

**Dr. Savitha Sundar, Ph.D., OTR/L**  
8500 Blacktail Trail, McKinney, TX 75070  
[savi4ot@gmail.com](mailto:savi4ot@gmail.com)  
504-975-4561

## Education

- 2000 Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, MGR Medical University, Chennai, India
- 2003 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 2024 Doctor of Philosophy, School of Occupational Therapy, Texas Woman's University, Dallas, Texas.

## Work Experience

- **October 2024 to Present**  
School-Based Occupational Therapist, Allen ISD
- **2023 to Present**  
Private Practice Owner- I'M IN (Inspired Minds for Inclusion and Neurodiversity) Therapy Services
- **July 2023 to July 2024**  
Partnership Officer, Changing Perspectives (National Educational Non-Profit Organization)
- **August 2020 to February 2022; Spring 2023: Fall 2024**  
School-Based Occupational Therapist, Plano ISD; Contract school-based OT at Richardson ISD through Soliant Health
- **2018 to 2024-** PRN Home Health Occupational Therapy Practice through National Home Health, Connect Pediatrics, and Texas Therapy Resources
- **2012- Present** PRN Occupational Therapy- Multiple skilled nursing facilities in the San Francisco Bay and Dallas Metroplex areas.
- **Summer 2022, 2023, 2024**  
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Occupational Therapy, Texas Woman's University
- **August 2015 to February 2016**  
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Occupational Therapy, San Jose State University
- **March 2013- December 2013**  
Adjunct Faculty, University of the Visayas, Cebu, and Lyceum University. Manila, Philippines- Developed and delivered online educational modules for selected graduate courses in occupational therapy.
- **February 2008 to July 2020**  
School-Based Occupational Therapist, Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose, California
- **October 2003 to May 2004**  
School-Based Occupational Therapist, NEA Children's Therapy Center, Jonesboro, AR
- **2000 Fall to 2001 Summer**  
Psychiatric Social Worker/Counsellor; Navajeevan Project of YWCA, Chennai- Half way home for socio-economically underserved women with mental illness

## Conference Presentations

- Sundar, S. (2025, April 3-5). *Relationship between attitudes and efforts to include students with extensive support needs: A survey* [Poster presentation]. AOTA Inspire 2025, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2025, April 3-5). *Leveraging assistive technology in facilitating inclusion of students with extensive support needs* [Poster presentation]. AOTA Inspire 2025, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2025, April 3-5). *School-based OT facilitating inclusive education: A multiple-case study* [Poster presentation]. AOTA Inspire 2025, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2024, December 4–6). *School-based occupational therapy in the inclusive education of students with extensive support needs: A multiple-case study* [Intensive workshop]. TASH Conference 2024, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2024, November 15–17). *Inclusive education for students with extensive support needs: Is OT aligned?* [Short course]. Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2024, November 15–17). *Relationship between attitudes and efforts towards inclusion: A survey study* [Research forum presentation]. Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2024, July 30–August 1). *Inclusive OT or OT for inclusion: Reframing and revitalizing school-based OT* [Short course]. Texas Region 10 Low Incidence Disabilities (LID) Conference, Richardson, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2023, November 3–5). *Changing lives through peers: The occupation of social participation as means and end* [Short course]. Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Annual Conference, Houston, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2022, November 4–6). *Journeying towards "all means all": OT in supporting students with extensive support needs* [Short course]. Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2022, March 31–April 3). *Role of occupational therapy in facilitating authentic social inclusion for students with extensive support needs* [Poster presentation]. AOTA Inspire 2022, San Antonio, TX, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2020, October 22–25). *Best practices in education and school-based occupational therapy* [Short course]. Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) Conference and Expo 2020, Santa Clara, CA, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2019, April 4–7). *A healthy snack program: A practical mealtime intervention program for middle schoolers with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to address food selectivity and essential life skills* [Short course]. AOTA Conference and Expo 2019, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2013, June 10–14). *Sensory integration: A sensational topic in pediatric practice* [Workshop]. Manila and Cebu, Philippines.

## Publications

- Sundar, S., Bowyer, P., Vas, A., Laverdure, P., & Cox, E. (2025). Interventions and measures of social inclusion for students with extensive support needs in K–12 schools: A scoping review. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities, 0*(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/17446295241310517>

- Mani, K., & Sundar, S. (2018). Outcome measures used in stroke rehabilitation in India: A scoping review. *Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 50(4), 111–118.  
[https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.IJOTH\\_9\\_18](https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.IJOTH_9_18)
- Mani, K., & Sundar, S. (2019). Occupational therapy workforce in India: A national survey. *Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 51(2), 45–51.  
[https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.ijoth\\_1\\_19](https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.ijoth_1_19)
- Sundar, S. (2021, May 12). *Effecting change in school-based practice: Fostering social inclusion in a co-occupation program*. OT Practice, 26(5), 1–14.  
<https://www.aota.org/publications/ot-practice/ot-practice-issues/2021/effecting-change-in-school-practice>
- Sundar, S. (2021, May 12). *The neuroscience of prosociality*. Thrive Global.  
<https://community.thriveglobal.com/the-neuroscience-of-prosociality/>
- *Contributing Author of a Chapter in* Evetts, C. L., & Baxter, M. F. (Eds.). (2024). *Cases and concepts in occupational adaptation: Translating theory into action*. Routledge.

### Research Assistant

- **Research Assistant (2022-2023)**- Participatory Action Research Project with Dr. Tanya Benjamin, TWU.
- **Research Assistant (2002-2003)**- “Teaching Research Ethics; An Institutional Change Model” – An NSF-funded project by the Ethics Center of Western Michigan University. (Developed an interactive CD for teaching research ethics in the Occupational Therapy graduate research class)
- **Graduate Assistant (2001-2003)**- Graduate Assistant to the Associate Dean of College of Health and Human Services

### Voluntary Work

- **Podcast Host**- "Inclusive Occupations" (2020 to present)
- **Vice President/Board Member**- Changing Perspectives - A Non-Profit whose mission is to support inclusive and equitable communities for all students (2019 to 2023)
- **Board Member/Site Volunteer**- Prelude Clubhouse- A local community center assisting in accessing community-based educational resources, access to crisis intervention services, and social and recreational events for young adults with mental illness (2023)
- **AOTA Volunteer**- 2025- E.K. Wise Scholarship Application Reviewer
- **Conference Proposal Reviewer**- 2022, 2024 (AOTA); 2024, 2025 (TASH)

### Awards/Leadership

- **Award**: Virginia Chandler Dykes Scholar Award Recipient for 2025
- **Leadership**: Nominated by colleagues and selected for the “Champions for Leadership” program offered to employees showing exceptional leadership abilities in Santa Clara County, to be trained to be outstanding leaders in the community. Underwent a year-long leadership training program for the school year 2018-2019 and presented a model program to facilitate social inclusion for students with Extensive Support Needs and their neurotypical peers
- **Scholarship Recipient**, 2020-2024 Virginia Chandler Dykes
- **Grant Recipient**-2024- Woodcock Institute Research Dissertation Grant program.
- **Grant Recipient**: Texas Woman’s University Graduate Student Research Grant for Survey Study on Social Inclusion of students with ESN

- **Grant Recipient-** 2002-Western Michigan University graduate student research grant for conducting "A survey of the various cognitive Rehabilitation activities in the Greater Kalamazoo Area" (Accepted for presentation at the AOTA National Conference, June 6-10,2003)
- **Programming:** Planned, developed, and successfully ran an on-site program for middle school students with ASD (ESN) in Orchard School District for 3 years called "Friendship Circle."
- **Programming:** Planned and executed a "Healthy Snack" program for students with autism spectrum disorder to improve their food repertoire (Presented the program at AOTA National Conference 2019)
- **Programming:** Developed and ran a successful "prevocational training program for middle school students with ASD" to teach essential job skills and identify aptitudes for future employment opportunities

### Guest Lectures

- **Invited Speaker-** AWWA Broadcast March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025- "Inclusion as a Process: Changing Mindsets and Creating Belonging"
- **Invited Guest Speaker:** San Jose State University (2017), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (2021), Delaware Autism Program- Brennen School (2021), SRM College Chennai, India- April (2022), Sankalp, Chennai, India (2004)
- **Invited Speaker:** SRM University's International Conference on Autism, Chennai, India (April 2022) "Inclusive Education for Children with Autism"
- **Guest Lecturer:** University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX (Summer 2021, 2022, 2023,2024)- Legislation Guiding School-Based OT
- **Guest Lecturer:** Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, TX (February 2021) - Interventions to Support Social Participation for Children with Extensive Support Needs
- **Guest Lecturer:** "Assessment of Sensory Integration Dysfunction" (Dec 2004) for trainees in India at Sankalp (School for Children with Learning Disabilities and Autism)
- **Podcast Guest-** Think Inclusive Podcast; Beyond Awareness Podcast

### Certifications

- Certified in Ayers Sensory Integration: USC/WPS Sensory Integration Certification #380
- Certified Basic MOVE (Movement Opportunity Via Education) Provider
- Certified Clinical Fieldwork Instructor- Supervised/Mentored 12+ OT Level 2 Fieldwork Students in School-Based Practice