

Renée M. Hakim, PT, PhD, NCS  
Department of Physical Therapy

Enhancing Student Research Skills:  
Information Literacy Stipend (2009-2010)  
FINAL REPORT

Course Name & Number: PT 712 Neurological Physical Therapy II

Student learning outcomes related to information literacy ACHIEVED

- 1) The student will determine the nature and extent of information needed to complete an Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) literature review assignment.
- 2) The student will access needed information effectively and efficiently using appropriate online databases.
- 3) The student will critically evaluate the literature using Sackett's Levels of Evidence which includes being able to identify original research and distinguish between various designs and their level of control/rigor (e.g., RCT vs. short vs. case report).
- 4) The student will summarize design, methods and key findings of two relevant articles in a table format.
- 5) The student will orally present an overview of the articles during class to incorporate the retrieved information into course content and demonstrate the value of current evidence in physical therapy (PT) clinical practice.

Assessment plan to determine how student learning outcomes will be evaluated:

- 1) Selection of approved topic by first deadline.
  - x This course covers topics related to the rehabilitation of persons with neurological dysfunction. The latter part of the course covers specific diagnoses such as stroke, Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis. There is a growing body of research related to evaluation and treatment issues. I emphasize the professional responsibility of constantly staying abreast of new research to best serve our patients.

----- All students selected a topic by deadline indicated in course syllabus

- 2) Retrieval of 2 relevant articles and submission of the references (in AMA format) by second deadline.
  - x A PT with a clinical doctoral must possess the tools to effectively and efficiently retrieve relevant literature.

----- All students searched and retrieved 2 relevant articles and submitted in AMA format by the deadline indicated in course syllabus.

- 3) Analysis and critique of 2 articles will be summarized in a table that will be submitted by third deadline and scored based on content outlined in attached rubric.

- x A PT must be able to analyze/critique and apply current evidence to clinical practice. The use of Sackett's Levels of Evidence helps students to gain an understanding of the difference between information gathered from randomized, controlled clinical trials (RCTs) vs other, less rigorous designs.

----- All students submitted a summary table by deadline indicated in course syllabus. Please refer to enclosed packet of summary tables that was distributed to all students.

4) Presentation of article summary table on scheduled date.

- x The students are asked to share the information with the class. This informal discussion is similar to the journal clubs and lunch time activities that many practicing PTs experience in the workplace. I emphasize the value of sharing information and motivating workers to stay abreast of new research. The implications with respect to strength of the evidence and generalizability of findings are also discussed.

----- All students participated in the "Journal Club" activity held during the last lab session. Small groups were used to discuss key findings.

Projected Timeline:

This assignment will be completed during the Fall 2010 semester. ~~COMPLETED~~

Library Faculty Member :  
Bonnie Oldham

----- -Bonnie attended a lecture session at the start of the semester and provided instruction on public access. She also followed up by creating a course research page and a handout with evidence based links.