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Background: Occupational therapy addresses an individual's desire to continue to live independent, healthy, and participate in the valued activities that sustain their quality of life. Driving is the most valued instrumental tasks of daily living (IADL) and people equate driving with independence, particularly in the case of older adults. Occupational therapists have been identified as the professional to evaluate and intervene with this critical IADL.

Research Interests: Translational (useful to practitioners) research between occupational therapists and driving research; Assessment and intervention in driving; Interactive driving simulators; Driving with autism; technology of vehicles.

Research skills: Mixed designs; experimental/quantitative studies; single subject designs in any area; Surveys; Descriptive studies; statistics.

Research Directions:

- ***Driving Bootcamp for Teens/Young Adults with Autism*** – this will be the fourth year of this driving bootcamp – and it keeps getting better and better! However, bootcamp will be the last week in July. May will be learning preparation, June will be evaluating the participants, and July will be preparing for the Bootcamp.
- ***Eye Tracking Technology*** – the newest piece of technology for the ROADI Driving Lab; Using eye tracking for measuring scanning and hazard detection on the simulator and with **night** driving. One current thesis student is comparing detection of the hazards of pedestrians with cellphones on the simulator and driving on road. A new thesis proposal is going to be doing a similar project with driving and hazard detection in the dark. Project students can be involved with that upcoming study.
- ***Interactive Driving Simulators***. At least two mornings a week, I am working with a Vidant therapist to evaluate older adults for fitness to drive. These are patients from outpatient/inpatient therapy or from the community who have to get evaluated for their driving. There are several potential projects that can be planned for this potential evaluation or intervention piece.