



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2018

NDTA is proud and honored to announce...

LEZLIE ADLER



... as NDTA's **2018 Award of Excellence** recipient. We will be honoring Lezlie Adler, MA, OTR/L, C/NDT, and her achievements in NDT at the NDTA 2018 Annual Conference.

"I often ask myself what is the purpose of our lives and I conclude that life's purpose is to be happy. We have no guarantee what will happen in the future, but we live in hope." – *Dali Lama*

After working as an occupational therapist for five years, I recognized that my best therapeutic ability was helping clients laugh. I wasn't sure of much else, but I knew they would return for an encore. I felt frustrated and desperate when I heard other therapists talking about the "Bobaths." Sitting in an auditorium with an intimate crowd of 300 other therapists, I watched and listened to Karl and Berta Bobath talk and demonstrate a therapeutic approach to help children with cerebral palsy and adults with hemiplegia. Inspired, I quit my job, applied for a certification course in pediatrics, and took a loan to pay for this eight week adventure.

For more than 40 years, I have attended NDTA-sponsored education taught by extraordinary clinicians, educators, and researchers specializing in babies, children, adolescents, and adults. It has been an exercise in life-long learning. I have been stretched clinically and my hard work has been rewarded with everyday opportunities for the clients and families that have partnered with me. I pay it forward for the gifts I have received by accepting leadership roles in the Instructors Group of NDTA, as a Board Member of NDTA, and by spreading the NDT word, teaching more than 500 courses at universities, non-profits, hospitals, clinics, and schools on five continents around the world. Thankfully, I haven't finished all there is to learn.

