



Ontario Society of
Occupational Therapists



Acknowledging AWESOME ACTS in Occupational Therapy

**Meet Pat McKee, OT, Associate Professor Emeritus, Inventor,
Entrepreneur, Songwriter....**

She's one of us!

We think she's doing something AWESOME!

Meet a colleague that will truly inspire you to listen to the creative & innovative voices within....and to be open to explore where they may take you!

It's a little hard to suggest that Pat McKee is doing *something* awesome because this OSOT colleague has been doing *a lot* of awesome things over the course of her career in occupational therapy! How many people can say they've influenced and educated 1771 (yes exactly that!) student occupational therapists, most notably instilling interest and a healthy respect for orthotic fabrication and hand therapy? Pat can! Beyond a stellar academic career at the University of Toronto, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy from 1987 – 2014, Pat has extended her love and commitment for teaching into development, testing and marketing of a unique teaching resource – *The Anatomy Glove Learning System* - engaging an entrepreneurial spirit and saavy to be admired. The transition to innovative developer and businesswoman may be no surprise to those that know this creative OT who is loved for her long-standing tradition of providing graduating students with a “musical review” in songs such as “The Foot Song” and “The Structure and Function Blues”. Yes, Pat's a singer and songwriter too! We think you'll enjoy getting to know more about Pat...and that you'll agree that what she's been up to is pretty AWESOME!

Meet Pat McKee!



An Ontario girl, Pat gained her OT education at Queen's University, followed by a degree completion program at the University of Alberta and an M.Sc. degree in Anatomy. Drawn to the profession at a time when arts and crafts were an integral component of OT, Pat wished to help people using creative arts and found a perfect fit. As the profession evolved and OT Departments divested themselves of many of the creative modalities, Pat gravitated to orthotic fabrication as a way to find

creative and innovative solutions for her clients' occupational challenges.

Her professional career has focused intensively in teaching and research, first on faculty at the University of Alberta and subsequently at the University of Toronto's OS & OT Program from 1987 to 2014. Pat is known internationally as an ergonomics and orthotics expert and has taught orthotic workshops across Canada, the US, Sweden and Trinidad. In 2013, Pat was recognized at the annual Philadelphia (Hand) Meeting of hand surgeons and therapists as one of two "honored hand therapists", only the third Canadian to receive such an honor.

Pat retired after a distinguished career as an educator, mentor and researcher in 2014. She is now an Associate Professor Emeritus. Retirement enabled a plan to develop a small start-up company called Anatomy Softwear International that she formed with a friend and colleague, Anne Agur, who is currently a professor of anatomy at U of T.

Happily married to the man she married after her first year of OT school in 1972, Pat has two daughters and now 4 wonderful grandchildren. One might think that anatomy has been an important and recurring theme in Pat's life – her husband proposed while she was studying bones for an upcoming anatomy test!

So what is The Anatomy Glove Learning System?

The Anatomy Glove Learning System (anatomy glove and instructional glove-drawing videos) evolved over many years and was co-developed with colleague Anne Agur. According to Pat, the system was inspired by a desire to help OT students, as well as OTs, to fully grasp the complex anatomy of the hand in a fun, 3D way.

An early approach was to have learners draw anatomy onto paper, but two-dimensional diagrams did not adequately enable comprehension of hand anatomy and function. Since some of the muscles run from the front to the back of the hand, a 3-D method of learning became the goal. Pat and Anne then began to have learners draw the bones, and then the muscles of the hand onto examination gloves. While comprehension seemed to be better, if the bones were not precisely drawn, then the muscles could not be accurately drawn onto the gloves. Realizing that learners needed a good canvas on which to draw the muscles, their solution was to create gloves with the bones printed on them. The first prototype was made using iron-on transfers from an inkjet printer to apply images of the hand bones onto the gloves. However, this method was inefficient, labour-intensive and costly. While working to find a solution to this problem, they developed the first generation of instructional glove-drawing videos in 2008.

Finding the perfect solution – a glove stretchy enough to accommodate different hand sizes and a means to ensure that the bone images would align with those of the wearer, with joints in the right places – proved challenging but not insurmountable for the intrepid inventors! When learners receive a "bony glove", they also get access to online instructional videos that show them exactly how to draw the muscles, which helps with understanding their functions. The learner-controlled videos allow the user to pause



and draw at their own pace, watching the video as many times as they want, which is something students cannot get in a conventional classroom. The three-dimensional glove is incredibly useful and understanding anatomy is so much easier, because you can see it on your own hand! Being able to draw the course of muscles around the hand is a unique feature of the Anatomy Glove Learning System.

Pat hopes that the Anatomy Glove Learning System will enhance OTs' comprehension of anatomy of the hand so that they can better understand the biological causes of hand problems to better help their clients' enhance their hand function and occupational performance. The glove is also useful to help explain hand pathology, surgery and OT interventions to clients. Today the Anatomy Glove has been adopted in 36 programs in 10 countries! Instructional videos are available in English and Portuguese, and French, Spanish and Mandarin versions are in the works. Visit the website for a read of the many accolades and positive reviews for Pat and Anne's invention! This is all mighty awesome!

Learn more at www.anatomysoftwear.com.



On becoming an entrepreneur....

Pat and her partner have now formed Anatomy Softwear International Inc. and created an ecommerce website. Pat relays, "Our passion for teaching inadvertently turned us into entrepreneurs!" This new role has created opportunity for new learning and skill development, something Pat embraces with gusto. She's designed a website, social media marketing, designed the company logo and is working on videography and video editing! What an incredible role model for occupational therapists contemplating new business development. Pat's advice? "It's never too late to reinvent yourself and learn new skills". An important message! Being open to change, mobilizing a vision, seeing and taking opportunities as they arise, committing to the long haul of development and re-development, engaging creative approaches to marketing, etc. are components of entrepreneurial business development that this awesome OT shows us can lead to truly awesome results.



And now about the singer/songwriter....

Pat has said that good teachers are performers at heart, loving an audience, developing a relationship with it, and feeling energized and well-connected with it when it goes well. One can only imagine her energy and impact in the classroom because Pat is also a true performer. Her love and talent for music and sharing her message through song bring pleasure to many but have also brought poignant messages to international attention. Occupational therapists will be moved by Pat's composition and recording of "Look Beyond" which was adopted as Canada's official song for the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981. More recently it was used in an audio-visual production to convince the US to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

A most fitting end to a tribute to this awesome colleague would be a listen to ["Look Beyond"](#). (this US version also gives you the words) We suspect this will be a moving reminder of the creative, passionate, innovative, intrepid occupational therapist that is Pat McKee!

Wish to connect with Pat? Reach her at patmckee.ot@gmail.com.



Acknowledging AWESOME ACTS in Occupational Therapy

Awesome: wonderful, amazing, cool, extremely impressive, inspiring admiration

Every day occupational therapists across Ontario are doing awesome things. They're delivering excellent client-centred care, designing programs that are delivering amazing outcomes, developing cool new promotions or solutions, sharing impressive resources or knowledge, undertaking dynamic entrepreneurial business development and *all* sorts of other inspiring activities that we think are just awesome! That's worth celebrating and that's why we are **Acknowledging Awesome Acts in OT. Celebrate the "awesomeness" of our OT community!**

