

# Kelly Spellman OT, OTD, MS, OTR

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## EDUCATION

<b>MGH Institute of Health Professions</b> Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy	Boston, MA September 2022
<b>Boston University</b> Master of Science in Occupational Therapy	Boston, MA January 2008
<b>Boston University</b> Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Studies, <i>cum laude</i>	Boston, MA May 2006

## PUBLICATIONS

Ni, P., Spellman, K., Zafonte, R., Wen, H., Slavin, M. D., & Jette, A. M. (2022). A concordance table to convert FIM basic mobility and self-care scale scores to SCI-FI/AT scores. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 103(4), 688-695.

Spellman, K. (2019, September). Big Ideas in Function: Facilitate Rehab on Demand. *New Mobility*, 312, 46-47.

## AWARDS

<b>Pillars of Excellence Award</b> Mass General Brigham Awarded to the Disability Competent Care Assessment and Training Team in the category "Collaborating Across the System"	April 2025
<b>Empower SCI Excellence in Service Award</b>	December 2019
<b>DeVivo Mentored Research Award</b> Mentor: Alan Jette, PhD Project Title: The Impact of Resilience on Functional Gains in Early Spinal Cord Injury Recovery <i>Sponsored by the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center, this award provides support for a project using data from the National Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems Database.</i>	October 2019
<b>Best Program Poster</b> American Spinal Cord Injury Professionals Conference	September 2016

## PRESENTATIONS

Xi, A., **Spellman, K.**, & Kunkel, S. (2025, March). *Occupational therapy students' perception of disability bias after Level II Fieldwork*. MGH Institute of Health Professions Social Justice Research Conference, virtual conference.

Corey, K., Rajala, C., Borsi, L., Waterhouse, C., Evans, E., Slavin, M., Carter, C., Bergin, M., Kazis, L., **Spellman, K.**, Erler, K., & Giacino, J. (2023, October 31). *Experiencing new relationships as an adult with mild traumatic brain injury: Balancing the advantages and costs*. Presentation. American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Jacobs, H. B, DiCarlo, J. A., Gochyyev, P, Rische, K. C., **Spellman, K.**, Erler, K. S., & Lin, D. J. (2023, June) *Relating Fugl-meyer Sub-scores to Activities of Daily Living Post Stroke*.

OT Summit of Scholars, Columbus, OH.

Mathess, K., & **Spellman, K.** (2016, January). *Catheters & SCI: Considerations for Clinical Choices and Case Management*.

Blauet, C., Downey, T., Norcross, Z. & **Spellman, K.** (2015, September). *Injury Prevention in Adaptive Sports: Enabling the Athlete/Equipment Interface*. American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Conference, Boston, MA, United States.

Agriminakis, M., Foote, R., **Spellman, K.**, & Zipse, L. (2013, May). *Predictive Factors of Discharge to a Skilled Nursing Facility in Individuals with New Onset Tetraplegia*. American Spinal Injury Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.

## POSTERS

Kunkel, S., Spellman, K., & Ficci, G. (2025, September). *Facilitating a Successful Transition from Pediatric to Adult Healthcare: An Occupational Therapy Practitioner's Role*. [Poster]. Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals annual conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Remillard, E. & Spellman, K. (2025, April). *Family Dinner: Transforming SCI rehabilitation through culinary experience*. [Poster]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Spellman, K. & Stevenson, L. (2025, April). *Let's address sex in clinical practice: A strengths-based approach to starting the conversation*. [Poster]. American Occupational Therapy Association INSPIRE Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Remillard, E. & Spellman, K. (2024, November). *Family Dinner: Transforming SCI rehabilitation through culinary experience*. [Poster]. Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Norwood, MA, United States.

Pengsheng, N., Spellman, K., Wen, H. & Slavin, M. (2020, October). *Linking FIM motor scores and SCI-FI/AT scores: Looking backward and moving forward*. [Poster]. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation annual conference, virtual conference.

Callahan, C., Ficci, G., Pantason, K. & Spellman, K. (2020, October). *Promoting positive disability identity through residential community-based rehabilitation*. [Poster]. Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals annual conference, virtual conference.

Callahan, C. & Spellman, K. (2016, September). *Re-framing rehabilitation: Residential rehabilitation in chronic spinal cord injury care*. [Poster]. Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals Conference, Nashville, TN, United States.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Assistant Professor

MGH Institute of Health Professions, Entry-Level OTD Program

Boston, MA

June 2023 – present

- Courses Taught:

- OT 603 Movement, Context and Occupation (4 credits, primary instructor)
- OT 622: Professional Reasoning II (1 credit, primary instructor)
- OT 763: Participation and Productive Aging (3 credits, primary instructor)

- OT 772: Splinting, Orthotics and Prosthetics (2 credits, primary instructor)
- OT 890: Special Topics: Spinal Cord Injury and Occupational Therapy (3 credits, course developer and primary instructor)
- OT 611: Research 2 (capstone mentor)
- OT 612: Research 3 (capstone mentor)
- OT 894: Research 4: Dissemination & Capstone (capstone mentor)

**Facilitator** Boston, MA  
 MGH IHP Power, Privilege and Positionality Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Summer 2025

**Term Lecturer** Boston, MA  
 MGH IHP Entry-Level OTD Program

- OT 763: Participation and Productive Aging, Spring 2023
- OT 603: Movement, Context and Occupation, Fall 2022
- OT 771: Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction, Spring 2020

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
 MGH Institute of Health Professions Boston, MA  
 OT 771: Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction Summer 2019

- Gave several lectures, developed an assignment rubric, graded written assignments, and assisted with creating exam questions for OT for Physical Dysfunction under the supervision of Dr. Mary Hildebrand.

**Invited Lecturer**

MGH Institute of Health Professions Boston, MA  
 OT 771: Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction Spring 2020-2025

- Presented on occupational therapy's role in addressing sexuality with our clients.

OT 771: Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction Spring 2020-2022

- Presented on occupational therapy's role in wheelchair fitting, prescribing, and training, and facilitated the associated wheelchair skills lab.

PT 713: Patient/Client Management: Spinal Cord Injury and Amputation Annually 2019-2024

- Presented on Neurogenic Bowel, Neurogenic Bladder, and Sexual Function after SCI, and discussed the role of the physical therapist in addressing the same.

Boston University Boston, MA  
 OT 943: Professional Development Seminar March 5, 2019

- Spoke to occupational therapy doctoral students about the role of occupational therapy in Empower SCI, a residential rehabilitation program.

**Clinical Instructor**  
 MGH Institute of Health Professions Boston, MA  
 PT 713: Patient/Client Management: Spinal Cord Injury and Amputation Spring 2020 & 2021

- Taught PT students functional mobility and wheelchair skills for the spinal cord injury population.

## CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

**Per Diem Occupational Therapist** Boston, MA  
 Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital May 2018 – February 2025

- Rotate as needed throughout the hospital to assess and treat various neurologic and orthopedic diagnoses.
- Mentor new clinicians to assist with building their clinical skills, as well as orient new staff to specialized technologies available within the hospital.

### **Advanced Clinician Occupational Therapist**

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Boston, MA  
November 2010 – May 2018

- Therapist on the inpatient Spinal Cord Injury/Neuro Unit providing comprehensive assessment and treatment.
- Covered as an outpatient therapist part time for several months in 2015 to assist with an influx in OT SCI referrals.
- Served on various hospital committees, including the Schwartz Rounds Committee and Family Participation Day Committee
- Presented to colleagues on a variety of topics, including splinting, neurogenic bowel and bladder, and sexual function.

### **Senior Occupational Therapist**

Stanford Hospitals and Clinics

Palo Alto, CA  
October 2009 – October 2010

- Therapist on the Neurosurgery, Medical and Surgical, and Oncology Units providing comprehensive treatment for patients with various and complicated medical diagnoses.
- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary team to determine and implement appropriate discharge planning.

### **Occupational Therapist**

Magee Rehabilitation Hospital

Philadelphia, PA  
March 2008 – August 2009

- Therapist on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and General Rehabilitation Units, providing comprehensive treatment for patients with spinal cord injuries, as well as various neurologic and orthopedic diagnoses.
- Gained extensive experience with seating and positioning assessment and prescriptions for power wheelchairs, including those with alternative drive controls.

## **MENTORSHIP**

### **Doctoral Capstone Mentor**

MGH Institute of Health Professions

Boston, MA

Entry-Level OTD Students

Spring 2025

*Mentee: Alison Xi, OTD*

*Project Title: Occupational Therapy Students' Perception of Disability Bias After Level II Fieldwork*

*Mentee: Sarah Kunkel, OTD*

*Project Title: Facilitating Successful Transition from Pediatric to Adult Healthcare for Adolescents with Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders*

*Mentee: Lindsey Stevenson, OTD*

*Project Title: Let's Address Sex in Clinical Practice: A Strengths-Based Approach to Starting the Conversation*

Entry-Level OTD Students

Spring 2023

*Mentee: Hannah Jacobs, OTD*

*Project Title: Relating Fugl-Meyer Sub-scores to Activities of Daily Living after Stroke*

*Mentee: Kaitlyn Corey, OTD*

*Project Title: Experience of New Relationships for Adults with Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries*

*Mentee: Amelia Gerson, OTD*

*Project Title: Stronger Together: A Novel Program Designed to Meet the Unmet Needs of Caregiver- Stroke Survivor Dyads Across the Continuum of Care*

Boston University  
Entry-Level OTD Student  
*Mentee: Kimberly Greenberg, OTD*  
*Capstone Title: Measuring Community Reintegration and Adjustment After Spinal Cord Injury.*

Boston, MA  
Summer 2020

Boston University  
Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy Students  
*Mentee: Kevin Malozzi, DPT*  
*Capstone Title: Home Exercise Safety & Injury Prevention in Patients with Complete Tetraplegia Secondary to Spinal Cord Injury*

2016

*Mentee: Jessica Bonchi, DPT*  
*Capstone Title: Advanced Wheelchair Skills for People with Spinal Cord Injury: An Educational Module*

**Level II Fieldwork Student Supervisor**  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Boston, MA  
Spring 2012 and Fall 2014

## SERVICE

### Faculty Senate, MGH Institute of Health Professions

- Member, Nominating Committee (September 2025- )

### Occupational Therapy Department, MGH IHP

- Member, Committee for Academic Policies and Procedures (June 2023 - )
- Member, Admissions Committee (June 2023 - )

### School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, MGH IHP

- Standing Member, Faculty Search Committee (September 2024 - )
  - Member, PA Faculty Search Committee Fall 2024
  - Member, PT Faculty Search Committee Fall 2024
  - Member, PA Director of Clinical Ed Search Committee Spring 2025
  - Member, OT Chair Search Committee Spring 2025
  - Co-Chair, OT Faculty Search Committee Summer 2025

### Massachusetts General Brigham

- Member, Mass General Brigham Disability Employee Inclusion Alliance Employee Resource Group (January 2024 - )
  - Assisted with planning and was present to represent MGB at Boston's celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 2024
  - Assisted with planning and running the annual Disability Employee Inclusion Alliance celebration during Disability Employee Month, October 2024
- Member, Mass General Brigham Disability Council (May 2024 - )
  - Assisted with the development of the MGB Disability Tip Sheets, a part of the MGB Accessibility Resources on Vitals.

### Empower Spinal Cord Injury

- Founder and chair, Empower Research Committee (September 2023 - )
  - Hold regular meetings of scholars involved in investigating the impact of Empower SCI. Direct scholarship toward improving the visibility of the program as well as improving the outcomes of the program.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Graduate of the Acceleration Academy**  
MGH Institute of Health Professions

Boston, MA  
January 2024 – December 2024

**Graduate of the Clinical Scholars Program**  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital & MGH IHP

Boston, MA  
September 2011 – September 2012

- Designed and completed a retrospective study regarding discharge dispositions of persons with cervical tetraplegia, which was presented at national and state conferences.

## VOLUNTEER WORK

**Clinical Expert – Occupational Therapist**  
Empower Spinal Cord Injury, Inc.

Stony Brook, NY & Missoula, MT  
Each summer, 2012 – present

- Volunteer at residential rehabilitation camp for persons with chronic spinal cord injury, providing one-to-one therapy to clients to achieve personal goals.
- Facilitator of sex education programming, water safety training, aquatic therapy and cooking group programming.
- Mentor new clinicians and therapy students with an interest in SCI treatment.
- Assisted with transitioning to virtual programming in 2020.
- Wrote and obtained grants in excess of \$200,000 for program funding.

**Co-founder and Organizer of Event**  
Empower SCI's Knobby Tire Ride n' Roll

Carlisle and North Andover, MA  
Each October, 2015 - present

- Organized a mountain bike "ride n' roll" for both able-bodied and wheelchair users to access local trails.
- Collaborate with New England Mountain Biking Association, various adaptive cycling vendors, and other local organizations to promote accessibility in outdoor recreation.

**Mentor Mom**  
Little Bellas

Carlisle, MA  
Spring 2024 & 2025

- Serve as a mentor for girls ages 8-14 learning to mountain bike.

**Coach**  
Waltham Track Club

Waltham, MA  
Spring 2025

- Facilitate track practices and meets for kids ages 8-14.

**Wheelchair Skills Instructor**  
Empower Spinal Cord Injury, Inc.

Medford, MA  
Each October, 2012 - 2015

- Trained community wheelchair users and therapy students on wheelchair skills such as getting up from the floor, climbing stairs, managing curb cuts, performing wheelies, and carrying heavy objects.
- Led education sessions on shoulder preservation and shoulder strengthening.

**Volunteer**  
Spaulding Adaptive Sports

Boston, MA & Lincoln, NH  
2011 - 2013

- Fit adaptive cycles for persons with varying disabilities in the Spaulding Cycling Club.
- Assisted with fitting mono- and bi-skis for persons with SCI, as well as assisting with lessons for the Spaulding Adaptive Sports and New England Disabled Sports' Loon Mountain adaptive skiing program.

**Volunteer**

Philadelphia, PA

- Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Iraq Wheelchair Project 2008
- Developed culturally sensitive educational materials regarding paralysis, wheelchair transfers, wheelchair parts, and wheelchair maintenance.
  - Received an American flag from the U.S. Military and a Certificate of Commendation from the Senate of Pennsylvania in recognition of this endeavor.

## LICENSES & CREDENTIALS

2010 – present	Massachusetts Occupational Therapy License #10193
2023 – present	Montana Occupational Therapy License #9687
2008 – present	National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy #238619
April 6, 2011	Credentialed, Physical Agent Modalities

## SELECT CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **Vision Assessment and Intervention**

Spaulding Rehabilitation Network, Cambridge, MA December 2015

### **Introduction to Aquatic Therapy and “BackHab” Certification Course**

Aquatic Therapy Rehabilitation Institute, Canton, MA March 2012

### **Explain Pain**

Neuro Orthopaedic Institute, Foxboro, MA June 2011

### **Neuro-IFRAH: Resolving Shoulder Impairments and Improving Function**

Magee Outpatient Facility, Philadelphia, PA March 2009

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

<b>American Occupational Therapy Association</b>	current member
<b>Massachusetts Occupational Therapy Association</b>	current member
<b>Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals</b>	current member
<b>American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR &amp; AED</b>	certified
<b>RTI Functional Electrical Stimulation Certification</b>	May 13, 2011
<b>Bioness Certification</b>	June 13, 2011