

Official Registration & Program Guide

2026 CONNOTA FALL CONFERENCE



DATE & TIME

Friday, October 30, 2026
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

LOCATION

Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale
155 Temple Street, New Haven, CT

EARN CEUS

Up to 5.25 CEUs Available
Full-Day Program & Lunch

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (1.0 CEU)

Weaving What Matters: Doing, Being, Belonging and Becoming in a Fraying World

Whether you are looking to sharpen your skills, connect with colleagues, or get inspired by new ideas in occupational therapy, this is the full-day event you won't want to miss! Join us for an inspiring session on occupational engagement and community connection.

Featured Keynote: Carol Lambdin-Pattavina, OTD, MSOT, OTR/L, CTP, FAOTA

Conference Pricing

OCT 30 PASS

ConnOTA Members	\$175
Non-Members	\$220
Student Members	\$130
Student Non-Members	\$160
Students...	
* Save by becoming a member first! (Total price \$150 after completing membership registration).	

Annual Membership Pricing

JOIN CONNOTA

OTR Annual Membership	\$85
COTA Annual Membership	\$60
Student Annual Membership	\$20

CEU Requirements: Earn up to 5.25 CEUs for sessions attended on October 30th.

How to Register Online

Visit www.connota.org → Events → Calendar

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation requests must be received by email no later than October 23rd to receive a refund (minus a \$20 administrative fee). No refunds will be given after this date.

Full Day Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

TIME	SESSION / PROGRAM EVENT	CEU CREDIT
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration Check-In & Continental Breakfast	—
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Presidential Welcome & Annual Awards Presentation	—
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Legislative Update State advocacy, policy updates, and occupational therapy practice impact	0.5 CEU
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Morning Networking Break	—
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Keynote Address: Weaving What Matters Doing, Being, Belonging and Becoming in a Fraying World <i>Carol Lambdin-Pattavina, OTD, MSOT, OTR/L, CTP, FAOTA</i>	1.0 CEU
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break	—
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	SIS Educational Session 1 Special Interest Section concurrent educational tracks	1.0 CEU
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break (Complimentary catered lunch provided by ConnOTA for all attendees)	—
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	SIS Educational Session 2 Special Interest Section concurrent educational tracks	1.0 CEU
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Afternoon Break & Refreshments	—
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Poster Session Evidence-based clinical research and student/practitioner showcases	0.75 CEU
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	SIS Educational Session 3 Special Interest Section concurrent educational tracks	1.0 CEU

Venue & Location

Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale
155 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06510
Located in downtown New Haven. On-site and nearby garage parking available.

Online Registration

To register for the conference, go to:
www.connota.org → **Events** → **Calendar**
Earn up to 5.25 maximum CEUs per member.

SIS EDUCATIONAL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

OCTOBER 30, 2026

Session 1		11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (1.0 CEU)
SESSION 1A "Challenging Ageism in Health Care" Panel Discussion <i>Presenter: Susanne V. Giannitti, OTR/L</i>	SESSION 1B "NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know" <i>Presenter: Morgan Rachel Villano, MPA, MSPS, OTR/L, NBCOT Ambassador for Connecticut</i>	
SESSION 1C "Strategies and Resources for Occupation-Based Practice for Real World Implications" <i>Presenter: Sarah Psillas, PhD, OTR/L</i>	SESSION 1D "Integrating Sensory Modulation within Acute Mental Health Practice: A Practical Program Example" <i>Presenter: Dr. Cristina Tancreti, OTD, MBA, OTR/L</i>	
SESSION 1E "Use of a Walking Audit to Improve 'Walkability' in Urban Environments" <i>Presenter: Martha Sanders, PhD, MSOSH, OTR/L, CPE</i>		
Session 2		1:00 PM – 2:00 PM (1.0 CEU)
SESSION 2A "Becoming an Advocacy Ambassador: Your Voice, Your Network, Your Impact" <i>Presenter: Joyce Rioux, EdD, OTR/L, SCSS, FAOTA</i>	SESSION 2B "Beyond Academic Standing: Exploring Needs and Gaps to Inform the Development of a Holistic Decision-Making Framework in Academic Review Committees" <i>Presenter: Latasha Dionne, OT, OTD, OTR</i>	
SESSION 2C "After the Sensory Diet: What Home-Based Practice Actually Teaches Us About Sensory Regulation" <i>Presenter: Pooja Joshi, M.S., OTR/L</i>	SESSION 2D "Determining the Needs of Law Enforcement Personnel for Occupational Therapy Interventions Addressing Work-Related Physical and Emotional Injuries" <i>Presenter: Lola Halperin, EdD, OTR/L</i>	
SESSION 2E "OT Presence in the Emergency Department: Occupational Therapy Impact in Assessment and Treatment of Acute Vestibular Dysfunction" <i>Presenter: Brendan Evans, MOT, OTD, OTR/L</i>		
Session 3		3:00 PM – 4:00 PM (1.0 CEU)
SESSION 3A "Helping Patients Make Sense of Pain: Practical Strategies for Occupational Therapy" <i>Presenter: Kaitlyn D. Ellis, OTR/L</i>	SESSION 3B "Occupational Therapy Led Interprofessional Education to Improve Early Intervention Knowledge in Healthcare and Medical Students" <i>Presenter: Karen Majeski, OTD, OTR/L, ATP</i>	
SESSION 3C "Tools for Teaming: Collaborative Practice Using CT School-Based OT Practice Guidelines" Panel Discussion <i>Facilitator: Anne Perri Koba, MS, OTR/L</i>	SESSION 3D "The Toxic Circle: Structural Violence, Moral Distress, Compassion Fatigue. Embracing Micro-Occupational Justice to Achieve Compassion Satisfaction" <i>Presenter: Morgan Villano, MPA, MSPS, OTR/L</i>	
SESSION 3E "The Unique Role of Occupational Therapy in Prospective Cancer Care: Preserving Function, Participation, and Daily Life Across the Cancer Continuum" <i>Presenter: Heather Leigh Studwell, DHSc, MS, OTR/L, MBA, CLT</i>		