



Curriculum Vitae

As an experienced Occupational Therapist of more than 35 years, I have acquired strengths in medical-legal assessments related to personal injury, Future Care Cost Analyses/Life Care Planning, case management, community assessments and have several years experience working with individuals with mental health conditions and with special needs children.

I provide services to the legal community and insurance industry and have been qualified as an Expert Witness in court proceedings, both as an Occupational Therapist and Life Care Planner. My work has been key to the decision making process in Judgments and Arbitration Decisions, notably *David McMichael and Belair Insurance Company, FSCO A02-001081, Arbitration Decision: March 2, 2005.*

EDUCATION

- Canadian Certified Life Care Planner, International Commission on Health Care Certification, January 2011
- Bachelor of Science, Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto, June 1980

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant

October 2011 to present

- Future Care Cost Analysis/Life Care Planning
- Critiques and Rebuttals
- Consulting Services
- Loss of Services Analysis in Wrongful Death Cases
- Medical-Legal Assessments
- Expert Witness Testimony
- In-Home Functional Abilities Evaluation of motor vehicle accident claimants with various injuries and conditions including musculoskeletal, acquired brain injury, neurological, orthopaedic, amputation, burns, spinal cord injuries, mental health and chronic pain.
- In-Home Functional Abilities Evaluation of claimants of varying ages including pediatrics, adult and geriatrics.
- In-Home Functional Abilities Evaluation of claimants having sustained personal injury due to slip and fall injuries, medical malpractice, long-term disability claimants.
- Attendant Care Needs Assessments
- Housekeeping & Home Maintenance Assessments
- Home Modifications Assessments
- Occupational Therapy intervention for personal injury claimants.

Karen Rucas & Associates**May 1996 - September 2011**

- In home functional abilities assessments of motor vehicle accident claimants with various injuries and conditions including musculoskeletal, acquired brain injury, neurological, orthopaedic, amputation, burns, spinal cord injuries, and mental health.
- In home functional abilities assessments of claimants of varying ages including pediatrics, adult and geriatrics.
- In home functional abilities assessments of claimants having sustained personal injury, unrelated to motor vehicle accidents, i.e. slip and fall injuries, long-term disability claimants.
- Attendant care assessments
- Future Care Cost Analyses/Life Care Planning
- Case Management
- Occupational therapy intervention for personal injury claimants.

North York Rehabilitation Designated Assessment Centre**September 2000 to April 2004**

- Attendant Care DACs

June 1995 - December 1995

- Functional assessments of motor vehicle accident claimants
- Occupational therapy intervention for motor vehicle accident claimants

Community Occupational Therapists and Associates (COTA)**Sept 1991 - June 1998****Mar 1990 - Aug 1990****May 1986 - May 1988**

- Adult psychiatry, all diagnoses
- Geriatrics
- Physical medicine

Metro Homes For The Aged**Carefree Lodge - October 1995 - December 1996****Lakeshore Lodge - September 1992 - September 1995**

- Sole Occupational Therapist responsible for 130 and 150 bed facilities

Centenary Hospital, Scarborough**May 1980 - September 1985**

- Mental Health Services
- Combined inpatient and outpatient program

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

- November 6-8, 2019; Ontario Brain Injury Conference
- October 18, 2019; Risky Business - The Anatomy of Medical Malpractice
- September 19, 2019; Mental Health, Navigating Life After Trauma
- June 13, 2019; Medical Marijuana: What Health Care Professionals Need to Know
- May 2 & 3, 2019; ABI: Mental Health: Addictions
- April 17, 2019; Relieving Pain, Restoring Function & Renewing Hope

- March 29, 2019; ORA Webinar Series: Siri-Us Business
- March 1, 2019; BIAYR; Cannibis and Acquired Brain Injury
- February 15, 2019; Free & Low Cost Services for Brain Injury
- December 12, 2018; Home Modification - Aging in Place
- November 12, 2018; The Markedly Impaired: Obstacles & Opportunities
- June 1, 2018; Unravelling Invisible Pain in the Medico-Legal Perspective
- May 15 & 16, 2018; Rehabilitation & Life Care Planning Symposium
- May 11, 2018; Emerging Technologies and Tests for Diagnosing and Assessing Neurocognitive Consequences of Concussion and how they can be used in a Personal Injury Claim
- May 2, 2018; Neurobehavioral Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury; Evidence Based Management of Concussion
- October 20 & 21, 2017; Cost of Future Care & Functional Testing: Preparing Defensible Life Care Plans
- September 28, 2017; Acquired Brain Injury Across the Ages
- September 15, 2017; Canadian Society of Medical Examiners; Life Care Planning Conference
- April 22, 2017; Medical Marijuana: What Health Care Professionals Need to Know
- February 10, 2017; UHN 2017 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference
- October 20, 2016; Testifying Without Fear
- September 30, 2016; Chronic Pain in the Medical Legal Arena
- September 16, 2016; Gender Challenges in Rehabilitation
- June 3, 2016; Canadian Life Care Planning: Addressing Damages in 2016
- May 19, 2016; Using the Koschi: Issues and Challenges
- April 21, 2016; Life Care Planning Conference
- January 29, 2016; UHN 2016 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference
- November 11-13, 2015; Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference
- September 29, 2015; Consent & Capacity Issues Following Traumatic Injury
- September 25, 2015; Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators: Inconsistencies in IME and Understanding the Gap between Dueling Experts
- September 10, 2015; PIA; A Brave New World - Legislative Changes, Multiple Concussions in Professional Athletes: Brain Imaging and Behavioural Findings, Lessons Learned from TBI Clinical Trials
- June 11, 2015; Practical Strategies Conference - Rehabilitation Challenges of the Invisible Injuries
- April 8, 2015; Threshold Conference, Chronic Pain
- November 25, 2014; Ontario Rehab Alliance; Informed Consent, Disclosure & Breach Management
- October 23, 2014; PIA Practical Strategies for Experts
- September 11, 2014; Emerging Technology & It's Impact on Rehabilitation
- June 20, 2014; The Importance of a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Team in a Mild/Moderate Paediatric TBI: A focus on Paediatric Cost of Care
- May 23, 2014; IME Rebuttals: An Advanced Workshop
- May 1 & 2, 2014; Rehabilitation & Life Care Planning Symposium
- April 29, 2014; Recent Amendments in Auto Insurance Law for Health Care Professionals
- April 10, 2014; Providing Expert Opinion: When Providers Go To Court
- January 31, 2014; TBI Conference; Rehabilitation Following Mild to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury
- January 20, 2014; Webinar - Public Policy Summit, Enhancing Inclusion: Attendant Care Services in Ontario
- November 22, 2013; Separating Fact From Fiction
- November 1, 2013; Auto Insurance: Overcoming Challenges in a Challenging System

- October 29, 2013; Webinar: Emerging Trends in Auto Insurance for Health Care Professionals
- September 27-28, 2013; OSOT Conference - Preparing Strategically: Workshops attended include Testifying in Court; Occupational Therapy Neurofunctional Assessment Following Mild to Moderate Neurological Impairment; Anatomy of Home Modifications: The Building Principles of Accessibility; Accommodating Individuals with Cognitive & Psychosocial Issues at the Workplace
- September 12, 2013; Hospital to Home: Working Collaboratively
- June 13, 2013; Practical Strategies: Catastrophic Impairment: A Look into the Future
- June 7, 2013; From Diagnosis to Predicting Future Care
- May 16, 2013; The End of Caring - Understanding the Dynamic of Failure in Rehab
- April 25, 2013; Neurobiological Contributions to Personality Disorders
- April 11 & 12, 2013; Rehabilitation & Life Care Planning Symposium; Sessions attended include Rehabilitative and State of the Art Upper and Lower Limb Prosthetics; Pediatric Life Care Plans; Spinal Cord Injury: Enhancing Function over the years; Chronic Pain and Depression; Management of Chronic Pain
- February 8, 2013; UHN Toronto Rehabilitation Institute; Challenges and Controversies in mTBI: The Science and Clinical Management of Concussions
- December 7, 2012; Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators; Causation: An Advanced Symposium
- November 7, 2012; Life Care Planning Workshop - Recreational Therapy, Adaptive Clothing
- October 26, 2012; Auto Insurance: New Changes, New Issues
- September 21 & 22, 2012; OSOT Annual Conference: Cognitive Assessments for Clinic Decision Making; Applicability of Symptom Validity Measures to Occupational Therapy Practice; The Chronic Pain Service: An Innovative Model of Self-Management; Wheelchair Mat Assessment
- August 16, 2012; IARP Webinar; Upper Extremity Impairment Considerations In Life Care Planning, Mona Yudkoff RN MPH
- August 1, 2012; John Hopkins University School of Medicine Webinar; Chronic Pain Rehabilitation: The basics of changing illness behaviors
- March 22, 2012; Canadian Life Care Planning: Review of Legal Principles
- February 10, 2012; Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Challenges and Controversies in Diagnosis
- January 19, 2012; From Hospital to Home: The Continuum of Care after SCI
- November 30, 2011; IARP Webinar - Technology Ethics: Basics, Clinical Application, and Decision-Making
- November 15, 2011; Shopper's Health Care Innovations; Seminars attended: Make it Accessible, Practical Ideas for Home Modifications; License Removal, Driving Assessments and the Process of Reacquisition; Ethics and Professionalism in a Changing World; Recent Changes in the Field of Driver Rehabilitation
- October 18, 2011; Practical Strategies - Ontario Automotive Insurance Changes
- September 24, 2011; Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists, Annual Conference: Advancing and Inventing our Future – Enabling OTs to be their Best Champions
- September 15, 2011; Preparing the Health Care Professional For Court
- August 18, 2011; Webinar series: Tests for Assessing Well-Being in Adults
- June 28, 2011; CAOT Comprehensive Fatigue Assessment Battery for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (CFAB-TBI)
- June 3 & 4, 2011; Canadian Life Care Planning Summit
- May 6, 2011; OSOT Conference, OT's Coming Together Through Change
- April 18, 2011; Practical Strategies - Ontario Automotive Insurance Changes Webinar
- May 2010 to January 2011; Life Care Planning modules (University of Florida) and Canadian Certification on Life Care Planning through the International Commission on Health Care Certification

- September 24 & 25, 2010: OSOT Annual Conference; Workshops 1) Future Care Costing: New Challenges in a Changing Environment, 2) Cognitive Behavioral Analysis: A Valuable Tool in Vocational Planning, 3) A New Landscape: Impact of New SABS Legislation on OT Clinical Practice, 4) Cognitive Issues in Older Adults: Is It Delirium or Just Confused?
- June 11, 2010: “The Impact of Vertigo and Proprioception on safety within the home.” Home modifications for ABI survivors
- April 22, 2010: Home Accessibility, Universal Design Workshop
- April 16, 2010: Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists, New SABS, New Rules of Civil Procedure, Renewed HCAI
- March 15, 2010: Green’s Word Memory Test
- February 12, 2010: The New Rules - Writing Reports and Being Qualified As An Expert At Trial
- January 25, 2010: Brain Matters, Traumatic Brain Injury and Mental Health - Overview, Impact and Management; Workshops: Depression and Traumatic Brain Injury; Bad Behaviour: The Bane of Brain Injuries; Substance Abuse and Brain Injury; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury,
- November 25, 2009: Funding Programs Education Sessions, Ability Health Care
- November 17, 2009: Health Care Innovations Conference, Shopper’s Home Health Care, Workshops: Helping Patients Get What They Really Need; Power Mobility for the Cognitively and Physically Challenged
- October 28, 2009: Medico-Legal Society of Toronto, To Be or not to Be...An Expert Witness
- October 22, 2009: College of Occupational Therapists on Ontario; Record keeping, Consent and Quality Assurance
- September 24 & 25, 2009: Cognitive Rehabilitation & the Multi-context Approach to Executive Dysfunction, Awareness and Memory
- May 1, 2009: Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists, Assessment of Attendant Care Needs, Form 1: A Resource for Reflective Practice
- February 27, 2009: Seating and Type 3 Chairs, AgTa Home Care & Pride Mobility
- February 5, 2009: Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Challenges and Controversies in Diagnosis; Workshop sessions in Post Traumatic Dizziness and Assessing Symptom Validity
- November 3 & 4, 2008: Toronto ABI Network Conference
- 2008 OSOT Conference: Workshops attended: Effective Legal Reporting; Return to Work Following Acquired Brain Injury; A Clinician’s Guide to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; Electronic Aids to Daily Living for Your Clients
- September 12, 2008: 8th Annual Spinal Cord & Neurotrauma Conference, Presentations on Acquired Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Trauma and Chronic Pain
- February 22, 2008: The Cognitive Performance Test
- October 27 & 28, 2007: Life Care Planning Professional Education Course
- October 12, 2007: Canadian Society of Medical Examiners, Report Writing for an Independent Evaluation
- May 4, 2007: OSOT Conference; Practical Solutions in the Auto Sector
- September 29 & 30, 2006: OSOT Conference; Functional Vision Impairment in TBI; Assistive Technologies; Auto Sector Workshop in Attendant Care; Executive Function
- May 12, 2006: Advanced Concepts in Life Care Planning
- January 13, 2006: Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Current and Emerging Trends
- February 2, 2005: OIAA Conference- Objective Measures of Symptom Exaggeration in Disability Claimants; Future Care Costs Assessments: The Role of Structured Settlements
- September 2004: Mild to Moderate Brain Injury – Transition to Home
- February 13, 2003: Finding work for people with High Functioning Autism & Asperger’s

- October 25, 2002: Chronic Non-Malignant Pain after Soft Tissue Injury
- September 12, 2002: Pain & Pain Management
- April 25, 2002: Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury
- Ergonomics: Functional Implications
- November 2000: Geneva Symposium on Autism
- October 2, 2000: Education of Students with Asperger's Syndrome
- Behaviour Skills & Management Workshop
- Geriatric Psychiatry

PRESENTATIONS

- January 25, 2017; Fatigue Management, Brain Injury Association of York Region
- April 2, 2013; Expert Witness at Mock Trial, Personal Injury Advocacy Class, Queen's University Law School
- March 20, 2012; Expert Witness at Mock Trial, Personal Injury Advocacy Class, Queen's University Law School
- September 2002; February 14, 2003; September 12, 2003; In-Service on Asperger's Syndrome, Langstaff Secondary School

CERTIFICATES

- Canadian Certified Life Care Planner
- Life Care Planning, Roy Matheson and Associates Inc.
- Vocational Evaluation
- Relaxation and Stress Management

ASSOCIATIONS

- Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists
- College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario
- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- Independent Occupational Therapists of Ontario
- Life Care Planning Resource Network