

NOEMI G. ROJAS SERRANO

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EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine | St. Louis, MO **2023 – Present**
Entry Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy, degree expected in 2026.

DePauw University | Greencastle, IN **Graduated May 2020**
Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and Chinese Studies

SCHOLARSHIP & CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Capstone: Disability Accommodations in Acute Care | Chicago, IL **April 6, 2026- Present**
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

- Building efforts to bring awareness of disability accommodations in acute care settings for improved patient care and outcomes through collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, completing a needs assessment, and revamping current educational materials.
- Creating and presenting educational materials for nurse and rehab staff in the general medicine units at NMH.

Fieldwork Level II B: Oncology Acute Care | New York, NY **January 2026- March 2026**
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Hospital

- Demonstrate strong therapeutic rapport and client centered care to meet the needs of patients with varying levels of medical complexity within the acute oncology setting.
- Competence in administering COPM and cognitive assessments for Bone Marrow Transplant Patients to ensure continued safe participation in meaningful occupations during lengthy hospital stays.
- Ensured safe clinical decision making, adhered to a variety of oncology related precautions, and maintained communication with the interdisciplinary medical team to ensure safe evaluations, treatments, and discharge planning.
- Presented on Sacrectomies due to sacral tumors and the role of Occupational Therapy throughout the continuum of care.

Fieldwork Level II A: Cardiac Unit Acute Care | Chicago, IL **September 2025- December 2025**
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

- Responsible for client centered evaluations, treatments, discharge planning, and documentation for 6-8 patients per day on the Cardiac service line.
- Collaborated with interprofessional team members to ensure safe and effective care and discharge.
- Competent in administering the Mini-Cog, Short Blessed Test, Montreal Cognitive Assessment, Performance Assessment of Self-Care Skills, Kohlman Evaluation of Living Skills, and Atlanta HF Knowledge Test.
- Educated and reinforced a wide variety of surgical precautions with patients and family caregivers or care partners including, sternal, thoracotomy, clamshell, spinal, and abdominal for safe participation in I/ADLs and meaningful life activities.

Student Mentored Scholarship: SCI/D Health & Participation Program | St. Louis, MO **May 2024- June 2025**
Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine

- Collaborated with Dr. Carla Walker and one student peer in piloting and program building a Spinal Cord Injury and Disease (SCI/D) Program that includes group and individual OT sessions.
- Revamped and optimized group session presentation slides, scripts, and assessment battery to include relevant information for inpatient and community dwelling individuals.
- Led four, two-hour group and two, individual sessions on topics focused on sex and intimacy, bowel and bladder management, employment and volunteering, and mental health where participants engaged in group conversations and had peer mentors to provide support and guidance.
- Completed a Review of Literature of topics relevant to the Spinal Cord Injury and Disease community to have an increased understanding of the diagnosis, life experiences, and topics important to this population.
- Completed a manuscript of the pilot program and presented at AOTA Inspire 2026.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Personal Care Assistant | St. Louis, MO **September 2023- July 2025**
Acumen Fiscal Agency and Emerest

- Provided care for a young adult with cerebral palsy in activities of daily living throughout the day while incorporating medical and adaptive equipment to facilitate safe transfers between bed, powered wheelchair, toilet, and shower chair.
- Assisted client with upper and lower body dressing, showering, toileting and hygiene, wound management, meal preparation, and medication management to promote independent living.
- Assisted client with engagement of community participation through different community outing experiences, shopping, and pharmacy medication pick up.

Graduate Assistantship at the *Social Health and Participation Laboratory*

September 2023- Present

Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine

- Assist in Occupational Therapy research under supervision of Dr. Jessica Kersey, PhD, OTR/L with a focus on community-engaged research among individuals with traumatic or acquired brain injury.
- Conducted assessments and interviews of participants and their families while observing all confidentiality standards.
- Collected qualitative and quantitative data, analyzed qualitative data, and undertook thematic analysis of results, with a submission and acceptance of a paper with Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Engaged in weekly lab meetings and journal club with a focus on research-based articles.
- Handled personal health information with discretion and professionalism in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.
- Co-authored article “A Qualitative Examination of Chronic Care Needs of People with Traumatic Brain Injury” and is under consideration for publication in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation Assistant | New York, NY

August 2, 2021 – August 4, 2023

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center-Main Campus

- Assist under the supervision of licensed Occupational and Physical therapists with acute care and critical care inpatient: pediatric, adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients.
- Assist in Outpatient pediatric rehabilitation, engaging with patients as young as 6 months old.
- Ensure patient safety through line management, taking vitals, transfers, following precautions and proper mobility techniques, guiding patients through a clear path or space, cleaning equipment and surfaces, and use of DME.
- Worked with 11-14 cancer patients/day that need different levels of assistance and are going through different treatments or procedures.
- Motivate patients during sessions by listening, cheering, playing music, giving ideas to have a more creative session.
- Observe OT/PT initial evaluations and reevaluations where I learned ADL's and performance skills.
- Handle DME Scripts for safe patient discharge and ensure proper justification in documented notes.

Case Investigator Team Lead Bilingual | Chicago, IL

January 4, 2021 – June 4, 2021

Cook County Department of Public Health

- Managed a collaborative team of Contact Tracers within the Cook County Department of Public Health that conducts Case Investigation and Contact Tracing, identify and solve various issues related to a continuously changing atmosphere to effectively help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Trained and monitored newly hired Case Investigators and Contact Tracers to help the department to expand and keep up with demand.
- Handled personal health information with discretion and professionalism in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.
- Provided education and isolation/quarantine instructions to COVID-19 positive cases and their related contacts, including symptom monitoring and assessing the need for medical care and supportive services.
- Collected and recorded information obtained from the case interviews into a Salesforce CRM utilizing established policies and procedures.
- Significant experience using: Salesforce, Microsoft Teams, Twilio, Microsoft Office, and Excel.

Contact Tracer Bilingual | Chicago, IL

September 8, 2020 – January 1, 2021

Hektoen Institute LLC

- Worked with Cook County Department of Public Health that conducts Case Investigation and Contact Tracing to interview COVID positive cases, provide education, symptom monitoring, and assess need for medical care and supportive services.
- Handled personal health information in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.
- Trained and monitored newly hired Contact Tracers to help the department to expand and keep up with demand.

Team Leader and Assistant Instructor | San Francisco, CA

Galileo Learning Summer Camp

June 21, 2019 – August 9, 2019

- Worked with a group(s) of young children ages four and five years old.
- Created a fun and safe environment for the children by creating posters, activities, games, and songs
- Helped campers with their projects which helped enhance those projects and encourage kids to practice being courageous.
- Assisted and took lead in teaching the outdoors session.

Health Assistant | Twin Lake, MI

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp

June 6, 2018 – August 19, 2018

- Medical care to a camp population of over 6,000
- 14-hour shifts for 24-hour care between health staff, giving first aid, assisting nurses with patients.
- Maintained and operated the health lodge, supported campers with special needs, transported campers for off-camp medical care.
- Management of camper's medication and constant communication with all staff and parents of the campers.
- Learned better communication and first aid skills, met and talked with others in the same field as me, and was offered the Health Director position for the upcoming summer.

Cashier and Dishwasher

2017-March 2020

Hoover Dining Hall, Bon Appétit| Greencastle, IN

- Cashier, managing money, receiving guests, maintaining dining area clean, washing dishes, clearing up after closing time

Childcare | Chicago, IL., San Francisco CA, Greencastle, IN, New York, NY, St. Louis, MO

2014 - Present

- Worked with infants and school aged children where I ensured children safety, feeding, setting daily routines, engaged in play to assist in children's development, monitored for health issues, and maintained efficient and proper communication with parents.
- Experienced in using gastrostomy tube, tracheostomy suctioning, oxygen saturation monitoring, and placement of mechanical ventilator for a small child.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

PromOTing Healthy Living Workshop Series | St. Louis, MO

2024 - Present

Northside Youth & Senior Center

- Co-lead and shaped program that aims to promote occupational engagement among the community-dwelling older adult population of North St. Louis.
- Group collaboration in creation and presentation of several workshops tailored to seniors such as leisure and social participation, fall Prevention, mental health and well-being, and assistive technology.

Volunteer at Asbury Rehabilitation Department | Greencastle, IN

2018 - 2020

Asbury Towers

- Observed and helped geriatric patients do their therapy, give feedback, and talked to the patients to make them feel more comfortable and calmer.
- Gave ideas, observations, and asked questions to the therapist on ways patients better their health and help fulfill patients' needs and goals.
- Encouraging patients to finish their sets, push them to keep going, give them positive talk/speech, asking about their day, being attentive and listening.
- This volunteering and observation opportunity allowed me to learn, communicate, and practice my knowledge on the human body and mind. It has also helped grow my interest in rehabilitation, specifically occupational therapy.

Live Local Think Global Series Program | Greencastle, IN

2018 - May 2020

Putnam County Public Library

- The mission of this program is to promote public dialogue and action, exploring the rationales behind and alternatives to our daily life choices.

- Contacted and communicated with speakers that focus on Non-violence and the environment, engaged in community involvement, led environmental events, and assisted in recruitment of volunteers.
- Focused on sharing and teaching the community to be healthy, reflective, and active.

DePauw Civic Fellows | Greencastle, IN

2017 - 2020

Executive Team- President, Community Relations, and Vice President

- Team Oriented in engaging in civic service and advocacy by reaching out to the community, planning and organizing events in order to find volunteering opportunities.

Coordinator of the Spanish Enrichment Program | Greencastle, IN

2017 – 2020

TZ Elementary School

- Taught beginner Spanish Language and Latin American culture to elementary school students.
- Executed lesson plans, activities, and games for classes averaging thirty to forty students.
- Coordinated community involvement by recruiting volunteers, preparing and providing transportation.
- Gained teaching experience, communication skills, and received the opportunity to teach a language to the youth.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCES, & CERTIFICATIONS

- WUCOTAD Outreach Committee Co-Leader 2024-2025
- Native in both Spanish and English Language
- Strong work ethic, collaborator, organized, reliable, flexible, lesson and activity planner
- CPR and MoCA Certified, trained in identifying an overdose and use of Narcan
- Knowledgeable in use of Covidence, a systematic review tool
- Mandated Reporter Certified