

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jessie Franco, OT, OTD, OTR

jfranco@bu.edu

EDUCATION

- 2022 **Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD), Post-Professional**
MGH Institute of Health Professions, Charlestown, MA
Doctoral Project: In the ICU with Jessie Franco: Training Competent Neuro ICU Occupational Therapists
Supporting website: www.intheICUwithJessie.com
- 2018 **Certificate in Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation**
Tufts University, Medford, MA
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2012 **Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)**
Boston University, Boston, MA
College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Sargent College
Thesis: The effect of the Nintendo Wii Fit and exercise in improving balance and quality of life in community dwelling elders
- 2009 **Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (BS)**
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
College of Health Sciences

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES: Teaching

- 2025-Present **Boston University**, College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Sargent College
Lecturer, Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Program
- 2024 **Regis College**, School of Health Sciences, Department of Occupational Therapy
Adjunct Lecturer, Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy Program
- 2023 **Boston University**, College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Sargent College
Adjunct Lecturer, Bachelor of Science in Behavior and Health (BSBH) Program
- 2022 **Salem State University**, Maguire Meservey College of Health and Human Services,
Department of Occupational Therapy
Adjunct Lecturer, BS/MS Bridge and Direct-Entry Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy Programs
- 2022-2025 **MGH Institute of Health Professions**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences,
Department of Occupational Therapy
Adjunct Lecturer and Lab Instructor, Entry-Level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Program
Teaching Fellow, Post-Professional OTD and SLP-D Program
- 2013-2024 **Fieldwork Supervisor**
Level I & Level II OT students

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES: Clinical

- 2016-Present **Brigham and Women's Hospital**, Boston, MA
Senior Occupational Therapist (full-time 2018-2022; part-time 2022-2024; per diem 2025-current)
Lead Burn Occupational Therapist (2022-2024)
Lead Occupational Therapist (2018-2022)
Staff Occupational Therapist (2016-2018)
- Conduct skilled occupational therapy evaluations and assist with discharge planning across several patient care populations including burn/trauma, neurology, medicine, oncology, cardiac, and orthopedics
 - Established orientation initiative to educate therapists to the Neuro ICU setting
 - Orient and mentor new occupational therapy staff members
 - Supervise and educate Level I and Level II Occupational Therapy students
- 2013-2016 **Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital**, Boston, MA
Occupational Therapist - Per Diem Float
- Completed evaluations and led treatment sessions with different patient populations including SCI, TBI, Comprehensive Medicine, and Neurology
- 2012-2016 **Hebrew Rehabilitation Center**, Boston, MA
Occupational Therapist - Rehabilitative Services Unit and Medical Acute Care Unit
- Conducted skilled occupational therapy evaluations for patients in both short-term rehabilitation and long-term acute care setting
 - Supervised Level I and Level II Occupational Therapy students
- 2012-2013 **Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital**, Brockton, MA
Occupational Therapist - Transitional Care Unit and Acute Care Units
- Conduct skilled occupational therapy evaluations and plan treatment sessions in both the acute care hospital setting and short-term rehabilitation setting
 - Provide supervision to certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES: Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

A. Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Deng, H., Vu, K. Q., **Franco, J. R.**, Shepler, L. J., Abouzeid, C. A., Hamner, J. W., Mercier, H. W., Taylor, J. A., Kazis, L. E., Slavin, M. D., Ryan, C. M., & Schneider, J. C. (2023). Digital interventions for social participation in adults with long-term physical conditions: A systematic review. *Journal of Medical Systems*, 47(1), Article 26. doi.org/10.1007/s10916-023-01914-7
- Franco, J.**, Jacobs, K., Inzerillo, C., & Kluzik, J. (2012). The effect of the Nintendo Wii Fit and exercise in improving balance and quality of life in community dwelling elders. *Technology and Health Care*, 20, 95-115. doi.org/10.3233/THC-2011-0661
- Jacobs, K., Zhu, L., Dawes, M., Huggins, A., **Franco, J.**, Igari, C., Ranta, B., & Umez-Eronini, A. (2011). Wii Health: A pilot study of the health and wellness benefits of Wii Fit on university students. *The British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74, 262-268. doi.org/10.4276/030802211X13074383957823

PRESENTATIONS

A. Peer-Reviewed Presentations (workshops, institutes, short courses)

Fischer-Camara, B., Suman, M., **Franco, J.**, Gateley, C., Zylstra, S., & Myers, C. (2026). *Building Your Career: Create an Individualized Plan to Establish, Change, or Advance Your Practice* [Workshop]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Anaheim, CA. April 23, 2026.

Suman, M., Romeo, C., **Franco, J. R.**, & Rumery, E. (2024). *Making Your Mark as an OT Practitioner: Planning Your Next 5 Years* [Short Course]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Orlando, FL. March 23, 2024.

Luper, A. & **Franco, J.** (2024). *OT in the ICU: How to Increase Our Role and Ensure a Seat at the Table* [Workshop]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Orlando, FL. March 22, 2024.

Franco, J. R. & Cohen, L. (2024). *Increasing Student Success in Acute Care: Development and Impact of An Acute Care Elective for Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Education* [Short Course]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Orlando, FL. March 21, 2024.

Franco, J. R. & Cohen, L. (2023). *OT In Acute Care: How to be prepared* [Short Course]. Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Norwood, MA. November 3, 2023.

Rioux, J., Suman, M., McCurry, V., **Franco, J.**, & Brown, M. (2023). *Discovering the Commission on Continuing Competence & Professional Development* [Meeting]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Kansas City, MO. April 21, 2023.

Franco, J. & Cohen, L. (2023). *Acute Care Bootcamp: What occupational therapists need to know for the hospital setting* [Short Course]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Kansas City, MO. April 20, 2023.

Goldstein, J. & **Franco, J.** (2011). Wii-Habilitation workshop. Boston University, Boston, MA. March 26, 2011.

B. Peer-Reviewed Poster Presentations

Franco, J. R. & Cohen, L. R. (2026). *Enhancing Preparedness for Acute Care Fieldwork: Insights from an Innovative Elective Course*. [Poster Session]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Anaheim, CA. April 24, 2026.

Franco, J. R. & Ellis, K. (2023). *Preparing Occupational Therapists for the Neurology ICU: A Case Study* [Poster session]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, Kansas City, MO. April 21, 2023.

Franco, J. R. & Ellis, K. (2022). *Using Online Learning and Structured Mentorship to Prepare Occupational Therapists for the Neurology ICU: A Case Study* [Poster session]. Johns Hopkins Critical Care Rehabilitation Conference, Virtual. November 4, 2022.

Franco, J. R. & Ellis, K. (2022). *Utilizing Online Learning and Structured Mentorship to Prepare Occupational Therapists for the Neuro ICU: An Innovative Case Study* [Poster session]. Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Norwood, MA. October 28, 2022.

Deng, H., Vu, K. Q., **Franco, J. R.**, Shepler, L. J., Abouzeid, C. A., Hamner, J. W., Mercier, H. W., Taylor, J. A., Kazis, L. E., Slavin, M. D., Ryan, C. M., & Schneider, J. C. (2022). *Digital Interventions for Social Participation in Adults with Long-term Physical Conditions: A Systematic Review* [Poster session]. American Burn Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April 2022. (accepted)

Franco, J. (2022). *Addressing the lack of occupational therapy inclusion in the ICU: An innovative approach to increasing our role* [Poster session]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE National Conference, San Antonio, TX. April 2, 2022.

Franco, J. (2021). *Addressing the lack of occupational therapy inclusion in the ICU: An innovative approach to increasing our role* [Poster session]. Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Virtual. October 28, 2021.

Jacobs, K., Zhu, L., Dawes, M., Huggins, A., **Franco, J.**, Igari, C., Ranta, B., & Umez-Eronini, A. (2011). *Wii Health: A pilot study of the health and wellness benefits of Wii Fit on university students* [Poster session]. American Occupational Therapy Association conference, Philadelphia, PA. April 12, 2011. (accepted)

Jacobs, K., Zhu, L., Dawes, M., Huggins, A., **Franco, J.**, Igari, C., Ranta, B., & Umez-Eronini, A. (2010). *Wii Fit: Health & wellness benefits for university freshmen* [Poster session]. Massachusetts Association of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Norwood, MA. October 29, 2010.

C. Invited Presentations (guest lectures, in-services, meetings, etc.)

Franco, J. (2026). *Spinal cord injury: Recovery, rehabilitation, & living with SCI*. Guest lecture for Boston University behavior & health degree program (HP 321: Health Conditions), Boston, MA. February 18, 2026.

Franco, J. (2025). *Spinal cord injury: Recovery, rehabilitation, & living with SCI*. Guest lecture for Boston University behavior & health degree program (HP 321: Health Conditions), Boston, MA. October 8, 2025.

Franco, J. (2023). *Splinting in acute care*. Guest lecture for Stonehill College health science degree program (HSC230-A: Topics in Health Science: Foundations for Occupational Therapy), Virtual. October 17, 2023.

Craven, C. & **Franco, J.** (2023). *OT in acute care – Best practice and how to be prepared*. Presentation for the International Interprofessional Mentorship Program, Virtual, July 20, 2023.

Franco, J. (2023). *Innovation in acute care*. Presentation for MGH Institute of Health Professions Slice of Learning webinar series, Virtual. June 13, 2023.

Franco, J. (2023). *Occupational therapy, burns, & rehab implications*. Guest lecture for Colorado Mesa University entry-level master's occupational therapy program (OCCU 523: Occupation-Based Practice & Theory Adults II), Virtual. June 9, 2023.

Franco, J. (2023). *Therapy in the ICU: Best practice and how to be prepared*. Presentation for UNC Critical Care Special Interest Group, Virtual. May 23, 2023.

- Franco, J.** (2022). *OT in the ICU: Enhancing our role*. Presentation for MAOT Acute Care Special Interest Group, Virtual. July 6, 2022.
- Franco, J.** (2022). *Neurocognitive disorders*. Guest lecture for MGH IHP entry-level doctoral occupational therapy program (OT870: Cognition, Perception, and Occupation throughout the Lifespan), Virtual. March 30, 2022.
- Franco, J.** (2022). *COVID and cognition*. Guest lecture for MGH IHP entry-level doctoral occupational therapy program (OT870: Cognition, Perception, and Occupation throughout the Lifespan), Boston, MA. March 9, 2022.
- Franco, J.** (2021). *Cerebrovascular accident*. Guest lecture for Regis College entry-level masters occupational therapy program (OTH 612: OT Practice in Physical Dysfunction), Weston, MA. October 30, 2021.
- Franco, J.** (2019-2022). *Role of occupational therapy on the neurosurgery service*. Presentation for BWH Neurosurgery PGY-1 Orientation, Boston, MA. Presented annually in June.
- Polich, G., Iracheta, C., **Franco, J.**, & Dunlea, K. (2019). *Functional neurological disorder*. Presentation at BWH Rehabilitation Grand Rounds, Boston, MA. December 18, 2019.
- Franco, J.** (2018). *Vision*. Presentation at BWH Neurology Special Interest Group, Boston, MA. June 27, 2018
- Franco, J.** (2015). *Innovative treatments for the hand, wrist, and elbow*. In service presentation at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Roslindale, MA. November 12, 2015.
- Franco, J.** (2015). *Fundamentals of the Neuro-Developmental Treatment approach*. In service presentation at Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Roslindale, MA. August 13, 2015.

SERVICE: Brigham & Women’s Hospital
 2018-2024 Heart and Science Editorial Board, Member
 2017-2024 Practice Standard Committee, Member
 2017-2021 Rehab Recognition Committee, Member

SERVICE: American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
 2022-Current Commission on Continuing Competence, Member

SERVICE: Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy (MAOT)
 2019-Current Acute Care Special Interest Group, Member

SERVICE: MGH Institute of Health Professions
 2022-2025 PP-OTD Alumni Committee, Co-chair, Founding Member
 2021 MGH Institute of Health Professions Occupational Therapy Center for Learning, Rehabilitation, and Participation (OT CLiPR) Consultant Adult Client Recruitment Quality Improvement Project

- As part of a PP-OTD course, participated in a consulting project to improve adult client recruitment for a pro bono outpatient clinic at the MGH IHP OT CLiPR.
- Applied quality improvement frameworks and methodologies to analyze primary and secondary data sources, visualize results, and present strategic recommendations to stakeholders

SERVICE: Community
2018-2022 Friends of the Esplanade
2006-2009 Sigma Delta Tau

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

2022-Present IHI Certificate in Quality & Safety
2021-Present CITI Program Certification, Record ID #71796161
2020 Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
2017 Certification in Neuro-Developmental Treatment, Recovering Function RPSF
2012-Present Licensed Occupational Therapist, Massachusetts, #10646
2012-Present Registered Occupational Therapist, #296240
National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)
2012-Present Basic Life Support (BLS) for Health Care Providers, American Heart Association

TEACHING: BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Courses Taught EL-OTD Program

Spring 2026 Functional Movement (OT526)
Skills for Occupation-Based Practice II (OT565, Co-Instructor)
Neuroscience for Occupational Therapy Lab (OT556, Instructor)
Fall 2025 Skills for Occupation-Based Practice I (OT564, Co-Instructor)
Integrative Seminar III (OT502, Simulation Instructor)
Spring 2025 Assistive Technology (OT538, Co-Instructor)
Skills for Occupation-Based Practice II (OT565, Co-Instructor)
Neuroscience for Occupational Therapy Lab (OT556, Co-Instructor)

Courses Taught Bachelor of Science in Behavior and Health (BSBH) Program

Spring 2023 Health and Disability Across the Lifespan (HP252)

TEACHING: MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Courses Taught PP-OTD and SLP-D Program

Spring 2025 Implementation Science (OT/CS889, Teaching Fellow)
Fall 2024 Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation in the Health Professions (OH/CS888, Teaching Fellow)
Spring 2024 Implementation Science (OT/CS889, Teaching Fellow)
Spring 2023 Implementation Science (OT/CS889, Teaching Fellow)
Summer 2022 Leadership in Interprofessional Teams (OH 885, Teaching Fellow)

Courses Taught EL-OTD Program

Fall 2024 Movement, Context, and Occupational Performance (OT603, Lab Instructor)
Summer 2024 OT Practice in Acute Care (OT890, Co-Instructor)
Fall 2023 Movement, Context, and Occupational Performance (OT603, Lab Instructor)
Summer 2023 OT Practice in Acute Care (OT890, Co-Instructor)
Fall 2022 Movement, Context, and Occupational Performance (OT603, Lab Instructor)
Fall 2022 IMPACT 1 - Interprofessional Practice (HP818, Facilitator – intermittent coverage)

Course Development – EL-OTD Program

2023 OT Practice in Acute Care (OT 890, Co-Developer)

TEACHING: REGIS COLLEGE

Courses Taught

Spring 2024 OT Practice in Psychosocial Dysfunction (OTH608)
Spring 2024 OT Practice in Psychosocial Dysfunction, Lab (OTH608X)

TEACHING: SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

Courses Taught

Fall 2022 Perceptual and Cognitive Disabilities (OCT804/404)

TEACHING: AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Course Development

2022-2023 Documentation Considerations for Acute Care: Optimizing Your Patient Evaluation Process and Progress (Acute Care Certification, co-developer)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2024-Present Member, American Burn Association (ABA)
2021-Present Member, Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy (MAOT)
2020-Present Member, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
2018-Present Member, Friends of the Esplanade Council
2012-Present Registered, National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapists (NBCOT)
2008-2009 Risk Manager, Sigma Delta Tau, Alpha Beta Chapter
2007-2008 Chapter President, Sigma Delta Tau, Alpha Beta Chapter
2007 Chapter Vice President, Sigma Delta Tau, Alpha Beta Chapter

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

2006 Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society
2007 National Society of Collegiate Scholars
2007 National Society of Success and Leadership—Sigma Alpha Pi
2007 Order of Omega National Honor Society