

JOHN ROBERT PATRO JR., OTD, OTR/L, CPAM, ACUE, FNAP

ACADEMIC LEADER | HEALTH SCIENCES | ACCREDITATION | PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Associate Dean for Health Sciences • Occupational Therapist • Distinguished Fellow, National Academies of Practice

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Academic health sciences leader and Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice with progressive experience as an associate dean, department chair, founding program director, graduate program director, faculty member, and accreditation evaluator. Leads interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate health sciences programs with responsibility for strategic growth, accreditation readiness, curriculum and program development, faculty mentorship, student success, operational planning, and external partnerships. Record of launching new academic programs, building accreditation-compliant systems, leading institutional and school-level committees, and advancing interprofessional, culturally responsive, and globally engaged health professions education. Specialized leadership and teaching development includes completing the AOTA Academic Leadership Institute, the ACUE Certificate in Effective College Instruction, and being selected for the ACUE New Leadership Fellow Program.

LEADERSHIP AREAS

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| • Academic Strategy & Administration | • Accreditation & Regulatory Compliance | • Program Development & Growth |
| • Faculty Development & Mentorship | • Curriculum & Assessment | • Budget & Resource Stewardship |
| • Student Success & Enrollment | • Interprofessional Education | • Healthcare Workforce Development |
| • Clinical & Experiential Partnerships | • Global Health & International Education | • Shared Governance |

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & APPOINTMENTS

Associate Dean for Health Sciences

Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing & Health Sciences, Molloy University | Rockville Centre, NY | April 2026–Present

- Provide strategic and administrative leadership for a multidisciplinary Health Sciences portfolio spanning Allied Health, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Informatics, and Health Services Leadership.
- Partner with program directors, faculty, admissions, and university leadership to advance enrollment, program growth, accreditation, student success, and workforce-responsive academic planning.
- Lead academic innovation and new-program development across health sciences, including curricular pathways and emerging graduate and undergraduate program initiatives.
- Strengthen accreditation readiness and institutional oversight through structured review processes, standards mapping, continuous assessment, faculty development, and resource planning.
- Develop healthcare, community, and industry partnerships that expand clinical education, experiential learning, professional engagement, and interdisciplinary opportunities.
- Mentor academic leaders and faculty while supporting curriculum development, operational planning, inclusive excellence, and culturally responsive educational practices.

Chair / Associate Professor, Occupational Therapy

Monmouth University | West Long Branch, NJ | December 2019–April 2026

- Served as founding program director and department chair, providing comprehensive leadership for program launch, curriculum, faculty recruitment, admissions, budget, operations, accreditation, and graduate education.
- Built the occupational therapy doctoral program infrastructure and academic systems in alignment with institutional expectations and professional accreditation requirements.
- Led faculty and administrative staff, chaired department meetings, managed departmental resources, and guided admissions and student progression processes.
- Served in university and school leadership roles involving graduate studies, enrollment, accreditation, faculty searches, and academic administration.

Interim Chair, Nursing

Monmouth University | West Long Branch, NJ | July 2021–June 2022

- Provided interim academic leadership during a period of transition, supporting departmental operations, faculty and administrative processes, and continuity of academic programs.

Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy / Interim Director, Doctoral Experiential Program / Interim Director, Doctoral Capstone

University of the Sciences | Philadelphia, PA | August 2017–December 2019

- Delivered graduate-level course and laboratory instruction, fieldwork preceptorship, and experiential education leadership.
- Chaired departmental admissions activities and supported doctoral experiential and capstone programming.

Founding Program Director, Occupational Therapy Assistant

Bryant & Stratton College | Syracuse, NY | June 2014–August 2017

- Designed and launched a new occupational therapy assistant program, including program philosophy, curricular threads, faculty recruitment, student recruitment, and academic operations.
- Directed compliance with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and New York State requirements; achieved initial ACOTE accreditation for a seven-year period with 100% compliance.

Assistant Professor & Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Occupational Therapy

Temple University | Philadelphia, PA | June 2013–May 2014

- Directed Level I and Level II fieldwork placements in accordance with ACOTE standards, developed new clinical affiliation relationships, and provided course instruction.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Education — Lesley University, Cambridge, MA	ABD
<i>Concentration: Adult Learning and Development Dissertation defense scheduled October 2026</i>	
<i>Dissertation: Examining the Development of Cultural Humility in Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Education: A Faculty Perspective</i>	
Occupational Therapy Doctorate — Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA	2012
<i>Capstone: Occupational Engagement and Participation: An Exploration of the Effectiveness of Standardized Assessment in Developing Occupational Histories with Hemodialysis Patients in a Subacute Rehabilitation Setting</i>	
Master of Science, Occupational Therapy — The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA	2008
<i>Thesis: Leadership in Occupational Therapy: Self-Perceptions of Occupational Therapy Managers</i>	
Bachelor of Science — The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA	2007
<i>Concentration: Health Science Minor: Health Administration</i>	

ACCREDITATION, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMIC QUALITY

- Roster of Accreditation Evaluators, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®); contributes to external program review and accreditation evaluation.
- Experienced in accreditation readiness, self-study review, standards mapping, continuous quality improvement, faculty preparation, curricular governance, and evidence-based compliance processes.
- Provides academic oversight and consultation across multiple accredited health professions programs and supports multidisciplinary review, assessment, policy development, and institutional accountability.
- Program-launch experience includes founding leadership for both doctoral-level and associate-level occupational therapy education, with responsibility for curriculum, faculty, resources, admissions, and accreditation.

SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. **Patro, J. R., Jr.** (forthcoming). From first-generation student to associate dean. *Journal of Academic Life: Health, Function, and Participation*.
2. **Patro, J., Daniel, J., & Darcy, A.** (2025). Expanding knowledge and integration of occupational therapy in Vietnamese healthcare: A study of educational interventions and cultural relevance. *Occupational Therapy International*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/oti/5812871>
3. Sciarra, E., **Patro, J.,** & Cardinale, C. (2024). Student wellness and engagement: Strategies for enhancing classroom instruction. *Nurse Educator*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NNE.0000000000001692>
4. Fleming-Castaldy, R. P., & **Patro, J.** (2012). Leadership in occupational therapy: Self-perceptions of occupational therapy managers. *Occupational Therapy in Health Care*, 26(2–3), 187–202. <https://doi.org/10.3109/07380577.2012.697256>

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

1. **Patro, J.** (2027). Developing the Occupational Therapy Workforce in Vietnam: Healthcare Administrators' Perspectives on Opportunities and Barriers. Accepted peer-reviewed poster presentation, AOTA INSPIRE 2027 Annual Conference & Expo, Boston, MA, April 9, 2027.
2. **Patro, J.** (2027). Transforming Occupational Therapy Education Through International Doctoral Capstone Experiences. Accepted peer-reviewed poster presentation, AOTA INSPIRE 2027 Annual Conference & Expo, Boston, MA, April 9, 2027.
3. **Patro, J.** (2026). Advancing Equity and Access in Social and Leisure Participation for Individuals with Visual Impairments: An Interprofessional Perspective. Peer-reviewed poster presentation, National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting & Forum, Indianapolis, IN.
4. **Patro, J., Daniel, J., & Darcy, A.** (2025). Expanding knowledge and integration of occupational therapy in Vietnamese healthcare: A study of educational interventions and cultural relevance. AOTA INSPIRE Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
5. **Patro, J., Sciarra, E., & Cardinale, C.** (2025). Nurturing wellness in health professions education. AOTA INSPIRE Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
6. Halliwell, N., & **Patro, J.** (2024). Empowering occupational therapy: Integrating multi-sensory environments and community partnerships. American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Charlotte, NC.
7. **Patro, J.** (2024). Leading through change: Strategies for OTD program directors during administrative transition. American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Charlotte, NC.
8. **Patro, J.** (2024). Designing impactful OTD capstones in Vietnam: A cross-cultural approach. American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Charlotte, NC.
9. **Patro, J., & Mama, R.** (2024). Collaboration abroad: Blending experiential learning across disciplines — An exemplar. National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting & Forum, Jacksonville, FL.
10. **Patro, J., Sciarra, E., & Cardinale, C.** (2024). Innovative instructional strategies: Nurturing wellness in health professions education. National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting & Forum, Jacksonville, FL.
11. Halliwell, N., & **Patro, J.** (2024). Multisensory environment program improving relaxation and reducing stress and anxiety for community health. AOTA INSPIRE Conference, Orlando, FL.
12. Halliwell, N., & **Patro, J.** (2024). Project exemplar and implementation guide to create a collaborative multidisciplinary curriculum-driven program for community health and wellness. AOTA INSPIRE Conference, Orlando, FL.
13. Halliwell, N., & **Patro, J.** (2023). Creating a multidisciplinary curriculum-driven program for community health and wellness: Multisensory environment community access project exemplar. American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Denver, CO.
14. **Patro, J., & Crowley, D.** (2023). Aging in place: Enabling clients to prepare for the future. AOTA Specialty Conference: Aging My Way.
15. **Patro, J., DeSalvatore, A., & Leslie, G.** (2022). The effectiveness of music interventions on occupational performance in patients with dementia. New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Newark, NJ.
16. **Patro, J.** (2021). From competence to humility: The evolution of inclusive care. New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association Conference, online.
17. Houghton, B., **Patro, J., & Gavin, E.** (2021). Living to help others: Volunteering in late life to promote generativity and well-being. AOTA INSPIRE Conference, poster presentation, online.
18. **Patro, J., & Porter, C.** (2020). OTRx: Strategies for enhancing IPE through medical mission trips. Accepted for Interprofessional (IPE) 2020 Conference, workshop, Atlantic City, NJ; conference canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
19. **Patro, J., & Hellerstein, E.** (2019). What's taught today impacts the world tomorrow: Addressing LGBTQ issues in occupational therapy education through culturally informed care. American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Las Vegas, NV.
20. Strauss, M., **Patro, J., & Vitale, J.** (2019). Problem-based learning simulation as a Level I fieldwork experience: Integrating knowledge and skills across the curriculum. Accepted presentation, American Occupational Therapy Association Education Summit, Las Vegas, NV.
21. Porter, C., Alm, D., King, M., & **Patro, J.** (2019). Developing an IPE-focused medical mission experience: Mapping for success. Collaborating Across Borders, Indianapolis, IN.
22. **Patro, J.** (2014). Occupational engagement and participation: An exploration of the effectiveness of standardized assessment in developing occupational histories with hemodialysis patients in a subacute rehabilitation setting. World Federation of Occupational Therapists, poster presentation, Yokohama, Japan.
23. Lazzarini, I., Salzer, M., & **Patro, J.** (2014). Exploring the validity of a model for MOT students' professional behaviors. American Occupational Therapy Association, poster presentation, Baltimore, MD.
24. **Patro, J.** (2013). Occupational engagement and participation: An exploration of the effectiveness of standardized assessment in developing occupational histories with hemodialysis patients in a subacute rehabilitation setting. American Occupational Therapy Association, poster presentation, San Diego, CA.

25. **Patro, J.** (2011). Leadership in occupational therapy: Self perceptions of occupational therapy managers. American Occupational Therapy Association, research paper presentation, Orlando, FL.
26. **Patro, J.** (2011). Leadership in occupational therapy: Self perceptions of occupational therapy managers. Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association, Erie, PA.
27. **Patro, J., & Chacon, M.** (2011). Management of renal patients. MossRehab Lecture Series, Philadelphia, PA.

Scholarly Focus

Cultural humility • academic leadership • interprofessional education • global health • occupational therapy workforce development • doctoral capstone education • health professions education • equity and access

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & TEACHING CREDENTIALS

ACUE New Leadership Fellow Program

Selected Fellow; anticipated completion June 2027

- A selective leadership development fellowship focused on preparing higher education leaders to drive institutional change, strengthen teaching and learning, and lead with evidence-based practices.

American Occupational Therapy Association Academic Leadership Institute

Completed 2023–2024

- Specialized national leadership development program for occupational therapy academic leaders, with emphasis on academic administration, faculty leadership, program development, and leadership effectiveness.

ACUE Certificate in Effective College Instruction

Earned January 2024

- Evidence-based credential in effective college teaching practices and student-centered instruction.

SELECTED HONORS, DISTINCTIONS & GRANTS

Distinguished Fellow, National Academies of Practice (NAP) , Occupational Therapy Academy Inducted in recognition of sustained leadership, scholarship, and contributions to interprofessional practice and health professions education.	2026
National Academies of Practice — Inducted Professional Member, Occupational Therapy Academy	2024
Brooklyn Home for Aged Men Grant, Monmouth University Collaborative on Aging — \$10,000	2021–2022
Brooklyn Home for Aged Men Grant, Monmouth University Collaborative on Aging — \$10,000	2020–2021
U.S. Public Health Service / Interprofessional Education Collaborative Award — Overall Winner, Interprofessional Approach to International Outreach Experiences	2020
Samson College Grant, University of the Sciences — Interprofessional Medical Mission Trip, Guatemala — \$2,000	2019
Clinical Excellence Award, Genesis Rehab Services	2010
Excellence in Occupational Therapy Award, The University of Scranton	2007

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP & SERVICE — MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), Standard III Committee — Co-Chair — Monmouth University	2023–Present
Graduate Studies Committee, University — Chair — Monmouth University	2022–2026
Graduate Studies Committee, University — Member — Monmouth University	2019–2026
Enrollment Committee, University — Chair — Monmouth University	2020–2021
Simulation Center Director Search Committee — Chair — Monmouth University	2020–2021
Interim Dean Search Committee — Member — Monmouth University	2021–2022
Associate Dean Search Committee — Member — Monmouth University	2021–2022
Simulation Center Director Search Committee — Member — Monmouth University	2022–2023
Occupational Therapy Doctoral Admission Committee — Monmouth University	2019–2026

Selected Faculty Search Leadership

- Specialist Professor, Physical Rehabilitation Experience
- Open-Rank Tenure-Track Professor
- Doctoral Capstone Coordinator / Specialist Professor
- Academic Fieldwork Coordinator / Specialist Professor

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

American Occupational Therapy Association — Awards and Recognition Committee	2024–Present
American Occupational Therapy Association — Academic Leadership Institute, Graduate	2023–2024
American Occupational Therapy Association — Academic Leadership Council	
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) — Roster of Accreditation Evaluators	

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- The Community’s Foundation — Scholarship Committee Member; DEI Committee Member.
- New Jersey Citizen’s Blind Association — Board of Trustees Member.
- Developed sustained international health professions education partnerships, including interdisciplinary educational programming and rehabilitation capacity-building initiatives in Vietnam and Guatemala.
- Created global learning and doctoral experiential opportunities designed around locally identified healthcare needs, interprofessional collaboration, cultural humility, and sustainable partnership development.

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Occupational Therapy Team Leader

Einstein Healthcare Network | Philadelphia, PA | May 2011–May 2013

- Led occupational therapy service delivery in a subacute setting, including evaluation, care planning, treatment, MDS reporting, labor management, and interdisciplinary discharge planning.

Program Manager

Genesis Rehab Services | Media, PA | July 2010–April 2011

- Managed OT, PT, and SLP services, therapist scheduling, quality assurance reporting, labor utilization, and interdisciplinary operational meetings.

Staff Occupational Therapist

Genesis Rehab Services | Media, PA | October 2008–June 2010

- Provided occupational therapy evaluation, intervention, discharge planning, home evaluation, and equipment recommendations.