

# National Academy of Recreational Therapists

## 2023 Award Recipients



### Goals of NART

Establish a network of recognized scholars and outstanding practitioners who have significantly contributed to the advancement of recreational therapy

Advance the public awareness and understanding of the recreational therapy profession by conducting and advancing research and scholarly activities to improve recreational therapy practice, patient/consumer outcomes and education for safe and effective recreational therapy practice

Promote adoption and consistent application of evidence-based professional standards and guidelines for the delivery of safe and effective recreational therapy practice

Support conducting research and scholarly activities to advance and improve delivery of recreational therapy services in the treatment, rehabilitation and education of individuals in need of recreational therapy

Recognize best practices and promoting research and scholarly activities to enhance educational opportunities

Academies are honorific societies composed of the most accomplished leaders of a profession. Individuals elected to inclusion in an Academy have continuing dialogue regarding the critical issues facing their field and provide expertise and counsel on how best to address these issues in order to advance their profession.

The National Academy of Recreational Therapists (NART) is a national academy that pursues activities to support and advance the recreational therapy profession by recognition, education, research, scholarly activity, advocacy and the provision of advice to decision makers.

Membership in NART is by invitation. Candidates must be nominated by a NART Fellow and must (a) hold national certification as a CTRS® or have been formerly certified as a CTRS® before retirement; (b) hold a state license, registration or certification in compliance with state regulations; (c) demonstrate competence through professional activities over a minimum of 10 years; (d) demonstrate a minimum of two of the following: quality as well as quantity of contributions to the literature of the profession, recognition of leadership and extensive participation in professional associations and organizations, and/or acknowledged outstanding performance as a teacher, leader, administrator, practitioner, or researcher in the field of recreational therapy; and (e) indicate a willingness to further the goals of the National Academy of Recreational Therapists and participate in its affairs.

### NART Future Scholars

NART is pleased to introduce The 2023 Future Scholar:

Rebecca Westenskow from University of Utah is the 2023 Future Scholar. Her interest areas include dementia, older adults, and nature engagement. Rebecca completed her Master's and Bachelor's degrees from the University of Utah and she is interested in pursuing her doctorate within the next three years in Rehabilitation Sciences or Gerontology. She is currently a CTRS and member of ATRA. Her research interests have led to a publication in the Canadian Journal of Recreation Therapy on robotic pets with older adults. Further, her research experience led to graduation designation from her undergraduate program as a Research Scholar. Recently, her research at the Master's level on adaptive biking with a memory care unit led to her application and subsequent NCTRC award of a \$5000.00 Research Grant. She completed an Internship at the National Institutes of Health and held a professional position with a memory care unit.

Congratulations to Rebecca Westenskow, the 2023 NART Future Scholar.

The purpose of NART's Future Scholar Program is to provide currently enrolled master's degree students who are interested in pursuing a doctorate in an area related to therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy with the intention of entering academia as a faculty member in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy the opportunity to meet and be mentored by scholars in the profession. The selected applicants attend the ATRA Annual Conference and receive a stipend to help cover the conference cost.

For more information about NART visit our website at:  
<https://www.nart.academy/>



**National Academy of Recreational Therapists**  
**Scholarly Manuscript Award**  
*Therapeutic Recreation Journal*  
*Annual in Therapeutic Recreation*  
**Sponsored by Sagamore-Venture**

The NART Scholarly Manuscript Award is a peer-review award that recognizes one manuscript annually from the *Therapeutic Recreation Journal-Annual in Therapeutic Recreation* (Volume 56, Numbers 3 and 4 [2022] and Volume 57, Numbers 1 and 2 [2023]) that exhibits outstanding literary contribution to the profession of therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy as demonstrated by the following:

- Exhibits exemplary contribution to the knowledge base and or best practices through research, theory, or evidence-based practice
- Exhibits exemplary adherence to research and writing protocols appropriate to the nature of the manuscript
- Presents innovative model, practice, and/or resolution of need or issue that advances quality of recreational therapy interventions and services
- Presents justification, rationale, evidence from research, and/or practice that advances recreational therapy outcomes providing evidence for the profession's contribution to health
- Facilitates advancement of the APIE-D process through improved accountability and efficacy
- Enhances the theoretical foundation of therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy practices
- Fosters practices that address a broad clientele spectrum contributing to interprofessional outcomes

### **NART Scholarly Manuscript Award Winner**

The 2023 award is presented to Shay Dawson (Central Michigan University), Eric Scott (University of Michigan Medical School), Lisa Elder (Craig Rehab Hospital), Edna Omodior (Indiana University Hospital), and Auriel Holman Harrison (Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center) for their manuscript "Kids B.E.A.R. Pain, A Pediatric Chronic Pain Protocol" that appeared in the *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, 57(2), 2023, pp. 173-198. A monetary award accompanies this honor.

Congratulations to the 2023 finalists:

Bedini, L.A., Miller, K.D., Powliae, K., Labban, J., & Paynter, L. (2022). Factors affecting CTRSs' motivation to join professional organizations in recreational therapy. [Special Issue ATRA Annual], *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, 56(4), 561-582.

Janke, M. C., & Walter, A. (2022). Changes in engagement for adults with dementia, effects of an intergenerational program. [Special Issue ATRA Annual], *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, 56(4), 504-521.