaction with the patient. "Seeing my patients go back to their lives gives me the deepest satisfaction".



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Alexandra MacKenzie

Alexandra MacKenzie earned her B.S. in occupational therapy in 1995. While she has worked in a variety of settings including burns, inpatient acute care and home health, her heart has always been in hand therapy.

She has worked and lived in Portland, Washington State and San Francisco but always knew that she would end up back home in New York. She is currently the clinical lead in the Hand and Upper Extremity Therapy Department at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

She has had many wonderful mentors along the way, and this has translated into a passion for mentoring younger therapists and therapists new to hand therapy. This past year, she worked on developing an AOTA accredited hand therapy fellowship for the hospital and is looking forward to watching that program grow.

Her clinical interests are in tendon and nerve injuries, and she has written multiple book chapters on hand therapy related topics. She has volunteered with ASHT and served on the annual meeting committee twice.

Global health and global healthcare education is another interest, and she has volunteered with Health Volunteers Overseas (Tegucigalpa, Honduras), Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation (Guatemala City), and the Loloma Foundation (Fiji). She was scheduled to go to Ethiopia when the pandemic hit. When she is not participating in hand therapy related activities, she enjoys spending time in her hometown of Brooklyn doing yoga, running, dance, cooking, painting and pottery.

"As therapists, we have a great responsibility to contribute to the education of future therapists, to ensure the growth of the profession. I love watching that spark of learning happen and being able to contribute to our field in that way."



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Meet the New AHTF Executive Director

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Anna Shnayder

Anna Shnayder joined the American Hand Therapy Foundation (AHTF) on April 1, 2021, as the Executive Director. She is an account executive at Association Headquarters (AH). AH is a professional services firm that specializes in helping non-profit organizations achieve their mission, create value, and advance their causes, industries, and professions.

In addition to serving as the AHTF Executive Director, Anna currently serves as Chief Operations Officer for the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society™ (WOCN®).

In her over 25 years of professional experience in managing non-profit organizations, she spent most of her career in the area of continuing education for healthcare organizations. Anna is a proud member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the Mid-Atlantic Society of Association Executives (MASAE). On a personal note, Anna was born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine. In her spare time, she enjoys quiet walks in the park, travel, dancing and quality time with family and loved ones. Anna is a proud mother to a wonderful 23-year-old son.

Anna is excited and privileged to be a part of the AHTF and is looking forward to supporting the organization's mission to improve patient outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice through funding clinical and scientific research and education.



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It is with great pride that the AHTF presents the most recent dissemination efforts by AHTF grant awardees. The generous contributions from our donors made this possible. Thank you!

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For a list of AHTF supported research, click **HERE**

Babatunde FO. Optimizing musculoskeletal health: focus on exercise therapy and psychosocial interventions. [PhD Thesis]. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada: McMaster University; 2020. https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/handle/11375/25350
Babatunde FO, MacDermid J, Grewal R, Macedo L, Szekeres M. Development and usability testing of a webbased and therapist-assisted coping skills program for managing psychosocial problems in individuals with hand and upper limb injuries: mixed methods study. *JMIR Hum*

Factors. 2020 May 6; 7(2): e17088 HYPERLINK "http://humanfactors.jmir.org/2020/2/e17088/" http://humanfactors.jmir.org/2020/2/e17088/

Day JM, Lucado AM, Dale RB, Merriman H, Marker CD, Uhl TL. The effect of scapular muscle strengthening on functional recovery in patients with lateral elbow tendinopathy: a pilot randomized controlled trial. *J Sport Rehabil.* 2021 Jan 13; 30(5): 744-753.

https://doi.org/10.1123/jsr.2020-0203

McVeigh KH, Kannas SN, Ivy CC, Garner HW, Barnes CS, Heckman MG, Bushaber DE, Murray PM. Dynamic stabilization home exercise program for treatment of thumb carpometacarpal osteoarthritis: a prospective randomized control trial. J Hand Ther. Published online June 23, 2021.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.06.002

Stern BZ. Self-management in adults after distal radius fracture: A mixed methods exploration [PhD Thesis]. New York, New York, United States: New York University; 2020. [Downloadable from ProQuest, ID: 27832212] **Stern BZ**, Njelesani J, Howe T-H. Transitioning from hurting to healing: self-management after distal radius fracture. [Published online ahead of print, August 13, 2021]. *Disabil Rehabil*.

https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2021.1962990



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For a list of AHTF supported research, click HERE

Wolff AL, Robbins L. Leveraging implementation science to prevent and reduce musculoskeletal injury in musicians: a proposed framework. J Hand Ther. 2021 Apr-Jun; 34(2): 315-322. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2021.05.008

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The work of AHTF grant awardees also resulted in numerous professional presentations. You may also view the list of presentations on our website,

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Stern BZ. Experiences of self-management after distal radius fracture: transitioning from hurting to healing. Oral session presented at: NYU Steinhardt 8th Annual Research and Scholarship Showcase; dates; April 2020; Virtual.

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Stern BZ, Howe T-H, Njelesani J. Experiences of recovery after distal radius fracture: A social cognitive perspective. Scientific research panel presented at: American Occupational Therapy Association Inspire Annual Conference; April 2021; Virtual.

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Stern BZ, Howe T-H. Measuring health outcomes after distal radius fracture: A multidimensional perspective. Poster presented at: Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; June 2021; Virtual.

Stern BZ, Howe T-H. The role of self-efficacy in self-management after distal radius fracture: A mixed methods exploration. Poster presented at: Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars; June 2021; Virtual. **Wolff AL**, Ling DI, Casey EK, Toresdahl BG, Gellhorn AC. Feasibility and impact of a musculoskeletal health for musicians (MHM) program for musician-students: a randomized controlled pilot study. Presented at: American Association for Hand Surgery Annual Meeting; January 2021; Virtual.

Wolff AL, Ling DI, Casey EK, Toresdahl BG, Gellhorn AC. Feasibility and impact of a musculoskeletal health for musicians (MHM) program for musician-students: a randomized controlled pilot study. Presented at: Performing Arts Medicine Association Annual International Symposium; June 24-26, 2021; Virtual.



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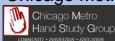


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