Meet the Expert

Learn more about the experts who will be at the Genesis Rehab Services booth during the 2016 AOTA Conference & Expo
Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Vitality to You  
**Date & Time:** Thursday, April 7, 2016; 5:30pm-6:30pm

**Mary Lea Habegger, MA-CCC/SLP**  
Vice President, Clinical Operations, Vitality to You

Mary Lea Habegger is the Vice President of Clinical Operations for Genesis Rehab Services and Vitality to You, a home and community based outpatient therapy program. In this role, she supports clinicians in 20 states who provide therapy services in the home and community.

Mary Lea is a speech language pathologist with 24 years of experience. Her expertise include geriatrics, dementia, and health care leadership.

Mary Lea is a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Associations’ Special Interest Groups for Geriatrics, Dysphagia and Tele-practice. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and Special Interest Sections for Home and Community Health, Gerontology, and Administration and Management. Mary Lea is also a member of the Ohio Speech Language Hearing Association.

She is a certified Dementia Care Specialist educator, a Master Clinician in Cognitive and Communication Disorders for Genesis Rehab Services, and she presents at the regional and national level on topics related to the older adult. Additionally, Mary Lea holds a master’s degree from Marshall University.

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Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Genesis Rehab Services  
**Date & Time:** Friday, April 8, 2016; 9:00am-10:00am

**Garry Pezzano, MS, CCC/SLP**  
Senior Vice President, Clinical Practice

Garry Pezzano, a licensed speech-language pathologist, has more than 25 years of clinical and management experience. As Senior Vice President of Clinical Practice for Genesis Rehab Services, Garry plays a significant role in supporting the company's operations and driving the way clinical care is delivered.

In addition to his role with GRS, Garry currently serves as President for the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL), and formerly served as chair of its Medical Services Committee as well as Board Secretary. He also serves on the Joint Commission task force for ASHA, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Business Partners’ Advisory Board, and is on faculty for the Post-Acute Care Center for Research (PACCR). In addition, Garry is co-founder and co-chair of the Long Term Care Rehabilitation Consortium (LTCRC), a group of clinical leaders from national rehabilitation providers who are committed to improving the standard of rehabilitation services in long-term care.

Garry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication and Speech-Language Pathology from Trenton State College, and a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Rutgers University. He has completed Advanced Topics in Healthcare from Harvard University's School of Public Health and Wharton Business School, and is a certified Lean Sigma green belt.
Meet the Expert

Elaine Adams, OTR
Director, Regulatory Compliance

Elaine Adams is Director of Regulatory Compliance at Genesis Rehab Services. In this role, she reviews, analyzes, and provides education about health care legislation and regulation, especially in regard to the impact on clinical care, safety standards, business practices, and reimbursement systems and policies.

Elaine is actively involved in advocacy efforts related to fair and equitable reimbursement for therapy services. With a background as an occupational therapist, she frequently consults with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) regarding regulatory and reimbursement issues, and also collaborates on legislative and regulatory issues with other health care industry associations, such as the National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL).

She has a working knowledge of Medicare and other health care reimbursement systems and works to keep her knowledge current regarding local, state, and federal issues across the health care continuum. She is a graduate of Quinnipiac College (now known as Quinnipiac University), and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy and Administration degree at Northwestern University.

Elaine was awarded the Health Advocate Award by AOTA in 2011, an Award of Service by ConnOTA in 2013, and this year will be added to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

Meet the Expert

Sarah Thomas
Director, Global Innovation

As Director of Global Innovation, Sarah is involved with all elements of innovation within the company. She also represents Genesis Rehab Services at international conferences, professional association events, public forums, and advocacy groups.

Sarah is an occupational therapist, entrepreneur, and elder advocate. She has completed extensive training in the areas of low vision and home modification, receiving advanced certification through a collaborative with Mass Eye and Ear, Greater Boston Aide to the Blind, and Visions of Independence. Sarah was a founding board member of Visions of Independence, an occupational therapy-driven service organization for the visually impaired in the greater Boston area. She also consults for Aging 2.0 — LiftLabs (a tech start-up), LiftHero (an aging start-up), LysnIn (a social listening start-up for aging), and the National Readmission Prevention Collaborative.

Sarah received her degree in occupational therapy from Quinnipiac University. Later, she earned her massage therapy certification while also achieving Master Level Reiki Practitioner Status of the Usui Method.
Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Driving
**Date & Time:** Friday, April 8, 2016; 12:00pm-1:00pm

**Susan Touchinsky, OTR/L, SCDCM, CDRS**
Director, Driving Rehabilitation Services by Genesis Rehab Services

Susan Touchinsky is the Director of Driving Rehabilitation Services by Genesis Rehab Services. She holds a Specialty Certification in Driving and Community Mobility (SCDCM) from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and is a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS).

Susie, a graduate of Elizabethtown College, has completed training with Adaptive Mobility, worked for the Johns Hopkins Hospital Driving Program, and most recently, developed and runs Driving Rehabilitation Services at Genesis Rehab Services.

She has presented at numerous professional conferences including AOTA, the Association of Driving Rehab Specialist, the American Society on Aging, and the International Conference on Active Aging.

In her current role, Susie has developed a comprehensive driving program across the spectrum of occupational therapy within Genesis Rehab Services and participates in a range of research studies focused on further development of the OT practitioner in the practice of driving and community mobility.

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Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Vitality to You
**Date & Time:** Friday, April 8, 2016; 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Laura Caron-Parker, OTR/L**
Clinical Director, Vitality to You

Laura Caron-Parker, a graduate of The College of St. Catherine (now known as St. Catherine University), has over 30 years of experience working as an occupational therapist.

As Clinical Director of Vitality to You, she guides clinical practice in the home and community through promotion of consistent and efficient value-based care practice that supports IHI Triple Aim of achieving a better patient experience, population health management, and providing the right amount of care at the right time.

At GRS, she is recognized for clinical expertise and leadership in the areas of wellness, low vision, dementia, community asset mapping and health literacy.

Laura participated in the first year of the University of Southern California Occupational Therapy Department, “Well Elderly Research Project.” She also co-authored, *Asset Mapping: A Collaborative Approach to Care Transitions with Older Adults*, for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Gerontology Special Interest Section (GSIS) Quarterly Newsletter.

Laura is a trained AOTA CarFit Instructor and is an AOTA GSIS Editorial Advisory Member. In addition to her membership with AOTA, she is also a member of the American Society on Aging.
Meet the Expert

Topic: ACOTE
Date & Time: Friday, April 8, 2016; 3:00pm-4:00pm

Melissa Tilton, COTA/L, ROH
Clinical Operations Area Director

As Clinical Operations Area Director for Genesis Rehab Services, Melissa oversees 16 rehab centers and supports the directors of rehab at those locations in managing their clinical operations.

Melissa, a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, is very active in professional associations at both the national and the state level. At the national level, Melissa was recently elected to AOTA’s Board of Directors and will begin her term on July 1, 2016. She was inducted into the American Occupational Therapy Foundations Leaders and Legacies Society in 2015 and was named to AOTA’s prestigious Roster of Honor in 2013.

Melissa has also had the honor of serving on AOTA’s Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development, and she actively reviews applications for acceptance as an AOTA Approved Provider. Additionally, Melissa serves on the ACOTE’s Executive Committee as Treasurer and sits on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators.

At the state level, Melissa has served as both an OTA representative and a reimbursement representative for the Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy (MAOT), and worked her way up to President, an office that she held for two terms. Currently, she serves OTs and OTAs in her state as Vice President of MAOT.

Meet the Expert

Topic: Dementia
Date & Time: Friday, April 8, 2016; 4:00pm-5:00pm

Lynn Chatfield
Regional Clinical Director

Lynn Chatfield is an Occupational Therapist and Regional Clinical Director for Genesis Rehab Services. In this role, she works with staff to develop clinical excellence in all areas and to document their skilled interventions. She also provides formal and informal education to foster clinical growth.

Lynn received a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Buffalo and has spent the last 16 years working with residents in the long term care and skilled nursing facility settings.

Prior to joining GRS, she worked in SCI, burns, acute care and acute rehab. Lynn has served as a fieldwork supervisor and a mentor. She is also recognized by GRS as a Master Clinician in Dementia.

As a member of AOTA and the Virginia OT Association (VOTA), Lynn presented on two occasions at the Virginia OT Association Conference and at the 2011 AOTA Specialty Conference on Adult Cognition.

In addition, Lynn has served as a guest lecturer at Tidewater Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also currently on the Board of Directors for the COTA program at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
Diane Durham, MS, OTR
Vice President, Education and Staff Development

Diane Durham is the Vice President of Education and Staff Development for Genesis Rehab Services. In this role, she is responsible for centralizing education and management training throughout the organization as well as overseeing an active student and university program for all therapy disciplines.

Diane is a current American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) national trainer for the AOTA Fieldwork Educators Certificate Program. She has been an Occupational Therapist for 33 years, concentrating on brain injury, stroke treatment and leadership management. Most of her clinical work took place in her tenure at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Prior to GRS, Diane was an Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the Masters of Science Occupational Therapy Program at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. She was responsible for coordinating all Level I and II fieldwork, teaching professional issues and Neuro Developmental Techniques with the concentration on the adult population.

Diane holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Utica College and a Master of Science degree from Thomas Jefferson University.

Wendy Starnes, OTR/L, SCDCM
Senior New Business Consultant

As an occupational therapist with over 20 years of experience, Wendy Starnes is a Senior New Business Consultant for GRS’ international division in China and is also a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist for Driving Rehabilitation Services by Genesis Rehab Services.

In her current role, Wendy is focused on education curriculum development for GRS’ international division. The goal of this curriculum is to provide training to develop local practitioners to meet the significant staffing needs for healthcare services.

Prior to joining GRS in 2007, Wendy worked in the areas of community-based mental health and occupational therapy certification.

Her primary clinical interests include dementia, community mobility, program development, and maximizing quality occupational participation for her clients. Recently, she has explored and presented a poster presentation on the use of golf carts as a safe, viable method of community mobility.

Wendy holds a Specialty Certification in Driving and Community Mobility from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and is a certified Car Fit Instructor.
Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Gerontology
**Date & Time:** Saturday, April 9, 2016; 11:00am-12:00pm

Danielle Norris, MS, OTR/L, BCG
Manager, Regulatory Compliance

For the past nine years, Danielle has worked for Genesis Rehab Services in various capacities throughout the clinical and regulatory departments. Currently, Danielle is the Manager of Regulatory Compliance, which includes active regulatory oversight, guidance, and support to facilitate organizational compliance and mitigate financial risk. In this role, she also serves as a regulatory resource to support and promote clinical, operational, and reimbursement systems.

Danielle is Board Certified in Gerontology through the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and has been the Gerontology representative on the Board and Specialty Certification (BASC) for the past three years.

In addition, Danielle has provided training and instruction at the state and national level on topics that include: regulation, dementia care, low vision, Parkinson’s disease, mentoring and hospice care.

Danielle is a graduate of Carson Newman University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Psychology. She received a Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from East Carolina University and a Certificate in Executive Leadership from Philadelphia University. Danielle is also a member of the NC Board of OT and AOTA.

Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Non-traditional Opportunities
**Date & Time:** Saturday, April 9, 2016; 12:00pm-1:00pm

Jaime Scott, BA, COTA/L
Manager, Clinical Practice

Jaime Scott is a Clinical Manager for Genesis Rehab Services and has over 15 years of experience as a COTA/L in a variety of settings. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania College of Technology and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Care Management from Immaculata University.

Being an OTA has enabled Jaime to use her therapy skills along with her education to look at ventures on a broader and more innovative scale.

In her current role, she chairs the Product Review Committee, which evaluates resources and products that will enhance and support the programs, education and initiatives of the company and makes those recommendations to the company’s Clinical Practice department. She also coordinates, directs and oversees the processes for successful implementation of programs and subsequent compliance as well as quality assurance.

Jaime sits on the GRS Internal Research and Review committee and assists in reviewing proposed research studies and provides recommendations as well as oversight of those projects. Additionally, Jaime is a CarFit Event Coordinator and a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).
Meet the Expert

**Topic:** Geriatric Practice  
**Date & Time:** Saturday, April 9, 2016; 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Felicia Chew, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA**  
Vice President, Clinical Services

In her current role as Vice President of Clinical Services, Felicia leads occupational therapy practice at Genesis Rehab Services. She is responsible for clinical outcomes across the organization and works with several teams to benefit the client care delivery process. She is also responsible for initiatives regarding population health management and wellness in the new healthcare environment.

Felicia has presented at numerous times at the American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) annual conference, the American Society on Aging annual conference and a number of other national and local events. Additionally, she has worked on outcomes research with the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and The National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL).

Felicia has received the New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association’s (NJOTA) President’s Award and Award of Merit in Gerontology, and was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows. She is also currently the president of NJOTA.

Felicia holds a Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy Leadership and a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Misericordia University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Occupational Therapy from George Washington University.