

# INSPIRE

2024 Annual Conference & Expo *Orlando*  
March 21–23

## AOTA INSPIRE | 2024 Annual Conference & Expo Insights Orlando Insider Tips and Q&A with Alyson Stover

### Q&A with Alyson Stover, AOTA President

We asked **Alyson Stover**, MOT, JD, OTR/L, BCP, what inspired her to choose “Different but Same” as the topic for her AOTA INSPIRE 2024 Presidential Address, and why she is looking forward to AOTA INSPIRE 2024 in Orlando.



*Different but same* was actually the first “phrase” I ever learned in American Sign Language (ASL). My ASL professor and I were having an after-class discussion about the trials of raising children. Throughout the conversation we were laughing at so many shared “mom fails.” At one point, she paused and said, “My husband and I are deaf, you are not, and although our houses may look different, the goings on inside are really the same.” **We are different but same.**

As I have had the honor of traveling across the country, observing, exploring, and immersing myself in occupational therapy in hospitals, private practices, community programs, schools, pelvic floor practices, academic occupational therapy programs, academic occupational therapy

assistant programs, research labs, and all the places occupational therapy happens, I found myself having the same conversation. Laughing with many members of the occupational therapy community about that time our client was working so hard they accidentally screamed out a curse word, and we

paused as the entire space got quiet, looked around, and laughed hysterically, strengthening the bond we felt with that person in the moment. Becoming tearful together, as we recalled the fight to advocate with our client so they could remain in their home, and feeling the compassion fatigue of a battle lost. And becoming frustrated together discussing declining reimbursement experiences and encountering barriers to practicing our incredible profession in its full scope. Different but same was a theme that resonated with me after every trip.

We are all members of the occupational therapy community, but we are professionals from diverse backgrounds, working in diverse settings, implementing diverse interventions with diverse client communities, in diverse geographical locations, and yet we can laugh at shared sameness. Different but same.

The most surprising lesson I learned through this

Hear Alison’s Presidential Address about the unique ways occupational therapy practitioners are practicing today.

**Friday, March 22 | 11:30 am to 12:15 pm**

incredible journey in occupational therapy across the country? This different but same is only a portion of the OT story. The Venn diagram of occupational therapy is uniquely ... well, you should just join me at INSPIRE 2024 in Orlando, Florida, in March to hear that part of the story!

### What are you most looking forward to about AOTA INSPIRE 2024?

AOTA INSPIRE provides a platform to engage with thought leaders, learn about emerging trends, and explore the evolving landscape of occupational therapy. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to connect with professionals from all over the world, share experiences, and gain fresh insights that will contribute to my ongoing development. AOTA INSPIRE offers a dynamic space to celebrate our collective achievements, foster a spirit of collaboration, and chart a course for the future of occupational therapy.