

Savitha Sundar PhD, OTR/L

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EDUCATION

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

TEACHING HIGHER EDUCATION

- **Fall 2025, Fall 2026**
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Texas Medical Branch, Laredo Hybrid OTD Program.
Course Taught: OT 6371 Conceptual Framework of Occupational Therapy
Teaching in Fall of 2026- OT 6474 Neuroscience Fundamentals
- **Summer 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025**
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Occupational Therapy, Texas Woman's University
Course Taught-OT 6122 Occupational Analysis and Therapeutic Tools for Occupational Therapy Practice
- **August 2015 to February 2016**
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Occupational Therapy, San Jose State University
Course Taught- OCTH 236, Occupational Therapy for Youth
- **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
Course Taught: Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Sundar, S (2026, February 9-12). *Bridging the gap: Exploring inclusive practices of school-based occupational therapists for students with extensive support needs* [Poster presentation]. World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) Congress, Bangkok, Thailand (*Accepted for presentation*)
- Schaap, Y., Sundar, S. (2025, December 4–6). *Reimagining Related Services as Access Specialists to Facilitate Authentic Inclusion* [Breakout Session]. TASH Conference 2025, Denver, CO, United States.
- Sundar, S. (2025, November 14-15). *Assistive Technology for Students with Extensive Needs in General Education* [Short Course]. Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) Annual Conference, San Marcos, TX, United States (*Accepted for presentation*)

- Thomas, T. E., Sundar, S. (2025, June). *COVID-19-related occupational injustices faced by children in India, Peru and USA: Service provider reflections*. 2025 Occupational Therapy Summit of Scholars, Seattle, Washington. [Conference Presentation]
- 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). *School-based OT facilitating inclusive education: A multiple-case study* [Poster presentation]. AOTA Inspire 2025, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- Andaya-Lambinico, J, 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. (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., Andaya-Lambinico, J. (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., Parekh, R., Andaya-Lambinico, J (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.

UPCOMING INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

- Taub, D., & Sundar, S. (2026, March 2 and 9). *Universal design and students with complex disabilities* [Webinar Series]. Infinitech.
- Sundar, S. (2026, April). *School-based occupational therapy as a catalyst for inclusive education of students with extensive support needs* [Webinar Series]. Arkansas Department of Education.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED:

- Chandrasekaran, S. A., & Sundar, S. (2025). The use of goal attainment scale in collaborative occupational therapy groups: A case report. *The Indian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 57(1), 29–32. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijoth.ijoth_53_25
- 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>
- *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.
- 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
- 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

MANUSCRIPT SUBMITTED- UNDER REVIEW

- Sundar, S., Vas, A., Taub, D., Evetts, C., Fette, C., & Hintz, L. Occupational therapy enabling inclusive education for students with extensive support needs: A multiple-case study.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PREPARATION

- Sundar, S., Vas, A., Taub, D., Evetts, C., Fette, C., & Hintz, L. From Barriers to Breakthroughs in Inclusive Occupational Therapy Practice With Students with Extensive Support Needs
- Sundar, S., Vas, A., Taub, D., Evetts, C., Fette, C., & Hintz, L. Occupational Therapy Interventions and Approaches to Enabling Inclusive Education for Students With Extensive Support Needs: A Multi-Tiered Framework

NON-PEER REVIEWED:

- Sundar, S. (2025, October 24). *Rethinking OT in schools: From fixing skills to enabling access*. SENIA International. <https://www.seniainternational.org/rethinking-ot-in-schools-from-fixing-skills-to-enabling-access/>
- Sundar, S. (2021, May 12). *The neuroscience of prosociality*. Thrive Global. <https://community.thriveglobal.com/the-neuroscience-of-prosociality/>
- 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>

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 the College of Health and Human Services

VOLUNTARY WORK

- **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy- NBCOT Ambassador for Texas** (2026)
- **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)
- **Conference Proposal Reviewer-** 2022, 2024 (AOTA); 2024 (TASH)

AWARDS/LEADERSHIP/INNOVATION

- **Grant Recipient:** Foundation for Allen Schools for a program called Comet SPARKs (Student Partners As Relationship Keepers) at Kerr Elementary for the school year 2025-2026
- **Award:** [Virginia Chandler Dykes Scholar Award Recipient](#) for 2025
- **Leadership:** 2018-2019 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 and presented a model program to facilitate social inclusion for students with extensive support needs and their peers
- **Grant Recipient:** 2024 Woodcock Institute Research Dissertation Grant program.
- **Scholarship Recipient:** 2020-2024 Virginia Chandler Dykes
- **Grant Recipient:** 2022 Texas Woman’s University Graduate Student Research Grant for Survey Study on Social Inclusion of students with ESN
- **Programming:** 2018-2020 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:** 2018-2020 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:** 2017-2020 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
- **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)
- **Co-Inventor (Patent-Pending):** 2025 AI-Driven adaptive extended reality system and method for personalized cognitive, emotional, and behavioral interventions. Status: non-provisional application under submission.
- **Co-creator:** 2024-2025 Design a [VR cooking module](#) for Revive XR.

GUEST LECTURES

- **Invited Speaker:** TxSPOT (Texas School-based PT OT) leadership group (May 8, 2025): “A Multi-Tiered Approach to Authentic Inclusion of Students with Extensive Support Needs: Insights from a Multiple Case Study on Inclusive Occupational Therapy Practices in the Least Restrictive Environment.”
- **Invited Speaker:** Region 10’s 2024 Low Incidence Disabilities (LID) Conference (July 31, 2024): “Inclusive OT Services or OT Services for Inclusion?: Reframing and Revitalizing SBOT Practices for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities”
- **Invited Speaker:** AWWA Broadcast March 6th 2025- “Inclusion as a Process: Changing Mindsets and Creating Belonging”
- **Guest Lecturer:** University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX (Summer 2021, 2022, 2023,2024,2025)- Legislation Guiding School-Based OT
- **Invited Speaker:** SRM University's International Conference on Autism, Chennai, India (April 2022) "Inclusive Education for Children with Autism"
- **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)
- **Guest Lecturer:** “Assessment of Sensory Integration Dysfunction” (December 2004) for trainees in India at Sankalp (School for Children with Learning Disabilities and Autism)
- **Invited Podcast Guest:** [Think Inclusive Podcast](#); [Beyond Awareness Podcast](#); [OT School House](#)

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- **January 2025 to Present**
Consultant/Researcher: Revive XR- Neurotech Start up Addressing Brain Health
- **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

- **July 2005 to December 2007; 2012- Present**

PRN Occupational Therapy- Multiple skilled nursing facilities, acute care facilities in the greater New Orleans area, Chicago area, IL, San Francisco Bay Area, CA, and the Dallas Metroplex Area, TX.

- **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, Arkansas

- **2000 Fall to 2001 Summer**

Psychiatric Social Worker/Counsellor; Navajeevan Project of YWCA, Chennai, India- Halfway home for socio-economically underserved women with mental illness

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Clinical Fieldwork Instructor
- Certified in Ayers Sensory Integration: USC/WPS Sensory Integration Certification #380
- Certified Basic MOVE (Movement Opportunity Via Education) Provider

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

- **National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapists (NBCOT)**
Certification Number: 1069133
- **Texas State Licensure**
License Number: 120794
- *Previously licensed in California, Louisiana, Illinois, and Arkansas*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Occupational Therapy Association
- Texas Occupational Therapy Association
- TASH