

Brenda Vrkljan – Curriculum Vitae

Educational Background:

- 2006 Ph.D., Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences
Dissertation: In-Vehicle Navigation systems and driving safety: The occupational Performance of older drivers and passengers – A mixed methods approach (November) University of Western Ontario
- 2000 M.Cl.Sc., Occupational Therapy, The University of Western Ontario
- 1998 B.A., Physical Education with Honours, Wilfrid Laurier University

Current Status:

Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Program, School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

Professional Organizations:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1998 – present | Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists |
| 2000 – present | College of Occupational Therapists Ontario |
| 2000 – present | Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists |
| 2003 – present | Canadian Association of Gerontologists |
| 2008 – present | Association of Driving Rehabilitation Specialists, member |

Employment History:

Academic: McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

- 2006 – Present Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy Graduate Program, Faculty of Health Sciences

Academic: The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

- 2002 – 2005 Guest Lecturer, Graduate Program, Master of Science, Faculty of Health Sciences (Occupational Therapy)
- 2004 Course Instructor, Graduate Program, Master of Science (Occupational Therapy)
- 2002 – 2003 Teaching Assistant, Graduate Program, Master of Science (Occupational Therapy)

Clinical Practice: Chatham, Ontario

- 2002 Consultant, Occupational Therapy School Health Program, Chatham-Kent, Community Care Access Centre
- 2001 – 2002 Staff Occupational Therapist, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- 2000 – 2001 Community Occupational Therapist, ParaMed Home Health Services

Scholarly and Professional Activities:**Editorial Boards:**

- 2003 – 2007 Member of Editorial Board, Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy

Grant & Personnel Committees:**McMaster University**

- 2008 – present Advisory Board Member. *National Blueprint for the Injury Prevention of Older Drivers Project*. Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- 2008 – present Associate Health Researcher, Centre on Aging, University of Victoria. Funded by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research grant
- Fall, 2007 Auto21 – Network for the Centres of Excellence (NCEs) – Network Renewal Team. NCE was renewed for 5-year term (5.8 million / year)
- Fall 2006 Advisory Board. *Report for Coroner of Ontario. Response to Coroner's Inquest: Touching the death of Elizabeth Kidnie*. Jury Verdict and Recommendations. ON; 2003.
- 2006 Summer Program in Aging, Institute of Aging, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Building capacity in research on aging.

The University of Western Ontario

- 2005 – 2006 University Discipline Appeal Committee
- 2005 – 2006 Steering Committee, Health Policy Initiative
- 2005 – 2006 Rehabilitation Sciences Doctoral Program Committee
- 2004 – 2006 Senate Review Board Academic

Educational Activities

- 2007 Learning and Technology Research Day Seminar, Centre for Leadership and Learning
- 2007 How to teach Large Classes Seminar, Centre for Leadership and Learning
- 2006 *Fall 2006* Problem-based Learning Workshops, Role of the Tutor, Program for Faculty Development McMaster University
- 2005 'How to teach at a university level' Academic course/certification. The Teaching Support Centre, The University of Western Ontario

Journal Referee:

- 2005 Journal of Aging and Physical Activity
- 2002 – present Adhoc Reviewer, Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy

Other:

- 2004 – present Canadian Driving Research Initiative for Vehicular Safety in the Elderly (CanDRIVE) – CIHR Emerging Team Grant
- 2003 – present Abstract Reviewer, Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, National Conference
- 2002 – present Auto21 – A Network of Centres of Excellence, Researcher/Co-Investigator
- 2005 – 2007 Evidence-Based Task Force, Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists

Areas of Interest:

Research:

1. Driver rehabilitation and community mobility across the lifespan.
2. Technology use and participation in older adulthood.
3. Knowledge translation strategies and clinical practice

Teaching:

1. Clinical Skills Training for Occupational Therapists.
2. Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy Practice.
3. Occupational Therapy for Older Adults (Driving, Community Mobility, Participation)

Honours:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2006 | International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence (ICADI) Graduate Student Scholarship |
| 2005 | Occupational Therapy Excellence in Teaching Award, School of Occupational Therapy, The University of Western Ontario |
| 2004 | Graduate Student Teaching Award, Faculty of Graduate Studies, The University of Western Ontario |
| 2003 – 2004 | Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral), The University of Western Ontario |
| 2002 – 2003 | Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation (COTF) Thelma Cardwell Scholarship |
| 2002 – 2003 | Special University Doctoral Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario |
| 2000 | Smith & Nephew Graduate Award – Most likely to make a significant contribution to the profession, School of Occupational Therapy, The University of Western Ontario |
| 1999 – 2000 | Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Master's), The University of Western Ontario |

Courses Taught:

Graduate:

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

2007 – present MSc OT, McMaster University 2006-2007 Course Coordinator, Term 2,
Professional Roles & Experiential Practicum (PREP)

2007 – present MSc OT, McMaster University 2006-2007 PBT Tutor, Term 1,
Wellness, Health and Occupation

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

2004 Course Instructor, Change Agency: Enabling Occupational
Competence through

Occupational Adaptation and Micro-Environmental Change (OT 641w)

Research:

Funding Summary:

Doctoral Awards: 0

External Peer-reviewed Research Grants: 2

Submitted: 3

Other Grants: 0

External Career Awards:

Funding Agency: Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Canadian Institute for the
Relief of Pain and Disability Health –Auto21 Partnership Doctoral Training Award
(*Doctoral Fellowship*)

Amount: \$42 000

Funding Period: Sept 2004 – August 2006

Project Title: Advancements in vehicular technology and older drivers: The capacity of
older drivers to meet the visual, cognitive, and motor task demands of in-vehicle
technology and their relationship to safe transportation.

External Peer-reviewed Research Grants (Funded)

Title of Proposal: **Enhanced mobility for individuals with arthritis**

Funding Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Investigators: Cranney, B., Byszewski, G., Gelin, Li, Man-son-Hing, M., Marshall, S.,
Towhee, T. E., Vaidyanath, C., Vrkljan, B., Wells, G.

Amount: \$96,812

Funding Period: 2007-2009

Title of Proposal: **Best Practices in Driver Assessment**

Investigators: Vrkljan, B., Clubb, L., Garrett, S., Wood, B., Pauley, T., Letts, L.

Funding Source: Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation

Amount: \$5,000

Funding period: 2007-2008

External Peer-reviewed Grants (Submitted)

Submitted

Title of Proposal: **CIHR Team in Driving in Older Persons (CanDRIVE II)**

Primary Investigators: Marshall, S., Man-son-Hing, M.

- Sub-Project: co-PI: Primary Investigator: Advancements in automotive design: development of a vehicle rating system

Amount:

- Sub-Project: Co-Investigator: Common Cohort (\$) Driver Improvement (\$)

Funding Source: CIHR

Amount: \$1,716,336

Title of Proposal: **Safe Transportation for Seniors**

Primary Investigators: Bedard, M., Polgar Miller J.

Co-Investigators: Brenda Vrkljan, et al. (See Auto21 Website - www.auto21.ca)

Funding Source: Auto21 – A Network for Centres of Excellence (NCE)

Funding Period: 2008-2010

Amount: \$57,500

Title of Proposal: **Aging, Attention, and Driving: A Simulator Study**

Investigators: Vrkljan, B. H., Sun, H, Sekuler, A., Bennett, P., Lee, T.

Funding Source: CIHR Catalyst Pilot Competition Institute of Aging

Amount: \$49,991

Funding period: 2008-2009

Title of Proposal: **Do it my way: Use of compensation strategies by older drivers.**

Investigators: Tukko, H, Cloutier, F., Abu, B., Porter, M, & Vrkljan, B.H.

Funding Source: Nine Sigma

Amount: To be determined by funder

Funding period: To be determined by funder

Title of Proposal: **Evidence-based assessment of older drivers: Mapping the decision-making process for users and policy makers**

Investigators: Vrkljan, B. H., Marshall, S., Korner-Bitensky, N.

Funding Source: CIHR

Amount: \$ 99,872

Title of Proposal: **Best Practices in Clinical Health Education: The role of community faculty in the training of future health professionals.**

Investigators: Vrkljan, B. H., Gewurtz, R., Coman, L., Geddes, L., Law, M.

Funding Source: Hamilton Community Foundation Community Health, Education and Research Fund (CHER).

Amount: \$10,785.71

Internal Peer-reviewed Research Grant (Funded)

Title of Proposal: **Driving into the future: Promoting driving safety across lifespan**

Investigators: Vrkljan, B., Sun, H, Sekuler, A., Bennett, P., Lee, T.

Funding Source: Collaborations for Health: Development Across the Lifespan

Amount: \$5,491

Funding period: 2007-2008

Current Submissions:

Publication/Presentation Summary:

Papers in refereed journals – 6

Papers in refereed conference proceedings – 2

Lifetime Publications:

Peer Reviewed:

Journal Articles

Vrkljan, B. H., & Polgar Miller, J. (2007) *Driving, navigation, and vehicular technology: Experiences of older drivers and their co-pilots. Traffic Injury Prevention, 8(4), 403-410.*

Vrkljan, B. H. (2007). *Collaborative Participation: An occupational analysis of the older driver-copilot relationship. 27, Supplement 1., 6.*

Vrkljan, B. H. & Polgar Miller, J. (2007). Linking occupational participation and occupational identity: An exploratory study of the transition from driving to driving cessation in older adulthood. *Journal of Occupational Science, 14 (1), 30-39.*

Vrkljan, B. H. (2005). Dispelling the disability stereotype: Embracing a universalistic perspective of disablement. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy, 72(1), 57-59.*

Vrkljan, B. H. & Polgar Miller, J. (2005). Advancements in vehicular technology: Potential implications for the older driver. *International Journal of Vehicle Information and Communication Systems, 1, 88-105.*

Vrkljan, B. H., & Miller-Polgar, J. (2001). Meaning of occupational engagement in life-threatening illness. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy, 68(4), 237-246.*

Not Peer Reviewed:

Vrkljan, B. H. (2000). The role of spirituality in occupational therapy practice. *Occupational Therapy Now*, 2, 6-9.

Submitted

Vrkljan, B. H. Evaluating collaboration between older drivers and passengers during first-time use of an in-vehicle navigation system: Potential implications on driving safety. *Canadian Journal of Gerontology*

Vrkljan, B.H. Use of in-vehicle navigation technology among older drivers and passengers: A cross-comparative case analysis. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Vrkljan, B.H. Mixed-Methods in Action: Analyzing the Older Driver – Co-Pilot Relationship using a Concurrent Triangulation Strategy. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.

In Preparation:

Vrkljan, B. H., Tukko, H. Factors that influence vehicle purchase decisions: A survey of drivers across the lifespan. *International Journal of Vehicle Design*.

Vrkljan, B. H., Yoassry, E. Older Drivers, Passengers, and Accident Risk. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.

Refereed Conference Proceedings:

Vrkljan, B. H. & Polgar Miller, J. Driving safety in later life: Exploring the older driver-passenger relationship. TRANS ED 11th International Conference of Mobility for Elderly and Disabled Persons. Montreal, QUE, June 2007.

Miller Polgar, J., Shaw, L., & Vrkljan, B. H. (2004). Safe transportation for seniors. *Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference Proceedings*, 33-35. Toronto, ON

Presentations

Contributed Peer Reviewed:

Vrkljan, B. H., & Gewurtz, R. Community faculty in occupational therapy education: The benefits and challenges. *Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists*. June, 2008. Yellowknife, NWT. (Declined).

Vrkljan, B. H. Driving safety and in-vehicle navigation systems: Analyzing the relationship between older drivers and passengers. 7th National Workshop for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. May, 2007. Ottawa, Ontario.

Vrkljan, B. H. Occupational disruption→ Occupational identity crisis? Linking key theoretical concepts. Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. July, 2007. St. John's, Newfoundland.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Miller Polgar, J. Older drivers and co-pilots: Determining the impact on driving safety. July, 2007. St. John's, Newfoundland.

Vrkljan, B. H. & Polgar Miller, J. Driving safety in later life: Exploring the older driver-passenger relationship. TRANS ED 11th International Conference of Mobility for Elderly and Disabled Persons. Montreal, QUE, June 2007.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Polgar Miller, J. Older drivers and co-pilots: Determining the impact on driving safety. Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. St. John's, NFLD.

Vrkljan, B. H. Occupational disruption→Occupational Identity Crisis? Linking key theoretical concepts. July, 2007. St. John's, NFLD.

Polgar Miller, J., Shaw, L. E., & Vrkljan, B. H. An evidence-based toolkit for promoting Safe Transportation for Seniors. World Federation of Occupational Therapists. July, 2006, Sydney, Australia.

Vrkljan, B. H. , & Miller Polgar, J. Living longer, driving longer: Understanding the mobility needs of older adults. World Federation of Occupational Therapists. July, 2006, Sydney, Australia.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Miller Polgar, J. Living longer, driving longer. Understanding the needs of older drivers and their families. Canadian Association on Gerontology. October, 2005, Halifax, NS.

Vrkljan, B.H., & Miller Polgar, J. In-vehicle navigation systems and driving safety: An analysis of older drivers and passengers. International Conference Aging, Disability and Independence. February, 2006, St. Petersburg, FL.

Vrkljan, B.H., & Miller Polgar, J. Driving safety in older adulthood: The potential impact of technology. Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. June, 2006, Montreal, QUE.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Miller Polgar, J. Driving, health, and older adulthood: Implications of an aging society. Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, May, 2005, Vancouver, BC.

Vrkljan, B.H. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: Exploring the relationship between driving, driving cessation, and the health and well-being of older adults. January, 2005, Rehabilitation Sciences Seminar Series, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON

Vrkljan, B. H. The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF): Theoretical and Clinical Considerations for the Driving Rehabilitation Specialist. Paper presented at the sixth national conference of Driving Rehabilitation Specialists, May 2004, Edmonton, ALB.

Miller Polgar, J., Shaw, L., & Vrkljan, B. H. Ensuring Safe Transportation for Seniors: Potential Implications for Occupational Therapists. Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, May 2005, Charlottetown, PEI.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Korzycki, M. Driving into the future: Vehicular technology and the older driver. Poster session presented at the 6th annual World Congress on Aging and Physical Activity, August, 2004, London, ON.

Miller Polgar, J., Shaw, L., & Vrkljan, B. H. (2004). Safe transportation for seniors Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference Proceedings, 33-35. Toronto, ON.

Vrkljan, B. H., & MacKinnon, J. 'Uncovering' the truth about intimacy. National conference of the Canadian Association Occupational Therapy, May, 2003, Winnipeg, MB.

Vrkljan, B. H., & Miller-Polgar, J. The meaning of occupational engagement in life-threatening illness. National conference of the Canadian Association Occupational Therapists, May, 2001, Calgary, ALB.

Administrative Responsibilities:

McMaster University - School of Rehabilitation Science

2006 Member, M.Sc. Occupational Therapy Curriculum Committee

Member, M.Sc. Occupational Therapy Program Evaluation Sub-Committee

McMaster University – Faculty of Health Science

2006 Member, Learning and Technology Committee

2007 Selection Committee, Professor in Learning Technology