

**Faculty Member:** Lauren Turbeville, OTD, OTR/L

**Background:** North Carolina is ranked ninth in the country for the number of people affected by Parkinson's Disease, and eastern North Carolina is particularly challenged by a lack of access to specialized care. Parkinson's disease presents significant challenges to individuals in maintaining independence with activities of daily living, and occupational therapy plays an essential role in addressing functional impairments, promoting engagement in meaningful activities, and enhancing overall quality of life. Occupational therapy incorporates a holistic approach in the treatment of PD, addressing physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and environmental challenges faced by individuals with PD.

**Research Interests:** Access to care, quality of life, and the lived experience of individuals with Parkinson's disease in Eastern North Carolina

**Current Research Directions:**

- **Primary:** Psychosocial outcomes of a functional exercise program addressing motor and non-motor symptoms of PD.
- **Secondary:** Exploring the impact of handwriting difficulties on quality of life in individuals with PD.