Physical Therapy Services in Ecuador: Video/qualitative study

Specific Aims of the Project

For the physical therapy component of the Shoulder to Shoulder Ecuador Medical Service trips:

1. Identify themes to determine impact on student attitudes about physical therapy practice in international, underserved communities.
2. Identify themes to determine impact on faculty attitudes about providing care and supervision of students in international underserved communities.
3. Identify impact of physical therapy service in the community from the perspective of the clinic staff—specifically medical doctors and community health worker.
4. Identify impact of physical therapy care on the community from the perspective of patients served in the communities.

Progress on Project Objectives

1. Complete an IRB application in order to begin the project.
   Activity: Students will complete the application with supervision of faculty.
   PROGRESS: COMPLETED

2. Design questions in order to seek/discover information about the impact of physical therapy service in Ecuador for each of the involved groups: students, faculty, clinic staff and patients.
   Activities: Students and faculty will write questions aimed at each of the identified participant groups.
   Timeline: April-August 2010
   PROGRESS: COMPLETED

3. Identify and prepare a videographer to travel with a Shoulder to Shoulder medical service trip to document the process of providing care.
   Activities: Faculty will seek help of the appropriate resources to determine who could best fill this role. PT faculty will prepare the videographer and other faculty going on the trip during discussion, viewing photos.
   PROGRESS: COMPLETED
4. Conduct interviews with selected participants.
   Activities: Students will be assigned to interview faculty and students, while PT faculty will travel to Ecuador to conduct interviews of clinic staff and patients.
   Timeline: August 2010- March 2011- dates to be determined.
   PROGRESS: Interviews in Ecuador completed in December 2010, including 4 clinic staff members and 9 patients/family members in the community surrounding Centro medico. Students will complete interviews of faculty and students July-September 2011

5. Analyze data from interviews.
   Activities: Students and faculty will identify themes and analyze results from interviews.
   Timeline: April-September 2011.
   PROGRESS: Data analysis of the interviews conducted in Ecuador is ongoing. Students will analyze data in September-October, 2011.

6. Edit video/audio components with the assistance of IT staff in the CHS.
   Activities: Students/faculty with training from the IT staff, will edit the project.
   Timeline: April-September 2011
   PROGRESS: COMPLETED- Editing completed in September 2010.

7. Produce a DVD product that documents the service provided and the impact on the participants.
   Activities: Final editing of the project.
   Timeline: October 2011.
   PROGRESS: COMPLETED – 7 minute movie now available on the Shoulder to Shoulder Global web site and in DVD format.

8. Publish/present the results of this project at a national meeting.
   Activities: Students and faculty will document the process in preparation for a presentation and/or publication of these results.
   PROGRESS: After interviews are complete, will assimilate data and submit for 2013 meetings.

9. Disseminate the information documented to students and faculty of Shoulder to Shoulder Global, College of Health Sciences and others as requested. Possible venues include international orientation days, brown bag lunches, seminars, board meetings of Shoulder to Shoulder global and others.
   PROGRESS: Plan to use movie in Fall 2011 orientation to international opportunities and have used it in introduction to physical therapy students applying to travel in 2012.

Progress on Outcomes
Students completing this project will:

1. Identify the key elements and process of conducting qualitative research. ONGOING.
2. Accurately complete the steps of the IRB application. COMPLETE
3. Assist in completing the video project and a written paper that describes the process. ALTERED: Faculty completed the movie project - students will generate a paper as their final product.
4. Demonstrate ability to present project data at a national conference. This will be a future opportunity, once data collection and analysis is complete.
Additional outcome:

5. The results of the qualitative study will be presented to a focus group of students who have participated in the Ecuador service trips. Students will then have an opportunity to provide feedback on the program, identifying strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement. This will follow the data collection- likely spring 2012.

Measurement: Project success will be measured by:

1) Analysis of the completed interview data as described. Fall 2011
2) Grading of the student written project based on criteria established by the instructor. Fall 2011/Spring 2012
3) Review of results of focus group feedback. Spring 2012

Project Summary

The movie project is complete. In 2010 I hired a videographer, Dave Smith, who traveled with the medical service team in August 2010 to record the process of delivery of care at the clinic, in individual homes and in indigenous communities. Working with the videographer to edit, add music and finalize, this part of the project was completed in the fall of 2010.

The qualitative project is well underway to study the impact of these service efforts on multiple individuals: students, faculty, staff of the Centro Medico Hombro a Hombro Clinic and selected patients we serve.

In December, 2010, I traveled to Santo Domingo to conduct interviews of four staff members at Centro Medico Hombro Y Hombro and nine interviews of patients and families who had received physical therapy services from the medical service teams from UK since 2008. I am now analyzing data from these interviews.

The interviews remaining are those of the students and faculty who have participated. Two students from the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2012 who are beginning their data collection during the summer 2011 will conduct these interviews with mentoring from faculty.

DUE DATE: July 01, 2011