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Generating case study research from clinical data in occupational therapy

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The primary purpose of this one day Pre Conference Workshop is to assist occupational therapists to design research case studies. The participants (maximum 25) will be able to create single case studies during the Workshop as a step by step methodology is introduced. Toward the end of the Institute each participant will have the opportunity to present an outline of the research design to the group. There will be ample opportunity for feedback from peers and constructive criticism. The specific objectives of the Workshop are to enable the participants to design retrospective and prospective research case studies, incorporate research (pre-test, intervention and post-test) methodology into clinical practice, use triangulation in measuring outcome, objectively evaluate the research literature in generating hypotheses, incorporate evidence-based practice in treatment, encourage expert knowledge in a specialized area of practice and to communicate the results of case study research in refereed journals, professional conferences and consumer publications.

The instructors will use a Socratic approach to learning where each participant interacts through a question and answer dialogue while planning the case study. A step-by-step approach in a power point presentation will be used so that the learners are able to complete each component of the case study as it is discussed. During the Workshop each participant will design an outline for a case study including criteria for subject selection, significance and justification for the study, literature search topics (using key words), operational definition of treatment intervention, identification of outcome measures using triangulation and statistical analysis for single subject designs and documentation for internal and external validity. The participants will have the opportunity to do pubmed.gov literature searches in real time. This Workshop will contribute in preparing occupational therapists as scientific practitioners applying evidence-based practice. In this context evidenced based practice is defined as the application of the most relevant and up to date research findings to practice. The clinical practitioner weighs the evidence from clinical research and decides how it can be used in practice. Case study research will assist the occupational therapist to apply best practices through documentation and objective evidence.