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Background: Occupational therapy addresses an individual’s desire to continue to live independent, healthy, and participate in the valued activities that sustain their quality of life. Driving is the most valued instrumental tasks of daily living (IADL) and people equate driving with independence, particularly in the case of older adults. Occupational therapists have been identified as the professional to evaluate and intervene with this critical IADL.

Research Interests: Translational (useful to practitioners) research between occupational therapists and driving research; Assessment and intervention in driving; Interactive driving simulators; Driver safety for older adults and teenagers; technology of vehicles.

Research skills: Mixed designs; experimental/quantitative studies; single subject designs in any area; Surveys; Descriptive studies; statistics.

Research Directions:

- **Eye Tracking Technology** – the newest piece of technology for the ROADI Driving Lab; Using eye tracking for measuring scanning and hazard detection on the simulator and potentially in vehicle.
- **Interactive Driving Simulators.** We are working on several projects with the simulator.
  1. Combing eye tracking and simulators – Comparing how older adults or individuals with autism scan and react to criteria events while driving.
  2. Driving and Community Bootcamp – working with teens and young adults with high functioning with autism spectrum disorder on how learning to be mobile in their environment as well as driving knowledge and skills.
- **Occupational Therapy Performance Appraisal for Driving (OT-PAD)** – Project students would assist in the validity and reliability of a developed on line tool, working with occupational therapists to use it in the rehabilitation field. Possible collecting data at Vidant through interviews with therapists about clients.