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## Occupational therapy, a new profession in Rwanda

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**Introduction:** The University of Rwanda, College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS) is educating occupational therapy students in a 4 year bachelor program. In 2018, the first group of students will graduate. Meanwhile students, Rwandan Occupational Therapists and Handicap International, a non-government organisation are raising awareness on the impact occupational therapy could have for the Rwandan citizens.

This presentation is about the start and the progress of Occupational Therapy in Rwanda, most interesting is about students, involved as advocates to promote their future profession. The team is questioning:

- What are the challenges when students are promotional agents for a new profession?
- What are new insights on how to prepare students to become pioneer professionals within their country?
- Which strategies were used to overcome challenges?
- What are the experiences in multidisciplinary team work, with OT students as advocates?

A short introduction will be given on

- the achievements since the establishment of the programme;
- methodologies used by lecturers while preparing students to promote and to raise the profile of occupational therapy in a country where the profession is new;
- challenges and possible strategies to overcome those challenges.