

Schedule at a Glance

Brea, CA | October 17-19, 2026

Interactive PDF: [Click or tap any session title to view its full description!](#)

Registration & Help Desk Open 7:00a - 4:00p

Exhibitors Open 10:00-5:00p

[View Full Session Descriptions](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2026		Connecting Purpose + Profession Pillars			
	Ballroom General & Feature Sessions	Laurel Room	Olinda Room	Randolph Room	Birch Room
8:30-9:30a	RT as Social Connection Engine: The Role of Mattering-Bryan McCormick				
9:30-10:00a	Board Installation				
10:00-10:30a	Break with Exhibitors				
10:30-11:30a	Culturally Responsive Recreation Therapy: Advancing Belonging in Urban Rehabilitation Settings – Elizabeth Parker	Seen, Safe, and Supported: Amplifying Voces Perdidas of DACamented Students to Advance Equity in Recreational Therapy – Alicia Delia Pola	Projects with Purpose: Applying student learning experiences through purposeful design – Kristin Greenlee et al.	Welcome to Your Profession: Making the Most of the ATRA Annual Conference – Brent Wolfe et al.	
11:30-11:45a	Transition Break				
11:45a-12:45p	Recreation Therapy in Action: Building Belonging and Reforming Systems for Unhoused Community Members – Christa Signor	“A Model on the Move: How Recreation Therapy as a Related Service in Southern California Public Schools Took Root—and Took Off—Across Southern California – Kathryn Hoar et al.	Developing Vocational Skills in Teens with Disabilities through Horticultural and Recreational Therapy. – Derrick Ryan Stowell et al.	NCTRC® Funded Research Projects: Investing in the Power of Research within the Therapeutic Recreation Profession – Kerry Steeb	
12:45-2:15p	ATRA Awards Ceremony Sponsored by Rec Therapy Today				
2:15-3:15p	A New Frontier: Broadening and Building Recreational Therapy through Medicaid Reimbursement in the Wild West (Utah) – Lauren Bade et al.	The Connection Rx: Social Prescribing and Sexual Wellness for Belonging in IDD Care – Thea Kavanaugh	Energize & Empower: Overcoming Burnout in Recreation Therapy – Heather Griego et al.	“Will This Help Group Help Me Get Discharged?” Group Dynamics for New Recreation Therapists Interested in Working in Acute / Chronic Inpatient Behavioral Health Settings. – Felicia T. Zeigler	
3:15-3:45p	Break with Exhibitors				
3:45-4:45p	Social Prescribing: Application to Recreational Therapy Practice – Betsy Kemeny et al.				

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Exhibitors Open 9:30-4:00p

Sunday, October 18, 2026		Connecting the Evidence + Practice Pillars			
	Ballroom General & Feature Sessions	Laurel Room	Olinda Room	Randolph Room	Birch Room
8:30-9:30a	Evidence in Action: How Recreational Therapy Professionals Use Research, Theory, and Practice Knowledge – Christina Coleman				
9:30-10:00a	Break with Exhibitors				
10:00-11:00a	Mapping the Field: A 20-Year Bibliometric Analysis to Inform Knowledge Dissemination and Practice of Recreational Therapy (2005–2025) – Christina Coleman et al.	From Theory to Practice: Applying PERMA in Recreational Therapy – Jenny Zumwalde	How Trauma Shapes Development: A Therapeutic Recreation Perspective in Pediatric Behavioral Health – Jamie Sympson et al.	Research Institute 1 –	Using Community Re-Integration to Promote Buy-In and Participation-Based Outcomes: Promoting Engagement, Social Participation, and Restoration of Meaningful Roles and Routines Following Brain Injury-Meaghan Conway et al
11:00-11:15a	Transition Break				
11:15a-12:15p	CPT Codes: Strengthening the Voice and Viability of Recreational Therapy – Kristin Greenlee et al.	Finding the Third Space through Gardening: Strengthening Mutuality and Reducing Caregiver Strain After Rehabilitation – Katelynn Campbell	From Research to Recreation: Practical EBP Strategies for TR Professionals – Christine Havach et al.	Research Institute 2 –	Connecting the Profession Through the Life Spaces Practice Model-Shay Dawson
12:15-1:45p	Lunch on Own + Networking Lunch opportunity - Connections in Practice				
1:45-2:45p	Momentum in RT Education: Collaborative Initiatives from the ATRA Higher Education Committee – Erik Luvaas et al.	Recreational Therapy at the NIH: A Focus on Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) – Stefan Ellington et al.	Dude Where's My Dopamine? Increasing Dopamine Through Recreational Therapy Interventions for Substance Use Disorders – Jenny Zumwalde	Research Institute 3 –	GetTHERE: Recreational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology Interprofessional Framework for Real-World Application-Kristen Fedesco et al.
2:45-3:00p	Transition Break				
3:00-4:00p	Connecting Practice: Exploring the ATRA Scope of Practice in Recreational Therapy – Allie Thomas et al.				
5:00-7:00p	Exhibitors Social & Research Institute Posters Gallery: Putting Research to Practice Sponsored by CARTE				

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Exhibitors Open 9:30-4:00p

Monday, October 19, 2026		Connecting the Field + Future Pillars			
	Ballroom General & Feature Sessions	Laurel Room	Olinda Room	Randolph Room	Birch Room
8:30-9:30a	ATRA in Action: Strengthening Connection, Advancing Our Profession – Brent Wolfe et al.				
9:30-10:00a	Break with Exhibitors				
10:00-11:00a	Navigating AI in Recreational Therapy: AI Task Force Findings and a Path Forward – Susan Purrington et al.	From Practice to Influence: Sustainable Leadership and Advocacy in Recreational Therapy – Dawn DeVries et al.	Therapeutic and Inclusive Recreation Programming in Schools: A Guide to Promoting School Connectedness, Social-Emotional Health, and Self-Determination – Kelly Ramella	Research Institute 4 –	Bring, Evaluate, Improve: Applying Evidence-Based Quality and Accessibility Standards in RT Education – Alicia Delia Pola et al.
11:00-11:15a	Transition Break				
11:15-12:15p	Make it Fundable: Turning Recreational Therapy Ideas into Funded Impact – Jessica Burke	Belonging in Action: School-Based Recreational Therapy as a Pathway to Wellness and Workforce Development – mylicia rangel	Transforming the Leisure Education Program for Elderly and Pre-retirees in South Korea into the Leisure Education Program for Those Individuals in the U.S. – Kiboum Kim et al.	Research Institute 5 –	Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education Site Visitor Training – Tim Passmore
12:15-1:45p	Lunch On Own + Networking Lunch opportunity - Take A Student to Lunch				
1:45-2:45p	Make a Big Splash: Adaptive Aquatics – Jamie Hoffman	RT2GO: Strengthening Communities and Prescribing Belonging Through Mobile Recreational Therapy – Jaehyun "Jay" Kim et al.	How Hobbies Heal: The Role of Recreational Therapy for Pediatrics within Intensive Interdisciplinary Pain Treatment (IIPT) – Annie Archer	Recreation Therapy's Role in the Continuum of Care: Supporting Patients at Every Stage – Ashley Robinson	Prescribing Connection: Simulation-Based Tools for Building Therapeutic Communication Competency in Recreation Therapy – Jason Page et al.
2:45-3:00p	Transition Break				
3:00-4:00p	Strategic Hope: Advocacy in Action – Dawn DeVries				

Schedule at a Glance

Post-Conference Workshops

Brea, CA | October 20, 2026

[View Full Session Descriptions](#)

Registration & Help Desk Open 8:00a - 10:00a

Tuesday, October 20, 2026		Post-Conference Workshops*			
	Ballroom	Laurel Room	Olinda Room	Randolph Room	Birch Room
8:30-12:00p	Power Tools for Neuroplasticity: From Experiential Engagement to Clinical and Programmatic Change – Mitzi Suzanne Hartwell et al.	Prompts, Practice, and Professional Judgment: A Recreational Therapist's Guide to Generative AI-Susan Purrington	Re-Tx Yourself: Sensory Activation for Nervous System Regulation Across Recreational Therapy Populations-Sami Dowling et al.	Standing Is Not Required: Using Rhythm as Rehabilitation Through Adaptive Tap Dance-Victoria Moore	
*Post-Conference workshops require separate registration					

