

Developing International CoOperaTion:Opportunities and Challenges

Agnes Sheffey¹, Cristina Bolanos²

¹*Florida International University, Miami, Florida, United States,* ²*Instituto de Terapia Ocupacional, Mexico City, Mexico*

New advances in the profession command a continuous review of curricula in order to provide students the needed competencies to face the professional millennium challenges they will encounter: new concepts which place the profession in a larger perspective than that of the medical model and the move towards the community (Mattingly & Flemming, 1994; Loukas, 2000);community empowerment, human rights and occupational justice (Braveman & Suarez-Alcazar, 2009); social changes, trends in public policies, and the focus in occupational science. International fieldwork is a suggested option to provide students with innovative learning experiences in these previously ignored areas of service.

This workshop is intended as a starting point to analyze an introductory frame for international cooperation looking at the required skills, knowledge and strategies needed in academicians and students for a successful international experience; it will describe an implemented experience, its benefits and limitations; and suggested modification/ expansion of cooperation will be explored.

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize international cooperation as an opportunity to develop professional skills in new practice areas.
2. Appreciate the importance to recognize the need for professional development of the clinician in the host country.
3. Appreciate the importance of international cooperation as a way to enhance interactions with institutions, academicians, clinicians, students and clients from diverse cultural backgrounds.
4. Appreciate the importance for students to identify and appreciate cultural differences while on international fieldwork.
5. Learn new ways for students to develop personal and professional skills.

Benefits of international cooperation include:

1. Enrich all levels of academic activities
2. Facilitate new work spaces
3. Parallel professional advances
4. Facilitate professional development
5. Develop professional cooperation

Conclusion

International cooperation facilitates national and international exchange of resources to better serve the vulnerable population, foster inter-institutional agreements for sustainable programs within institutions and recognition of advance professional skills.

Description of Teaching Methods

Power point presentation

Interactive Discussion

Length of time

1.5 hours Workshop

Maximun number of participants

12-15

Contribution to the practice/ Evidence base of OT

Promote national and international cooperation within the global international frame of WFOT