

A Global Post-Doc program for research in occupational science/occupational therapy

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Two emerging trends are substantially altering the international occupational therapy research landscape: 1) the globalization of research and scholarship production, and 2) the press for post doctoral opportunities. Faculty at the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden and the University of Southern California, USA have recently entered into a collaboration to promote post doctoral and faculty development exchange opportunities. Drawing on these experiences, faculty will facilitate an examination of the opportunities and challenges inherent in the development of a global post-doc program. As a new PhD in it is of invaluable importance for a career as a researcher to get the chance to travel outside of the university and own country where the PhD studies took place. Through traveling to other countries/cultures the post doc can learn new methodology, new theory and models of practice from research groups in OS/OT in different places in the world. New professional contacts will be made and lifelong friendships created through this program. A post- doc also get the experience of what it is like to live in another country, the country's social legislation, traditions and culture: All of this is of great importance for personal and professional development for a new researcher.

The idea is to present and discuss a number of ideas at the WFOT 2010 conference in Chile, for the development of the new global post-doc program in OS/OT. The new ideas to be presented will target; the content of the global post-doc program, the goals and length of the program, as well as issues related to funding of the global post-doc program.