

Dr. Beverlea Tallant Occupational Therapy **in Mental Health Research Award**

Beverlea Kathleen Tallant, PhD., O.T. received her Diploma in Physical and Occupational Therapy from the University of Toronto in 1961. This event marked the beginning of a distinguished professional career as clinician, administrator, educator and researcher in the field of mental health. She joined the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University, and began her life in academia in 1969. Teaching about the role of occupational therapy (OT) in the assessment and treatment of psychiatric patients was her passion. She quickly transformed a 26 hour lecture course, into four three credit psychosocial OT courses. Dr. Tallant introduced the notion of psychosocial labs to enable students to experience assessment and treatment techniques that OTs use in mental health settings. She also taught physical therapy students a course on psychiatric conditions and psychological responses to physical disability. Dr. Tallant conducted research and made major contributions to the OT program, the School and the University. She particularly enjoyed chairing the Curriculum Committee and was instrumental in developing the new professional Master's curricula in the School. She also served as an active member of University Senate and Senate committees.

Purpose of the Award:

To recognize a student who has conducted an outstanding research project related to Occupational Therapy practice in mental health.

The award was established by Dr. Tallant in 2011, thanks to generous donations from family, friends and colleagues as well as graduates of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at the time of her retirement.

Eligibility

1. **Students enrolled in the Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation Science (MSc or PhD)** who have implemented (not in the planning stages) an outstanding research project addressing theories, assessments, interventions or outcomes relevant to OT practice for individuals with a mental health condition.
2. Preference is given to an occupational therapy graduate student conducting mental health research.

Students will only be considered for one award per degree program (unless unused funds are available).

Evaluation criteria:

- Degree of correspondence between the student's project and the award objectives
- Quality and impact of the project
- Student's role within the project (leadership, innovation, contribution)

Value of the award: The amount is a minimum of \$750 to a maximum of \$1400 depending on available funds.

Responsibilities

Awardees will be expected to give a presentation of their projects at an event that will be organized by the Awards Committee.

Application Process

a) Each application must include:

1. A completed and signed **application form**.
2. **One page application letter** that addresses the pertinence of the project to the objectives of the award.
3. **Letter of Support** from one faculty member of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/spot/faculty>) clarifying the innovation, merit and relevance of the applicant's research project.*
4. Curriculum vitae of the applicant (should include a list of awards received, any presentations and publications).

***Note:** Letters of support should not be mere testimonials; they should address the cultural sensitivity, innovation, creativity, sustainability, merit and relevance of the applicant's project.

b) Electronic submission of the application materials is to be sent to the **Graduate Committee (graduate.rehabilitation@mcgill.ca)** through the student's McGill email by 16h00 on February 28th. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.

Review Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee, with input from the Director of the Occupational Therapy Program, the Director of the Physical Therapy Program, and ad hoc faculty members, as needed.
- All applicants will receive notification from the Chair of the Graduate Committee once the selection process is complete.

The awards will be presented at the reception held prior to convocation each year.

School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University
Dr. Beverlea Tallant Occupational Therapy in Mental Health Research Award

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name

Address

Telephone _____ **Fax** _____ **Email** _____

Graduate program _____

PROJECT TYPE (select one from the boxes below)

An outstanding project related to a psychiatric population and occupational therapy in mental health such as research on:

- the development of a new theory and/or research on existing psychosocial OT theories.
- development of an assessment in psychiatric OT.
- the implementation and/or comparison of innovative psychiatric OT treatment programs.
- advancing the understanding of the function of individuals with mental health conditions in their daily occupations.

TITLE OF PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (maximum of 500 words)

APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Indicate, in the boxes below, if the following have been included in your application:

- Completed application form
- Application Letter
- Letter of Support (Faculty member)
- Curriculum Vitae

Date _____ **Signature** _____

**Send by February 28th to the Graduate Committee at
graduate.rehabilitation@mcgill.ca**