

CURRICULUM VITAE
IMELDA LLANOS, OTR/L, MS VISUAL DISABILITIES

WORK ADDRESS

Program Manager, Vision Impairment Clinic, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service
Coordinator, Polytrauma Research Executive Committee, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Svc.

James A. Haley VA Medical Center
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612
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HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduated with Highest Honors from the Florida State University Master of Science in Visual Disabilities
Trained in Orientation and Mobility
Trained in Vision Therapy through the Optometric Extension Program
Developed and implemented a vision rehabilitation program for brain-injured patients at the James A. Haley VA Hospital Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation service
Subject Matter Expert, joint VA-DoD taskforce groups to develop evaluation and management pathways for brain injured patients
Member, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Vision Taskforce
Senior Rehabilitation Specialist, Division of Blind Services in Tampa, Florida, 1999-2002
Former Member, State of Florida Advisory Group for the Development of Programs and Services for the Independent and Adult Living Programs of Visually-Impaired Individuals
Developed a Braille Readiness and Teaching Kit for visually-impaired clients in need of alternative communication skills
Strong clinical and management skills and experience in the field of occupational therapy and rehabilitation programs
Research Coordinator and Chairperson, Polytrauma Research Executive Committee, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service
Co-investigator, Recommendations and Interventions for and Changes in the Ocular Health and Visual Function of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, multi-site project
Trained in Adaptive Wheelchair Tai-Chi

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Visual Disabilities, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, August 2002
Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines, April 1989
Preparatory Dentistry, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, April 1986

BOARD and SPECIALTY CERTIFICATIONS

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, 1992 to Present
State of Florida Department of Health, 1992 to Present
Certification in Use of Saebo Splints, since 2004
Certification in Kinesiotaping, since 2002
Certification in Use of Thermal Modalities, since 1994

CURRENT LICENSURE

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
Florida Occupational Therapy License

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, FL, 2004 to Present

Coordinator, Polytrauma Research Executive Committee, 2015 to Present

Oversees the overall leadership and direction of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) service research activities. Builds organizational effectiveness and maintains integration of program objectives.

Coordinates intra- and inter- facility (Veteran Affairs and Department of Defense hospitals and clinics, civilian hospitals, and academia) research projects within the PM&R service comprising of around 45 research projects with collaboration with more than 45 sites around the country

Provides guidance and assistance to other clinicians whose research interests and projects directly or indirectly impact the PM&R service and all its stakeholders

Program Manager, PM&R Vision Impairment Clinic, 2006 to Present

Developed the vision impairment program for James A. Haley VA Hospital PM&R service to identify, evaluate, and treat patients with visual problems due to brain injury

Coordinates and case manages the services of visually impaired patients served by PM&R service. Collaborates with other services including but not limited to the Eye Clinic and Low and Blind Rehabilitation services to provide eye and rehabilitation care for visually impaired patients

Oversees the daily operations of the program including equipment acquisition, program review and development, marketing, and collaboration with other disciplines to ensure smooth daily clinical and programmatic operational needs of the clinic. Coordinates research activities to ensure program development and provide evidence-based services to patients served

Faculty: Optometry Fellowship and Residency Program, 2011 to Present

Provides clinical guidance and oversight to Optometry residents and fellows on vision rehabilitation intervention strategies for visual issues and dysfunctions secondary to brain injury

Collaborates with Optometry residents and fellows on case projects for lectures, presentations, or research projects

Occupational Therapist, Lead – Neurological Dysfunctions, 2004 to 2006

Served as a resource personnel to colleagues in the management of neurological and musculoskeletal dysfunctions

Provided occupational therapy services to veterans and active duty service members served in the acute, rehabilitation, and outpatient settings

Actively participated in interdisciplinary meetings and care/discharge planning of patients served acute, rehabilitation, and outpatient settings

Florida Hospital Tampa, Tampa, Fl, 2011 to Present, Occupational Therapist, PRN – Acute Care Setting

- Provides screening, evaluation, and management services to patients served in the different assigned acute-care and transitional care settings at the hospital
- Collaborates with patients, family members, and members of the clinical team to identify the best care and discharge options for the patients

Brandon Regional Hospital, Brandon, Fl, 2002 to 2004, Lead Occupational Therapist: Inpatient, Outpatient, and NICU Programs

- Provided occupational therapy services in the acute, outpatient, and neonatal intensive care (NICU) settings within the hospital
- Supervised other occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) employed by the hospital
- Primary rehabilitation personnel serving the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital

Division of Blind Services, Tampa, Fl, 1999 to 2002, Senior Rehabilitation Specialist, Independent Living and Adult Program

- Performed assessments and provided intervention to clients in need of training in the areas of Independent Living Skills and Basic Orientation and Mobility
- Coordinated services and referrals of visually-impaired clients community-based rehabilitation facilities, low vision physicians, ophthalmologists, and other community-based outreach centers and services
- Organized support groups and adhoc services for visually-impaired clients and their families
- Provided training for newly-hired personnel

Bayfront Medical Center, St. Petersburg, Fl, 2000 to 2007, Occupational Therapist – TBI and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Inpatient Programs

- Screened, evaluated, and treated patients served in the inpatient brain injury program and rehabilitation unit
- Collaborated with other disciplines on care and discharge planning needs of patients served
- Performed community re-integration activities for patients to better prepare them for discharge into the community

Hillhaven Corporation/Vencor, Tampa, Fl, 1992 to 2000, Director of Occupational Therapy

- Developed and implemented programs for external contract facilities (acute long-term and sub-acute settings) acquired by Hillhaven Corporation
- Supervised more than 30 occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants
- Implemented restorative programs for different nursing home units acquired by Hillhaven Corporation
- Developed and performed quarterly assurance evaluations and reports to improve rehabilitation services and outcomes within the facilities served
- Provided educational training programs for medical team and nursing staff to promote a better understanding of the Occupational Therapy profession
- Developed OT screening and evaluation tools for the OT department of the different facilities supervised
- Responsible for marketing and development of community networks for the facilities supervised

Performed monthly productivity reports and oversaw yearly budget for the department

Level I and Level II Fieldwork Coordinator, 1992 to 1999

Coordinated fieldwork assignments for different university affiliations for Level 1 and Level 2 OT students

Worked with academia for programmatic review and development

Member, National Task Force for Dynamic Splinting

Member of a national task force tasked to develop a dynamic splinting protocol and budget for Hillhaven Corporation

ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT

Faculty: Optometry Fellowship and Residency Program, 2011 to Present

Faculty: VA Voices, April 2018

Fieldwork Coordinator for Level I and II OT Students, 1992 to 1999

University of Florida - Occupational Therapy

Michigan State University - Occupational Therapy

Kentucky University - Occupational Therapy

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Former Member - American Occupational Therapy Association

Former Member - Florida Occupational Therapy Association

COMMITTEE WORK

National

Member, Vision Task Force, Stroke Networking Group, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, 03/2012 to present

Subject Matter Expert Panel Member, Vision Consensus Conference Agenda: Visual Dysfunction Following Traumatic Brain Injury: Referral and Rehabilitation, 2012 to 2016

Subject Matter Expert Panel Member, DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence Consensus Conference, 2011 to 2016

Member, Blind Rehabilitation Services Consensus Validation Project - 2007 to 2008

Hospital

Lean Sigma AT Lead - 2015 to present

OT Representative, QIT Group on Evaluation of the Management of Patients with Feeding and Swallowing Problems in Veterans - 2006

Clinical Point of Contact for returning OIF/OEF Veterans with visual complaints - 2006 to present

State - Florida

Member - State of Florida Advisory Council for the Development of Programs and Services for the Independent and Adult Living Programs of Visually-Impaired Individuals - 2000 to 2001

City - Tampa

Coordinator - Altar Servers' Ministry, St. Paul Catholic Church - 2016 to Present

Retreat Leader - Women's Group Retreat for 2018 - 2017 to present

Team Leader – Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa annual Event – 2015 to Present
Committee Chairperson – SY 2016-2017 Graduation Dance, Corpus Christi Catholic School – 2017
Chairperson – PTC Fundraising Event, Corpus Christi Catholic School – 2015 to Present

NEW PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

Created and Developed Vision Impairment Program for Brain-Injured Patients, J. A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Tamp FL – 2006 to present
Developed a Braille Readiness and Teaching Kit for Visually-Impaired Clients in need of Alternative Communication Skills – 2001 to 2002
Created and Developed OT programs for sub-acute and long-term care rehabilitation Centers – 1993 to 1996

RECENT PRESENTATIONS: NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

“Evaluation and Management of Visual Dysfunctions in TBI Patients”, Shriner’s Hospital, Tampa, Florida, May 2017
“Vision Rehabilitation in a Polytrauma Setting: An Overview”, Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass. Eye & Ear, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, March 2017
“Vision and Driving”, National Drivers’ Education Conference, Tampa, Florida, September 2016
“Vision Rehabilitation in the Management of Visual Symptoms Associated with Oculopalatal Myoclonus”, American Academy of Optometrist, October 2015
“Vision Rehabilitation for Polytrauma and mTBI”, VA Optometrists monthly mTBI Conference, May 2014
“Evaluation and Treatment of Visual Field Defects”, Annual Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association International Conference, April 2014, Raleigh, North Carolina
“Interdisciplinary Management of mTBI”, VA Speech Language Pathologists National Conference, April 2014, Orlando, Florida
“Bridging the Gap Between Rehab and Eye Providers: Successful Strategies To Improve Patient Outcomes in Individuals with TBI and Vision Problems”, Managing Vision Disorders Following Traumatic Brain Injury Seminar, Blinded Veterans Association Conference, August 2013, Spokane, Washington
“AT Devices and Software for Adult Neurogenic Rehabilitation”, ASHA (American Speech-Language Hearing Association) HealthCare and Business Institute, April 2013, Orlando, Florida
“Seeing Through the Cognitive Challenges”, DVBIC-SOMA TBI Symposium, December of 2012, Tampa, Florida
“Bringing TBI and Vision Into Focus: What Can We Do as Occupational Therapists?”, AOTA Specialty Conference – Advanced Practice in Traumatic Injuries & PTSD, September 2012, San Antonio, Texas
“Bringing TBI and Vision Into Focus: What Can We Do as Occupational Therapists?”, DVBIC TBI Summit, August 2011
“Vision Rehabilitation Program in a Polytrauma Continuum of Care”, DoD/VA Vision Center of Excellence Consensus Conference, August 2011, Las Vegas, Nevada
“OT Evaluation and Treatment Strategies for Visual Problems Related to TBI”, DOD TBI OT VTC, April and June 2011
“Vision Rehabilitation in TBI”, TBI Vision Symposium, NiCOE, Washington, DC, February 2011
“Multi-Sensory Program”, Annual Blast Injury Conference, Tampa, Florida, December 2010, Tampa, Florida

“Assessment, Planning, and Intervention of Visual Deficits Resulting from TBI: A Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service Perspective”, Federal Recovery Coordinators Meeting, Tampa, Florida, February 2009
“Vision and Driving”, National Drivers’ Education Conference, Tampa, Florida, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2016

POSTERS:

Co-author: “Clinical Presentation and Management Following a Sub-Occipital Craniotomy for Removal of Cerebellar Mass”, College of Optometrists in Vision Development: April 2017
Co-author: “Vision Rehabilitation in the Management of Visual Symptoms Associated with Oculopalatal Myoclonus”, American Academy of Optometry: October 2015
Co-Author: “Meaningful Recovery Using Visual Therapy in a Patient with Balint Syndrome”, Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: October 2015

PUBLICATIONS:

Co-author: “ A Robotic Hand Device Safety Study for People with Cervical Spinal Cord Injury”, Federal Practitioner: April 2018, digital version
Composition of a Vision Screen for Servicemembers With Traumatic Brain Injury: Consensus Using a Modified Nominal Group Technique”, American Journal of Occupational Therapy: July-August 2014
Co-author: “Focus on Capabilities not Disabilities – Sports and Recreation for the Visually Impaired Service Member and Veteran”, Federal Practitioner: June 2012

RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT:

Co-investigator: Recommendations and Interventions for and Changes in the Ocular Health and Visual Function of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, VA HSR&D