CURRICULUM VITAE

Megan (Witte) Bewernitz, Ph.D., OTR/L (904) 256-8918 Email: mbewern@ju.edu

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, August 2008 Rehabilitation Science Doctoral Program University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, Network for Bio-behavioral and Social Research and Training in Aging, University of Florida Dissertation Title: Feasibility of Machine Delivered Prompting for People with Alzheimer's Disease

Bachelor of Science, *summa cum laude*, May 2002 College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE Major: Occupational Therapy Minor: Psychology

Academic Appointments

Jacksonville University Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program, School of Applied Health Sciences, Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL

Assistant Professor June 2017- present

San Jose State University Occupational Therapy Department, College of Applied Arts and Sciences, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

Lecturer January, 2016- May, 2017

Advanced Post- Professional Program in Clinical Investigation (APPCI), College of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Post-Doctoral Fellowship June 2009- November 2009

University of Florida Occupational Therapy Department, College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Post-Doctoral Associate, 2008-2009 University of Florida Network for Biobehavioral and Social Research in Aging: National Institute on Aging (NIA) Pre-doctoral Training Program (T32) Fellowship Aging Training Pre-Doctoral Fellow August 23, 2007- August 23, 2008

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Graduate Research Assistant January 2003- August 2007

University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Visiting Academic, January 2004- June 2004 Research Assistant with the Home Modifications and Maintenance Information Clearinghouse January 2004- June 2004

Teaching Experience

Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program, School of Applied Health Sciences, Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences, Jacksonville, FL

OTD 681: Guided Research II, Spring 2020, Spring 2021 OTD 680: Guided Research I, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 OTD 655: Geriatric Theory and Practice in OT, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 OTD 590: Introduction to Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Science Theory, Summer 2018, Summer 2020 OTD 601: Occupational Performance Assessment and Evaluation, Fall 2018 OTD 650: Health Promotion, Wellness, and Participation in OT, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 OTD 660: Principles of Research in OT, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021 OTD 661: Evidence-Based Practice and Translational Research in OT, Summer 2019, Summer 2020 OTD 770: Elective – Advanced and Emerging Practice Skills- Chronic Disease Management in Older Adulthood, Spring 2020, 2021 OTD 771: Professional Seminar in OT I, Summer 2020 OTD 772: Professional Seminar in OT II, Fall 2020 OTD 791: Professional Development Seminar for OT, Spring 2021

Occupational Therapy Department, College of Applied Arts and Sciences, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA

OTCH 266: OT and Older Adults, Spring 2017

OTCH 224: OT in Community Practice I, Spring 2016, Spring 2017 OCTH 201B: Advanced Level II Fieldwork, Fall 2016

Occupational Therapy Department, College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

HSC 4770: Bachelor of Health Science Honors Thesis Research Honors Seminar Thesis Advisor, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
OTH 5115: Therapeutic Skills II, Adult and Senior Areas of Occupation, Fall 2007, 2008, 2009
OTH 6636: Principles of OT Screening and Evaluation II, Adults and Seniors, Fall 2009
OTH 6642: Occupational Therapy Interventions II, Fall 2009
HSC 3801: Clinical Observation Mentor, Summer, 2006, 2007
OTH 3201: Human Development II, Fall, 2005, Spring, 2006, Spring 2007,
OTH 6642: Assessment and Intervention in Occupational Therapy II, Fall 2006
OTH 5324: Psychosocial Intervention, Spring, 2006
Clinical Supervisor at Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Spring 2006.
OTH 5002: Foundations of Occupational Therapy, Summer 2005.
supervised teaching experience as part of RSD 6900: College Classroom: Teaching Process and Practice

Clinical Experience

Orthopaedic and Neurological Rehabilitation (ONR), Inc. at Our Lady of Fatima Villa, Saratoga, CA (August, 2016- May, 2017)

Genesis Rehabilitation at Our Lady of Fatima Villa, Saratoga, CA (May 2013- January 2016)

Maderi Caretenders/APEX Homehealth, Gainesville, FL (October 2010- December 2012)

Amedisys Housecall Home Health, Inc., Gainesville, FL (June 2009- September 2010)

Oak Hammock at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (October 2004- July 2008)

Special Communications Contract Therapist to Alachua and Marion County School District, FL (April 2007- June 1, 2007) Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln, NE (July 2002- December 2002)

Original Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Darawsheh, W.B., Tabbaa, S., **Bewernitz, M**. & Justiss, M. (2021). Resettlement experiences of Syrian refugees in the United States: Policy challenges and directions. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*. <u>https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-021-00855-9</u>
- **Bewernitz, M**.(2019).Optimal wellness through participation: The importance of partnerships outside the therapy world. *Annals of Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy, 2* (4): 000134.
- Classen, S., Levy, C., Meyer, D., Bewernitz, M., Lanford, D.N., Mann, W.C. (2011). Simulated driving performance of returning combat veterans with MTBI: A pilot study. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, (65), 419-427.
- Classen, S., Bewernitz, M., & Shechtman, O. (2011). Driving simulator sickness: An evidenced based review of literature. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, (65), 179-188.
- Witte-Bewernitz, M., Mann, W., & Belchior, P. (2009). The feasibility of machine-based prompting to assist persons with dementia. *Assistive Technology*, *21*(4), 196-207.

Published Abstracts

- Bewernitz, M., & Freiberger, C., (2019). Participants' Perceptions of a Community-based dance program, *Innovation in Aging*, *3*, (Supplement_1), S142–S143, https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igz038.515
- Brown, S., Bewernitz, M., Summers, L. Investigation of Testimonials From Participants in an Adaptive Sports & Recreation Program. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 74(4_Supplement_1):7411505111. https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S1-PO2404
- Witte, M. Response of People with Alzheimer's Disease to a Commercially Available Prompting Device. International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence Proceedings, St. Petersburg, FL, February 21, 2008.
- Witte, M. Research and Development at the Gator-Tech Smart House. International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence Proceedings, St. Petersburg, FL, February 4, 2006.
- McCarthy, D. & Witte, M. Law Enforcement and the Older Driver: A Lack of Policies, Procedures, and Resources. *International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence Proceedings*, St. Petersburg, FL, February 4, 2006.

Mann, **Witte**, Justiss, Casson, Tomita, and Wu. Functional Status Needs of Frail Elders in Relation to Utilization of Home Services. *International Conference on Aging*, *Disability and Independence Proceedings*, Washington, D.C., December 5, 2003.

Non-Refereed Publications

Reports

Ried, D.L., DeLeon, J.M., Cameon, R., **Witte, M**., & Edwards, A. (2005). Formative Evaluation of an INR Home Monitoring Program in the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network. Veteran's Administration Report.

Book Chapters

- Loomis, J., Freytes, M., & **Witte, M**. (2006). e-health innovations: internet base caregiver education and support. In *Promoting Independence for older persons with disabilities: selected papers from the 2006 International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence,* Mann, W.C & Helal, A. Eds., IOS Press, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Witte, M. (2005). Injury Prevention. In *State of the Science of Smart Technology,* Mann, W.C. editor, Wiley & Sons, Inc, Indianapolis, IN.

Featured Articles

Lin, S., **Witte, M**., Belchior, P. & Mann, W. (2005). Home safety and modification for older adults with visual impairment. *Aging & Vision*, *17(1)*, 4-6.

Conference Presentations

- Brown, S., **Bewernitz, M**., Krauss, A. & Summers, L. Investigation of Testimonials From Participants in an Adaptive Sports & Recreation Program. American Occupational Therapy Association Ignite Virtual Conference. April 21, 2021. (poster)
- Foster, A., Rinthara, P., Thompson, T., Hyman, M., & Bewernitz, M. Social Skills Interventions for Children with Acquired Brain Injuries. Florida Occupational Therapy Association 2020 Virtual Conference, Orlando, FL, United States, November 14, 2020.(poster)
- Lane, M., Wagner, B., Gicalone, A. & Bewernitz, M. The Role of Occupational Therapy in Concussion Management. Florida Occupational Therapy Association 2020 Virtual Conference, Orlando, FL, United States, November 14, 2020. (poster)
- Ferlanie, T., Orr, S., & Bewernitz, M. Re-Defining Treatment of Pediatric Dysgraphia: Promoting Research of Combined Sensorimotor and Cognitive Interventions. Florida Occupational Therapy Association 2020 Virtual Conference, Orlando, FL, United States, November 15, 2020. (poster)

- Brown, S., Bewernitz, M., Summers, L. Investigation of Testimonials From Participants in an Adaptive Sports & Recreation Program. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Expo, Boston, MA, March 26, 2020. (poster) Cancelled due to COVID.
- Reiter, N., Jones, B., Mills, A., Vargas, A., & **Bewernitz, M**. In children with selective feeding disorders, do oral motor exercises increase variety, texture and volume when combined with sensory interventions? Florida Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, November 16, 2019. (poster)
- Norris, S., Lyons, E., Nguyen, T., & **Bewernitz, M**. Hand replantation rehabilitation protocols for optimal functional outcomes. Florida Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, November 16, 2019. (poster)
- Auer, S., Price, M., Whitley, B., Vargas, A., & Bewernitz, M. Behavioral Interventions for Oral Intake in Pediatrics. Florida Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, November 16, 2019. (poster)
- Corbett, E., Herrera, J., Page, B., LaRosa, S., & **Bewernitz, M**. Reduced Contrast Sensitivity and Driving Performance for Drivers 55+: A Literature Review. Florida Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, November 17, 2019. (poster)
- **Bewernitz, M**. & Coble, C. Participants' Perceptions of a Community-Based Dance Program. Gerontological Society of America 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting, Austin, TX, November 14, 2019. (poster)
- **Bewernitz, M.** & Hizer, K. Participants' Perceptions of a Community Based Dance Program. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Expo, New Orleans, LA, April, 4, 2019. (poster)
- Bewernitz, M. & Hizer, K. Foundational Concepts and Pilot Study Results of Dance for Parkinson's. 2018 Florida Conference on Aging. Tampa, FL. August 13th, 2018. (workshop)
- Bewernitz, M. & Hizer, K. Exploring the Influence of Dance for Parkinson's Disease on Cognition and Functional Mobility. Jacksonville University Symposium, Jacksonville, FL. March 29th, 2018. (poster)
- Bewernitz, M. & Hizer, K. Exploring the Influence of Dance for Parkinson's Disease on Cognition and Functional Mobility. National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Edmond, OK. April 6, 2018. (poster)
- Mann, W., Witte-Bewernitz, M., & Johnson, J. Applying Smart Technology to the Needs of Adults and Elders with Disabilities. American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Expo, Houston, TX, April 23, 2009. (workshop)
- Witte, M. Testing of an Electronic Prompting Device to Promote Independence in Daily Activities for People with Alzheimer's Disease. Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD, November 23, 2008. (poster)
- Witte, M. Feasibility of Machine-Delivered Prompting for People with Dementia: A Pilot Study. Southern Gerontological Society Annual Meeting, April 19, 2008. (poster)

- Witte, M. Response of People with Alzheimer's Disease to a Commercially Available Prompting Device. International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence, St. Petersburg, FL, February, 21, 2008. (poster)
- Rowe, M. & **Witte, M**. Use of a Home Monitoring System to Improve Sleep in Caregivers. Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, November 17, 2006. (poster)
- Bendixen, R. & Witte, M. OT Participation in Consumer Information Dissemination & Support: The University of Florida AlzOnline Project. American Occupational Therapy Association, April 29, 2006. (poster)
- Witte, M. Research and Development at the Gator-Tech Smart House. International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence, St. Petersburg, FL, February 4, 2006.
- McCarthy, D. & Witte, M. Law Enforcement and the Older Driver: A Lack of Policies, Procedures, and Resources. International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence, St. Petersburg, FL, February 4, 2006.
- Mann, W.C., Dasler, P., Belchior, P.C., & Witte, M. Context-aware Technology to Help People with Dementia to be More Independent. Rehabilitation Research Day, University of Florida, the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, May 3, 2005. (poster)
- Dasler, P.J., Mann, W.C., **Witte, M.**, & Belchior, P. Technologically Delivered Cognitive Assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America Conference, Orlando, FL, June 20, 2004.
- Bridge, C., Phibbs, P., Cameron, J. & **Witte, M**. (2004). HMMinfo Clearinghouse Uptake and Potential. State Conference on NSW Home Modification and Maintenance Services. (3-4 May). Coffs Harbour, Australia.
- Cameron, J., Bridge, C. & Phibbs, P. (2004). Introduction to the HMMinfo Clearinghouse. Southeast Sydney Regional Organization of Councils Access Forum. Sydney, Australia.
- Mann, **Witte**, Justiss, Casson, Tomita, and Wu. Functional Status Needs of Frail Elders in Relation to Utilization of Home Services. International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, Washington, D.C., December 5, 2003.

Invited Lectures

- **Bewernitz, M.** Dance for People with Parkinson's Disease. Adaptive Living Skills Lab, Florida State College of Jacksonville, June 11, 2019
- **Bewernitz, M.** Dance for Special Populations. Dance Wellness Course, Jacksonville University, April, 19, 2019.
- **Bewernitz, M.** Occupational Therapy. Acting for Health Sciences Course, Jacksonville University, January 24^t, 2019
- **Bewernitz, M.** Exploring age-related changes for people with intellectual and developmental differences. Interagency Staff Training for the ARC Jacksonville. University of North Florida, March 19, 2018.

Bewernitz, M. OT's Role in the Community: Exploring opportunities in this Emerging Area of Practice. Jacksonville Occupational Therapy Forum, February 7th, 2018.

- **Bewernitz, M.** Telehealth: A discussion of this emerging delivery system in OT. San Jose State University Occupational Therapy Faculty, February 3rd, 2017.
- **Bewernitz, M.** Adaptive Equipment, DME, Home Modifications, and Resources for the Older Adult Population. Occupational Therapy and the Older Adult course, San Jose State University, March 20th, 2016.
- Witte, M. Home Safety. Healthy Aging Summit, November 18th, 2008.
- Witte, M. Leisure Activities. Alzheimer's Association Support Group, October 23rd, 2007.
- Witte, M. & Woodbury, M. What is Occupational Therapy? Our Past, Present, and Future. Rehabilitation Science Theory class, October 9, 2007.
- Witte, M. Home Safety Tips and Techniques. Elder Care of Alachua County and Shands HomeCare Workshop: Memory Changes and Care, June 8, 2007.
- Waid- Ebbs, K. & Witte, M. Single Subject Design. Research Methods and Issues in Health Science. February 15, 2007.
- Hubbard, S., Bendixen, R., & **Witte, M.** Implementing Assistive Technology or Home Modifications for Individuals Living with Chronic Disease. First Annual Clinical Fieldwork Educators "Thank You" Workshop, November 3, 2006.
- **Witte, M**. & Woodbury, M. What is Occupational Therapy? The Whats, Whens, Whys, and Hows of OT. Rehabilitation Science Theory class, October 10, 2006.
- Hubbard, S., Witte, M., & Bendixen. Occupational Therapy for Adults with Chronic Disease. The Myositis Association (TMA) Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, September 1, 2006.
- Witte, M. Home Modifications and Safety for People with Dementia. Alzheimer's Association Support Group, August, 15, 2006.
- Witte, M. (2006). Occupational Therapy and Fall Prevention. University of Florida College of Pharmacy: Geriatric Drug Use and Long-term Care Class. (recorded and posted for continued use on-line)
- Witte, M. & Bendixen, R. (April 5, 2005). Occupational Therapy and Fall Prevention. University of Florida College of Pharmacy: Geriatric Drug Use and Long-term Care Class.
- Witte, M. & Belchior, P. Smart Technology. Elder Housing Conference, Jacksonville, FL, November 12, 2004.
- Witte, M. (2004). Exploring International Exchange. Campus wide Forum with Katy Bridge and Jane Gamble. (10 June) University of Sydney, Cumberland Campus, Sydney, Australia.

Funded Grants

Brooks Rehabilitation Education, Innovation, and Impact Grant, Neurosymhony- An Interdisciplinary Music Making Pilot Program for Persons with Aphasia, October 7, 2019, Role Co-PI, Award amount: \$24,494

- Florida Blue Foundation, Neurosymphony, Jacksonville University collaboration with Brooks Rehabilitation Aphasia Center, June, 2018, Role: Co-PI, Award amount: \$2,500.
- EPIC, Accessible Dance Program at Jacksonville University, November 10, 2017 Role: PI, Award amount: \$350.

Grants (not funded)

- Caplan Foundation, Effects of Music Therapy on the Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development of Young Children with Special Needs, Role: Co-I. Submitted 9/2020. Requested \$55,000. (LOI)
- 2019 Collaborate JU, Collaborative Analysis of Community Participation, Role Co-I. Submitted September 4, 2019. Requested \$4,398.
- Brooks Rehabilitation Education, Innovation, and Impact Grant, Downtime Dogs: Improving Rehabilitation Outcomes with Adjunctive Animal Assisted Activities in Rehabilitative Medicine for Patients Post Cerebrovascular Accident, Role: Co-I. Submitted 7/2018. Requested \$100,000.
- EPIC, Accessible Dance Program at Jacksonville University, Role PI. Submitted October, 18, 2017. Requested \$1700.

Retirement Research Fund, Role PI- Submitted 2/18, requested \$25,870.

Women's Giving Alliance, Role: Co-investigator-Submitted 3/18 for 120K over 2 years. Persons with Disabilities Foundation, role: PI- submitted 3/18, requested \$12,464. (LOI) Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging;

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation, \$4.5 million over 5 years; 2006; PI- W.C. Mann; Role: Assisted in writing and submitting grant.

Impact of Disturbed Sleep on Cognition and Driving Performance of Older Caregivers of Persons with Dementia; University of Florida Opportunity Fund, \$100,000; 2006; PI-W.C. Mann; Role: Assisted in writing and submitting grant.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND INVOLVEMENT

Current Certification Status

Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR), National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists (NBCOT) - #1062606 as of 09/2002- present Florida: OT License #11045 FL as of 06/07/2003- present

Professional Organizations

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)- # 000004197878 Florida Occupational Therapy Association (FOTA)- #9321 World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Florida Council on Aging Southern Gerontological Society

Appointments

Occupational Therapist Advisor to AlzOnline project (Fall 2005- Spring 2007)

Continuing Education Credit (CEU) Coordinator for the International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence, 2005.

Professional Service

- <u>Invited to serve as Clinician Researcher on Data and Safety Monitoring Plan and</u> <u>Committee (DSMP)</u> for the following funded grant:
- NIH, NIH National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, R34 Planning Grant: Merging Yoga and self-management to develop Skills (MY-Skills) (1 R34 AT009688-01)

Appointed to serve as *chair* of DSMP meetings on 12/11/2020 and 5/12/2021.

Invited to join OTJR Review Board 2/2020. Term 4/1/2020- 4/1/2023.

Reviewer of manuscripts for scientific journals/published proceedings American Journal of Occupational Therapy (December 2017- present) Occupational Therapy Journal of Research (October 2018- present) Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy (2017) British Journal of Occupational Therapy (2017)

Reviewer of grant applications

Grant reviewer for California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT) Research Grant in August, 2016

University Service

Student-elected Faculty Liaison for the JU Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) Chapter, 2/2021- present.

Music Therapy Committee, College of Fine Arts, Member, 3/2020- present.

Appointed to Instructional Resources Committee, 2019- present

Member of OTD faculty Search committee, 2019- present

Elected to JU BRCHS Dean Search committee, 2019- March, 2020

Appointed to serve as Director of Research in the OTD Program, 7/2019- present

Chair of OTD faculty search committee, 2018-19

JU Healthy Campus- Committee member, Spring 2018- present

Member of School of Applied Health Sciences (SAHS) Admission Appeals Committee, Spring 2018- present

Faculty sponsor of undergraduate research proposal, Kirsten Hizer, November 2nd, 2017

Chair of OTD faculty search committee, 2017

Member of Kinesiology faculty search committee, 2017

Poster judge in Speech department, 2017, 2018

Undergraduate faculty mentor, Jacksonville University, 2017-18

Jacksonville University, Fieldwork Advisory Council, 2017-present

Service in the Community

- Invited Board member to Mayo Clinic's Women's Health Advisory Board, 12/2020present
- Spearheaded partnership with Mayo Clinic's Center for Health Equity and Community Engagement Research in Jacksonville, 2018- present
- Elected Board Member of Tobacco-Free Jacksonville, January, 2019-present
- Timucuan Parks Foundation Accessibility Advisory Board, January, 2018- present

Dance for All Volunteer with JU Dance and Brooks Adaptive Sports and Recreation, 2018- current.

Dance for Life Volunteer, 2018- current.

VSA Festival Volunteer, May 2, 2018.

Jacksonville University Charter Day, April 7, 2018, April 12, 2019.

Honors and Awards

Nominated for Jacksonville University's Faculty Award for Excellence in Community Service, 2/3/2021

Nominated for Jacksonville University Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Professional Activities, 2/4/2020.

Selected for Provost's Faculty Spotlight, Jacksonville University, 11/25/19.

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) Research, Education, and Practice Committee Representative to the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). (November, 2007- November, 2009)

NIA-funded Pre-doctoral Research Training in Aging T32 Award, August 2007- August 2008.

Graduate Research Assistantship, Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging (RERC-Aging), University of Florida, January 2003-August 2007.