

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**Cecilia Fierro, OTD, OTR**

**Business Address:**  
**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Occupational Therapy Department**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**1101 N. Campbell**  
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**LICENSES:** Texas Occupational Therapy License #107819

**CERTIFICATIONS:** National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy #1012809

**ACADEMIC PREPARATION:**

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Major</u>
Rocky Mountain University For Health Professions	Provo, UT	OTD	Jan. 2010	Occupational Therapy
University of Texas Medical Branch, School of Allied Health Sciences	Galveston, Texas	B.S.	Dec. 1996	Occupational Therapy

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT:**

**(TEACHING)**

<b>Clinical Associate Professor</b>	<b>September 1, 2023-present</b>
<b>Academic Fieldwork Coordinator</b>	<b>June 1, 2023-present</b>
<b>Associate Program Director</b>	<b>January 1, 2021-May 1, 2021</b>
<b>Interim Co-Program Director</b>	<b>June 1, 2018-August 31, 2019</b>
<b>Clinical Assistant Professor</b>	<b>2010 – present</b>
<b>Adjunct Professor</b>	<b>2008-2010</b>
<b>University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas</b>	

Responsible for teaching occupational therapy students enrolled in the masters program. Primarily responsible for teaching the clinical content of the OT program. Other responsibilities include research, student advising, University, college and program committee service, and serve as faculty advisor for student organizations including Pi Theta Epsilon and Students of Occupational Therapy Association.

**Courses Taught:**

**OTD Courses**

**OT 6430 Mental Health Evaluation and Intervention in OT**  
**OT 6431 General Medical Evaluation and Intervention in OT**  
**OT 6432 Orthopedic Evaluation and Intervention in OT**  
**OT 6433 Neurological Evaluation and Intervention in OT**  
**OT 6301 Healthcare Policy and Global Perspectives in OT**  
**OT 6308 Leadership and Management in OT**  
**OT Clinical Reasoning in OT**

**MOT Courses:**

OT 5310 Concepts and Foundations in Occupational Therapy  
OT 5314 Concepts and Foundation in Community Engagement  
OT 5102 Surface Anatomy  
DRSC 5396 Medical Kinesiology and Biomechanics  
OT 5316 Leadership and Management in Occupational Therapy  
OT 5628 Occupational Performance in Adults I  
OT 5629 Occupational Performance in Adults II  
OT 5315 Legal and Ethical Issues in Occupational Therapy  
OT 5302 Analysis and Adaptation II  
OT 5312 Psychosocial Aspects of Occupation  
DRSC 3311 Mental Health in Rehabilitation Science  
DRSC 3312 Health Care Policy in Rehabilitation Sciences (undergraduate)  
DRSC 3302 Health and Wellness in Rehabilitation Sciences (undergraduate)  
RSRC 4033 Undergraduate Research

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT: Grants**

**Submitted Grants**

- 2021** Principal Investigator, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Mental Health Initiative. (\$351,771), *Holistic Opportunities in Mindfulness Education*. Fierro, C. (PI), Todd, A. (Co-PI), Olivera, R. (Co-PI). Not Funded.
- 2021** Education Grant (\$2,024,485). *Undergraduate Research in Geriatrics (URGE) Program*. NIA MSTEM: Advancing Diversity in Aging Research through Undergraduate Education (R25) National Institutes of Health Grant. Fierro, C (PI), Valencia, C. (Co-PI), Gurovich, A. (Co-I), Lara, P. (Co-I), Umucu, E. (Co-I), Bialunska, A. (Co-I). Resubmission under review.
- 2020** Principal Investigator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (\$2,600,000.00). Not Funded.
- 2019** Education Grant (\$2,000,000). *Undergraduate Research in Geriatrics (URGE) Program*. NIA MSTEM: Advancing Diversity in Aging Research through Undergraduate Education (R25) National Institutes of Health Grant. Fierro, C (PI), Valencia, C. (Co-PI), Gurovich, A. (Co-I), Lara, P. (Co-I), Umucu, E. (Co-I), Bialunska, A. (Co-I). Not Funded.
- 2019** Co-Investigator, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Minority Health Research and Education Grant. Education Grant (\$487,444). *Integrated Behavioral Care for Underserved Populations through Interprofessional Student Clinical Training Experiences*. Unfunded.
- 2018** Principal Investigator/Program Director, Health Resources and Services Administration, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (\$1,900,166.00). Funded.
- 2018** Principal Investigator, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Community Living and Participation (Research), *Driving: The Gateway to Independent Community Access and Participation for Individuals with Disabilities*, \$2,375,000. Unfunded.

- 2018 Co-Investigator, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Community Living and Participation (Program Development), *Creative Work Opportunities for people with Disabilities*, \$2,375,000. Unfunded.**
- 2018 Principal Investigator, Fisher House Foundation, Inc., Newman's Own Grants, Warriors and Families: Strategies for Improving Health and Wellness, \$50,000. Unfunded.**

## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT: CLINICAL**

April 3, 2006-  
October 14, 2016 El Paso Orthopedic Surgery Group  
1755 Curie  
El Paso, TX 79902

Occupational Therapist for two hand clinics. Responsible for the evaluation and treatment of clients with orthopedic injuries such as fractures, and status post surgery rehabilitation for shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand injuries such as rotator cuff tears, carpal tunnel and nerve entrapments. Responsible for the supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants and technicians.

January, 2007-  
August, 2013 University Medical Center/RE Thomason Hospital

PRN therapist working with acute care patients that include trauma Cases such as TBI, stroke, SCI, wound care, gun shot wounds, and other orthopedic and neurological disorders.

October, 2005-  
March 31, 2006 Mimbres Memorial Hospital  
900 W. Ash  
Deming, NM 88030

Director of Rehabilitation Services for Mimbres Memorial Hospital, Nursing Home, Home Health, and Outpatient services. Responsible for supervision of Physical, Occupational, Speech therapists, and technical/clerical staff. Evaluate and treat clients of all ages in an inpatient and outpatient basis. Clinical expertise in neurorehabilitation, orthopedic, manual therapy, low vision, and balance/vestibular treatment.

December 6, 1999-  
September, 2005 Sierra Providence Health Network  
1740 Curie  
El Paso, TX 79902

Sierra Providence Health Network Director for Physical and Occupational Therapy for two acute hospitals, one inpatient rehabilitation hospital, and two

outpatient clinics. Responsible for hiring staff, disciplinary action, financial and budgeting for the departments. Responsible for program development and staffing needs. Responsible for marketing programs through various media in the community. Responsible for supervision of Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants and Fieldwork students. Clinical expertise in neurorehabilitation and orthopedic treatment and working with clients of all ages. Responsible for evaluation and treatment of clients with CVA, TBI, SCI, shoulder/hand injuries, hip/knee replacements.

April 19, 1999-  
December 4, 1999

Integrate Health Services, Inc.  
2311 N. Oregon  
El Paso, TX 79902

Full time Occupational Therapist responsible for evaluation, treatment planning, and implementation for individuals of all ages with mental and physical disabilities including fractures, CVA, TBI, and SCI. Responsible for coordinating for rehabilitative services under a PPS environment. PPS Liaison and therapy coordinator.

November 1, 1998-  
April 16, 1999

NovaCare, Inc.  
El Paso Healthcare and Rehab Center  
11525 Vista Del Sol  
El Paso, TX 79935

Full time Occupational Therapist responsible for evaluation, treatment planning and implementation for individuals with mental health and physical disabilities such as fractures, stroke, TBI, SCI. Specifically focused on geriatric population. Responsible for supervision of COTA's. Responsible for coordinating the rehabilitative services provided to patients by all disciplines under a PPS environment.

January 30, 1997-  
October 31, 1998

Rehabworks, Inc.  
Mountain View Healthcare Center  
1600 Murchison  
El Paso, TX 79902

Senior Occupational Therapist responsible for evaluation, treatment planning and implementation for individuals with mental and physical disabilities. Specifically focused on geriatric population. Responsible for supervision of COTA's, technicians, and Fieldwork students.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

### **Membership in Professional Organizations**

Member- Texas Occupational Therapy Association (Nominations Chair-2023)

Member and Secretary- Texas Occupational Therapy Association (2005-2009)  
Member and District Chair – Texas Occupational Therapy Association (2009-2016)  
Member – Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Lifetime Member-Pi Theta Epsilon  
Member – International Kinesiotaping Association  
Member of the International Women’s Leadership Association  
Member-Aquatic Therapy and Rehab Institute  
Member-American Hand Therapy Society Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) committee (Chair 9-2023-Present) and Technology and Communication Committee (2021-Present)  
Member-Neuro-Developmental Treatment Association  
CarFit Technician (2019-current)  
CarFit Coordinator (2020-current)  
AOTA Conference Reviewer (2013)  
NBCOT Item Developer (2012-2014 & 2019)  
WFOT Conference Reviewer (2017)  
Member – World Federation of Occupational Therapy (2013-2015)  
Member - American Occupational Therapy Association (2008-2015)  
Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (2003-2009)

### **Community Service**

Community and Academic Partnership in Health Science Research (2014-present) – member of a group of representatives from various community health agencies and from UTEP interested in conducting research to improve health services in our border community. Committee involves Parks and Recreation and senior health.

Student Health Advisory Council-Member (2021-present): provide information regarding health related issues that affect students in the Ysleta Independent School District

Junior Woman’s Club of El Paso-Member (2003-2016) Treasurer (2012-2015): have held other offices and chaired several committees throughout the past 11 years.

Secretary and Den Leader for Cub Scouts Pack 86 (August 2016-present): provide educational activities for children ages 7-8 years and children with disabilities.

Community Partners with the Rescue Mission of El Paso, Gigi’s Playhouse, El Paso Parks and Recreation, ECI, WIC, Compadre’s Therapy, Candlelighters of El Paso, etc. for student participation and future projects.

CarFit Technician-provided education to older adults on driving adaptations and recommendations to enhance independence and safe driving (2019-current)

Mindfulness and Mental Health in school age children presentations at Del Norte Elementary, Young Women’s Leadership Academy, and Crocket Elementary (2019-current)

El Paso Hand Therapy Association-co-Founder (2019-current)

### **EDUCATIONAL**

## PUBLICATIONS

Lin, M., **Fierro, C.**, Medrano, C., Arroyos, D., & Medrano, G. (2020). Addressing mental health needs of elementary school children through university-community collaboration. *SIS Quarterly Practice Connections*, 5(3), 20-22.

Fierro, C. (2012, May 1). Watch out for trigger finger. *El Paso, Inc.*  
[http://www.elpasoinc.com/elpasoplus/health/watch-out-for-trigger-finger/article\\_38b6f9f2-93a8-11e1-a29b-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.elpasoinc.com/elpasoplus/health/watch-out-for-trigger-finger/article_38b6f9f2-93a8-11e1-a29b-001a4bcf6878.html)

Fierro, C. (2015, April 12). Carpal tunnel becoming more prevalent. *El Paso Times*.  
<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/life/wellness/2015/04/12/carpal-tunnel-syndrome-becoming-more-prevalent/31291627/>

## PRESENTATIONS/ INSERVICE

*A Client Centered Approach to Address Injury* , November 4, 2023, H2F Texas Occupational Therapy Association 2023 Annual Conference, Fierro, C, OTD, OTR, Tu, Timothy, DSc, Med, OTR

*The Pain Fog: A Client Centered Approach to Address Injury* , May 24, 2023, H2F Conference, Fierro, C, OTD, OTR, Tu, Timothy, DSc, Med, OTR

*Incorporating Mindfulness in OT Education: What are the Benefits?* November 5, 2021, Texas Occupational Therapy Association 2021 Annual Conference

*Treatment of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Imbalance*, November 5-December 31, 2021, Texas Occupational Therapy Association 2021 Annual Conference, Fierro, C., OTD, OTR, Delgado, J., CHT, OT, Munoz, N., MOT, OTR

*A Mindful Family*, October 16, 2021, Parent Mental Health Symposium, Fierro, C., Todd, A., Medrano, C.

*Teaching to be Mindful*, October 12, 2021, Mental Health in Schools Conference, Fierro, C., Todd, A., Medrano, C.

*Living and Teaching to be Mindful*, September 18, 2021, San Elizario Independent School District Training

*Developing meaningful mentorship to increase interest in hand therapy and improve clinical outcomes*, October 1, 2020, American Society of Hand Therapist Annual Conference  
Fierro, C.,OTD, OTR, Delgado, J., CHT, OT, Munoz, N.,MOT, OTR

*The Role of Occupational Therapy in Cancer Survivorship and Pain Management*, November 2, 2019, Texas Occupational Therapy Association 2019 Conference

*Preventative Care and Pain Management Techniques for Osteoarthritis*, November 1, 2019, Texas Occupational Therapy Association 2019 Conference

*Creating a Mindful Classroom*, October 18, 2019, Mental Health in Schools Conference, Region 19

*Splinting Made Easy*, November 14, 2018, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Evaluation and Treatment of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome*, November 2, 2018, Mountain Central Conference, Sugarland, TX, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*The Impact of Art in Mental Health in Underserved Populations*, April 11, 2018, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*OT Perspective on Aging, Social Participation, and Fitness*, April 11, 2018, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Evaluation and Treatment for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome*, April 30, 2018, Rio Grande District, Texas at Occupational Therapy Association

*Ergonomics Presentation*, Office of Alumni Association, May 8, 2018, University of Texas at El Paso

*Ergonomics Presentation*, Library Department, December 20, 2017, University of Texas at El Paso

*Community Mobility: Older Adults*, April 18, 2017; Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Occupational Therapy*, April 11, 2017, University of Texas at El Paso

*Occupational Therapy and Visual Deficit Interventions*, April 8, 2017, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Significance of Sleep and Fatigue with Traumatic Brain Injury*, April 11, 2016, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Myofascial Release in Orthopedic Conditions*, April 11, 2016, Rio Grande District, Texas Occupational Therapy Association

*Assessment and Intervention of Shoulder Disorders*, November 6, 2015, Texas Occupational Therapy Association, Mountain Central Conference

*Technology and High Tech Devices in Occupational Therapy Practice*, November 7, 2015, Texas Occupational Therapy Association, Mountain Central Conference

*Carpal Tunnel Inservice*, 2013-2014, Texas Worker's Compensation El Paso

*Introduction to Wound Care*, October 4, 2014, Texas Occupational Therapy Association, Mountain Central Conference

*Basic Introduction to Physical Agent Modalities*, November 8, 2014, Texas Occupational Therapy Association, Mountain Central Conference

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH:**

Comparing Exercise Levels and Independence in ADL and IADL between Seniors at Pavo Real Senior Center and Westside YMCA: A Cross Sectional Study, 2019

The Effects of Expressive Art on Well-Being in the Homeless population in El Paso: A Pilot Study, 2019

Promoting Mental Health in School-Aged Children: A Pilot Study-2019

Aging in Place: Measuring the Quality of Life of the Aging Population-2020

The Effects of a Multicomponent Intervention on Military Caregiver Burden and Quality of Life-2019

The Implementation of Mindfulness Therapeutic Activities to Alleviate Burden among Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities-2019

Mental Health Needs of Mothers and Infants in Tornillo, Texas, 2020

The Impact of COVID-19 on Graduate Students in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso, 2021

Impact of Online Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021

The Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Performance of Healthcare Students While on Clinical Rotations: A Quantitative Study, 2021

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Member-at-Large of Texas Society for Advancement of Health Professions, 2023-2024

Representative and Member of Texas Society for Advancement of Health Professions, 2021

Member of the College of Health Sciences Research Committee (2019-present)

Member of the Health Focused Interprofessional Education Community of Practice (2019-present)

Member of the Community of Practice on Aging (2019-present)

Member of the Mental and Emotional Well-Being Community of Practice (2018-present)

Dodson Research Grant Reviewer, December 2019

Judge for the Graduate Student Research Expo, November 8, 2018

Member of the Faculty Recruitment, Development, and Evaluation Committee, 2017-2021

Member of Academic Affairs Committee, 2017-2021

Member of the Faculty Organization, 2017-2019

Dodson Research Grant Reviewer, December 2017

Member of the BUILDing Scholars program, Mentor, 2017-2019

Judge for the Graduate Student Research Expo, November, 2017

Member of the RSO Advisors Round Table, 2017-present

Member of the Admissions Committee for Occupational Therapy Program

Member of the Centennial Committee for the Occupational Therapy Program 2015-2016

Member of the Student Affairs Committee (2014-2016)

Co-Faculty Advisor for SOTA (2010-2012)

Authoring OT department activities for the CHS Newsletter (January, 2013- June, 2014)

Faculty Co-Advisor for Student Advisory Council (2020-2021)

Faculty Advisor for Pi Theta Epsilon (2013-2021)

Faculty Advisor for SOTA-(2014-2021)

Faculty Advisor for Aspiring Occupational Therapy Student Association (2019-current)

Member of CAPHSR (2012-2016)

Participated in Career Day about OT program at UTEP May 27, 2016- Cedar Grove Elementary School PTE Celebration, April 15, 2016

Participated in SOTA Fundraiser- Bubble Soccer April 30, 2016

Participated in Student Orientation on May 31, 2016

Participated at UTEP Open House, September 10, 2016

Assisted in Interdisciplinary Language Simulation Lab, November 4, 2016

Dodson Research Grant Reviewer, December 7-22, 2016

**Awards and Honors:**

Member of Alpha Chi Honor Society

Member of Golden Key Honor Society

Lifetime Member of Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society

Member of Cambridge Who's Who of Executives and Professionals

Roster of Merit Award from Texas Occupational Therapy Association

Letter of Appreciation from Texas Occupational Therapy Association (2015 and 2019)

Chair of Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (2006-2009)

President's Meritorious Team/Department Service Award (2022)- Health Focuses Interdisciplinary  
Education Community of Practice (Member)