

Life History of Margo B. Holm, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, ABDA

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Introduction

- This life history is one of 30 life history interviews which are part of a larger project, *Histories of Individuals Who Have Been Influential in Developing Occupational Therapy (OT) at the National Level and Beyond*.
- The purpose of study is to provide current and future generations of occupational therapists a view of the history and how occupational therapy practice has evolved from its inception to current practice through the life history stories of occupational therapists who have held leadership roles at the national level and beyond. It is anticipated that the life history process will be a powerful way to gather this information.
- This life history of Dr. Margo Holm is a case study that examined her life as an OT practitioner, educator, and researcher.



"Show me the evidence." - Dr. Margo B. Holm

Timeline Literature Review

- In 1963 the Arts and crafts movement was ending and new areas of treatment appeared and there was an expansion in the literature to reflect this (Reed & Peters, 2007).
- In 1974 the Representative Assembly passed a resolution for AOTA to promote state licensure, leading to recognition by private payers, increase recognition in public programs and the creation of a legal definition of occupational therapy (Reed & Peters, p. 15, 2007).
- In 1986 the American Occupational Therapy Certification Board was created and later became known as the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (Reed & Peters, 2008)
- In 1992, AOTA separated from the American Medical Association and created the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (Reed & Peters, 2010).

Conclusions

- Dr. Margo B. Holm has demonstrated that it takes strong dedication as a practitioner, educator, and professional researcher in order to ensure that the occupational therapy profession stays relevant.
- Evidence-based practice is the key to defining the field of occupational therapy for recognition, reimbursement, and ensuring that practitioners provide the most up-to-date interventions.

Methodology

- This was a qualitative study using a life history approach.
- **Participant Selection:** The participant was selected from a participant list compiled through purposive sampling by the project directors. Informed consent was obtained prior to the interview and the project was approved by the UND Institutional Review Board and because of the study design the formal IRB process was waived.
- **Interview Schedule:** The semi-structured interview was guided by an interview schedule prepared by the project directors; the questions on the interview schedule were designed to be used with all the individuals interviewed as part of the larger project. The student researchers were allowed to modify or add interview questions as needed for each specific interview.
- There was a one-time interview which was recorded and was approximately one-hour in length.
- The interview took place via Zoom.
- The data collected consisted of an interview that was transcribed.
- The transcription was coded and from this, categories, themes and assertions were formed.

Description of Participant

- Dr. Margo B. Holm is currently professor emerita of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Dr. Margo B. Holm began her career as an occupational therapist after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1968.
- She then went on to graduate with her M.A. in 1977 from Pacific Lutheran University and then her PhD in 1980 from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- She continued to work in a clinical setting and then in an educational and research setting thereafter.
- Dr. Margo B. Holm states that she likes the field of occupational therapy due to being able to put her problem solving skills to good use.
- While in school, Dr. Margo B. Holm found her love for science and scientific writing. This is what inspired her to do research and work on improving the evidence behind the interventions for occupational therapy.
- Dr. Margo B. Holm has had a passion for research, especially in the areas of assessing the outcomes and functional status of clients receiving interventions in surgical, medical, psychiatric, and rehabilitation areas. She currently has 228 publications (University of Pittsburgh, 2019).
- She is the recipient of the Eleanor Clarke Slagle lectureship and the Award of Merit in 2000. Dr. Margo B. Holm lectured on the importance of evidence-based practice in keeping the field of OT relevant and alive as a profession.
- Over the years, Dr. Margo B. Holm has had an impact on the community, state, national, and international levels of OT with her research, knowledge, and passion.

Data Analysis

- For this study, the Kawa Model was used to guide the data analysis process in a chronological manner.
- This Kawa Model was chosen because it features the use of a natural metaphor of a river to describe a person's life journey, in this (Teoh & Iwama, 2015).
- The categories that emerged from the codes of the transcription are: motivations, education, and the OT profession.
- These categories were further analyzed to find themes that encompass Dr. Margo B. Holm's experiences within the field of occupational therapy.
- Themes from the category of motivation include:
 - Dr. Holm believes that everyone has their own form of motivation to drive them into action.
 - For Dr. Holm, finding a profession that matched her skill set, has driven her to excel in the field of occupational therapy.
 - Dr. Holm values giving credit where credit is due, especially recognizing team efforts.
 - Dr. Holm stands by her convictions, no matter the opinion of others.
- Themes from the category of education include:
 - Dr. Holm embraces education, both formal and informal settings and believes this enhances her personal and professional development.
 - Dr. Holm was an initial advocate for the use of evidence-based research as documented in her Slagle lecture.
 - Dr. Holm believes that in order for a profession to evolve and remain relevant, the educational demands must parallel changes in larger society.
- Themes from the category of the OT profession include:
 - In order to identify OT as a true health profession in front of legislation and reimbursement entities, Dr. Holm states it is important to use evidence-based practice.
 - Dr. Holm was instrumental in ensuring that OT was responsible for its own accreditation.
 - Dr. Holm's professional legacy illustrates her commitment to making changes in the OT profession at the state, national and international levels.
 - From these themes, two assertions were then formulated.

References

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