

Special Issue

Occupational Therapy, Geographic Disparities, and Digital Healthcare

Message from the Guest Editors

Occupational therapy plays a pivotal role in enhancing the health-related functional performance and occupational engagement of individuals with or at risk of experiencing disabilities. However, geographic disparities in the accessibility and availability of occupational therapy services and occupational therapist practitioners pose significant challenges for their equitable delivery of care. Rural, remote, and underserved areas often lack sufficient access to skilled therapists, leading to disparities in outcomes. The advent of digital health technologies presents one promising strategy to help bridge these geographic gaps. Telehealth platforms, virtual consultations, and other digital interventions offer the potential to expand access to occupational therapy services, especially for individuals in *hard-to-reach* areas. However, while digital health technologies hold significant promise, their implementation in occupational therapy requires careful consideration, including technological literacy, privacy concerns, implementation and sustainability, and the ability to tailor interventions to diverse patient populations

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