

ALISON LESSARD

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, SARGENT COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES

LEVEL 1 FIELDWORK MANAGER

May 2023–Current

- Fostered and maintained partnerships with local clinical partners and organizations, enhancing collaborative efforts through clear and effective communication.
- Collaborated with a diverse group of faculty, staff, and clinical educators to ensure students receive diverse experiential learning opportunities throughout their level 1 fieldwork experience.
- Created and executed simulated patient experiences to offer students valuable hands-on learning opportunities.

MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS | Charlestown, MA

Spring 2017 – Fall 2023

TERM LECTURER

- Teach interprofessional collaboration and core competencies, through team-based experiential learning, using simulated patients and debriefing to enhance readiness for safe, equitable, patient-centered care

MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS | Charlestown, MA

Fall 2019, 2020

LAB INSTRUCTOR

- Facilitated student simulations and debriefs to support application of effective communication skills and client-centered education with focus on building therapeutic rapport and learner-centered instruction

MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS | Charlestown, MA

Spring 2017

LAB INSTRUCTOR

- Fostered new learning and skill competency for Occupational Therapy students developing assessment skill, critical thinking for treatment interventions, ADL modifications and professional reasoning
 - OT771: Occupational Therapy in Physical Dysfunction

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Katz, L., **Lessard, A.**, Stewart, K., & Pontes, T. (2024, April). *A safe place is a great place to learn: Developing clinical and professional reasoning skills through simulation and active debrief.* Poster presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Expo, Kansas City, MO.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND CLINICAL COMPETENCE

SPAULDING REHABILITATION HOSPITAL | Charlestown, MA

January 2017 – May 2023

ADVANCED CLINICIAN

- Specialized in treating patients within the neurology and comprehensive rehabilitation program, including stroke, multi-trauma, surgical, orthopedic, burn, spinal cord, and amputees
- Coordinated and delivered education and discharge instructions to patients and their families to ensure safe discharges and promote functional independence after rehabilitation.
- Led the 'Patient Family Advisory Council' to enhance the patient experience across multiple hospital services
- Directed safe patient handling training for new staff and nurses, focusing on hands-on practice and competence
- Facilitated weekly Occupational Therapy groups, stroke education groups and support groups
- Communicated across a multi-disciplinary team to provide updated patient progress and plan of care
- Supervised Level I and Level II Fieldwork Students, creating teaching plans to foster safe and effective therapy interventions grounded in occupation and evidence-based practice
- Advised and mentored Northeastern University Coop students through orientation and patient-care training
- Instructed and certified staff in neuromuscular electrical stimulation, fluidotherapy, paraffin, and therapeutic taping
- Designed rehabilitation strategies to enhance patient outcomes, including specialized aquatic therapy interventions
- Lead in-service sessions and academic literature reviews to expand knowledge and competence amongst staff

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL | London, England

January 2015 – December 2016

TEAM LEAD

- Built and executed treatment plans for a medically complex caseload across the critical care and surgical wards
- Managed new graduate therapists and Therapy Assistants with regular clinical supervision and evaluations
- Grew staff competencies through personalized individual development plans and induction programs

- Developed a concise and informative OT handover plan to improve interdisciplinary communication
- Built a hospital-wide referral checklist to improve accuracy and appropriateness of therapy referral.
- Established 'best interest meetings' to coordinate discharge plans for medically complex patients, identifying limitations, and promoting patient success
- Coordinated with community organizations to ensure patients are safely discharged with appropriate care
- Completed hospital-based rotations – demonstrating competences within the emergency room, trauma hand therapy, medical assessment unit, surgical, medical, elderly care and respiratory
- Developed a therapy service prioritization tool and rotational therapy reference guide

STEWART HEALTH CARE - NEW ENGLAND SINAI HOSPITAL | Stoughton, MA

November 2011 -December 2014

CLINICIAN

- Managed in-patient and out-patient duties across three facilities - maintaining high productivity standards
- Evaluated and treated a medically complex caseload of cardiopulmonary, orthopedic, surgical, neurological and respiratory diagnoses, including patients requiring mechanical ventilation
- Recognized on patient surveys for compassionate, skillful and professional care

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE

- Masters of Occupational Therapy, 2011
- Bachelors of Occupational Science, 2010

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- American Occupational Therapy Association 2006 - Present
- Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association 2022 - Present
- *Partners in Excellence* award winner - Spaulding Rehabilitation 2019

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (Certification #288369)
2011 - Present

LICENSED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts (License #101456)
2011 - Present

