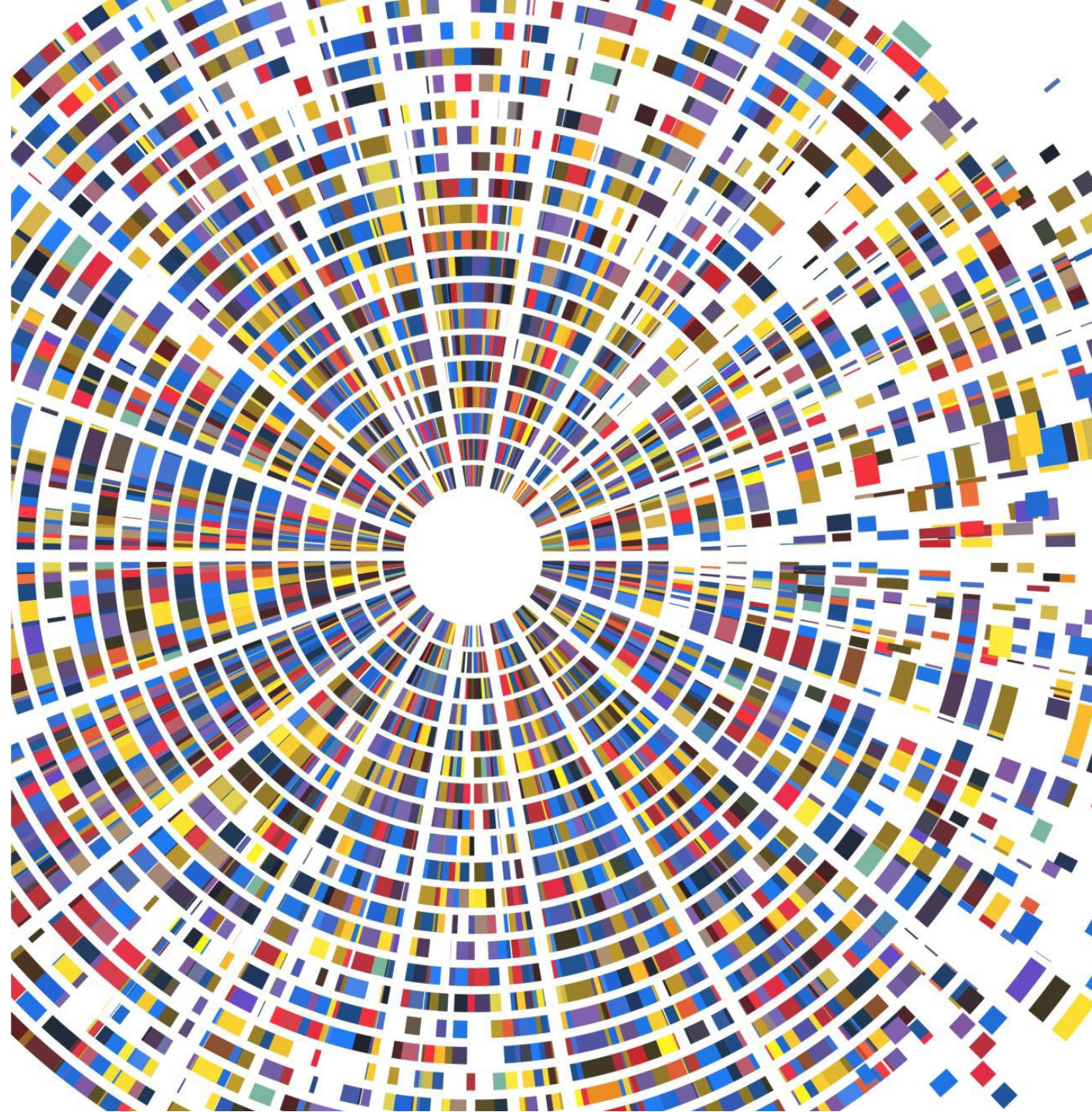

Positioning Cybersecurity as a Pillar of Safety in Occupational Therapy

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About the Authors

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 - EdD Candidate
 - 16 Year Experience as an OT
 - 2 U.S. Patents
- Jane Blanken-Webb, PhD
 - Associate Professor in the EdD program at Wilkes University
 - Philosopher of education with an interest in cybersecurity education

WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

OT redefines “occupation” to be everything you need to do to survive.

“Skills for the job of living” (AOTA)



Cybersecurity in Healthcare

- Electronic documentation is mandatory due to changes in HIPAA regulations. Social Security numbers
- Information now in electronic documentation includes:
 - Insurance/Medicare information
 - Addresses
 - Next of kin
 - Diagnoses
 - Age
 - Marital Status
 - Religion
 - Etc.
- Interdepartmental communication
- Safety of implanted devices



Expanding Role of Cybersecurity in Occupational Therapy

- Occupational therapy practitioners have the same responsibility for personal information as other healthcare professionals.
 - Access to patient records
 - Electronic Documentation
- Role of occupational therapy expands beyond that of other professionals through treatment
 - Online shopping, banking, and socialization, etc.
 - IoT, AI, etc.

American Occupational Therapy Association, "Occupational therapy profession: Scope of practice definitions," 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aota.org/-/media/corporate/files/secure/advocacy/licensure/stateregs/otregs/scope-of--practice-chart>

I. Margot-Cattin, A. Deblock-Bellamy, J. Wassmer, Ritchard Ledgerd, Claudia von Zweck, and N. World, "Worldwide Survey on Digital Assistive Technology (DAT) Provision," *Occupational Therapy International*, vol. 2024, pp. 1–7, Feb. 2024, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/9536020>.

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Occupational Therapy Role in Safety

S. Eckberg Zylstra, K. Erler, W. Nakamura, and B. Kennell, "Social Media as Occupation: Implications for Occupational Therapy Practice," *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 1-6, Apr. 2020, doi: <https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1670>.

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E. Fletcher, "Older adults hardest hit by tech support scams," Federal Trade Commission, Mar. 7, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/data-visualizations/data-spotlight/2019/03/older-adults-hardest-hit-tech-support-scams>.

- The primary goal of occupational therapy is independence, but safety can hinder attaining independence.
- As occupational therapy integrates digital technology in treatment and discharge recommendations, cyber safety becomes a new need to include in occupational therapy treatment
- Decrease the risk of fraud and cyberthreats to persons with decreased cognition.
 - Older Americans suffer an estimated \$650 million per year in damages due to fraud, scams, etc.

Curricular Gap in Occupational Therapy

- The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and the World Federation of Occupational Therapy recommend the integration of technology in occupational therapy education.
- Much of the research available focuses on 3D printing adaptive equipment, educational experiences, and hybrid education
- Gaps in the literature

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), "2018 Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Standards and Guidelines," July 31, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://acoteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2018-ACOTE-Standards.pdf>.

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P. Barnard-Ashton, "E-lecturer feedback of the inclusion of blended learning in undergraduate occupational therapy," *EDULEARN10 Proceedings*, pp. 492-499, 2010. [Online]. Available: <https://library.iated.org/view/BARNARDASHTON2010ELE>.

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T. Grant, Y. Thomas, P. Gossman, and L. Berragan, "The use of simulation in occupational therapy education: A scoping review," *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, vol. 68, no. 4, pp. 345-356, 2021.



Recommendations for Integration of Cybersecurity in Occupational Therapy Education and Practice

- Accreditation bodies and licensure requirements should address cybersecurity education.
- Fostering interdisciplinary networks between cybersecurity and occupational therapy professionals
- Professional associations should define and advocate for the role of cybersecurity in occupational therapy



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ANY QUESTIONS?