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### **An International Pyramid Placement in a Role Emerging Setting**

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Introduction: The recent change in occupational therapy students' experience on practice placement, has been both in relation to supervision models and the development of role emerging placements (COT 2006). In Wales, this has been developed over the last five years. It has culminated in a project to encourage a role emerging experience and the opportunity for peer and distance supervision (Rodger and Brown 2000) on a final practice placement, involving students from both UK and Poland.

Objectives: To investigate the student experience of a peer supervised educational experience in a role emerging placement by -

1. Evaluating the nature of that involvement
2. Investigating any perceived benefits or disadvantages from the perspectives of:
  1. The students
  2. The distance supervisor
  3. University staff
  4. The placement setting

Methods: A collaborative participatory action research method was chosen (Heron and Reason 2000), in this two post graduate students mentor 2 international students in a role emerging setting. All students are supported in the setting by a distance and an on-site supervisor. The 2 international students are also supported in the university once a week and a university lecturer interviews all participants. Action taken is reflected upon in the cycles of the research (Heron and Reason 1997). All results will be group analysed.

Results & Conclusions: The placement is running from June - August 2009. The setting, university staff and supervisors have agreed to meet the criteria for the research. Four students have expressed a strong interest in participating.

Envisaged outcomes are that the student experience will:

- develop their professional skills
- consolidate their professional identity
- encourage holistic and creative practice knowledge and skills
- develop a broader international perspective on O.T. practice

and the distance and on-site supervisor will gain a wider perspective on supervision.

Contribution to the evidence base of occupational therapy education: No specific English language research articles could be identified on this topic. Therefore, this investigation would appear to contribute a novel aspect to the evidence base.