

PAPERS

Author: Fasloen Adams

Abstract Title: Optimizing collective participation in occupations: How do we do this as occupational therapists?

Abstract:

Collective participation is one of the tools occupational therapists could use to help develop communities. However, as occupational therapists do we understand enough about collective participation to do this effectively.

This presentation will explore characteristics of collective participation in occupations that needs to be considered optimize collective participation in occupations. This will be done by unpacking concepts such as collective motivation, collective action, emotional functioning of collectives and collective relationships. Furthermore it will explore how these could be developed to ultimately ensure optimal collective participation. Which in turn could contribute to community development.

Author: Hymeri Augustyn

Abstract Title: The effect of HIV status in post-stroke outcomes in activities of daily living

Abstract:

A high proportion of the caseload of occupational therapists working in a rehabilitation setting is made up of stroke survivors. This is also true for the physical rehabilitation unit at Witrand Hospital, where this research was conducted. The study explored the impact of HIV status on the outcome of stroke survivors.

The ability to perform activities of daily living (ADLs) was assessed to determine the rate and nature of recovery of the HIV-positive and HIV-negative stroke survivors.

The research aimed to provide scientific evidence for the rate and nature of recovery of HIV-positive and HIV-negative stroke survivors towards participating in ADLs, a typical South African hospital context gives occupational therapists a better idea of how to predict the rate and nature of recovery towards participation in ADLs, and provides realistic outcomes

The findings of the research indicated no difference in the rate and nature of recovery between the two groups upon admission and discharge. However, a difference in the rate and nature of recovery was noticed during the period from discharge to one month after discharge. The HIV-negative group showed more significant improvement as compared to the HIV-positive group, while the HIV-positive group showed a decline in their function over the period.

Authors: Paula Barnard, Alan Rothberg, Patricia Mc Inerney

Abstract Title: The effect of mobile technology during rural fieldwork on perceived knowledge gain

Abstract:

Final year occupational therapy students attend a three-week rural fieldwork block as part of the public health curriculum. These students have exposure to blended learning throughout other parts of the curriculum but become “cut off” from these resources when displaced to these internet depleted rural hospitals. Mobile technology provides an opportunity to tether the students to the blended learning opportunities available.

Aim: Investigate the relationship between use of mobile technology and the students perceived knowledge gain in the rural fieldwork.

Method: Using a quantitative pre-test:post-test survey design students rated their perceived knowledge of 48 learning objectives on a five-point Likert scale at the start of the year and again at six months. Tablet Computing Devices (TCD) were lent to 13 students (experimental) while 7 students (control) were lent the TCD's for a later block. Data were analysed both descriptively and for effect.

Results: A significant difference between pre-test:post-test of all fieldwork blocks in perceived knowledge gain was achieved ($p < 0.05$). Comparison of the control and experimental groups indicated a large effect on perceived knowledge gain for the students (experimental) taking the TCD's on the rural fieldwork ($d=2.00$), and smaller effects for their other fieldwork ($d=1.33$); the control groups rural fieldwork ($d=1.10$) and control other fieldwork ($d=1.24$).

Conclusion: The use of TCD's for displaced rural students indicates a greater effect on their perceived knowledge gain than on their other fieldwork and their peers perceived knowledge gain. This supports the role of mobile technology for blended learning in public health fieldwork.

Authors: Marica Botha, Denise Franzsen, Lyndsay Koch

Abstract Title: Evaluation of the tests of sensory integration function used with infants.

Abstract:

Sensory integrative dysfunction occurs in 5-10% of children. Various tests are used to identify sensory dysfunction in infants in South Africa but they have not been validated in this context. The purpose of this study was to explore the comparison of normative scores, construct validity and diagnostic accuracy of two standardised assessments: the Infant/Toddler Sensory Profile (ITSP), a parent report tool and the Test of Sensory Functions in Infants (TSFI), a therapist administered test on 60 infants. The sample was recruited from child day care facilities in the East Rand. Overall reliability of the ITSP was found to be within an acceptable range, while for the TSFI it was below an acceptable range. The TSFI had poor diagnostic accuracy for the total score on a number of sections. The divergent validity found between the sections of the two tests confirmed that they do not measure the same constructs of sensory processing.

Authors: Helen Buchanan, Sanet du Toit

Abstract Title: Embracing cultural diversity - perspectives on meaningful engagement for residents with advanced dementia living in care settings

Abstract:

Background: The concept of providing person-centred care (PPC) that focuses on engagement in meaningful occupations in residential care settings for elderly people is generally limited. The aim of this study was to identify best practice scenarios for supporting elderly persons with advanced dementia from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in care facilities.

Method: A qualitative exploratory study was undertaken at a care facility in Cape Town. Data collection occurred via a pre-workshop questionnaire, a three-hour Appreciative Inquiry workshop involving care partners, i.e. care staff, relatives, volunteers and residents (n=20), and an adapted Delphi Technique to achieve consensus among representatives from the facility leadership (n=5). Data were collected and stored using the survey solution Qualtrics.

Findings: Care partners provided excellent examples of ways in which PPC was being promoted. Findings reflected the importance of enabling residents to make social connections and share affection by creating opportunities for engagement in meaningful occupations and respecting residents' life stories. Leadership agreed that enabling inclusion and celebrating cultural diversity were important, but that cultural humility still needs to be promoted among care partners.

Conclusion: Care partners examples reflected the essence of PPC unique to the specific setting, while the leadership highlighted obstacles to its implementation. The positive core promoted by an Appreciative Inquiry approach should be extended to leadership to facilitate sustainable PPC practice changes.

Application to Practice: The findings will inform ways of enabling meaningful engagement in older persons with dementia living in care facilities.

Ethics clearance: HREC REF: 318/2015

Author: Fransli Buckle

Abstract Title: The effectiveness of multimedia visual perceptual training for children with disabilities: A Systematic Review

Abstract:

In this systematic review we examined the literature to establish the validity of multimedia use for training visual perceptual skills for children with disabilities. Five studies met the inclusion criteria and were reviewed. From the selected articles children diagnosed with developmental delay, autism, handwriting difficulties and cerebral palsy received multimedia visual perceptual intervention. The results indicated that strong evidence exists for the effectiveness of multimedia visual perceptual training. Intervention proved to be most effective for children diagnosed with developmental delay, cerebral palsy and handwriting difficulties. Studies suggested that learners were more motivated and interested to engage in computer based activities, therefore reducing distractibility and improving performance. Future research is recommended to further explore the efficacy of multimedia based intervention in improving visual perceptual skills. It would also be of importance to examine specific visual perceptual skills that are most affected when using multi media as a treatment platform.

Author: Tania Buys

Abstract Title: Rethinking our undergraduate vocational rehabilitation curriculum

Abstract:

The South African undergraduate curriculum is guided by various policies contained in documents from the Health Professional Council of South Africa; institutions for Higher Education as well as the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. A curriculum exists in three levels – that which is planned, delivered and experienced. The undergraduate vocational rehabilitation curriculum in its entirety has not been established or scrutinized in order to determine what the core vocational rehabilitation curriculum should be. Recent student protest actions have highlighted a number of challenges facing South African universities – one of them being transformation of the curriculum.

Research has therefore been undertaken as part of a PhD study to determine the core undergraduate curriculum in vocational rehabilitation using the explanatory sequential research design. The first phase of the research is to establish the current vocational rehabilitation planned and delivered curriculum. Semi-structured interviews were held with lecturers teaching in the area of vocational rehabilitation at the various universities in order to explore reasons for curriculum development as well as to determine teaching strategies in curriculum delivery. Areas of convergence and divergence are established. The next step will be to determine the experienced curriculum. Phase two will entail generating the core undergraduate curriculum.

This paper will present the results of the first phase of the research during which the planned and delivered curriculum is established. Having established this, the question arises as to whether this curriculum meets our unique South African needs and whether the winds of education transformation need to gust around the curriculum and reshape it.

Authors: Daleen Casteleijn, Hennie Loubser, Kirsty van Strombroek

Abstract Title: Validation of the Harmonised Assessment Tool for assessment of eligibility for disability grants and free health care in South Africa

Abstract:

The Department of Social Development (DSD) is responsible for the social security of the people of South Africa. Quality of life for those living with disabilities is of utmost importance and the DSD support people with disabilities by means of disability grants with free health care being provided by the Department of Health (DoH).

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) was contracted in 2004 to streamline and harmonise the assessment process for disability grants and access to free health care. The Harmonised Assessment Tool (HAT) was developed in 2005 and piloted in 2006. An assessment manual accompanies the assessment tool that guides assessors appointed by the DSD and/or DoH in determining eligibility for disability grants and free health care.

The HAT has not been subjected to the full scale of psychometric investigation. A project was launched to validate the HAT. The objectives were two-fold:

- To establish and report on the content validity of the HAT
- To establish and report on the clinical utility or usefulness of the tool in the day-to-day assessments of people with disabilities.

The results of the content validity indicated that the scoring of the HAT had to be revised and several items had to be reformulated, some were deleted and others were added. The clinical utility study is ongoing and results will be analysed to establish the clinical utility of the HAT.

This presentation will share the results of the validity of the HAT and explain the procedure for assessment of disability grant eligibility in future.

Authors: Monique Chelin, Elize Janse van Rensburg, Rialda Hattingh, Cornel van Rooyen, Carina van der Merwe, Lucinda Putter, Janine Herholdt, Jacqueline van Druten, Maureen Taylor, Tarina Buitendag

Abstract Title: The short-term effect of a group drumming intervention on aggressive behaviour among adolescent girls diagnosed with conduct disorder

Abstract:

Aggressive behaviour is a primary symptom of conduct disorder and is one of the strongest predictors of criminality for individuals with conduct disorder. There is a need for appropriate interventions targeting aggressive behaviour among adolescents with conduct disorder that is relevant to the diverse South African population. This study reports on the short-term effect of a group drumming intervention program on aggression among adolescent girls (13 to 18 years) diagnosed with conduct disorder at a school for girls with behavioural problems in the Free State. An experimental, randomised pre-test post-test control group design was used. The intervention group (n=13) was exposed to a three week drumming intervention while their matched controls (n=13) continued with their normal daily program. Both groups completed the Aggression Scale questionnaire before and after the intervention. The median Aggression Scale score of the intervention group showed a marked decrease from 20 to 7 from the pre-test to the post-test, although this difference was not statistically significant (95% CI [-13;5]). The median difference between the post-test scores for the control and intervention groups did, however, reveal a statistically significant difference in the levels of aggression experienced by the respective groups after the intervention (95% CI [-28;-3]). This study therefore delivered promising results suggesting that group drumming can be an effective intervention for the reduction of aggression among adolescent girls diagnosed with conduct disorder.

(ECUFS Stud Nr 13-2015)

Author: Rosemary Crouch

Abstract Title: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: A alternative approach to understanding this illness.

Abstract:

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is often found by occupational therapists working in vocational rehabilitation or in other clinical areas, to be a difficult and often confusing diagnosis. Often it is difficult to distinguish between PTSD, affective disorders, dissociative disorder, dysthymia, anxiety disorders and personality disorders. Co-morbid conditions such as substance abuse also complicate the picture and there is no doubt that manipulation such a maligering can play a part.

The presentation starts with an in depth look at the condition of PTSD and research related to this disorder. Two cases are presented for participants to compare and they will asked for their diagnosis/clinical observations at the end of the presentation.

The main discussion centres around factors such as the stressor, avoidance, intrusion symptoms, negative alterations in cognition and mood etc. all of which which interfere with a sufferer's ability to function in work and in everyday life. Treatment approaches will include case management by Jennifer Creek and Carolyn Baum and the presentation ends with a brief discussion on the handling of manipulation.

Audience participation will be encouraged.

Authors: Jodie de Bruyn, Mandy Sourour, Tarryn James, Talia Wilmot, Danielle Simposon, Sophy Mothapo

Abstract Title: Activities most valued by stroke survivors

Abstract:

The purpose of this cross-sectional quantitative research study was to determine which activities are most valued by stroke survivors. The aim was to conclude whether personal factors such as gender, age, religion and culture influenced these selected occupations. The research was designed to give insight into the needs of patients and how this could be addressed during occupational therapy intervention. The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure was conducted with 20 stroke survivors within Pretoria, South Africa, resulting in a total of 18 participants and 77 responses. The participants were grouped according to Afrikaans and African cultures in order to draw comparisons. Results showed that the top three important occupations identified, namely walking, bathing and showering, and social participation, were the same amongst both culture groups. Due to the small sample size further research could be conducted.

Authors: Marna de Bruyn, Josh Cameron

Abstract Title: The Winds of Change in Occupational Science Research are Advancing: Are We Receptive or Resistant?

Abstract:

'Occupation' forms the foundation of occupational therapy practice, in all its shapes and forms. However, what exactly is defined as occupation remains somewhat vague and controversial. It has been convincingly argued that occupations are not quantifiable activities that are performed by an individual but subjective, lived experiences that encompass all of human life (Pierce, 2001; Doble & Santha, 2008; Reed, Hocking & Smythe, 2011). Regardless of multiple arguments for an experiential perspective of human occupation, literature appears to be predominated by professional understandings and classifications of human activity (Reed et al., 2008). The inherent subjectivity and meaning of human occupations often remains neglected (Hammell, 2014).

This presentation debates the potential and usefulness of qualitative research methodologies to study human occupation. More specifically, the need for and previous success of interpretative phenomenological studies in occupational therapy research is emphasised. The presenter reflects on her own personal experiences of using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to study the meaning of job-seeking in a single case study as part of a master's dissertation. The strengths and limitations of this methodology is highlighted, using personal experiences during fieldwork research as examples. It is concluded that the winds of change are challenging current understandings of human occupation, including the way it is studied and researched.

Complete reference list not included due to word limitation.

Authors: Patricia de Witt, Judith Bruce, Alan Rothberg

Abstract Title: Occupational therapy clinicians' perceptions of knowledge and skill about clinical education

Abstract:

Occupational therapy (OT) students all over the world are required to complete 1000 hours of clinical work under the guidance of a qualified occupational therapist. It is well documented that although undergraduate training prepares clinical occupational therapist for practice, it may not be sufficient to prepare them for clinical education of students.

This poster will report on the research completed on the Wits clinical training platform to examine the gap between knowledge and skill related to clinical education that occupational therapists in clinical practice perceived they had compared to items listed in a clinical education 'Skill set'.

The purpose of this research was to ascertain the need for and possible content of a training programme for clinical educators.

A quantitative, cross-sectional survey design was used. A questionnaire was developed based on the clinical educator 'Skill set'. The questionnaire was piloted to ensure content validity. The finalised questionnaire was sent to 87 occupational therapists involved in the clinical education of final year students.

Fifty-five completed questionnaires were returned. These were divided into two groups: OTs with CE experience and those with limited experience.

Non-parametric inferential statistics were used to analyse the data to determine statistical differences between the two groups for each variable.

Authors: Ninette Du Plessis, Tania L Buys, Jodie T De Bruyn

Abstract Title: The Effect of Hippotherapy on the Physiological Cost Index and on School Activities of Adolescents with Diplegia

Abstract:

Hippotherapy is a occupational treatment strategy that utilises the movement of the horse to treat the clients.

This study intended to examine the individual effect of hippotherapy on Physiological Cost Index and school activities in adolescents with diplegia. Ten adolescents with diplegia, aged 12 to 16 years, were studied. The results were not to be generalised to the broader cerebral palsy population.

A triangulation mixed method design was used. Within the quantitative part of the study, a single system multiple baseline design across subjects was implemented and in the qualitative part of the study, a semi-structured interview was used to determine effect of hippotherapy on school activities. Individual hippotherapy was conducted once a week over a 12-week period.

The effect of hippotherapy on physiological cost index was inconclusive, but the results obtained with regards to an increase in walking speed, were statistically significant.

Out of the qualitative research, three themes emerged as an effect of hippotherapy on school activities, namely improved rest and sleep, improved functional ambulation, and improved neuro-musculoskeletal functioning. The study protocol was approved by the Faculty Ethics Committee, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Pretoria. The certificate number that was obtained is 539/2013.

Author: Rolyn Du Plessis

Abstract Title: The story of an inner city slum and its residents - reconsidering the effects of the environment

Abstract:

Numerous occupation-based models and several authors have mentioned the importance for occupational therapists of taking into account the effect of, in particular, the individual environment on people's participation in occupations, during their assessments and treatment. Developments within the profession, relating to the terms 'occupational deprivation,' 'occupational justice,' and 'occupational apartheid' have urged therapists to also consider the structural environment and its effects; not only for individuals, but for entire communities, and not only for people living with disabilities, but for all people. In addition, the development of the World Health Organisation's international classification of functioning, disability and health has given health care providers a useful tool for considering various aspects of the environment and their possible health consequences.

In a recent autoethnographic research study, I explored the living conditions of slum residents in an inner city. I took a glimpse into the slum sub-culture, and the perceived effect that the environment had on people's creative participation, without claims on generalisation. The results of the study indicated that occupational therapists have underestimated the effect of the environment on people's participation in occupation.

This presentation will consider a number of contextual factors (such as inequality and security of tenure), the effects they may have on occupational choice and the extent to which our conceptual models have failed in taking these effects into account.

Author: Rolyn Du Plessis

Abstract Title: An OT, an inner city and an autoethnographic breath of fresh air - Autoethnography as research method in occupational therapy

Abstract:

Autoethnography, despite the potential benefits that it may yield, is a relatively underused research methodology in South African occupational therapy. This presentation; about my experience of employing the method to investigate the lives of people living in an inner city slum, provides an introduction to the method, describes the drawbacks, benefits, challenges and thrills of using it and mentions authors and articles which have shaped and inspired my understanding of the method. It serves as an argument in favour of a subjective approach in occupational therapy research and an encouragement for prospective researchers to consider autoethnography as method.

Authors: Eileen Du Plooy, Imme Shiphani

Abstract Title: Measuring grip strength: Can the modified sphygmomanometer and the Jamar dynamometer be used interchangeably?

Abstract:

The Jamar dynamometer is used for measuring grip strength but is not affordable to many occupational therapists in South Africa. The use of a modified sphygmomanometer has been reported as an alternative method to measure grip strength and is widely available. The research question was to determine if the two instruments can be used interchangeably and whether it is justifiable to use the MS as an alternative to the JD by statistically determining the limits of agreement between them. A quantitative, cross-sectional, within subject study design was used. Seventy subjects were examined. The Bland and Altman methodology for measuring the limits of agreement was applied. The statistical analysis displayed a significant lack of agreement between the two instruments that are not clinically acceptable and indicated that the modified sphygmomanometer cannot be used interchangeably with the Jamar Dynamometer in spite of the positive correlation.

Authors: Madri Engelbrecht, Lana Van Niekerk, Zelda Coetzee, Zerina Hajwani

Abstract Title: Is Supported Employment affordable to people with mental disabilities? - Findings of a cost study

Abstract:

Supported Employment (SE) has been proven an effective strategy to facilitate positive employment outcomes for people with mental disabilities in open labour market settings. The cost-effectiveness of SE has been established internationally, but in South Africa no costing studies have been reported. This paper reports on the cost of an SE service to people with mental disabilities in South Africa.

A longitudinal descriptive study was used to determine the cost of SE service components utilised by people with mental disabilities, from two SE programmes in the Western Cape. Time utilisation was captured on a data capture sheet developed according to components of SE. Data collection commenced when a particular job had been identified for a participant and preparation for the placement ensued, continuing for 12 months. Service components related to the sourcing of jobs were thus excluded.

Time utilisation data were used to calculate cost using a government sessional salary (R189/hour) and a medical aid reimbursement rate (R367/hour) for occupational therapists. The findings show SE services to be affordable at less than 10% of the cost of a monthly disability grant, and 10% - 21% lower than the current subsidy per consumer in a protective workshop for people with disabilities.

Evidence from the study thus reflects the cost of SE services to people with mental disability as substantially lower than the current government investment into disability grants and protective workshops subsidies.

Authors: Debbie Fewster, Pragashnie Govender, Deepa Nundkumar

Abstract Title: The winds influencing academia: Assisting a generation of students

Abstract:

In the South African context students that enter into health care professions are from diverse backgrounds. At UKZN, our policies ensure that diversity is embraced in our selection criteria of equity and redress of students thereby adding to this miscellany. It becomes necessary for lecturers to understand the needs of students and find innovative ways to encourage learning.

The learning preference of students was explored, as they transitioned from third to fourth year. An explanatory mixed methods design was used. The sample comprised third year OT students (2014) with a follow up into 4th year (2015). Via purposive homogenous sampling, 22 students were selected for the study. The VARK learning preference questionnaire was used at two periods followed by focus group discussions with 14 students from the group. Ethical clearance and gatekeeper permissions were granted. Data was analysed descriptively and thematically.

The instructional preference moved from more kinaesthetic to multi-modal in a 10-month period.

Themes of “to know”, “not to know”, “to feel” and “to act” emerged. Despite a range of emotions with regards to knowing ones learning style there was a strong leaning towards the benefits of knowing. The students displayed a high kinaesthetic score which is in keeping with other studies.

Supporting other studies, we believe that teachers should implement teaching strategies that promote inductive reasoning and organize disparate observation into an integrated explanation. The OT curricula should be analysed in detail to allow for a variety of learning styles that will assist students in complex working situations.

Author: Debbie Fewster

Abstract Title: Reigning in hegemony within our research and practice: Becoming the champions of parents

Abstract:

As clinicians we are taught not to discriminate and later as researchers we are cautioned about researcher power. Within the framework of qualitative research the researcher is encouraged to reflect and bracket her position in order to reduce researcher power. The notion of reflexivity will be explored and presented further in this paper. Furthermore can the practice of reflexivity in research inform clinical practice?

The research that inspired the aforementioned question was a qualitative study delving into the experiences of parents of children with autism. Eleven interviews were conducted during the research project. One particular interview piqued the researcher's attention with regards to her power within the interview.

The researcher adopted a phenomenological research approach to develop a semi structured interview schedule. The participant was an isiZulu speaking mother of an autistic adolescent daughter. The interview was audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. All ethical considerations were adhered to during the interview and informed consent was obtained. Data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

The interview revealed gems relevant for other parents and OTs dealing with parents of autistic children. Themes included knowing your child's strength, building confidence and becoming a champion for your child. The themes linked directly to the researcher's power struggles as a health professional and challenged her view on parents of children with autism as experts.

Rita Pierson, Educator, states that every child needs a champion. As OTs, our reflexivity and control of power in research and clinical practice can allow us to become champions for parents.

Authors: Denise Franzsen, Aimee Stewart

Abstract Title: Handwriting Screening Assessment for Students in Higher Education

Abstract:

Background: Universities should provide support services for students with dysgraphia and other handwriting dysfunction which affect the students' ability to function in examination environments. Identifying what concessions should be awarded for these difficulties has proved controversial when students apply for extra time. The need for standardised screening assessments to help determine which students require concessions has been identified for the assessment of handwriting.

Aim: This study reviews the psychometric properties of a Handwriting Screening Assessment in identifying dysgraphia and handwriting dysfunction in students who request concessions

Method

An observation assessment of the students' performance skills as well as a separate assessment of their writing was developed and completed on 298 typical students and 61 students referred for concessions. Item analysis using the Rasch model was completed to determine the extent to which each subtest in the multidimensional screening assessment had construct validity. The item difficulty and person ability and norms and scoring was established to determine cut-off points for dysfunction in factors related to handwriting.

Results

The Handwriting Screening Assessment subtests showed a showed good fit to the Rasch model. The screening assessment discriminated between the typical students and those referred for concessions in 5 of the 7 subtests related to the observation of the students and in 2 of the 5 subtests related to writing. These subtests were related to motor rather than dyslexic dysgraphia.

Conclusion

The Handwriting Screening Assessment has been shown to be a useful assessment tool in identifying motor dysgraphia in university students.

Authors: Juliana Freeme, Liane Benjamin, Jenna Cohen, Taryn Everett, Chana-Leah Glass, Amy Volker

Abstract Title: The changing profile of stroke patients in Johannesburg: Recommendations for effective intervention

Abstract:

The profile of stroke patients is changing. Research shows that stroke survivors are younger due to the deteriorating health conditions worldwide, such as HIV and diabetes. This means that stroke survivors are usually employed and caring for young families.

This has significant implications on the appropriate activity choices and treatment outcomes in occupational therapy and stroke rehabilitation. Self-care activities are often the focus of intervention in acute stroke rehabilitation, but activities to address return to work and social participation should also be included in the occupational therapy programme.

The aim of the record review on 263 stroke patients attending occupational therapy in rehabilitation centres in the greater Johannesburg area was to determine the important demographic details to consider in this group. The review included the age, gender, ethnic group, employment status, premorbid and comorbid medical conditions, living conditions and mode of transport to medical facility, and lastly, frequency of attendance to occupational therapy.

These factors are discussed, together with the effect on stroke rehabilitation and recommendations for appropriate interventions strategies to ensure effective treatment of stroke survivors.

Authors: Monique Harris, Denise Franzsen

Abstract Title: The Discriminative Validity of Visual Perceptual Standardised Tests In Identifying Specific Learning Disabilities in Children from the Gauteng Province, South Africa. (M140648)

Abstract:

Aim

This study aimed to determine the discriminative validity, specificity and sensitivity as well as the internal consistency of the Developmental Test of Visual Perception (DTVP)-3, Beery Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration (DTVMI)-6 and the Test of Visual perceptual Skills (TVPS)-3 in identifying visual perceptual dysfunction in a sample of South African children of middle class socioeconomic status, with a specific learning disability.

Method

A quantitative, cross-sectional, comparative design was utilised. The study sample consisted of Group A made up of 44 children with a specific learning disability attending a School for Learning Support (LSEN) and Group B consisted of 48 children attending a mainstream school.

Results

The scores for participants in Group B fell within the United States of America (USA) norms for all three tests. The DTVMI-6 and DTVP-3 were found to best discriminate between children with and without a specific learning disability

Overall the TVPS-3, DTVP-3 and DTVMI-6 showed poor sensitivity in accurately determining children with visual perceptual difficulties. This could be due to various reasons namely; not all participants with a specific learning disability have visual perceptual problems and participants were or are receiving therapy at the LSEN School. All three tests had ranges of Cronbach alpha's ≥ 0.70 therefore exhibiting adequate levels of internal consistency for this sample of children

Conclusion

The TVPS-3, DTVP-3 and DTVMI-6th are suitable for use with South African children from middle socioeconomic backgrounds and do discriminate those with visual perceptual problems. All three tests can be used interchangeably.

Authors: Marna Hartman, Lyndsay Koch

Abstract Title: Modifying the Kid Play Profile to assess play with children in Tshwane/Pretoria

Abstract:

The assessment of play as an occupation is difficult in occupational therapy due to the lack of tools that measure play directly from the child. The Kid Play Profile is a child self-report survey developed in the USA that enquires from children directly, but contains activities that may not be appropriate in South Africa. This study aimed to modify the KPP for use in South Africa, using the Nominal Group Technique and then confirming content validity with a group of children to ensure the modified tool is useful with the target population.

This presentation will introduce the modified Kid Play Profile (mKPP) for use in the Tshwane/Pretoria area and will discuss the use of the nominal group technique to generate valid content for this tool. The results of field testing the tool with 45 children in grade 1 - 3 to confirm content validity will also be discussed.

Author: Fatima Hendricks

Abstract Title: Do you speak plain language? Exploring Health Literacy for OT Professionals

Abstract:

There is a clear link between literacy levels and health as established in the literature. Literacy communication impacts patients' access to information about their rights in relation to informed consent; participation in the healthcare process such as the treatment care plan; and is vital to informed decision-making in exercising healthcare options. Literature suggests that South Africa does not have strong health literacy education initiatives targeting health professionals. This introductory paper provides some basic facts on health literacy, consequences associated with low health literacy, an overview of health literacy screening tools, how to speak plain language, awareness about health literacy physical environments and the important role Occupational Therapy has to play in promoting health literacy for patient enablement.

Authors: Lauren Hepworth, Pragashnie Govender

Abstract Title: Current Trends in Splinting the Hand for Children with Neurological Impairments

Abstract:

Ethical clearance - BREC REF: BE319/14

Aim: The study aimed to explore the current splinting practises as used as a method of intervention for improving hand function in children with neurological impairments within the South African context.

Methodology: A quantitative cross-sectional design using an electronic self-administered questionnaire was utilised in order to address the objectives of this study. The sample included Occupational therapists working within the paediatric neurological field in South Africa. The study sample was collected through convenience and snowball sampling in order to target therapists specifically working in the area of paediatric neurology.

Results and Discussion: Forty therapists completed the survey in its entirety.

Therapists splint for various reasons and are in agreement that splints can be effective in neurological cases. The 3 most prevalent splints are the functional resting, thumb abductor and anti-spasticity splint with therapists mainly splinting to maintain or improve ROM.

Conclusions: This study provides an insight into the splinting practices amongst occupational therapists who work with neurologically impaired children. It shows that therapists do choose to splint despite the controversy that surrounds splinting in neurology and that many factors are considered during the decision-making process.

Keywords: Splinting, paediatrics, neurology, occupational therapy

Acknowledgments to my supervisors: Gina Rencken and Pragashnie Govender

Author: Lucia Hess-April

Abstract Title: Towards critical OT practice: reflections on the development of critical literacies in OT education.

Abstract:

In a context of increasing inequalities in South Africa the role of OT education in realizing social/occupational justice has taken on renewed importance. This paper addresses competencies required for critical OT practice as well as the development of critical literacies in OT education. The term 'critical literacies' as utilised in this paper refers to a deepened consciousness of a situation that allows students to recognise, reflect on and challenge hegemonies that impact on occupational well-being. The paper draws on a qualitative study that employed participant observation and semi-structured interviews to explore how UWC OT graduates' conceptualisations of occupational justice manifested in their every day practice. First, the paper presents research findings on the participants' abilities to adopt a critical approach, highlighting several challenges related to structural and systemic power issues they encountered in their practice contexts. The paper then explores these challenges within the framework of critical consciousness and critical literacy. By exploring questions like: What is their vision for practice? What informs their practice? What do they actually accomplish? the paper examines the competencies that the participants portrayed in enacting practice for occupational justice. Likewise, by exploring the question: How do teaching and learning processes in the curriculum support the development of critical conscious? the paper examines the influence of the curriculum on the participants' practice. Finally, the paper suggests how Freire's critical pedagogy and Mezirow's transformative learning approach could be employed by educators to facilitate the development of critical literacies in OT education.

Authors: Linda Hiemstra, Basil Adriaanse, Liandi Terblanche

Abstract Title: Rehabilitation outcomes following autologous human stem cell transplantation in a chronic complete C4 tetraplegic - the first 12 months: A case report

Abstract:

Introduction

Autologous Human Stem Cell Transplantation (AHESC) is emerging as one of several promising new cell-based treatments for chronic spinal cord injury (SCI). Since chronic SCI is generally deemed irreversible, treatment paradigms for post-intervention rehabilitation after many years of disability are limited, and a description of the impact of such intervention on the patients is hard to find. Here we describe, for the first time, the multi-disciplinary post-operative rehabilitation and outcome of a patient with chronic cervical SCI after autologous human embryonic stem cell transplant. We include the anatomical, physiological, functional and quality of life outcomes.

Methods

A 33 year old male, American Spinal cord Injury Association (ASIA) Grade A, C4 chronic SCI patient received glial scar resection and Autologous Human Embryonic Stem Cell (AHESC) transplant, 6 years after injury, and thereafter had intensive interdisciplinary rehabilitation comprising occupational-, biokinetic- and physiotherapy, for an average of 17 hours per week over the course of 12 months. Outcomes were measured with standardised outcome measures of physiological improvement, increased independence, and a questionnaire was designed to gain understanding of the changes in quality of life and well-being of the patient, from his perspective.

Results

The patient progressed from ASIA Grade A to ASIA Grade C, over the first 12 post-operative months. Sensory recovery comprised awareness of deep pressure and light touch in all dermatomes, with accurate localisation to L1. Motor activation was restored to all major muscle groups of the right upper limb, and to a lesser extent in the left upper limb, with some recovery in thoracic, abdominal and spinal muscles. Gains have been made in areas of motor, sensory and vascular function, self-care, wheelchair use and safety, and leisure participation. The patient has found these changes meaningful in terms of quality of life.

Conclusion

Regenerative medicine approaches may create rehabilitation potential where none formerly existed, presenting unprecedented challenges to rehabilitation therapists. Our experience demonstrates the value of intensive multi-disciplinary rehabilitation programmes in this setting, and provides a template for functional restoration and retraining after many years of chronic disability. It also emphasises the need to debate the ethical questions surrounding the application of such interventions and highlights the impact that participation in rehabilitation can have on a patient's perception of quality of life and health status.

Author: Michelle Janse van Rensburg

Abstract Title: Considerations regarding the role of Occupational Therapy in Ward Based Outreach Teams as part of the reengineering of Primary Health Care

Abstract:

The National Development Plan (NDP) aims to improve health and well-being of South Africans through a strengthened health system. This includes reengineering Primary Health by establishing Primary Healthcare (PHC) teams, which are being rolled out nationally as ward-based outreach teams (WBOTs).

WBOTs deliver integrated primary care in defined geographic areas. They comprise of around 10 community health workers (CHWs) who work under the leadership of a professional nurse. CHWs are essential for executing proactive health promotion, disease prevention and management strategies by performing home visits to all households in their designated areas.

Gauteng has adopted the Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) approach to achieve universal health coverage through WBOTs. COPC is “primary care where professionals from different disciplines and approaches work together with organisations and people in defined communities to identify and respond systematically to ... health-related needs ... to improve health”.

The 2015 OTASA Position Statement regarding occupational therapy (OT) and PHC reengineering states that the unique contribution of OT is understanding the complex relationships between people’s occupations, their environment and their health. This aligns well with the COPC approach and its five guiding principles, which are 1) local health and institutional analysis, 2) comprehensive care, 3) equity, 4) practice with science, and 5) service integration around users.

It is useful to explore further how OT can contribute to PHC reengineering, particularly through participation in WBOTs. This paper will expand on thoughts that emerge from research currently being conducted in CHW education for a larger PhD study.

Authors: Elize Janse van Rensburg, Tania Rauch van der Merwe, Mabel Erasmus

Abstract Title: Perceptions of community representatives in occupational therapy service learning engagements

Abstract:

Service learning is employed as a form of practice learning in undergraduate occupational therapy curricula across the globe and at the university where this study was conducted. Research into the effects of service learning has focused on students to a large extent, while the perspectives of community partners have been relatively under-examined. The purpose of this study was to describe the perceptions of community representatives in occupational therapy service learning engagements at a South African university. Positioned in a constructivist paradigm the study utilised a descriptive, qualitative enquiry design. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with eight community representatives from seven different sites. Interviews were transcribed and analysed following an inductive, systematic content analysis approach. The trustworthiness of the study was promoted by, among others, making use of investigator triangulation during data analysis and by conducting participant verification of the interpreted results. Two themes emerged from the data, namely 'disabling occupation' and 'enabling occupation'. The theme 'disabling occupation' described participants' perceptions of barriers to service learning. The theme 'enabling occupation' illuminated factors which community representatives perceived as facilitators to service learning engagements and described evidence of participants' perceptions related to occupational participation and occupational justice. The findings of this study shed light on the perceptions of community representatives in occupational therapy service learning engagements, from which practical recommendations for future engagements can be drawn.

(Ethical clearance number: ECUFS 213/2012)

Author: Elize Janse van Rensburg

Abstract Title: A framework for occupational enablement through service learning in occupational therapy

Abstract:

Occupational therapists concern themselves with human occupation, and the enablement of occupation can be viewed as the profession's collective domain of concern when working towards health, well-being and occupational justice. Six enablement foundations are described in occupational therapy literature, namely choice, risk and responsibility; client participation; vision of possibilities; change; justice and power sharing. Drawing on these and other theoretical foundations and based on the findings of a qualitative, descriptive enquiry that investigated the perceptions of community representatives in occupational therapy service learning engagements, the author constructed a framework for occupational enablement through service learning. This framework details outcomes and objectives that may be sought successfully during occupational therapy service learning engagements and provides for specific activities that may assist in achieving these objectives. The framework further provides for strategies that are based on the perceptions of community representatives themselves, which relate to contextual factors, role players and specific engagement strategies that enhance the potential for 'successful' service learning engagements. Rooted in theoretical principles from community development, service learning and occupational enablement theory, this framework can provide a strategic management guideline to occupational therapists and students who engage with communities in endeavours such as service learning. It was also suggested during subsequent exploration of the framework by academics and clinicians that the framework may also have more general application in community-based practice in occupational therapy.

(Ethical clearance number: ECUFS 213/2012)

Author: Julie Jay

Abstract Title: Occupational therapy reports: Exploring best practice

Abstract:

Introduction:

Communicating about patient assessment and intervention is accepted as an essential requirement of the health professional's role. However, current research indicates that this area of professional practice is the most routinely neglected. Many studies have aimed to understand the possible reasons for this neglect, however studies specific to occupational therapy practice are lacking. This study aimed to ascertain the perceptions of occupational therapy clinicians regarding the quality of profession-specific reports in Gauteng and the barriers and facilitators that influence this.

Method:

Six focus groups were carried out as the first phase of a two phase mixed method study design. This qualitative stage included exploration with occupational therapists in a variety of clinical and discipline specific contexts. The qualitative data was then analysed to determine specific themes to understand the research question.

Results:

Occupational therapists are subject to generic barriers to enable effective report writing. However, certain profession specific challenges, such as professional identity and the use of appropriate occupational therapy language are causing a disconnect between the reporting of and what occupational therapists actually do.

Author: Lyndsay Koch

Abstract Title: Vona du Toit's Model of Creative Ability: The missing link in paediatric occupational therapy practice?

Abstract:

Much debate exists as to the most effective intervention for children experiencing learning difficulties within the school system. Questions regarding when intervention should occur, who should receive intervention, what that intervention looks like and who should fund it are pertinent topics within paediatric practice at the moment. Early childhood development (ECD) and early childhood intervention (ECI) are strategies within education and health that focus on identification of risk factors and prevention of learning problems in populations of young children, but still leave a gap in the understanding of intervention with school-going children. In the last thirty years, occupational therapists in paediatric practice have tended to favour bottom-up approaches focused on remediation of client factors and performance skills. As the focus in the profession has shifted back onto occupation, the understanding of the role of the occupational therapist within an education setting has become blurred and often poorly defined. What should occupational therapists be doing in an educational setting and what evidence exists for our intervention strategies?

This presentation will attempt to review the most recent literature regarding ECD and ECI in relation to occupational therapy in schools and will present evidence for effective intervention. The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) will be presented as a possible model for practice that guides the occupational therapist in paediatric practice to focus on occupation and may assist in clarifying the role of occupational therapy within education settings.

Authors: Lyndsay Koch, Elecia Van Zyl

Abstract Title: The Effect of an Integrated Learning Therapy Home Program Together with Occupational Therapy on Child Development

Abstract:

Integrated learning therapy is a sensory based home programme developed in South Africa for children with special learning and behavioural needs. This study investigated whether this programme could be used to address the need for sensory based activities in home programmes within occupational therapy. Sensory based activities include adult direct activities, performed in the natural environment of the child with the aim of producing a short-term effect on self-regulation, attention, or behavioural organisation.

An alternate, randomized group intervention design, with blind time-interval recording was used to explore the effects ILT in conjunction with occupational therapy has on the development of children aged 5 years to 11 years. A sample of 9 children was recruited in this pilot study. Each child participated in the intervention phase and acted as his/her own control.

This presentation will discuss the results of this study which suggest that Integrated Learning Therapy presented together with occupational therapy can have a positive influence on sensory discrimination and sensory modulation abilities of children. Findings suggested that earlier implementation of a home programme may be more beneficial than a delay in programme implementation and that the structured nature of the home programme may support programme implementation by parents.

Authors: Elizabeth Annelien Malan, Marieta M Visser, Mariette Nel, Tanya La Cock, Elizabeth Annelien Malan, Netske Weidemann, Wihanli Lindeque, Carli Viljoen

Abstract Title: Breastfeeding among mothers in the Public Health Sector: The role of the occupational therapist

Abstract:

Background and aim: South Africa has an unacceptably high child mortality rate. Preventable causes such as malnutrition account for the majority of these deaths. Breastfeeding as infant feeding practice is recognised for the potential to radically reduce child mortality and is therefore promoted globally. Yet, SA presents with the lowest breastfeeding rates worldwide. Breastfeeding is a child rearing co-occupation, and occupational therapists (OTs) are well positioned to become role players on a transdisciplinary level to address the infant child mortality rate through promoting and supporting breastfeeding. Although not well described in the literature and traditionally not considered as a role, this study aimed to determine the role of the OT in addressing breastfeeding among mothers in the public health sector (PHS).

Method: A purposive sample of 9 OTs from Bloemfontein working in the PHS participated in this study. An e-Delphi technique was used to set up four rounds of sequential questionnaires developed from and structured according to the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF) Domain and Process.

Results: From the 128 initial statements, 95 statements reached consensus determined at 80%. Statements were clustered according to OT roles identified, which included clinician, consultant, educator, trainer, advocate and facilitator.

Conclusion: OTs have a role to play in addressing breastfeeding among mothers in the PHS, within a transdisciplinary team. If OTs aligned their practice with global and national initiatives and policies, the population-based health issue of infant child mortality could be addressed collectively.

Ethics clearance number: ECUFS Stud. No. 11/2015

Authors: July Masango, Daleen Casteleijn, Sanetta H.J. du Toit, Hester M van Biljon

Abstract Title: 'A report writing protocol for vocational rehabilitation services in Gauteng public healthcare'

Abstract:

Ethics clearance number: M130649

Background and Aim: Guided by the South African Bill of rights (human dignity; freedom & security; privacy and access to information) the Gauteng Vocational Rehabilitation Task team (VRTT) and a PhD student from the University of the Witwatersrand embarked on using action research to transform occupational therapists' vocational rehabilitation services in Gauteng's public healthcare. Writing reports was collectively identified as a practice problem. A report writing protocol and templates was the result of several action research cycles and will be presented.

Method: Action Research guided and permeated the process of developing a report writing protocol for vocational rehabilitation services. Several action research cycles of plan-act-reflect were run by occupational therapist working in public healthcare work units. Critical friends perused the resulting protocol. The final protocol was disseminated throughout Gauteng public healthcare and published as a peer reviewed journal article.

Results and discussion: It is an undeniable reality that reports are a reflection of practice. Action research cycles resulted in a report writing protocol with templates that has been addressing issues such as lack of confidence and experience and time consumption when doing reports amongst public healthcare occupational therapists. It has also been attracting interest and positive feedback on a national level as it address a need beyond public healthcare and vocational rehabilitation.

Author: Luther Monareng

Abstract Title: Winds influencing OT Practice - Entrepreneurship: The role that occupational therapists should play in addressing unemployment in South Africa

Abstract:

As a developing country, South Africa is faced with high rates of unemployment that increases annually. Illiteracy and the high scale of the unemployable population, among others, are two major contributors toward the high levels of unemployment in our country.

This issue is no exception to clients seen by occupational therapists in different fields of practice and settings. In the rural communities particularly, the literacy levels are low and most people work as manual labourers (such as those working in the farms). Many of them sustain injuries or are diagnosed with debilitating conditions and are often unable to return back to work due to the nature of their jobs. As a result they resort to relying on a disability grant as a means of financial income adding further to the burden of people on social grants that the government is faced with.

The South African government urges its citizens to become active in combating unemployment and its repercussions and emphasizes entrepreneurship through small business development as an avenue to combat unemployment. OTs are best placed to assist injured workers to become entrepreneurs because of their knowledge of vocational rehabilitation, labour legislation and occupational performance. However, OTs' knowledge of business practices and business management appear to be insufficient to adequately assist these patients to become successful entrepreneurs.

This presentation will draw on my clinical experience with this client population group. Case studies will be used to show how entrepreneurship should be facilitated by occupational therapists.

Authors: Thuli Mthembu, Lisa Wegner, Nicolette Roman

Abstract Title: Barriers to Integration of Spirituality and Spiritual Care in Occupational Therapy Education in a South African context

Abstract:

Background: Integration of spiritual aspects in teaching and learning is very important for educators and students to learn in order to improve the quality of life, health and well-being of clients and their families. However, limited research has been conducted on the perceived barriers to integration of spirituality into teaching and learning in occupational therapy education. Aim: The aim of the study was to explore and describe the barriers impeding the integration of spirituality and spiritual care in occupational therapy education in a South African context. Methods: An interpretive exploratory-descriptive qualitative research design employing focus group discussions was conducted with a purposive sample of 29 occupational therapy students and nine educators. Thematic analysis and Atlas.ti 7 software for qualitative data analysis was used in this study. Trustworthiness was enhanced through credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability. Results: Three themes which identified the barriers to spirituality and spiritual care. The themes included intrinsic barriers to teaching spirituality in the classroom; extrinsic barriers to spirituality at personal level and intrinsic barriers to spirituality in fieldwork practice. The key findings of this study revealed that the lack of time, the expectations fieldwork, and insufficient knowledge and assessments were the main barriers to the inclusion of spirituality and spiritual care in teaching and learning. Conclusion: The present study confirms previous findings and contributes additional evidence that suggests a need for development of guidelines for integrating spirituality and spiritual care in occupational therapy.

Ethics Clearance Number: 14/4/18

Authors: Marelize Nel, Danielle Krige, Annaleen Mostert

Abstract Title: Exploring the effects of gaming on simulator adaptation syndrome

Abstract:

Driving simulators are commonly used for fitness to drive assessments, driver training, and rehabilitation. Driving simulators were developed in the 1960's providing a safe and economic alternative to driving rehabilitation and training. However, the high prevalence of simulator adaptation syndrome (SAS) poses a problem for users of driving simulators. The presenters are currently exploring the effects of first-person action based video-gaming on simulator adaptation syndrome. This undergraduate study will be completed by the end of May 2016. The following will be presented: a brief background and literature study which explored the use of driving simulators in occupational therapy and the current evidence –based mitigation strategies used worldwide, to reduce the effect of SAS. Furthermore, this presentation will clearly explain the link between gaming and driving simulations and its potential value as a mitigation strategy for SAS as well as the results of the study and the implications thereof, for driving rehabilitation in Occupational Therapy.

Author: Sayuri Pillay

Abstract Title: responsiveness to change and concurrent validity of the activity participation outcome measure (APOM) in adolescent mental health care users

Abstract:

There are limited valid and reliable tools which track change in the activity participation of adolescent mental health care users (MHCUs) during their inpatient stay at mental health care facilities. The Activity Participation Outcomes Measure (APOM) was developed in South Africa to track change in mental health care users.

This research study aimed to examine the APOM's responsiveness to change within an adolescent population of MHCUs as well as the concurrent validity between the APOM and the Emotional Profile Index (EPI).

The research design was a single subject ABA design. The study was done at the adolescent unit at TARA hospital over an 18-month period. Weekly APOM recordings were done on 24 adolescents with a follow-up within six to eight weeks after discharge. The EPI was done at admission, discharge and follow up.

The data was then analysed with descriptive and correlation statistics.

The results of the study showed good responsiveness of the APOM to changes in this adolescent sample. Concurrent validity was only found on certain dimensions of the EPI in relation to the APOM domains. Further recommendations could be made on the school readiness of these adolescents, with the use of the APOM scoring procedures.

Authors: Hanlie Pitout, Ina Treadwell, Anna-Marie Wium, Gerda Botha, Yolinda Uys

Abstract Title: Educating the educators

Abstract:

Background: Many health educators appointed at a University are knowledgeable about their own field but have limited knowledge about the world of Higher Education. The Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University decided to offer a custom-made course to address the needs of Health Science educators. Research was done to establish if the course satisfied the needs of the participants, including both facilitators and attendees.

Method

A mixed methods study was done. For quantitative data participants provided written feedback at the end of each teaching session. Qualitative data were obtained through individual interviews of attendees and focus groups with both the attendees and facilitators.

Results and discussion

Feedback from the attendees on the sessions was used to identify sessions where additional information was required. Through analysis of the qualitative data six themes were identified: 1) Support required. 2) The content of the course 3) Value gained through participation in the course for facilitators and participants. 4) Barriers and challenges experienced in attending and presenting the course. 5) Suggestions for improving the course. 6) Benefits for the attendees, presenters and the University.

Conclusion

Offering a course tailor-made for the needs of the institution provided a valuable opportunity for the growth of facilitators and attendees. The course improved the quality of education at the Institution and opened new areas for networking. Obtaining the valuable feedback from attendees and facilitators aided in improving the course even further.

Author: Nicola Plastow

Abstract Title: The effect of African drumming on mental well-being for in-patients with acute mood disorders

Abstract:

Background: African drumming is increasingly being used by occupational therapists in South Africa as a therapeutic activity with adults with acute mental health problems. However, there is very limited evidence of its effectiveness with this client group. This pilot study assessed the effects of an occupational therapy-led African drumming group on the mental well-being of adult inpatients with mood disorders.

Method: A quasi-experimental uncontrolled one-group pre-test-post-test design was used for this pilot study. Data collection tools included the Stellenbosch Mood Scale (STEMS), the Primary Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), the Generalised Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire (GAD-7), and the Enjoyment of Interaction Scale. Data were collected from 13 adults with mood disorder who participated in one of six drumming groups facilitated over a three week period.

Results: Data analysis demonstrated a significant improvement in anger, tension, confusion, fatigue, anxiety, and vigour (Mean Diff = - 5.77 to 3.0, $p = .000$ to $.022$), with a large clinical effect ($r = 0.61$ to 0.84). Participants who had higher levels self-reported anxiety and depression pre-intervention benefited the most. All of the participants enjoyed the drumming 'a great deal' according to the Enjoyment of Interaction Scale.

Conclusions: The findings of our pilot study suggest African drumming has the potential to be an effective intervention for adults with acute mood disorders. Because of the limitations of our study design, we strongly recommend further research using a control intervention.

Author: Lee Randall

Abstract Title: Coffins on Wheels: When an occupational choice turns deadly

Abstract:

The minibus taxi industry (MTI) in South Africa was borne as a pirate industry against apartheid's spatial realities. Post-democracy, it remains a poorly regulated, poorly researched and unsubsidized transport mode but continues to carry numerous workers and schoolchildren - 1 million per day in Gauteng. Johannesburg, the economic hub, may have up to 11,000 MTI drivers but there is no accurate official count due to rogue operators and poor administration of operating permits. MTI crashes cause devastating levels of death and injury, from which drivers are not exempt, and are a key concern for government and civil society. The drivers are frequently vilified as lawless, and evidence suggests they are indeed more lawless than drivers of other vehicle classes. Unsurprisingly, their taxis have been nicknamed "coffins on wheels".

As part of a broader PhD study, 50 MTI drivers were surveyed at 20 ranks within greater Johannesburg to gain an understanding of their work conditions and occupational health and safety concerns. An alarming picture emerged, with the majority reporting illegal employment practices, elderly and unroadworthy vehicles, overly long work hours with inadequate breaks and difficulties due to road and rank defects. They also reported concerns about criminal incidents, taxi violence and injurious crashes (with almost half having had direct experience of the last), and offered their perceptions of the factors most likely to cause MTI crashes. The survey results were utilised to draw up a set occupational health and safety recommendations specific to MTI drivers.

Author: Gina Rencken

Abstract Title: Neonatal exposure to HIV : what do we know and where are we going ?

Abstract:

The prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV has been very effective, with rates having decreased to less than 3%. Adverse effects experienced by neonates due to exposure to antiretroviral agents include prematurity, anaemia, cutaneous angioma, cryptorchidism and transient hepatitis, as well as an increased risk of slower earlier growth and mortality. HIV exposed infants have been found to have poorer orientation and reflex scores, and experience more feeding difficulties. South Africa recently switched to option B+ in the treatment of expectant mothers living with HIV. This is a prevention of vertical transmission approach in which women are immediately offered treatment for life regardless of their CD4 count. It offers advantages such as protection of partner(s) and the (unborn) child, as well as benefits to the woman's health, but also carries with it risks. The effect of these substances on the developing foetus, the early trans-placental exposure to these agents and the possible effects on infant behaviour have not been studied to date. A review of past and current literature is discussed and the possible way forward highlighted.

Authors: Leigh-Ann Richards, Roshan Galvaan

Abstract Title: Context 'interferes' with practice? Reflections of a Clinical Educator

Abstract:

Occupation based Community Development Practice is an emerging approach to Occupational Therapy in community development practice. It aims to respond to occupational injustices and promote social change through using occupation as both a means and ends. Working with and building authentic relationships in order to gain mutual understanding of needs is fundamental to this practice. During this process, students immerse themselves in the lived experience of groups of people and gain a deep and intimate understanding of their occupational engagement and the various factors that shapes this. At the same time, the students experience pressures from the university to learn, master skills and reflect on their practice as part of their academic expectations. The students struggle with holding this tension as they face the reality of the structural challenges and people's experiences of hopelessness. The overwhelming pain and despair that the students confront may resonate with clinicians experiences in other areas of Occupational Therapy practice. This paper reflects on the implications of confronting contextual realities from the perspective of a Clinical Educator.

Drawing on a thematic analysis of the first authors reflective journal and student feedback reports, the profound influence of the context on practice is discussed. Of particular interest is the questions of doubt about the extent that Occupational Therapy can make a difference. This paper theorises this practice dilemma and explores the possibilities for occupational therapists to make sense of this.

Author: Ari Seirlis

Abstract Title: To investigate the enhanced employment opportunities for people with physical mobility impairments who achieve their driving licence.

Abstract:

People with mobility impairments, especially wheelchair users, who cannot access the public transport system due to its inaccessibility, are at a disadvantage to attaining skills development, employment and the opportunity to integrate in society.

The QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA) driver training project, Driving Ambitions, has been successful in training candidates to achieve their driving license. QASA is determined that all meaningful projects should have as their impact, the attainment of employment. Employment is the life changing trigger for the QASA constituency and QASA wants to investigate if a person with a disability and a driving license is achieving employment.

Literature review did not give a lot of insight nor cite successful outcomes useful to the research and although it was noted that the ability to drive did create some employment opportunities and retention of employment, most of the references indicated that an accessible transport environment created independence, dignity, self-respect and integration into communities.

Research was conducted nationally with questionnaires and in depth telephone discussions with 3 groups of respondents:-

- i. People with disabilities who have achieved their driving license.
- ii. Employers.
- iii. Employment agencies.

The findings did not conclude that a driving license is the trigger and tool for employment but rather supporting some of the literature review outcomes whereby it provides integration, independence, dignity, confidence and self-worth. The finding also indicated that here are opportunities for people with disabilities with driving licenses as employers see them as more reliable and valuable. The findings were far broader and meaningful which direct QASA to strategize for a combination of opportunities and solutions for the enhanced employment of people with mobility impairment.

Authors: Dorothy Russell, Christa Scholtz, Petro Schoeman, Marin Taljaard, Corné Vrey

Abstract Title: 'Systems Influencing Purposeful Movements' - A pilot of Neurodevelopment approach on children with cerebral palsy.

Abstract:

Background: The effect or impact of NDT/Bobath approach of intervention on children aged of 48.1 months to 60 months with Cerebral Palsy was investigated. Neurodevelopmental therapy (NDT) based on the Bobath Concept is an approach commonly used by paediatric therapists for children of all ages with cerebral palsy (CP) presenting sensory-motor-perceptual and communication dysfunction.

Aim: The aim of the study was to pilot an investigation into the impact of NDT/Bobath approach of intervention on children with CP by using repetitive learning processes through active participation to facilitate learning activity dependent plasticity, during specific tasks.

Methodology: A non-randomised control group pre-test-post-test design was followed. Eight children with Gross Motor Function classification systems levels IV to V. They were evaluated using The EIPSES questionnaire, PEDI-CAT and GMFM. Four children with CP received the intervention. The Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) was directed to cover all the fields of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Results: Intervention was over five days with task specificity repetitions. The research established that there was a change in functional abilities according to GAS. The same functional outcomes were measured after eight weeks from initial testing and the results showed positive tendencies in the intervention group.

Conclusion: This pilot study can assist in further studies to minimize “mal-adaptive behaviours”.

Authors: Rivoningo Shivambu, Edzani Nemabaka, Junior Nkoana, Nakisani Rambau, Stanley Dzivhani

Abstract Title: Occupation: a burden or gift

Abstract:

Background and Objectives: Caregivers influence the success of treatment that the occupational therapist provides. Caregivers of stroke patients at an outpatient clinic at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital were asked about their roles and challenges that they faced after the discharge and how this impacted their own performance of occupations and the balance of their activity profile

Methods: A quantitative descriptive study was done. A researcher-completed questionnaire based on the caregiver's demographic data, challenges the caregivers experience, the impact of caregiving on their occupational profile and the overall experience of caregivers. Ethical clearance was obtained from the University: Data was analysed using descriptive statistics.

Results: Fifty caregivers participated in the study; 38 females and 12 males between 45 and 60 of age. Majority was single and unemployed with educational level of below grade 12. The majority of caregivers perceived their care giving roles as overwhelming, experience unfounded fears which disempowered them and experience great strain. The caregivers felt very strongly about the lack of information on stroke and the lack of training which cause uncertainties on how to handle and help the patients at home.

Conclusion: The caregiver is an important member in the team who delivers an invaluable service and should be treated and respected as such. Occupational therapists need to be aware of the challenges caregivers experience. Resources such as community based rehabilitation, caregiver support groups, proper training and education, information pamphlets, home visits and telephonic follow-up could go a long way to lesson caregiver strain.

Word count: 248

Ethical clearance number: SMUREC/H/116/2015: UG

NHREC No: Rec 210408-003

Author: Rulaine Smith

Abstract Title: The Assessment Practices of South African Occupational Therapists Regarding HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorders

Abstract:

According to the World Health Organisation, over 35.3 million people were living with HIV/Aids worldwide at the end of 2013. The disease is most prevalent in Africa where 70% of the world's HIV/Aids population live. These figures demand careful consideration with respect to management of the disease to adequately address the burden of care.

The high incidence of HIV/AIDS in Africa, guarantees that South African occupational therapists will, at some time during their career, be faced with this epidemic.

This presentation aims to highlight key clinical features when identifying HIV Associated Neurocognitive Deficits and will focus on the importance of using appropriate assessment tools for people diagnosed with HIV/Aids.

Results obtained from a nationwide online survey will be presented that illustrate the current assessment practices of South African occupational therapists regarding this complex disease.

Author: Nazeemah Soomar Adam

Abstract Title: Addressing spirituality in occupational therapy groupwork with abused and vulnerable Muslim women

Abstract:

Spirituality has gained recognition in mental healthcare over the last 15 years, and has been applied to major occupational therapy models. However, its clinical application is limited universally, to the possible detriment of client centred therapy. This qualitative study aimed to explore the experiences of abused and vulnerable Muslim women on addressing spirituality in occupational therapy groupwork, including understanding a definition of spirituality for the abused and vulnerable Muslim women. An in-patient Women's centre with a spiritual ethos was identified, where patients were exposed to a series of occupational therapy groups including concepts of spirituality. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted on 7 purposively selected participants, and followed by thematic analysis. The findings reflected through the emergence of 4 themes that addressing spirituality conforms with client-centeredness, and enhanced a sense of meaning and purpose for the participants. Strength and motivation was drawn from applying spiritual concepts in group therapy sessions, ultimately facilitating better coping and empowerment, which reflected in their daily occupation. Participants described their experiences with various avenues available to address spirituality, including occupational therapy groupwork. Implications of this study extend to curriculum development, treatment and service delivery, and health promotion.

Keywords: Occupational therapy, group therapy, spirituality, abused women, CMOP-E, Meaning making coping model

Author: Lizette Swanepoel

Abstract Title: Driving Behaviour Errors: Hidden Gems

Abstract:

Key words: Fitness to drive; Driving behaviours; Measurement

On-road driving assessment is the gold standard for, and considered the most appropriate method to determine fitness to drive globally. With driving rehabilitation in South Africa being an emerging field in Occupational Therapy clinical practice, the presenter developed and validated an on-road assessment for Western Cape driving conditions in fulfilment of the Masters on Occupational Therapy at Stellenbosch University. Nested in the study, the presenter undertook a literature study to identify scoring methods for the on-road assessment. Observation and rating of driving behaviour errors were identified as a clinical useful, reliable and valid method of scoring real world driving from the literature. In this presentation, the presenter will summarize the various driving behaviours and rationalise the value of using driving behaviours in Occupational Therapy in South Africa. The rationale derives from two fronts: firstly, driving behaviours encompasses both mental and physical functions necessary for driving. Secondly, and even more important for the diverse driver population in South Africa, driving behaviours are not language, culture or education related, and therefore useful for the entire driver population. The presentation will justify that in-depth knowledge of driving behaviours is considered principle in developing fitness to drive assessments in Occupational Therapy both from an empirical research perspective and for clinical utility.

Authors: Hester van Biljon, Daleen Casteleijn, Sanetta du Toit

Abstract Title: Transforming Vocational Rehabilitation in Public Healthcare

Abstract:

Ethical Clearance Number: M130649

Background and Aim:

In line with national plans to bring about reform that would promote service proficiency, equity and efficiency and ensure that all South Africans have access to quality healthcare services, a PhD student joined the Vocational Rehabilitation Task Team (VRTT), Gauteng. This task team was formed to address problematic occupational therapy vocational rehabilitation services. The student's research shared the same goals as the VRTT. As a collaborative research team they aimed to transform the vocational rehabilitation services offered by occupational therapists in Gauteng's public healthcare through action research cycles.

This presentation is part of the final phase of the PhD research.

Method: Action Research permeated all aspects of four research phases. The first phase was observational: "What vocational rehabilitation is happening in Gauteng's public healthcare occupational therapy?". The second was a planning phase: "What vocational rehabilitation should be happening in Gauteng's public healthcare occupational therapy?". The third phase was transformative action cycles addressing vocational rehabilitation problems clinicians brought to the VRTT. The fourth and final phase is macro post-reflexivity.

Results and Discussion:

Critical reflection of the research showed; workshops do not transform occupational therapy clinical practice but mentoring does, combining action research with mentoring transforms clinical practice, action research harmonises well with occupational therapy, action cycles generated knowledge that received local and international interest and transformation generated through action research has personal as well as professional value.

Practical examples, highlights and lowlights will be shared.

Authors: Hester van Biljon, Daleen Casteleijn, Sanetta du Toit, Simon Rabothata

Abstract Title: Screening ability to drive in occupational therapy

Abstract:

Ethics clearance number: M130649

Background and Aim: The Gauteng Vocational Rehabilitation Task team (VRTT) and a PhD student from the University of the Witwatersrand embarked on using action research to transform occupational therapists' vocational rehabilitation services in Gauteng's public healthcare. A practice problem was identified. Occupational therapists are often asked to be involved in decision-making processes regarding their patients ability to drive. There are currently no guidelines to help occupational therapists in Gauteng public healthcare to understand the extent to which they can become involved in such decision-making or how to go about doing this. A screening protocol with practical guidelines was the result of several action research cycles and will be presented.

Method: Action Research guided and permeated the process of developing an easy to use screening of ability to drive protocol. Several action research cycles of plan-act-reflect were run by occupational therapists working in public healthcare. The resulting protocol was perused and commented on by critical friends. The final protocol was disseminated throughout Gauteng public healthcare and introduced to new therapists at the annual vocational rehabilitation orientation workshop.

Results and discussion: The screening protocol can be used by occupational therapists, in any adult occupational therapy practice and at all levels of public healthcare in Gauteng. It offers practical guidelines for therapists to understand their position within the process of establishing a patient's ability to drive and provides an easy to follow step-by-step process of how to screen and indicate a patients ability to drive a motor vehicle.

Authors: Janine Van der Linde, Paula Barnard

Abstract Title: WebQuest as a mode for first year student orientation to online resources

Abstract:

Introduction

First year students enter university with varying computer skill levels. Sitting in a class being shown what online resources the university offers and how to access them can be frustrating - many have to wait for less skilled classmates or feel the strain of being slower than the pack. This varied work pace often disrupts the success of the orientation session.

The first year occupational therapy and physiotherapy students participated in a WebQuest to orientate to the online resources with only a brief introduction.

Method

A WebQuest was designed using storyboard software and delivered via the virtual learning environment. The online resources included the virtual learning environment, plagiarism and submitting to plagiarism scanning software, student email and support, and the library libguides. The Webquest was delivered in a computer laboratory session and facilitated by 3 members of the e-Learning project. Students were given the opportunity to complete the WebQuest in their own time if desired. Students were surveyed on the experience at the end of the WebQuest.

Results

The results of the surveys were descriptively analysed. A surprisingly high percentage of the respondents have home access to the internet and work on personal computers.

Summary

The WebQuest needs some minor modifications based on the feedback but was seen as a successful and fun way to learn. It will be implemented again for future first year orientation to online resources.

Author: Janine van der Linde

Abstract Title: Development of a screening instrument to identify sensory integration difficulties in children living in poverty

Abstract:

Introduction

In South Africa at least 58% of children live in poverty and have difficulty accessing Sensory Integration assessment and treatment. Occupational therapy services within communities are largely provided by newly qualified therapists that only have basic knowledge of sensory integration assessment and little access to costly assessments e.g. the SIPT. SI difficulties are thus frequently missed and not addressed

Objectives

In order to empower these therapists to identify children at risk of having sensory integration difficulties, the aim of the overall study is to develop a screening instrument for use with children 5 to 6 years 11 months of age. The objectives included field testing of the screening instrument and analysis of the psychometric properties of the screening instrument.

Methods

A quantitative approach was used as the screening instrument was subjected to field testing on 200 typical children from urban as well as rural low socio-economic areas. Analysis of psychometric properties was done through descriptive statistics and a Rasch analysis.

Result

The statistical analysis indicated that most items had high positive correlations and that the scores and observations obtained were valid in measuring sensory integration constructs.

Further analyses looked at comparisons in results between different the ages, languages and areas (urban and rural areas).

Conclusion

The field testing confirmed the fact that children from low socioeconomic areas are having difficulties with sensory integration. Future plans include refinement of the instrument and comparison with findings on the SIPT.

Authors: Kirsty van Stormbroek, Helen Buchanan

Abstract Title: Community Service Occupational Therapists: Rising to the challenge?

Abstract:

Introduction: Community Service (CS) was introduced as a strategy to improve health care provision to all South Africans. Little is known about the general practice experience of Community Service occupational therapists (CSOTs). This presentation describes the demographic and practice characteristics of CSOTs and their general experiences of their CS year.

Method: A cross-sectional survey design was employed and an online questionnaire was sent to all occupational therapists (OTs) completing CS in 2013 (n=240). Data were analysed with IBM SPSS Statistics, version 21.0 and Stata 12. Responses to open ended questions were postcoded. **Results:** A response rate of 44.3% (n=104) was achieved. Results revealed that 44.7% were located rurally with 51.5% working at a primary level of care at least some of the time. Participants frequently received referrals for wheelchair related services (61.2%), interventions related to child development (49.5%), disability grant assessments (36.9%) and treatment of adults with neurological conditions (39.8%). Communication difficulties as reported by 73.9% of participants, were significantly linked to feeling challenged ($P=0.014$) and frustrated ($P=0.012$). Although most participants had a supervisor (89.6%), 65.9% reported dissatisfaction with supervision. While the majority perceived the profession to be poorly recognised (63.5%), most were proud to be OTs (66.7%) and 75.0% derived a sense of satisfaction from interacting with clients.

Conclusion: CSOTs work within complex practice contexts while playing an important role in improving access to services. However, their contribution should be maximized through the strengthening of support structures and embedding CS within a broader plan to extend and develop OT services.