

### **A Narrative Exchange Across Borders and Generations: Sharing Clinical Practice**

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**Introduction:** In our current climate of globalization, it behooves us as occupational therapists to partake in increasing our cultural competence in our practices. One of the means to do this is reciprocal international student exchanges. Such sharing is further enriched when dimensions of different generations and evolving practice are discussed.

**Objectives:** To enhance student learning by developing cultural competence, share new practice concepts for specialized populations and capture the strength of generational bonds.

**Description/Report :** The experiences of practice exchanges between Colombia and Canada and between the generations of Baby Boomer, Y and X will be described using a narrative approach. The impact on practice and the development of cultural competence will form the framework of the narrative.

**Results/Discussion:** All clinicians involved with these different, longitudinal reciprocal international exchanges report satisfaction with learning outcomes and this outcome is the driver behind the renewed contacts. The impact of the various exchanges have contributed to a new therapist setting up practice in a new country, a neophyte practitioner returning home to practice but incorporating new approaches including sole proprietorship of a clinic and research/involvement with "stacking", a growing treatment approach and a student expanding the boundaries of self. Moreover, the affiliated university program has identified global health exchanges as a distinctive competence.

**Conclusion:** The common link permitting this individual professional growth is the client population and the major differences were culture and language. Despite different generational values each individual accomplished their own respective objectives.

**Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy.:** -The narrative exchange serves to stimulate reflection amongst practitioners for possibilities of welcoming international student exchanges, affirms the importance of cultural competency in occupational therapy practice and draws on the positive contributions of different generations to clinical learning.