

***Development of a competency based education in occupational therapy centered on occupations***

Martine Brousseau<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada,* <sup>2</sup>*Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada*

**Introduction:** Continual renewal of knowledge and increasing complexity of occupational therapy practice are leading to review approaches for the education of occupational therapy students.. The new program at the master's degree level in "Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières" in Canada has faced the challenges to rely on best practice in education.

**Objectives:** The purpose of the presentation is to discuss challenges, requirements and limits for the implementation of a new occupational therapy program, which is competency based education centered on occupations.

**Description:** Presentation will target stages of development of the program in answering those questions: What are the principles of competency based education? How to establish the competencies? How to implement a competency based education approach? What are the advantages and limits? How best practice centered on occupations can be introduced to students? How occupations can be at the hearth of the wheel of knowledge, attitudes, skills (knowing, knowing how to do, knowing how to be) ?

**Results :** New educational methods were used in order to implement such an approach. Per examples, clinical situation based learning has been used to structure key courses centered on occupations. Portfolio, seminars, essay and critical writing. Presentation will include description and critical appraisals of such new methods.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, experience lead to witness links between stages of development of professional identity and professional competency.

**Contribution/evidence:** Experience with the development of a competency based education in OT centered based occupations is leading to document best practices in occupational therapy education.