

Jessica Qiu

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🎓 EDUCATION

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MScOT)

Sept 2023 – Aug 2025

University of Toronto - St. George Campus, Toronto, ON, Canada

Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour (BSc.)

Sept 2019 – Apr 2023

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

🏠 RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Student Occupational Therapist – Acquired Brain Injury & Stroke Units

Jul 2025 – Aug 2025

UHN Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Toronto, ON

- Managed a caseload of stroke and ABI patients, building therapeutic rapport to engage clients in assessment and treatment, and collaboratively establish rehabilitation goals.
- Implemented individualized intervention plans to support recovery and independence with ADLs, mobility, cognition, and upper extremity function, adapting approaches to client needs.
- Facilitated safe patient discharges by recommending adaptive equipment, arranging referrals to rehab or community services, and providing education to patients/families.

Occupational Therapy Clinical Extern – Trauma & Neurosurgery Unit

Aug 2024 – Aug 2025

St. Michael's Hospital – Unity Health, Toronto, ON

- Managed responsive behaviours, supported delirium prevention, and incorporated management strategies for patients with cognitive impairment.
- Improved patient care through recreational activities, activities of daily living (ADLs), and mobilization support.
- Used pressure injury prevention strategies to optimize patient positioning and promote skin integrity.
- Implemented universal falls precautions and intentional rounding to ensure patient comfort and safety.

Student Occupational Therapist – Neuromotor & Stroke Rehabilitation Clinics

Mar 2025 – May 2025

Skåne University Hospital, Lund, Sweden

- Conducted comprehensive initial assessments including cognitive, social, and functional history to establish a baseline for occupational performance and foster therapeutic rapport.
- Supported client recovery through fatigue management strategies, fine motor skill development, and adaptive equipment recommendations.
- Enhanced cultural competency through international practice in a Swedish healthcare setting.

Student Occupational Therapist – Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Emergency Units

Oct 2024 – Dec 2024

Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON

- Improved patient handling and transfer skills while effectively managing lines, tubes, and medical equipment to ensure patient safety and comfort during functional mobility assessments.
- Educated patients about the use of adaptive strategies and assistive devices to support activities of daily living.
- Collaborated with interprofessional teams under the supervision of an OT in fast-paced environment to assist in planning safe discharge from hospital.

Student Occupational Therapist – Neurosurgery & Trauma Unit

Apr 2024 – Jun 2024

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON

- Administered informal and formal cognitive assessments (e.g. COAT, Cognistat) and feeding assessments, assisted with turning, transferring and ambulating patients
- Established compassionate rapport with patients and families to support their recovery process.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Apr 2023 – present

VisAge Lab, Baycrest Rotman Research Institute, Toronto, ON

- Worked on several research projects investigating biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease and fall-prevention interventions in older adults, supervised by Dr. Eugenie Roudaia.
- Assisted with study visit procedures by using EEG (electroencephalogram) to collect patient data, administering & scoring neuropsychological tests, and consolidating data in REDcap survey software.
- Prepared research ethics board (REB) documents and used MATLAB to analyze EEG data.

Research Assistant & Lab Manager

Apr 2022 – Apr 2023

Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Communicated effectively with team of 25+ undergraduate and graduate students working on 10+ ongoing experiments to ensure smooth operation, and planned social events to foster community.
- Responsible for the laboratory's animal care program & proactively cared for 8+ fish species by completing tasks like feeding, water quality checks, water changes, and health checks.
- Assisted field crew with long-term research projects monitoring local aquatic ecosystem health and supporting endangered species.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Sept 2021 – Apr 2023

Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Professionally trained in effective teaching and science communication, taught 3 tutorials a week for introductory psychology classes and provided mentorship support to over 220+ students.
- Assessed students' individual needs and adapted teaching approach to meet different needs.
- Received honourable mention for the "TA of the Year Award" based on student nominations.

Research Project Student

Jan 2022 – Apr 2022

Social Brain, Body, & Action Lab, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

- Worked on a research project investigating potential strategies for mitigating harm caused by racial microaggressions, supervised by Dr. Sukhvinder Obhi & Dr. Michael Jenkins.
- Helped design and pilot the study, worked closely with research team to create an experiment that would address key current EDI issues such as recognizing microaggressions & microinterventions.

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- **Certifications:** Basic Life Support (BLS), Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Course on Research Ethics (TCPS 2), WHMIS, AODA.
- **Cognitive assessments:** experienced in administering the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Cognitive Competency Test (CCT), CLOX, Trail-Making Test (TMT), Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS), Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE), Cognistat Cognitive Assessment, Apples Cancellation Test.
- **Programming:** experienced in using R, Matlab, & Excel for data analysis & visualization.

PUBLICATIONS

Anderson, H.A., Qiu, J., Barnett, J.B., & Balshine, S., (*Under review 2025*). Effects of simulated turbidity on fish behavior: Low light is not equivalent to suspended sediment. *Hydrobiologia*. HYDR-D-25-00081

Jenkins, M., Deol, A., Irvine, A., Tamburro, M., Qiu, J., & Obhi, S. S. (2023). Racial microaggressions: Identifying factors affecting perceived severity and exploring strategies to reduce harm. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.13003>

Williams S., Thompson, W.A., Masood N., Easwaramoorthy M., Qiu J., Wilson, J.Y. (*In Preprint*). Metformin and guanylurea reduce survival, but have limited sublethal effects in larval zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.12.01.569578>