The Ethos of Occupational Therapy

Each profession has a unique ethos, or character, that can be discovered and presented in the form of its guiding beliefs. Inquiry into the ethos of occupational therapy suggests that one central document elaborating the profession’s core values falls short of capturing distinct beliefs that have guided practice since its founding years. Values that distinguish occupational therapy from other professions and that promise to empower practitioners to meet contemporary challenges merit inclusion in the Core Values and Attitudes of Occupational Therapy Practice. Five such values, exemplified through historical and contemporary stories of practice, are the subject of this presentation.