

European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy



Abstracts of all Theses



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March 2008

European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science

Preface

This documents contains the abstracts of the theses of the OT-EuroMaster programme. The first group of students graduated in 2001 and since than 93 students finished successfully this programme.

You can use this document for finding interesting research in the broad variety of Occupational Therapy research and Occupational Science. This can be done by using the indexes or the find button in you computer programme. In the indexes you can click on the page number and go directly to the abstract.

The abstracts are listed in three different ways:

- the **main topic** of the research
- the **scientific methodology** used
- the list of content is based on the complete title of the thesis.
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(715) **Andrea R.P. Weise, MSc. OT, Valens Switzerland** (November 2007)

Participation of people with Multiple Sclerosis:

Environmental barriers and facilitators described with a Delphi Study

Key words: Environment, Barriers and facilitators, Multiple Sclerosis, Participation, Cross-national

Background: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurological, progressive disease with its main burden mostly during the 5th and 6th decade of life. Disability contributes to restrictions in participating in daily life. Environment plays an important role with regard to the participation of an individual. Variations in physical and socio-cultural environments throughout different countries are evident.

Objectives: The objective was to identify environmental factors impacting participation of people with MS in their daily life in Austria and Switzerland. The specific aims were to gain knowledge about which environmental factors are of relevance regarding participation in daily life and to explore similarities and differences in environmental factors of people with MS in Austria and Switzerland.

Methods and Materials: In each country, a three-round Delphi study was conducted. People diagnosed with MS by a neurologist were recruited as so-called experts. The first questionnaire aimed at obtaining qualitative data with open-ended questions. By using meaning categorization and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as framework, environmental factors were extracted from the obtained data. In the 2nd and 3rd questionnaire, experts were asked whether the factors extracted were of relevance to their participation. So-called 'consensus factors' had to be of relevance either as barrier, facilitator or both to at least 75% of the participants per country who completed the last round. After the three rounds, the obtained lists of environmental factors for each country were qualitatively analysed and categorized into main themes. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions were calculated on a national level and for some national sub-groups and comparisons between the countries were made.

Results: Initially, 112 people with MS were recruited from Austria and 109 from Switzerland. A drop-out rate of 45% for Austria and 40% for Switzerland occurred. A list of 174 environmental factors with consensus resulted in Austria, 177 in Switzerland. Experts concurred that these factors were either facilitators, barriers or both with regard to their personal participation. Analysing the two national lists of environmental factors combined, five main themes were established, which included, 'mass/ communication/ and information media', 'health care and social security services and policies', 'mobility in public space', 'support and attitudes (individual and societal)' and 'natural environment'. Comparing the national results, differences were not statistically significant. Only minor differences due to cultural habits and national policies were revealed.

Conclusions: Environmental factors are important to ensure equal participation for people with MS in different countries. Health professionals, such as occupational therapists and social workers, could facilitate participation by first addressing these environmental factors in their assessments and treatments while considering the different influences of cultural factors and health and social care policies on individuals. Secondly, they could facilitate participation of people with MS by addressing the identified factors on a broader level such as within communities and/or on national and international levels.

**(714) Anita de Vries-Uiterweerd, MSc. OT, Amersfoort the Netherlands
(November 2007)**

***Validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA)
questionnaire for use in people with mental disorders***

A cross-national study

Key words: measurement – participation – outcomes – Rasch model – mental disorders – rehabilitation

Purpose: To evaluate the internal scale validity and person response validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy questionnaire for use in a mixed outpatient population with mental disorders.

Subjects: A total of 286 outpatients with mental disorders, 135 persons in Germany, and 151 persons in the Netherlands.

Design: Similar cross-sectional non-experimental study design with convenience sampling in both countries.

Method: Rasch rating scale analysis was used to examine psychometric properties of the IPA.

Results: Analysis of combined data showed that the IPA has 31 items for the construct of perceived participation in the target group, after removal of one misfitting item. Rating scale analysis revealed consecutive threshold values to all 31 items on the IPA, indicating good category functioning. Persons were differentiated into four levels of participation. Item separation demonstrated 10 strata of difficulty. Person response validity showed a misfit rate of 15.7%.

Conclusions: The findings confirmed the internal scale validity of the IPA for use in persons with mental disorders. Further research into scale construction and acceptance of the IPA items is needed, in order to better match the population of the mentally disordered people.

(713) **Tako Tavartkiladze, MSc. OT, Tbilisi Georgia** (November 2007)

Daily Occupations of Internally Displaced Persons in Collective Living Centers

Experience of Daily Occupations of Internally Displaced Women in Collective Living Centers

Key words: Daily occupations, Lived experience, Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method, Occupational science

Millions of people around the globe have been displaced in their own countries as a result of conflicts or human rights violations. There are about 247 000 persons displaced from two conflict zones in Georgia. Many of them are resided in collective living centers/camps in extremely restricted conditions.

The **purpose** of this phenomenological research was to understand the meaning of daily occupations of internally displaced women living in collective camps.

Seven women were interviewed in different collective centres. Data were analyzed and interpreted using the Empirical, Phenomenological, Psychological (EPP) method (Karlsson, 1993).

The **findings** revealed three main characteristics that described a meaning of daily occupations for the women: limitations of occupational life in camp which is influenced by the restricted environment and limits their occupational participation; interdependency in the community expressed in helping each other and will to engage in collective culturally appropriate occupations; engagement in work related and personally meaningful occupations. The findings showed how occupational deprivation is prevalence in the camp context. However, the latter two characteristics describe occupational strategies identified by the women to reduce burden and enrich their occupational participation.

The findings from this study suggest how an occupational change is stimulated by the environmental change. This knowledge should lead to an increased understanding in occupational therapy about occupational needs of displaced persons and can serve as a basis for population based intervention strategies.

(712) **Birgit Prodingler, MSc. OT, Vienna Austria**

(November 2007)

Participation of people with Multiple Sclerosis:

Environmental barriers and facilitators described with a Delphi Study

Key words: Environment, Barriers and facilitators, Multiple Sclerosis, Participation, Cross-national

Background: Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neurological, progressive disease with its main burden mostly during the 5th and 6th decade of life. Disability contributes to restrictions in participating in daily life. Environment plays an important role with regard to the participation of an individual. Variations in physical and socio-cultural environments throughout different countries are evident.

Objectives: The objective was to identify environmental factors impacting participation of people with MS in their daily life in Austria and Switzerland. The specific aims were to gain knowledge about which environmental factors are of relevance regarding participation in daily life and to explore similarities and differences in environmental factors of people with MS in Austria and Switzerland.

Methods and Materials: In each country, a three-round Delphi study was conducted. People diagnosed with MS by a neurologist were recruited as so-called experts. The first questionnaire aimed at obtaining qualitative data with open-ended questions. By using meaning categorization and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as framework, environmental factors were extracted from the obtained data. In the 2nd and 3rd questionnaire, experts were asked whether the factors extracted were of relevance to their participation. So-called 'consensus factors' had to be of relevance either as barrier, facilitator or both to at least 75% of the participants per country who completed the last round. After the three rounds, the obtained lists of environmental factors for each country were qualitatively analysed and categorized into main themes. Descriptive statistics and frequency distributions were calculated on a national level and for some national sub-groups and comparisons between the countries were made.

Results: Initially, 112 people with MS were recruited from Austria and 109 from Switzerland. A drop-out rate of 45% for Austria and 40% for Switzerland occurred. A list of 174 environmental factors with consensus resulted in Austria, 177 in Switzerland. Experts concurred that these factors were either facilitators, barriers or both with regard to their personal participation. Analysing the two national lists of environmental factors combined, five main themes were established, which included, 'mass/ communication/ and information media', 'health care and social security services and policies', 'mobility in public space', 'support and attitudes (individual and societal)' and 'natural environment'. Comparing the national results, differences were not statistically significant. Only minor differences due to cultural habits and national policies were revealed.

Conclusions: Environmental factors are important to ensure equal participation for people with MS in different countries. Health professionals, such as occupational therapists and social workers, could facilitate participation by first addressing these environmental factors in their assessments and treatments while considering the different influences of cultural factors and health and social care policies on individuals. Secondly, they could facilitate participation of people with MS by addressing the identified factors on a broader level such as within communities and/or on national and international levels.

(711) Eugénia M. Marques Pereira, MSc. OT, Portugal (November 2007)

My school - the participation experience of children with disabilities in Portuguese mainstream schools

Key words: Mainstream school, Children with Disabilities, Participation, Subjective Experience of Participation

The **aim** of this study was to describe in depth how children with disabilities perceive and experience their participation in mainstream schools in Portugal. The participants were fourteen children with disabilities, between eight and eleven years old, who attended mainstream schools. The data was collected through open-ended interviews and analysed employing the psychological phenomenological method described by Giorgi [1]. The findings of this study add knowledge to understanding both topics inclusion in mainstream schools and the subjective experience of participation. The findings reveal that, in essence, children with disabilities are fond of school, whatever the particular circumstances they have to deal with. For them it is normal to attend mainstream school. This is the place where they build friendships and learn.

This study also supports the claim that it is necessary to include the subjective experience of participation, when classifying participation. Different figures of participation described and four participation levels are proposed. Further investigations to clarify this dimension are recommended.

(710) Beate Krieger, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland

(November 2007)

***Becoming a member of the work force:
perceptions of adults with Asperger Syndrome***

Key words: Asperger Syndrome, competitive work, biographic narrative, occupational therapy

The degree to which adults with Asperger Syndrome (AS) participate in the competitive work force is generally reported to be very low. However, some adults with Asperger Syndrome have been successful in keeping a job against all odds.

The **purpose** of this study was to investigate how working adults interpret the meaning of those contextual factors in their biographies, which contribute to their successful work participation. Using a hermeneutic narrative approach in the tradition of Paul Ricoeur, each of six participants, who live in Switzerland, told his or her story in two in-depth interviews. After having constructed a core narrative and emplotment, the subsequent data analysis included a first naïve interpretation to grasp context as well as two structural analyses (plot structure and core metaphor), in order to deepen understanding.

Results showed that the participants became socialized for future work situations during their childhood by having acquired basic social competences and by others fostering their ability to learn. They are able to adapt to their actual work through their strong inner motivation for work, their capacities for understanding and adapting to social norms, and by grasping the particular needs of themselves. Disclosure is rare and stigmatization is still present. The findings of this study are intended to aid occupational therapists' understanding of how individuals with AS and their contexts can be supported to enhance labour participation.

(709) Tina Helle, MSc. OT, Aalborg Denmark

(November 2007)

The Nordic Housing Enabler

inter-rater reliability of the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler instrument, available in Danish, Finnish and Icelandic.

Key words: Accessibility, physical environment, housing, occupational therapy, translation, inter-rater reliability.

This study addresses inter-rater reliability of the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler, available in Finnish, Danish and Icelandic. The purpose was to provide occupational therapists with a standardized instrument and evidence-based methodology, intending to support quality development in housing adaptation and housing provision for persons with disabilities and facilitate cross-Nordic research targeting accessible housing design. The Housing Enabler instrument was translated from the original Swedish version and adapted according to Danish, Finnish and Icelandic norms and legislation on housing design through an iterative process involving professional translators, occupational therapists, architects and engineers. The 'two-panel' approach was utilized for the translation. Sampling strategy and data collection procedures were similar in each country. 18 voluntary occupational therapists, pair wise collected the data. These pair wise raters assessed the same ten persons with functional limitations and their housings, independently from each other. In total this brought 92 pair wise observations (N= 92). The Nordic version of the Housing Enabler was examined for cross-Nordic inter-rater reliability of the involved national contexts. Inter-rater reliability was calculated by means of percentage agreement and kappa statistics. The results demonstrated good mean percentage agreement for both the personal and environmental component, while moderate agreement for the personal component and fair for the environmental in terms of mean kappa values. Limits of the study were discussed and in conclusion, the Nordic version of the Housing Enabler was regarded as reliable for use in Nordic national settings and in cross-Nordic research.

(708) **Tina Hansen, MSc. OT, Glostrup Denmark**

(November 2007)

Validation of a Danish translation of the ‘Occupational therapy guideline for assessment and treatment of apraxia in CVA clients’ - A pilot study

Key words: Occupational performance; ADL-observations; cognitive rehabilitation; interactive dynamic assessment; reliability; validity

In order to contribute to the professional development within Danish occupational therapy the objective of this study was to produce a valid Danish translation of the Dutch ‘**Occupational therapy guideline for assessment and treatment of apraxia in CVA clients**’; to investigate the interrater reliability of the assessment-part in terms of ADL-observations in self-chosen tasks, and to determine the content validity of the translated guideline. The interrater reliability was investigated using video-observations and multiple raters who also judged the content validity quantitatively. For the scores of the patient’s occupational performance the study found moderate to good interrater reliability for 3 of 4 variables and poor to fair interrater reliability for 1 variable indicated by intraclass correlation coefficient and kappa-statistic. For the conclusion-part the results demonstrated fair interrater reliability for 5 of 6 variables and poor interrater reliability for 1 variable indicated by kappa-statistic. The content validity was judged valid for 100 and invalid for 28 defined elements. In conclusion, taking the complexity of the ADL-observations using self-chosen tasks in an interactive dynamic approach and the study design into consideration, the Danish translation of the guideline can serve as a clinical practice-guideline within Danish occupational therapy practise; however a 2-days training-course is recommended.

**(706) Brigitte Elisabeth Gantschnig- Huber, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland
(November 2007)**

Feeling and being involved?

Participation experienced by children with disabilities at mainstream schools

Key words: participation, subjective experience, phenomenology, occupational therapy, children with disabilities, school, ICF

Objective. The aim of this study was to gain an in-depth knowledge about children with disabilities lived experiences of participation in mainstream schools. Participation in childhood occupations is essential for children to grow and develop.

Method. Qualitative interviews were conducted with five children, between the ages of eight and twelve. Data was analyzed according to the descriptive phenomenological psychological method.

Findings. Participants appreciated attending mainstream schools as it enabled them to come into contact with other children and to do things together with them. Being a part of school life revealed as the central theme, that included experience of participation and non-participation. In reference to the central theme, two others were studied: environment experienced as crucial to participation and experiencing differences in comparison with peers.

Conclusion: The study emphasises that participation comprises of more than the actual doing in a current environment. The subjective dimension of participation is an important factor that should not be missed when assessing and facilitating participation.

(705) Wiebke Flotho, MSc. OT, Hannover Germany (November 2007)

Validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA) questionnaire for use in people with mental disorders

A cross-national study

Key words: measurement – participation – outcomes – Rasch model – mental disorders – rehabilitation

Purpose: To evaluate the internal scale validity and person response validity of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy questionnaire for use in a mixed outpatient population with mental disorders.

Subjects: A total of 286 outpatients with mental disorders, 135 persons in Germany, and 151 persons in the Netherlands.

Design: Similar cross-sectional non-experimental study design with convenience sampling in both countries.

Method: Rasch rating scale analysis was used to examine psychometric properties of the IPA.

Results: Analysis of combined data showed that the IPA has 31 items for the construct of perceived participation in the target group, after removal of one misfitting item. Rating scale analysis revealed consecutive threshold values to all 31 items on the IPA, indicating good category functioning. Persons were differentiated into four levels of participation. Item separation demonstrated 10 strata of difficulty. Person response validity showed a misfit rate of 15.7%.

Conclusions: The findings confirmed the internal scale validity of the IPA for use in persons with mental disorders. Further research into scale construction and acceptance of the IPA items is needed, in order to better match the population of the mentally disordered people.

(702) Koen van Dijk, MSc. OT, Amsterdam the Netherlands (November 2007)

Validity and reliability of the School Assessment of Motor and Process Skills, School AMPS, in the Netherlands

A study on the School AMPS in a Dutch population

Key words: School AMPS, cultural validity, Many faceted Rasch analysis

Objective: a study of validity and reliability of the School Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (School AMPS) in a Dutch population.

Design: Children between 3 and 12 years old were observed in their classroom environment performing schoolwork tasks. The data was analyzed with the Many Faceted Rasch model for the School AMPS. Students were selected by occupational therapists working in mainstream and special educational settings. The research was approved by the WECO, Board for Scientific research in Rehabilitation centre Heliomare, Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. Informed consent was given by the parents of the children and the board of the schools

Subjects: 75 students between 3 and 13 years old were included in this study. 22 students had no medical diagnosis, 53 students had several medical diagnoses.

Results: 73 students (96%) demonstrated acceptable goodness of fit to the Many Faceted Rasch models (MFR) for the School AMPS on motor ability, 63 students (84%) demonstrated acceptable goodness of fit to the MFR for the School AMPS on process ability. The group of typical developing students showed no significant difference to the existing group in the School AMPS database.

Conclusions: This study demonstrates preliminary evidence to support the internal scale validity, person response validity and person item reliability. Task validity of the School Amps is not demonstrated due to small sample size. Finally, the results partially support the reliability of the School AMPS 2005 in the Netherlands.

(701) Anna Arganashvili, MSc. OT, Tbilisi Georgia (November 2007)

Considerations on participation of persons with disabilities

A meta-synthesis of qualitative studies in occupational therapy and occupational science

The purpose of this study is to generate an insiders' perspective on the **community participation** concept by conducting a meta-synthesis of the qualitative research in occupational therapy and occupational science. The study also aims to re-appreciate the value of the subjective experience of 'participation' within ICF mode of thinking.

Meta-synthesis methodology involves the analysis and the synthesis of the findings from qualitative studies with the constant comparative method of data analysis.

Involved qualitative studies range between the years of 1996-2006 focusing on the 'participation in the community' based on ICF definition of participation domain, which, for the purpose of this study concentrates on the following: community life, recreation and leisure, human rights, political life and citizenship;

The study also reflects on the complexities of the meta-synthesis methodology and the potential of its application in occupational therapy discipline.

Results of the study has identified three main considerations regarding community participation which deal with the transformation of participation from formal to real mode; revealing the leisure participation as an opportunity for managing the traverse of disability through re-discovering self beyond disability; prompting the changes throughout the whole system to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and to facilitate optimal civic participation.

(604) Uta Jakobs, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland

(November 2007)

Agency in Transitions

**Changing Occupational Identity of a Woman with Migration
Experiences and Severe Mental Illness**

Life history interviews and observations were conducted to explore how a woman with migration experiences reflects on her occupational performance during employment transitions. Narrative analysis was based on the interpretative socio-linguistic approach. An occupational perspective was applied to reveal the narrator's agency and the meaning of work in the historical-biographical constitution of her occupational identity. The concept of agency served as the guiding plot over the course of her life. One of the key findings highlighted the reciprocal relationship between agency and occupational performance, which enabled the narrator to cope with her daily struggle of control after her health-illness transition. A further finding was the change in the culturally imprinted and socially constructed meaning of work towards a balanced occupational life facilitated by a safe and tolerant therapeutic support system. Finally, it was found that the narrator constructed her own agentic identity for the first time as a consequence of her health-illness transition.

(601) Helen Barnes, MSc. OT, Brussels Belgium

(November 2007)

Trailing Partners:

An occupational perspective on the experience of leaving a career to follow a partner on expatriate assignment to Belgium.

Key words: dual-career couples, expatriation, life change events, occupation, trailing partner, transition

This study attempts to explore the transition experienced by 'trailing partners' who have left their careers to accompany their partners on expatriate assignments in Belgium, and the role occupation other than paid employment plays within that process. Moving from a career into a daily life where work no longer dominates is an unpredictable change with many implications.

There is a growing interest in developing further our understanding of human occupation and a transition of this type provides an opportunity to study humans as occupational beings and how they use occupations to maintain health.

A qualitative methodology was used and within a convenience sample nine trailing partners participated in semi-structured tape-recorded interviews. The constant comparative method of analysing the data revealed that participants went through a distinct process of transition with clearly defined stages, not dissimilar to the levels described in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The new temporal and occupational structure created by the space that work used to fill requires innovative and creative solutions, which become more evident to them as they engage in a process of continuing self-reflection revealing ways they might use their existing skills in a broader context.

(506) **Seulgee Kim, MSc. OT, Seoul South Korea**

(November 2007)

Restructured New Daily Living

A Study on the experiences of disabled elders participating in adult day care

Key words: Disabled elders, occupational therapy, day care, qualitative research, participation

Disabled elders live unbalanced daily life because of restrictions in physical functions and isolation from social relations and as a result they experience continuous worsening of health. Adult day care is a service that helps disabled elders lead a spirited life. The present study purposed to understand disabled elders' experience of participation in activities at day care programs. The present study collected materials through in-depth interviews with participants in adult day care programs, participant observation, field notes, program diaries, etc. and analyzed them by the grounded theory method, which is one of qualitative research methods. According to the results of the present study, disabled elders participating in adult day care centre programs experience the process that their daily living is restructured through activity participation and the establishment of personal relationships. Depending on time flow, the participants' activity participation types are divided into dependent participation, independent participation and interdependent participation. These activity participation types changed along with the change of physical functions, the support environment of the facility and the degree of adaptation. Deep understanding of disabled elders' participation in day care program activities and the type of participation is expected to provide grounds for establishing occupational therapy strategies suitable for disabled elders living in local community.

(608) Petra Marksteiner, MSc. OT, Amstetten Austria (October 2007)

Occupational Therapy with Mentally Ill Offenders in Forensic Psychiatry:

A explorative cross-sectional survey of OT Practitioners in Austria and Germany

Key words: Education, forensic psychiatry, work practice, professionalisation

Forensic psychiatry imposes particular challenges on occupational therapists. In this area, occupational therapists are key players concerning assessment (including risk assessment) and treatment. Because of potential dangerousness of the clients and complexity of mental states, the occupational therapist needs knowledge and skills that are very profound and at the same time tailored to the specific demands of forensic psychiatry.

This explorative study looks at the work practice and related attitudes of occupational therapists working in forensic psychiatry institutions. The focus is on Austria and Germany because occupational therapy in forensic psychiatry has hardly been studied yet in these countries, and because their educational situation is not yet satisfying, although both Austria and Germany currently witness a growing professionalisation of occupational therapy.

In order to find out whether occupational therapists in forensic psychiatry in Austria and Germany feel well prepared for these challenges, a questionnaire was performed. It showed that occupational therapists in forensic psychiatry in Austria and Germany often do not use professional occupational therapy models and methods. This seems partly due to not being aware of them because of educational lacks, which is also reflected by the fact that many of the participants are not very satisfied with their education and training. But it seems also due to perceived restrictions in applicability of models, assessment, and treatment methods to the special forensic situation. This corroborates the claim of several authors for the development, and corresponding training, of occupational therapy methods tailored to forensic psychiatry.

(617) Ingrid Wormsbächer, MSc. OT, Windhoek Namibia (May 2007)

From dying to living positively:

Participating in the community as a young HIV+ Namibian

Much has been written about the impact of HIV and AIDS on the lives of people with this disease, as well as on the lives of their families, friends and partners. The experiences of individuals living with HIV and AIDS, as well as the potential role of the occupational therapist in the care and treatment of these clients throughout the progression of the disease, have been researched. The majority of these studies have, however, focused on participants living in developed countries.

Despite the large number of people infected with HIV/AIDS in Namibia, no studies have yet been conducted to investigate the way persons living with HIV experience their participation in the community.

As more people with HIV in Namibia gain access to antiretroviral therapy, the number of people in the country without physical symptoms will increase. Yet, studies show that not just the physical symptoms of the disease impact on occupational performance, participation and general well-being, but also the psychological and social problems associated with HIV infection.

This study investigates how the knowledge of being HIV positive impacts on how young adults living in Windhoek, Namibia, experience their participation in the community. Through the implementation of eight in-depth, unstructured and semi-structured interviews, the study explores the experiences of four young adults who have been recruited by means of purposeful sampling.

A qualitative approach based in phenomenology, making use of open coding to develop themes, is used to analyse data gained from the interviews.

Information obtained from this research can help occupational therapists and other social scientists gain insight into the impact that being HIV positive in Namibia has on community participation and may guide future research into similar topics. It may also add insight into the health care needs of individuals living with HIV in Namibia.

(616) Inge Vromen, MSc. OT, Amsterdam the Netherlands

(May 2007)

I belong, therefore I do

Stories of three people participating in an activity centre

Key words: belonging, occupation, occupational engagement, narrative methods, mental health

Occupation has been typified as a synthesis of 'doing, being and becoming' by Wilcock (1998). Recent findings on occupational engagement and developments in occupational science imply a more social nature of occupation than this widely used description seems to highlight.

In this study a narrative approach was used to explore the informants' perspectives on the meaning of social components for their engagement in occupations. The informants, three people with enduring mental health problems visiting an activity centre, were interviewed three times. A narrative analysis led to the construction of three individual narratives, with plots on engagement and sociality.

The **findings** show that for these people a sense of belonging to a group or place is essential for (further) engagement in occupations. Important factors were: being with people with a shared background in a welcoming environment and doing for others.

In line with these findings and contemporary literature and to allow for a more social focus, it is suggested that occupation be described as a synthesis of doing, being, belonging, becoming (in whichever order)

(614) Karin M. Todt, MSc. OT, Vienna Austria

(May 2007)

Time-related Components of The Adaptation Process in self-care

An analyses of narratives from Persons living in the Community with Severe Hemiplegia

Key words: Occupational Therapy, occupational adaptation, basic activities of daily living, stroke, narratives

Occupational adaptation occurs during rehabilitation, but also occurs naturally after discharge and is influenced by the environment. Self-care training is the most common intervention of occupational therapy in the rehabilitation setting, yet literature about the adaptation process of self-care in the community is lacking. The aim of this study was to obtain knowledge about the elements of the domiciliary adaptation process in self-care after stroke. Unstructured interviews were conducted with eight participants in their environment and between 2,5 to 6 years after the participants were discharged from the clinical setting. A narrative approach was used throughout the research and the data was analysed with the constant comparative method. Four themes, which are related to time-phases of the adaptation process in self-care were identified: Phase of (1) recognizing challenges; (2) finding and integration solutions that ensure adequate help and safety; (3) making efforts towards more independence; (4) using better 'self-identity'. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should enable their patients to realise future challenges, test and practice self-care within their home environments in order to find solutions for safety and more independence, and to assist clients to improve self-identity skills. This thesis shows how narratives can help occupational therapists obtain knowledge from personal stories.

(613) Almut Späth, MSc. OT, Dübendorf Switzerland

(May 2007)

Experiencing Creativity

Painting a Picture of Young Adult's Experiences with Creative Occupations

Key words: occupation, meaning, young adults, creativity, phenomenology.

This study explored how young adults experience being engaged in creative occupations. Three young adults living in Switzerland agreed to participate and to share their experiences with painting and drawing, as one example of creative occupations. A phenomenological study was conducted, collecting data in two individual interviews with each of the three participants. Data was analyzed using a modified form of the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological method (EPP). Validity was examined in regard to 'horizontal consistency' and peer examination. The analysis revealed four main themes: feeling an inner urge to paint, experiencing emotions as being central throughout all phases of the painting process, communicating with the painting and creating and showing artistic identities through painting.

(610) **Christine Mosimann, MSc. OT, Bern Switzerland**

(May 2007)

Making confrontation with the real world bearable

Occupational therapists assess and train pedestrian skills with clients after stroke suffering from unilateral neglect

Keywords Real world experience, Doing together, Therapeutic strategies, Grounded Theory

The safety as a pedestrian is an important issue for clients after stroke suffering from unilateral neglect and for their relatives as well. Assessment and training of pedestrian skills is therefore performed in occupational therapy. This study aims to explore how occupational therapists do assessment and training of pedestrian skills with this client group for building up a background to guide practice.

Six occupational therapists participated in a qualitative interview. The collected data was analysed following the Grounded Theory approach with its focus on change in interaction, using the Constant Comparative Method.

The OT owns a restraint role to support the clients' experience of the real world to become aware of difficulties for initiating the use of compensatory strategies, which is seen as effective. The provoked distress in the client due to confrontation is met through delivering safety in form of the restraint role again, beneath a working alliance based on 'doing with' and 'working with' the client, the therapeutic attitude and therapeutic methods. Further investigation should be done on the working alliance based on 'doing together' in the sense of being engaged in one occupation with the client.

(607) Isabel Lohss, MSc. OT, London UK

(May 2007)

***Psychometric properties of the Worker Role Interview
(version 10.0) in mental health***

Key words: Work, Assessment, Outcome measure, Rasch analysis

Getting people with mental illness back to work is on the agendas of both the UK Government and health care services. Occupational therapists working in psychiatry are routinely required to undertake vocational assessments and help clients into work. In order to make such efforts successful, modern health care contexts call for the use of evidence based practice and outcome measures.

Objectives: To examine the psychometric properties of the of the Worker Role Interview (WRI version 10.0) with a psychiatric population in the UK, particularly its validity as a baseline assessment and an outcome measure.

Methodology: In a small scale pilot design data were collected from 34 psychiatric clients rated by seven therapists. Rasch analysis was used to examine the data regarding construct validity, validity of clients' response patterns, precision of measures, the scale's aptitude to detect different ability levels and rater consistency.

Results: All items except one demonstrated acceptable goodness-of-fit to the Rasch model. The misfitting item was still considered relevant to psychosocial ability to work, although clients with certain diagnoses and associated perceived self efficacy might respond differently to this item. Over 90% of clients fitted the model; reasons for the degree of misfit might be related to changes in item descriptions in version 10.0. The scale detected five ability levels but client measures were slightly imprecise. Raters used the scale consistently and implications of rater leniency were discussed.

Conclusions: Overall, the pilot provided evidence of internal scale validity, supporting that the tool can be used as a baseline assessment to aid treatment planning in a mental health population. Usefulness as an outcome measure is questioned due to its current lack of measurement precision. The tool could be further developed by defining more items to improve its sensitivity. Findings need to be verified with larger samples.

(605) **Anja Junkers, MSc. OT, Munich Germany**

(May 2007)

The effect of animal-assisted therapy intervention on volition of children with developmental disabilities

Key words: developmental disabilities, pet-assisted therapy, Paediatric Volitional Questionnaire (PVQ), single-subject design, motivation.

Aim: The purpose of this pilot investigation was to evaluate the short term effect of animal assisted therapy as adjunct occupational therapy intervention on the motivation of children with developmental delays.

Method: Five children, aged four to seven years, with developmental disabilities participated in the study, which was based on a single-subject reversal design. The Paediatric Volitional Questionnaire was used as the evaluation instrument.

Result: Volition was increased in all five participants during animal-assisted therapy compared to volition during standard therapeutic interventions. An increase of volition from baseline to follow up sessions suggests that the intervention had some lasting effect.
Conclusion: The results obtained from this pilot study suggest that animal-assisted therapy may positively influence the volitional behaviour of children with developmental disabilities and can be seen as a useful adjunct to standard occupational therapy.

(504) **Saskia Hofstede- Wessels, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands (May 2007)**

Understanding line-managers experiences working with employees with mental illness

Key words: Employee, manager, mental health, qualitative research, vocational rehabilitation and workplace.

This **article** presents the results of a study on how line-managers experience their doings on behalf of employees with mental illness. Seven in-depth interviews were held with Dutch line-managers, from non-profit and business organisations. These were managers who worked with employees with mental illness. Verbatim transcripts of the interviews were analysed and interpreted, inspired to a hermeneutics tradition.

The **result** shows that line-managers experience themselves as persons whom ‘bridge to align’. That is, they act as eager information collectors, seeking out knowledge to align the needs of the organisation with the needs of the employee with mental illness. Information gathering helps them to fill gaps in professional and personal experience and gain a grip on the situation.

The article **concludes** with suggestions for vocational rehabilitation specialists and line-managers looking to develop a supportive social-cultural work environment for employees with mental illness.

(303) Simon Hannaford, MSc. OT, Kent UK

(March 2007)

Occupation across Europe

A systematic review of how the concept of occupation is used by Occupational Therapists on the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Programme

The study aimed to describe the way European Occupational Therapists used the term occupation, in order to identify current understandings and establish new areas for research into occupation in a European context. A systematic review and thematic analysis using a Social Constructionist philosophical position was conducted using 58 completed dissertations from postgraduate students on the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy as source material. The review identified 22 emergent themes, which were converged into 4 meta-themes: *Occupation as a complex transaction*, *Occupation as a key human organisational drive*, *Occupation as a factor in how we construct who we are*, and *Practical dilemmas faced by Occupational Therapists in applying their understanding of occupation within service constraints*. These themes were discussed and a conclusion made comparing the findings with an existing European definition of occupational therapy. The study identifies a need for further research into the nature and meaning of context, concepts of self and the neurological and developmental value of occupation and suggests that a European Model of Occupation would be of value.

(615) Hetty Tonneijck, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands (November 2006)

Understanding the complex power of choir singing:

An engaging occupation

Key words: Occupation; Meaning; Choir singing; Qualitative methods; Leisure.

Limited knowledge exists on the perspectives of people engaged in leisure occupations. This article reports research findings on experiences of choir singing as an example of a leisure occupation. Six choir members from the same choir participated in this research. In this qualitative study, data were collected through participant observations during choir meetings and interviews focusing on the experience of the occupation. Data were analyzed using a comparative, interpretive method. Three themes emerged from the analyses that reflecting the informant's perspectives of engaging in choir singing: *Offering a challenge*; *Enacting wholeness*, and; *Providing a difference*. The challenge the choir offered the participants, seemed to work as a catalyst for the doing, was energizing, but was not always felt as an enriching and enjoyable experience. The choir seemed to function as a platform, where participants felt safe and where the connectedness with others and being engaged in singing enacted and created 'wholeness'. However, when feelings of safety were not there or restlessness occurred, the 'doing' in the choir did not lead to that experience. Finally, the participants valued the occupation as different in relation to 'ordinary things in life' and as a distraction of daily matters, although the transition from daily life to joining the choir was sometimes difficult and even experienced as stressful.

(612) Christina Schulze, MSc. OT, Solothorn Switzerland (November 2006)

The German version of the School Function Assessment (SFA)

A pilot project of the German SFA for its cross-cultural use in occupational therapy with school children

Key words: School participation, School Function Assessment (SFA), feasibility study, German translation for cross-cultural use

The primary purpose of this research project was to translate and adapt the School Function Assessment (SFA), a standardized criterion-referenced instrument that measures school-related functional skills, for its cross-cultural use in Germany. The project consisted of three study phases:

- Translation
- Cultural adaptation: Experiences of occupational therapist with the use of the SFA
- Pilot testing.

Findings revealed some difficulty in using the SFA and showed that the German version of the SFA cannot be used with the same confidence than the original version suggested. In the pilot testing phase the translated SFA was administered to 32 school children: 10 children with physical impairment, 10 with cognitive behavioural impairment and 12 without impairment. Only a few correlations between the three groups were found to be significant at the 0.05 levels. The results were analysed using SPSS 11 for Mac OSX. A second way of analysis was carried out: the results of the current project were also compared to the result of Icelandic children (Snaefridur 2004). These results support the findings of the second phase and indicate limitations in the use of the SFA. However useful guidelines for cross-cultural use of the SFA are presented. Future research should be directed either towards developing a new assessment for children's school participation or to a more careful adaptation of the SFA.

(609) Ursula Ch. Mayer, MSc. OT, Tyrol Austria

(November 2006)

Successful work integration

Experiences of persons with mental health problems a qualitative study

Key words: work integration, IPA, qualitative research, mental health.

This qualitative study explores the experiences of persons with mental health problems in successful work integration in a competitive employment setting. Four persons with mental health problems, who were working for at least 6 months, were interviewed. The semi-structured interview consisted of questions about obtaining the current employment, managing the worker role and integration in the work team. The data was analysed using the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Findings through the analysing process were 'back to normal again', 'balance between competences and demands', 'an inclusive and tolerant culture at the working place', access to regular therapy and coaching' and 'motivation for a job'. The process of work integration, the individual development and the integration in the work team are further discussed. There is a need of further research on the complex interaction in the process of successful work integration between the individual, work, support and the societal context.

(606) **Claudia M. Lenz, MSc. OT, St. Gallen Switzerland** (November 2006)

Partnership in therapy -vision, illusion or reality?

Considerations of occupational therapists on establishing partnerships with clients

Key words: Partnership with clients, enabling occupation, hospital environments, focus groups, critical social theory

The philosophy of partnership between the client and the therapist is a key element of occupational therapy and one of the basics for enabling meaningful occupations for clients. This study is a qualitative research seeking to ascertain the considerations of experienced occupational therapists working in hospital environments in Switzerland. The aim was to get a better understanding of their thoughts on establishing a partnership with clients. Two focus group discussions were carried out and the data have been analysed with Krueger`s (1994) framework analysis. Critical social theory (Habermas, 1971, 1979) was used as a theoretical framework to underpin the enquiry.

The research **showed** that a.) Therapists see partnership with clients as a fundamental factor to daily occupational therapy practice b.) Various challenges appear in the realization of such partnerships in the hospital environment and c.) There is a need for a clear definition and sound reasoning for further steps towards its future application and evaluation in occupational therapy practice.

It is not easy to enable clients in a partnership approach, even though occupational therapists have agreed to move forward to meet challenges ahead to make a vision come true.

(603) **Wiebke Hoppstädter, MSc. OT, Gelsenkirchen Germany**

(November 2006)

Toileting severely disabled children

Experiences of parental caregiver

Key words: toilet-use, toilet-training, accessibility, barrier-free environment, participation, parental caregiver.

As toileting is a complex task, severely disabled children often are not able to carry out the task without help from caregivers. Occupational therapists consider enabling children with disabilities to participate in self-care activities in the home environment as well as in social settings. Thus toileting falls within their professional remit. The aim of this qualitative study was to gain deeper understanding of how parents experience the process of toileting with their child sitting in a wheelchair. With this understanding the contents of therapy might be expanded and enriched, to meet the needs of service users. Individual semi-structured interviews were used focusing on the experience of four mothers when toileting their child in different settings. The transcribed interviews were analysed according to interpretative phenomenological analysis. In a second round of interviews the findings of the first round were subject to further questions.

Four main **topics** were revealed from the data: 1) using a real toilet at last becomes a cause for celebration; 2) most public toilets are still inaccessible; 3) toilet-training is a process of learning that reveals many insights and 4) parents have to become creative problem-solvers.

The **findings** of this study revealed how parents feel disappointed from therapeutic and societal interventions in Germany, when it comes to activities in toileting. Although they are pleased that the child is using the toilet, dissatisfaction is expressed about how they feel alone with their additional tasks. This research indicates the importance of listening to parents and matching the intervention to the unique goals and needs of each child, but also to meet the needs of disabled children in public settings. It indicates to remove barriers produced through the environment. This goes conform to the requirements of parents to participate actively and without additional barriers in daily life.

(602) Barbara Hoogerdijk, MSc. OT, Uitgeest Netherlands (November 2006)

A narrative analysis about the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury

It isn't how it was

Key words: occupational therapy, discovery process, occupation, identity, narrative

The aim of this study was to get an understanding of the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the value of doing everyday life activities within this process. Four participants were interviewed two times. Analysis followed a narrative approach and lead to the construction of four individual narratives. The narratives show that the adaptation process after traumatic brain injury is a long learning process that continues after rehabilitation, is individual and situated and is about the need and fight for a new identity. The four persons needed several different experiences with especially former life activities in order to develop a new self-concept and resume meaningful roles. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should enable their patients to test and practice their abilities within their home environments, give patients space to practice and their own and guide them in using own or new strategies in an efficient and satisfying way. This thesis shows how narratives can enable healthcare professionals to understand those they seek to help since personal stories permit an insight into the experiences and thoughts of an individual.

(502) **Franziska Heigl, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland** (November 2006)

Meam familiam cogito, ergo sum

I Am Thinking of My Family, Therefore I Am

Perception of Daily Occupations of Male Albanian Blue-collar Workers Living in Switzerland, a Qualitative Study

Key words: blue-collar workers, hermeneutic approach, occupational science, individual culture, collectivist culture.

In Switzerland 22% of the resident population are migrants. Nevertheless scientific literature about health and migration is limited in Switzerland. To increase intercultural competence for health care professionals, it is necessary to increase the knowledge of the culture of migrants. As the socio-cultural background is a factor in the choice of activities better understanding of daily occupations of migrants is required in order to attune to their needs. The purpose of this explorative qualitative study was to increase intercultural knowledge by uncovering and interpreting the perceptions of current daily occupations of some male Albanians living in Switzerland. In-depth interviews with eight healthy Muslim Albanian blue-collar workers were analysed and interpreted within the hermeneutical tradition using steps of the constant comparative method and hermeneutic principles. Three themes were uncovered. *Everything I do I do for my family*; *Where do I belong to?* and *Doing something for myself* depict the occupational relation of their perceptions. To offer cultural safe occupational therapy in a real client-centred way, findings suggest that it is necessary to be conscious of the differences between one's own and the client's individual or collectivist attitudes.

(507) **Kim Langer, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland**

(May 2006)

When everything is meaningless...

Clients' perceptions of occupations in acute mental health care during crisis intervention.

Key words: occupational needs, mental illness, interpretation inspired by hermeneutics.

Despite a change of paradigm in occupational therapy, from a biomechanical approach to one that enhances meaningful occupation, occupational therapy in acute mental health is still largely skill-orientated in German-speaking areas. Changed conditions in clinical mental health care question challenge this usual way of treatment. In order to understand the needs of clients in acute mental health care, their experiences have s to be explored. The aim of this study was to explore the meanings that persons suffering from an acute mental illness attribute to occupations during their stay at a clinic. The underlying query 'How do clients experiencing mental illness perceive the meaning of occupations during crisis intervention in a clinical setting?' has been explored in depth from the perspective of mentally ill persons, during and after their clinical stay.

The data from two in-depth interviews, conducted with each of the six clients participating in this study, is analysed according to principles inspired by hermeneutics.

The findings focus on three themes:; '*Meaninglessness*', '*Joining in*' and '*Finding oneself*'. In the discussion, the inability in to performing occupations is identified as a universal phenomenon occurring during the acute phase of a crisis. The findings can be interpreted as a process to reconstruct occupational identity, by meeting the occupational needs of doing, belonging, being and becoming.

(503) Daniela Hengen- Lang, MSc. OT, Zürich Switzerland (May 2006)

An occupational perspective on the transition to motherhood

Experiences of some first-time mothers

Key words: Transition to Motherhood, Occupation, Identity, Narrative Analysis

In contemporary western societies, the transition to motherhood is recognised as a life transition that causes major change in a woman's life. Although occupational therapy and science has underscored the importance of human occupations in such times of change, little is known about the meaning and function of occupations during developmental transitions in human life. To broaden this understanding, the present study applied an occupational perspective to the transition to motherhood. Guided by the question of how first-time mothers experience their occupations during the early phase of the transition to motherhood, three in depth interviews with three first time mothers were conducted respectively during the first, second and third quarter postpartum. The applied narrative analysis revealed 'becoming oneself again' as a guiding motif for all women during their first months of the transition to motherhood. Occupations were found to serve as important means in this process. Further, the findings show how the occupational adjustments, which were applied to meet the women's anticipated mothering ideal and to cope with the demands of their environments, supported or hindered the engagement in those occupations that carried a notion of one's former sense of self. Finally, the findings are related to and discussed within the concept of occupational identity.

(515) **Annemie Vekeman, MSc. OT Oudenaarde Belgium (November 2005)**

Starting a second life after a traumatic brain injury...

A challenge between time, environment and capacities

Key words: Narratives, Occupational Adaptation, traumatic brain injury, transition to normal life

The purpose of the study is to elicit information on how adults with mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries (TBI) experience the transition from the rehabilitation centre to everyday 'normal' life after rehabilitation. In-depth interviews were conducted with 12 participants and a narrative analysis was used for analyzing the data. 8 men and 4 women between the age of 20 and 61 years participated in the study. The interviews were conducted between 4 and 22 months after the participants were discharged from the rehabilitation centre to their home. The findings show that the participants were going through a transition process from taking up old habits and routines just after discharge from the rehabilitation setting, to adjusting and accepting new habits and routines once they had realized that it was impossible to keep trying to live their lives as before. Implications of the traumatic brain injury only slowly became apparent to the participants, and once they had recognized and accepted them, they were able to move on in their new, second life. Their overall spirit changed over time and once they had completed the transition process all declared that they gave life a deeper meaning, and that family and friends became more important than before their injury.

The **findings** suggest that occupational therapists need to be aware of the transition process that patients have to go through once they are discharged from the hospital, and that further follow-up might be beneficial for the people with a traumatic brain injury once they have returned to their daily life.

(512) **Christine M. Steindl, MSc. OT, Vienna, Austria** (November 2005)

Occupation and participation in everyday life:

A quilt of women's experiences from a refugee camp

Key words: Daily occupations, Occupational deprivation, Ethnographic study, Occupational science

Steindl Christine, Karen Winding, Ulla Runge (2008); Occupation and Participation in Everyday Life: Woman's Experiences of an Austrian Refugee Camp JOS 2008 vol.15 (1) pp.23-29

Refugees often spent their first weeks, months and sometimes even years in refugee camps. To get an understanding of the everyday-life within refugee camps an ethnographic study was designed to describe and explore engagement in daily occupations of women living in an Austrian refugee camp. Data gathered by observations and interviews were analysed using a comparative method. The findings show that women experienced their engagement in daily occupations as altered in many ways. The process was pointed out as a struggle between the 'being' and the 'becoming', where the need to reengage in meaningful occupations was threatened by contextual factors. But at the same time women seemed to experience the conditions differently, depending on the consequences for the life in resettlement. The two themes 'Daily occupations-a struggle against restrictions' and 'Travelling towards the future' were intertwined. Though camp life was seen as restricting, constraining conditions were tolerated as long as they did not delimit personal goals for the future.

In **conclusion**, participation in daily occupations within a refugee camp turned out to be a challenge, influenced by a range of factors internal and external to the person.

(511) **Els Spaargaren, MSc. OT Amsterdam Netherlands** (November 2005)

Play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy

Key words: daily life, CP, occupation, ethnography, occupational therapy

Despite a long tradition of the use of play in practice, an occupational perspective of play regarding children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, hasn't been developed thoroughly. This paper presents a qualitative study of play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy in the age of 3,5-6 years old.

Objective: The aim of the study was to increase understandings for play of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, which might lead to the development of supportive everyday contexts which support play participation for these children.

Method: An ethnographic approach allowed an in depth examination of three children playing in the home, school and playground environment. Data were collected using participant observation, combined with conversational interviews. Analysis was based on a thematic analysis.

Results: Results indicate that play in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy can be characterised as an alternation between 'being in a world of my own' and 'facing and tackling limitations' within 'an environment receptive to play'. Sub themes united within these main themes seem to reflect dimensions of occupational performance of play in everyday life of these children.

Discussion: Through the use of strategies, children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy faced and tackled limitations during play in everyday life. By facilitating and supporting strategies in everyday life of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy, occupational therapists might reinforce the child to better adapt to the environment. Secondly, findings indicate that play participation might be improved through altering environments. Occupational therapists can take up roles as facilitator and advocates to enable play by working in the everyday lives of children with a hemiplegic cerebral palsy. Further research is needed to better underpin the results from this study.

(510) Reidun Skar, MSc. OT, Trondheim Norway

(November 2005)

Male experiences engaging in hobby activities besides work and family

Key words: Leisure, hobby activities, male, enfolded occupations, everyday life.

The thesis presents the results of a qualitative study that explored characteristics of repeatedly engaging in leisure occupations and methodological considerations on the research process.

Qualitative interviews were conducted with eight working males living in Central Norway about the experiences of ‘hobbies’ and the role of hobbies in everyday life.

The **analysis** following the hermeneutical circle with identifying natural meaning units, identifying patterns and themes going back and forth between ‘parts’ and ‘wholes’ for each interview and then considering all interviews.

The **results** show that hobbies are freely chosen, multidimensional and dynamic doing males engage in over years. The informants express the pleasure of doing and mastering hobby activities at the same time as experiencing the excitement of the unpredictable outcome when performing such activities. Hobbies connect the performer to a certain culture and to local or global community. It plays a significant role in the performer’s occupational pattern and has to be planned for and sometimes forced into the pattern along with work and family occupations.

The seriousness of hobby activities among occupations of daily life was underlined, which might give implications for occupational therapy practice. Leisure occupations done repeatedly may promote a long- term positive input for those involved. For future studies, methodological considerations should be made on studying hobby activities as occupational processes of ‘doing’ and ‘meaning’ enfolded in daily life and in culture.

(509) Daniela Senn, MSc. OT, Wettingen Switzerland (November 2005)

Validity of the German Version of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA-G) questionnaire

Key words: Impact on participation and autonomy questionnaire - outcome measures - client-centred rehabilitation - Rasch analysis

Objective: To evaluate the validity of the recently translated German version of the Impact on Participation and Autonomy (IPA-G) questionnaire by addressing scale validity, validity of the response process, ability of the questionnaire to differentiate between levels of participation, and the hierarchical order of items.

Design: Validation pilot-study. Respondents were selected using convenience sampling. Data was analysed using Rasch analysis.

Setting: A Swiss Rehabilitation Clinic with mixed inpatient population.

Subjects: 88 respondents from three Diagnostic groups 1) traumata of the musculoskeletal system (n=64); 2) intra-cerebral traumata (n=18); and 3) poly trauma (n=6) were included, providing a total of 135 responses in a follow-up design.

Results: The first analysis of the 32 IPA-G items showed three items not fitting the expectation of the Rasch model; in later analysis items were excluded until 28 items showed (96.43%) goodness-of-fit. Some respondents (12.60%) had higher misfit to the model, although further analysis showed that the fitting respondents had different sociodemographic characteristics. The IPA-G differentiates between five levels of participation ability; item hierarchy showed an adequately distributed scale.

Conclusions: 27 of the 28 items of the narrowed IPA-G showed sufficient scale validity, indicating that these items appertain to a unidimensional construct of participation. The IPA-G has a high potential for responsiveness as it differentiates between 5 levels of participation. Items are well ordered according to their difficulty and reflect clinical expectations. The IPA-G needs to be further evaluated, although it is a promising measure in evaluating or measuring outcome on the participation component of chronically ill clients.

(508) Elsbeth Müller, MSc. OT, Zurich Switzerland

(November 2005)

Occupations as Burdens?

Carers' Perspectives on Everyday Occupations of the Family Member with Dementia

Key words: Family carer, occupational therapy, engagement in occupations, constant comparative method, interpretation.

This study explored the occupational life-world of family carers and aimed to understand what significance carers gave the engagement in everyday occupations of their family member with dementia. Personal diaries and in-depth interviews of five spousal carers were analysed and interpreted. This was done in a hermeneutical tradition, using the constant comparative method and a hermeneutic circle. Four themes provided insight into the carer's life-world and were essential to reveal the enormous tension between almost overwhelming strain and some satisfying facets of caring. The analysis depicted carers' competence in finding strategies to engage the spouse with dementia in mutual occupations. This competence presented the basis for discussion of a collaborative, family-centred approach to occupational therapy, in order to support family carers in a satisfying way.

(501) **Mattie Dapper, MSc. OT, Amsterdam the Netherlands (November 2005)**

Me or my hand

How motives for occupational performance are influenced in people with a Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, type 1, in one arm.

Key words: Occupational performance, motivation, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type 1

Background. People suffering from a complex regional pain syndrome, type 1 (CRPS-1), seem to be forced to make choices in occupational performance. Making choices might be looked upon as the result of the interaction between the person and their motives for occupational performance. Understanding how these motives are influenced might enhance insight in this process of interaction and can provide direction for occupational therapy practice.

Purpose. This study describes how influences on the motives for occupational performance can be understood in people with CRPS type 1, in one arm.

Method. In this qualitative study seven people with CRPS-1 in one arm were interviewed and data were subsequently analysed using a constant comparative method.

Results. The findings show that the motives for occupational performance are active constructions of purpose and meaning, which are influenced by: 1. trying to prohibit that their hand takes control of them; and by 2. Trying to live a life that is agreeable for them here and now.

Practice implications. Occupational therapists might considerate goal directed activities, value them and stimulate participants in creating them. These activities can be used to increase motivation and for the purpose of creating an agreeable life.

(406) Umarasri Goedhart- Jitprapasnan, MSc. OT (September 2005)

Family-centred Occupational Therapy: Multiple case studies of successful interventions concerning disabled children from migrant families

Key words: successful intervention, occupational therapy, Family centred approach, disabled children, migrant families, multiple case study.

Background family centred approach is a very important concept adopted in Pediatric Occupational Therapy in the Netherlands. The health care system, social and cultural environments especially, the intercultural rehabilitation of the Dutch health care system is, however, different from the United States where this philosophy of this service delivery emerged. The demand for effective intervention that fulfils the needs of immigrant clients is being challenged for the Dutch occupational therapists when implementing the FCS.

Aim The purpose of this study was to explore important components which constitute a successful family-centred occupational therapy intervention for disabled children from migrant families in the Netherlands.

Design Multiple case studies were an employed strategy. The data collection involved a variety of methods, including semi- structured interviews, journal notes of the interviews and gathering related documentation. The participants were six occupational therapists, with at least one year experience in working with disabled children from migrant families. Data analysis included case analysis and cross-case analysis, while pattern matching was used during the interpretation of the data.

Result The cross-case findings revealed the relationship between the characteristics of a successful intervention, the OT's actions and reasoning towards the working/institutional conditions and the clients' living/cultural conditions.

Conclusion The success of Family-centred Occupational Therapy is influenced by the diversity of the therapist's working conditions and the immigrant client's social and cultural conditions. This shapes the therapist's decisions on how problems are defined and which treatment is seen to be appropriate.

(405) Gerda Estl, MSc. OT, Horn Austria

(September 2005)

Quality in OT treatment, a qualitative study from an expert perspective

**Estl, G. (2006); From infancy to professionalisation: evidence-based practice in occupational therapy - the present realisation in Austria [German].
*NON review; WFOT bulletin 53: 27-9, 54***

(409) **Klavdija Možina, MSc. OT, Viden Slovenia**

(November 2004)

Occupational life inside institution: Experiences of occupations by some of the residents in long - term social institution in Slovenia

Key words: Slovenia, needs, occupational therapy, institution, deprivation, engagement.

Many people live in large institutions in Slovenia. In general, they are voluntarily or involuntarily institutionalised because they have nowhere else to be or nobody to take care of them. This occurs either because all close relatives, who usually take care of these people, are not in reach, or because social services decide it would be better for a person to be institutionalised. Although a lot has improved recently in the sphere of deinstitutionalization in Slovenia in social science, there are still many institutions present. However, no occupational therapists have ever conducted a research about people living inside institutions. The needs and experiences of institutional residents remain a mystery to occupational therapists in Slovenia. There is no data about the occupational needs of residents, what occupations do they really engage in, if any. This research on occupations and occupational needs was therefore conducted in one of the Slovenian institutions. The interest of the study was to obtain some basic knowledge and gain an insight into occupational lives of the residents in one of the institutions. The research reveals occupations residents can engage in, occupations they are deprived of because of living in the institution, and occupational needs that residents express.

In the first part of the thesis, the article prepared for the publication on this study is presented. The main literature review with theoretical background for the study indicates positions on occupation and deprivation of occupations inside institutions demonstrated in several studies conducted all over the world. The uses of qualitative paradigm and semi-structured interviews have led to qualitative findings. The findings reveal the fact that the system governing day to day running of the institution does have a great influence on residents' occupational lives. Institutions offer some occupational opportunities to their residents, but have and show no interest in understanding their occupational needs. Furthermore, even when residents live in a bigger group, they constantly experience a lack of occupations with other people.

The second part represents the researcher's expanded exploration of the literature review, study designs, and the findings. Several theoretical approaches would be appropriate and beneficial for the study, however, due to several limitations, they had to be rejected. In the end of this part, personal reflections on the study and its consequences for the researcher are presented.

In the appendix, the notes and forms are added to enable readers, who are not familiar a situation, a better understanding and a greater insight into the situation and into the way this study was conducted.

(209) Bianca Petrucci, MSc. OT, Terni Italia

(November 2004)

How individual daily activities offered by occupational therapists may be used for severely demented patients in their daily crisis

Key words: severe stage of Alzheimer Disease, behaviour dysfunction, everyday activities, occupational therapy intervention, familiar environment in Special Care Unit (NA), ethnographic method

**Nobili, A. MD, E. Riva, MD, PhD, M. Tettamanti, PhD, U. Lucca, MS, M. Liscio, Psychol, Bianca Petrucci, OT, G. Salvini Porro, MS (2004); The Effect of a Structured Intervention on Caregivers of Patients With Dementia and Problem Behaviors: A RCT
*Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord 2004 vol.18 no.2, pp.75-82; April-June***

The purpose of this research is to describe the influence of daily activities programmed by an occupational therapist upon severely demented people admitted into a SCU (NA) who had behaviour dysfunctions shown by regular daily crises.

The study is based on qualitative analysis of the ethnographic methodology and the data was gathered from observations of the participants. Four patients suffering from Alzheimer Disease were observed for two days each during their daily life. One nurse and one occupational therapist were interviewed about each patient in relation to behaviour, care activities and occupational therapy activities. The results were analysed using a comparative and interpretative approach.

The findings showed that the familiar environment represented the link between the physical characteristics of the territory, where daily activities were performed, and the human territory. Furthermore the results showed that personal and ad hoc activities influenced and affected the behaviour and well-being of the patients whenever they were especially devised for them and when they were carried out at the time when demented people were restless and irritable and expressed the desire for a specific activity.

(414) Sebastian Voigt-Radloff, MSc. OT, Freiburg Germany (September 2004)

The Occupational Therapy Assessment: Psychometric analyses within subgroups of different health service stages

Key words: Occupational performance – health services – outcome measurement – validity – reliability – responsiveness

Voigt-Radloff, S; Kiesinger, A; Schochat, T; The occupational therapy assessment: implementation in practice.

NON review Rehabilitation 2003 vol.42 no.1 pp.16-21

Objective: to investigate the concurrent validity, internal consistency and responsiveness of the Occupational Therapy Assessment (OTA) under routine work conditions of German-speaking occupational therapists in different health service stages. With the newly developed and ICF-oriented OTA, occupational therapists assess occupational performance related to the client's familiar context.

Method: In this multi-centre cohort study, instructed occupational therapists applied the OTA, two self-administered questionnaires for functional capacity and general health (FFbH and IRES) and a brief performance test for cognitive abilities (MMSE) at the beginning and again the OTA at the end of the routine treatment. In the presented subgroup analysis, the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were calculated as the indicators for concurrent validity, the Cronbach alpha and Friedman test for the internal consistency, and effect sizes and the Wilcoxon test for the responsiveness.

Results: In the subgroups 'acute care' (n = 158), 'clinical rehabilitation' (n = 173), 'outpatient rehabilitation' (n = 174), 'long-term care' (n = 45), and 'others' (n = 146) the correlations between the five OTA domains and corresponding instruments ranged from -0.24 to -0.88 (Pearson coefficient), were moderate ($r \geq 0.4$) in three quarter of the cases and significant in all subgroups, except in 6 % of the cases. Internal consistency was high (Cronbach alpha: 0.84 to 0.98). Parametric and non-parametric statistics produced no strong divergences in these results. Results on responsiveness were divergent. Moderate effect sizes of about 0.5 or higher occurred in 18 of 25 cases. The Wilcoxon test showed significant differences in the OTA results regarding pre- and post-intervention in 6 cases.

Conclusion: Concurrent validity and internal consistency of the OTA-domains can be considered to be stable in various stages of health services. Results might be biased by data not yet investigated regarding equidistance and equivalence. Further research on responsiveness and scale properties of the OTA is needed.

(413) Stephanie Vella, MSc. OT, Malta

(September 2004)

The meaning of pre-discharge home visits

Key words: Malta, Core Component, Rehabilitation

This article presents the findings of an explorative qualitative study which aimed at gaining descriptions and understands the meanings of home visits from the experiences of some Maltese physically disabled older persons, their care givers and occupational therapists. Three different group categories were the participants of this study. Each category consisted of 6 participants (n=18). Data was collected from all the individual participants independently using open in-depth interviews. The data was analysed using the constant comparative method whereby 4 main themes emerged: 'In touch with Reality', 'Feeling of a Positive Aura', 'Negative Experiences' and 'Close to Home'. The findings showed that overall the three participant groups described home visits as being beneficial and satisfactory. The service users increased their awareness about inaccessible housing and the ways in which it can be altered. However the home visit at times left the participants feeling confused and doubtful about the future. A home visit was considered as part of a discharge plan. The results also lead to implications in the area occupational therapy practice and research.

(412) **Andreja Svajger, MSc. OT, Ljubljana Slovenia** (September 2004)

Perceived Possibilities for Returning to Work with Chronic Musculoskeletal Disorders

The influence of life experience on the perceptions of employees

Key words: occupational therapy, return to work, chronic musculoskeletal disorders, qualitative study, narrative

This study was aimed at understanding how experiences with work and daily life before and after the occurrence of chronic musculoskeletal disorders influenced the development of employees' perceptions of their possibilities to return to work. Six Slovenian employees with chronic MSD were purposely selected and interviewed in-depth. The narrative approach to gathering and analysing data was used. The findings showed that participants' narratives about work and life before and after the onset of MSD led the participants to perceive their possibilities for returning to work with mixed and interchanging feelings of hope, doubt and fear. Their experience with workplace and broader societal environment represented by health-care and disability institutional practices was most decisive in the development of the perception. In their interactions with the environment, the participants gradually experienced exclusion from making decisions about their own lives. They were exposed to disbelief, continuous work-related frustration, exclusion from social context at work and gradual personal devaluation. They gradually lost control over the choices, preferences and meanings they could experience at work with MSD. The participants described their experience in the narrative of transformation from a life of stability and fulfilment enabled by meaningful work into a life of suspense about their future deprivation or engagement in meaningful work. The discussion of the findings concentrates on the experiences of marginalization and losing control in relation to workplace and broader societal environment.

(411) Jette Schjerning, MSc. OT, Copenhagen Denmark (September 2004)

From Life in the Fast Lane:

A Qualitative Study of Younger Stroke Patients.

Key words: narratives, Occupational Adaptation, discharge to home, lack of control, reconstruction of control, reconsideration of occupations, discovery process

Younger stroke patients find that the time around discharge is the most difficult time during their rehabilitation. The aim of this research is to explore and understand how younger, citizens with stroke experience the ongoing Occupational Adaptation in the time around discharge to home.

Narratives were collected from four participants 2 days before discharge, 2 weeks and 10 weeks after discharge respectively. Holistic form analysis and categorical content analysis followed by an interpretative step was carried out.

The participants experienced the discharge as a 'free fall into uncertainty' and when they tried to co-operate with professionals to plan further rehabilitation they experienced powerlessness. Before discharge the participants were focused on impairments as general, unmanageable problems. After discharge they predominantly focused on activity problems as specific, manageable problems. They took time to reconsider their major occupations. Work and parenting was found most urgent to resume, as the participants were very concerned about their children's future in various aspects. Moreover the participants tried to re-construct control by controlling their self-image and taking responsibility for further rehabilitation.

Findings are discussed from theoretical, empirical and practical perspectives including implications for practice.

(410) Fenna van Nes, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands (September 2004)

One body, three hands and two minds:

individual and co-narratives of an elderly couple after stroke

Key words: occupation, co-occupation, caregivers, home-living, narrative methods, changing, adaptation.

This case-study aimed at understanding the experiences of an elderly couple of the changing of their everyday occupations after a stroke. Data were collected with individual and joint interviews through multiple home visits over a period of seven months, three years after the stroke. Analysis followed a narrative approach and lead to the construction of two individual occupational life narratives and one co-narrative. The findings show that the experiences of the changing process after the stroke are influenced by the meanings the spouses gave separately and together to occupation and to the situation. In their current life the couple acts as one entity in keeping balance, co-ordinating timing and in all their everyday occupations. Their occupational life is fully intertwined. The findings suggest that occupational therapists should pay more attention to the interdependency of people and should approach clients and their close social environments as being part of one system.

(408) **Claudia Link, MSc. OT, Zurich Switzerland** (September 2004)

The Link Hand Function Test (LIHFT) for Patients with a Cervical Spinal Cord Injury:

An Intra-Rater and Inter-Rater Reliability and Expert Opinion Evaluation Study

Key words: tetraplegia, SCI, face validity, outcome measure, occupational therapy

Kalsi-Ryan S; Duff S; Rudhe-Link C; Wurmser LA; Curt A; Fehlings MG; Verrier MC (2007); The GRASSP protocol: the value of spinal cord injury (SCI) research networks to the development of outcome measures *Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine 2007 vol.30 (2) pp.193*

In the treatment of patients with tetraplegia a satisfying instrument in which to evaluate and document hand function is missing. If any instruments are used, they are generally instruments which haven't been evaluated on this specific client group. The LiHFT aims to meet this need.

Objective: 1) To evaluate intra-rater and inter-rater reliability of the LiHFT. 2) To evaluate face validity and collect expert opinion on the feasibility and clinical applicability for daily practice.

Participants: 1) 37 OTs working in 16 spinal cord rehabilitation centres in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. 2) 64 Patients with tetraplegia currently being treated in one of these 16 centres.

Methods: 1) Patients are tested 3 times within 3 weeks to collect data for the reliability testing. Intraclass correlation coefficient and Kappa is calculated. 2) The experts filled in a questionnaire regarding face validity, feasibility and clinical applicability of the instrument. Percentage agreement was calculated.

Results: The LiHFT shows a satisfying reliability, with all items presenting moderate to almost perfect reliability coefficients (ICC = 0.62 – 0.92, K= 0.47- 0.84). The experts gave a very positive feedback, with 47% stating they would like to use the LiHFT as a standard instrument. The experts also pointed out several shortcomings, especially regarding the scoring and the test manual.

Conclusion: The LiHFT overall shows a substantial reliability and high acceptance by the experts. Some further improvement should be done on the instrument to improve reliability and achieve an even better acceptance in daily practice.

(407) **Torhild Holthe, MSc. OT, Sem Norway** (September 2004)

Human occupation in a care dwelling for persons with dementia - an ethnographic study

Key words: group activities, care dwelling living, ethnography, qualitative research

**Holthe T, Thorsen K, Josephsson S (2007) Occupational patterns of people with dementia in residential care: An ethnographic study
SJOT 2007 vol.14 pp.96-107**

The **purpose** of this study was twofold; gain knowledge about what occupations the residents in a care dwelling for persons with dementia engaged and how the residents perceived the group activities in which they participated. The residents' age ranged from 82 to 92, with an average of 86,7 years. They were seven women and one man. Both participant observation and interviews were used to collect data. The approach was ethnographic, and 45 hours were spent in the care dwelling. The data analysis revealed three themes with sub-themes:

- The striking passivity in the residents
- The versatility of the occupations offered
- Deviant behaviour caused exclusion

The residents were passive and dependent upon the staff to be involved in occupations. Several group activities were offered in the care dwelling, but the real potential of the activities was seldom utilized. The residents perceived the activities differently, but preferred activities that did not display their impairments. Participation was perceived as important for exercise, social reasons and to avoid deterioration. Deviant behaviour was seen as unwanted, representing a threat for being excluded.

(404) Demis Cachia, MSc. OT, Malta

(September 2004)

Leisure and life satisfaction amongst Maltese older citizens - a comparative study

Key words: Occupational Therapy, University of the Third Age (U3A), Day Care Centres (DCC), leisure activities, and life satisfaction.

While some studies have been conducted on leisure and life satisfaction in retired persons, very little is known about persons attending University of the Third Age (U3A) and Day Care Centres (DCC). Studies related to leisure from an occupational therapists perspective are lacking when compared with studies carried out on self-care and work. Besides, no previous research has been conducted in Malta on leisure and life satisfaction in older persons, therefore this research was felt necessary. The aim of this study is two fold:- 1) To examine in further depth the relationship between leisure and life satisfaction in two groups of retired Maltese people; and 2) To determine whether or not older citizens attending U3A have a better or poorer leisure and life satisfaction when compared to those attending DCC. A non-experimental quantitative descriptive design method was used. Convenient sampling of 50 persons attending DCC and 30 others that participate in the U3A programme took part in this survey. Results demonstrated that although demographic variables (i.e. mean age, marital status, perceived health status and previous occupation) are different between the two groups, no statistical significant difference was found in their life satisfaction as a whole (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.3499$). Both groups reported that they were satisfied with their life as a whole. Only a minor significantly statistical difference (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.0457$) was found when comparing the 10 life domains of life satisfaction for persons attending day centres. As for leisure satisfaction, subjects from the DCC were found to be more satisfied with their leisure activities (Mann-Whitney $P = 0.0042$). While persons at U3A rated their leisure satisfaction as being 'medium satisfying' ($M = 3.8725$), those at DCC were found to be 'satisfied' ($M = 4.1686$). This difference in leisure satisfaction is thought to be either due to a positive effect of the DCC programmes since the U3A programme aims are primarily tertiary education or due to the demographic variables differences.

(403) Diana Brouwer, MSc. OT, Utrecht the Netherlands (September 2004)

Experiences 'visual impairments' with mobility training

Key words: visual impairment, mobility, ADL, independence, older people.

Older people with severe visual impairments usually experience difficulty in their mobility and independence. In the Netherlands the number of seriously visual impaired people is estimated between 160.000 and 300.000 people. This means from 1,1% to 2% of the Dutch population. In this study the mobility experiences of visually impaired people is examined in detail. Ten participants were interviewed twice. The data was collected using in-depth interviews which were audio taped, verbatim transcribed and analysed by the empirical phenomenology according to Giorgi.

According to the findings the participants experienced a severely limited range of mobility. This limitation influenced their occupational space and their independence. The impact of their mobility problems also showed an evident shift in Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Less social activities were attended and more assistance became necessary. The findings showed that the consequences of visual impairments were often misunderstood by others; the tension of being dependent, and the inability of facial recognition as a barrier to social life were common experiences. These experiences can provide occupational therapists with a deeper understanding of the difficulties that visually impaired people experience.

(402) Jette Avlund, MSc. OT, Copenhagen Denmark (September 2004)

The Citizen-Centred Approach

Reflections and Descriptions made by Staff Members Engaged in Preventive Home Visits of Their Activities

Key-words: Disease prevention, health promotion, preventive home visits, elderly, occupational performance, enabling occupation, reflection-in-action, meaningfulness, coherence.

This article presents the findings of a qualitative study aimed to gain knowledge and understanding of preventive staff members' reflections on the content of the conversation performed during preventive home visits with special attention to reflection on enabling elderly individuals' occupational performance. Semi-structured questioning routes formed the basis for interviews in two focus-groups. The groups consisted of seven and eight participants respectively and were made up of occupational therapists, nurses and nursing aides. The data was analysed through meaning condensation. The findings identified that the participants' reflections are complex and gather around three main areas: Empowering the elderly citizens by using their experiences and knowledge, promoting health by looking for the meaningfulness of activity, and looking at the Act, the standing of the job and required competencies. The participants used a citizen-centred approach, and communicated, observed and reflected simultaneous during the visit. They worked from a broad concept of occupation and showed concern for understanding the meaningfulness of occupations to the individual in order for the citizens to enhance their health and well-being through occupation. The participants reflected on the Act, and on the implementation and standing of the Act in the municipalities.

(401) Barbara Aegler, MSc. OT, Zurich Switzerland (September 2004)

Performing under Pain: -The Experience of Persons with Chronic Pain: Performing Occupations under Pain

Key words: ruptured performance, distraction from pain, constant comparative method

Chronic pain, a major problem worldwide, is a complex and subjective phenomenon and health care professionals are still highly challenged to work out solutions.

The **aim** of this study was to explore how persons with chronic pain experience their performance. The sample consisted of eight persons suffering from chronic pain. Semi structured interviews were analysed, using the constant comparative method. Three categories were identified: 'performing despite pain', 'ruptured performance' and 'performing beyond pain'.

Performing despite pain illustrates the innate need to be active of every human being. Performance under pain is frequently ruptured. The difference between disruption and interruption of activities is discussed in the perspective of temporality and occupational performance. To perform beyond pain is discussed with the focus on distraction and flow experience. How to deal with temporal disruption, and understand the motivational drive to master certain situations beyond pain, may add new knowledge to occupational therapy and generate further research questions.

(309) **Äsa Nygren, MSc. OT, Stockholm Sweden**

(May 2004)

Current practice of OT for children with autism spectrum disorders in Sweden and Denmark

Key words: child developmental disorders, intervention, occupational therapist, sensory integration.

The **purpose** of this study was to gather opinion about occupational therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders in Sweden and Denmark. A mailing questionnaire, describing current practice and intervention methods for children with autism spectrum disorders, were completed by 38 occupational therapists in Sweden and 33 from Denmark. In the analysing process descriptive statistics, the chi-square test and the constant comparative method were used. The **result** showed that the Swedish respondents spent most of their time on consultation and environmental modifications. The Danish respondents spent most of their time on individual treatments. Many respondents from Sweden mentioned that they worked more towards or only towards functional skills/abilities than with reasons behind difficulties, compared to the Danish respondents who described sensory integration treatments addressing reasons behind difficulties. This study had a low response rate but it gives material to discuss the occupational therapy practice for children with autism spectrum disorders. The study indicates that we are treating differently in Sweden and Denmark. Additional studies are needed to investigate what the best treatment methods are to use with children with autism spectrum disorders.

(311) **Ellen Romein, MSc. OT, Vogtareuth Germany** (September 2003)

Remission Profile for children and adolescents after severe acquired brain injury: establishing validity evidence

**Romein, E.; Improved fine motor coordination: is it an OT therapy goal? A critical examination of OT therapy goals from a practical point of view
NON review *Ergotherapie & Rehabilitation* 2004 vol.43 no.6 pp. 5-13**

The Remi-Pro (Remission Profile for children and adolescents after severe acquired brain injury), is a comprehensive clinical assessment for occupational therapists working in pediatric rehabilitation, and developed to document the remission of these children from an occupational point of view. The Remi-Pro's six remission levels are: 1. Sleep-Wake, 2. Perception, 3. Communication, 4. Independence, 5. Group and 6. Social Level. The aim of this study is to establish validity evidence of the Remi-Pro based on test content and relations to other variables. Evidence for test content was evaluated with 23 experts from Germany and Switzerland who answered a questionnaire about 10 aspects of the Remi-Pro. In addition, the relation between results of the Remi-Pro and other tests was studied using data from 101 children in a retrospective design. Scores of the German Coma Remission Scale (KRS), the Functional Independence Measure for Children (Wee-FIM) and the Developmental Test of Visual Perception 2 (DTVP-2) were correlated with scores of the Remi-Pro. The results from this study support the validity of the Remi-Pro for use with children with severe acquired brain injury. This new scale can be a useful tool for occupational therapists for monitoring and documenting remission and for assisting occupational goal-setting.

(310) Ursula Pott, MSc. OT, Jülich Germany (September 2003)

I'm a Turkish woman, I will always be doing something

The reasoning of some older Turkish women, living in Germany, about their future occupational roles

Key words: Elderly Turkish female migrants, occupational roles, future,

This paper reports the findings of a qualitative study focussing on the reasoning of some older Turkish women, living in Germany, about their future occupational roles.

Data were collected by interviewing 10 Turkish women aged between 57 and 66 years, living in a middle-sized city in the western part of Germany. Transcribed interviews were analysed with a constant comparative approach (Bogdan & Bilken). Out of the analysis 3 central themes emerged, each with 2 sub-themes. The results show that also in future being an active member of society and/ or the family, who can offer something valuable to others and has a clear role with related occupations is central to participants. Additionally the participants related the fulfilment of personal wishes strongly to the benefit of the family.

(308) Anne Le Morville, MSc. OT Hellebaek Denmark (September 2003)

Elderly's experiences of changing occupational environment

Key words: elderly, occupational environment, accessible housing, health promotion, mutual projects

The **aim** of this study was to explore and describe the elderly's experiences with moving into accessible housing. The study has a qualitative approach. The data was collected through narrative interviews and the analysis was done using the constant comparative method. The analysis demonstrated that the whole process of moving from one kind of housing to another consisted of a series of very complex factors and motives.

The **findings** showed that moving was regarded as an occupation in itself and that the move had an impact on daily occupations, roles, habits and routines. There is a general assumption that moving into accessible housing will promote health and prevent disease. Though the whole process of moving was experienced as an occupation in itself, it was not necessarily a health promoting occupation. Whether the occupation of moving can be seen as health promoting is dependent on a lot of factors. The study point at the motives for moving as well as the choice of housing as being crucial to the subjective experience of satisfaction after the move.

(307) **Gitta Mathiasson, MSc. OT, Denmark**

(September 2003)

The experiences of being employed. From the perspective of participants in a vocational training programme

Key words: occupational therapy (intervention), employment, participation, well being, qualitative study.

The **aim** of this qualitative study was to reveal and understand how participants in a vocational training programme experienced being employed, as a part of their vocational training.

Six participants were interviewed and data were analysed using a modified form of the EPP (empirical phenomenological psychological)-method.

Findings revealed how the participants past experiences as unemployed influenced the present experiences of being employed, which again were affected by expectations and concerns for the future. Unemployment in contrary to employment was described as living two different lives, emphasising the importance of performing goal-oriented and meaningful occupations as employed. Findings revealed coherence between the performance of meaningful occupations in a supportive environment and the development of personal identity and an emerging feeling of well being.

Employment was experienced as essential towards societal participation and inclusion. The feeling of having a fluctuating relationship to the labour market was apparent and affected future expectations. Findings were discussed and implications for future development of vocational training programmes were considered.

(306) Inge Hemmen, MSc. OT, Amsterdam the Netherlands (September 2003)

Aspects of Occupational Performance of children with acquired severe brain damage in different stages of a coma

Key words: occupational therapy, acquired severe brain damage, occupational performance, well-being.

This qualitative study examined the question ‘how do occupational therapists reason about occupational performance in children with acquired severe brain damage?’ Data were provided by six occupational therapists who narrated clinical cases in which they have given occupational therapy interventions. A constant comparative approach was used to analyse and interpret the data. Four themes of meaning were uncovered which were related to; the meeting and interpretation; that there’s no being without the other; that different perspectives on occupational performance are needed in order to understand the meaning of occupation and; that well-being and surviving is seen as an advanced occupation. On basis of these findings and previous research, the implications for further research in order to develop occupational interventions-, means, - and measurements is presented and discussed.

- (305) **Esther Haver Droeze, MSc. OT, Berkel and Rodenrijs the Netherlands**
(September 2003)

Ergonomic intervention to reduce musculoskeletal disorders in the dental clinic: implementation of recommendations and reduction of MSD, viewed by the dentists

An evaluation study of a secondary prevention program for dentists in the Netherlands

Key words: ergonomics, musculo-skeletal disorders, occupational therapy, implementation, prevention, dental clinic.

Haver Droeze E. (2005); Ergonomic intervention to reduce musculoskeletal disorders in the dental clinic: implementation of recommendations and reduction of MSD, viewed by the dentists.
Work 2005 vol.25 pp.211-220

Haver Droeze E. (2005); Evaluatie van een secundair preventief ergonomieproject: de knop moet om
Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Tandheelkunde 2005,vol. 112

Objectives An ergonomic intervention program has taken place in the Netherlands to reduce musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD) in dental clinics.

The **aim** of this study is to evaluate this secondary prevention program from the dentists' point of view. First to investigate if dentists were able to implement recommendations and to identify barriers and facilitators for implementation. Second to find out if, in the dentists view, there is a relation between the implementation and a reduction of their MSD. This to improve methods of prevention at the dental clinics.

Method A questionnaire was mailed to 57 dentists. They all returned the questionnaire.

Results. Over 50% of the dentists fully or nearly fully and 40% partially implemented the recommendations. Barriers that made change difficult included changing old routines and financial aspects. Important facilitators were motivation, pain and tailor made advice. The dentists did see a clear relation between the implementation of recommendations and a reduction in MSD.

Conclusions: The study shows that even in a highly motivated group recommendations to reduce MSD will often be partially implemented. This obviously influences the effectiveness of intervention programmes. Improving our understanding of barriers and facilitators to the implementation of ergonomic measures may result in a class of guidelines dealing with implementation issues.

(304) Bente Hartvig, MSc. OT, Aalborg Denmark (September 2003)

A clinical reasoning study of how Danish occupational therapists and their clients reason in the process of providing assistive devices in order to enable occupation

Key words: Clinical reasoning, assistive devices, partnership, clinical judgement, occupation, adaptation

This qualitative study is a clinical reasoning study with an ethnographic approach aiming at gaining knowledge about how the thinking in the reasoning of the occupational therapist and the clients is in the process providing assistive devices in order to enable occupation in a client-centred approach.

Data were collected among four Danish occupational therapists and their clients during several visits in four municipalities over a period of 4 months. Data collection included strategies such as participant observations, video recording reflected on by the occupational therapists, an open ended interview with the clients and the occupational therapists.

Constant comparative method was used to analyse the field notes and the transcribed interview text. Two main categories and nine sub categories emerged from the analysis.

The **results** demonstrated that occupational therapists and their clients were thinking in facilitating a partnership in adapting occupations over time and in solutions in the perspective of the occupational therapist and the perspective of the client.

The occupational therapists were thinking of making and realising adaptive strategies focusing on occupational habits, occupational balance and risk factors. The clients were thinking of finding a daily rhythm in their everyday doings being a user of an assistive device. Accordingly, the occupational therapists were engaged in facilitating the acceptance of the life-situation. They had a focus on human temporality towards the client, the occupation and the process. Further, the occupational therapists had to balance between making clinical judgement as well as legal judgement whereas the clients had to adjust and accept the decisions made according to the institutional frames. This brought the occupational therapists' thinking into a double bound situation in the relation to the client being the administrator and enabler at the same time. On the other hand the clients' thinking was influenced by the dilemma of being the expert in your own life and depending on the occupational therapist as an expert.

The different aspects of the thinking in different aspects of enabling occupation and the dilemma of having to make different judgement at the same time require further study.

(302) Maria Faktorova, MSc. OT, Prague Czech

(September 2003)

The relationship between Memory and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living in brain damaged adults

Key words: assessment, brain injury, I ADL Scale, occupational dysfunction, occupational performance, Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test

The first aim of this study was to examine how specific memory abilities, measured by the RBMT, are associated with performance on selected instrumental activities of daily living measured by the I ADL Scale in clients following brain damage. Second, to examine if the occupational performance can be predicted from memory deficits measured by RBMT. Ninety-six adults participants with brain damage were assessed by the RBMT and I ADL Scale over a 7-months period. The descriptive statistics, Spearman's rho correlation coefficient and linear regression equation was used in this correlational study. RBMT demonstrated in this study statistically significant associations with occupational performance measured by I ADL Scale both for male and female scores ($\rho=.71$; $p<0,001$; $\rho=.65$; $p<0,001$). The strongest association was found in item ability to handle the finance and transportation. In a series of linear regression models, memory functioning was a predictor for observed and reported I ADLs tasks. This study confirms that memory functions had a significant impact on I ADL ability in this population. Further, it supports the RBMT predictive ability and criterion-referenced validity to identify memory problems in Instrumental ADLs. From the wide point of view this knowledge could help to identify the clients, who most likely will experience problems in everyday memory tasks and thus this identification will streamline occupational therapy assessment and treatment process.

(301) **Karin Marie Bundgaard, MSc. OT, Odense Denmark (September 2003)**

A Bit(e) of the Everyday: The meaning of Meals in the New Living for Elderly

Key words: meanings, meals, living units, everyday life, elderly, qualitative methods.

Bundgaard K.M. (2005); Meaning of everyday meals in living units for older people. JOS July 2005, vol.1, no. 2 pp.92-101

The **aim** of this qualitative study was to identify and interpret the experiences, values and meanings of the meals among a small group of elderly living in the new living units. Meals in this study include preparations and cleaning up besides the actual meal. Living units are a new way of organising nursing homes in Denmark. Data were collected through participant observation during mealtimes in one unit and by interviewing and analysed using a comparative and interpretative approach. The themes identified that *meals gave time and space for: a homely place, a lived community, being somebody and being yourself and for having valued doings*. The **conclusion** was that the way meals were arranged shaped most of everyday life in the unit. They gave room for everyday life by shaping a homely place and enabled a living community that acted in and put life to the everyday. Meals also made it possible to be somebody and to be yourself shaping your own reality in the everyday life and to have valued doings that gave substance to everyday life.

(207) **Christiana Mentrup, MSc. OT, Osnabrück Germany** (October 2002)

Comparing views of novice and competent occupational therapists on communication

Keywords Communication between client and therapist, occupational therapy in Germany, professional competence, Dreyfus Model of skill acquisition, focus group methodology.

In Germany the education of occupational therapists is still based on a professional college level. Recent changes in federal law, produced new curriculum developments. In the state of Lower Saxony, starting in August 2002, all subjects will encompass four large learning fields, one of them being 'communication'. The number of German publications in occupational therapy is increasing, but still somewhat limited; foreign literature is not often used. For the subjects related to 'communication in occupational therapy', the educators and practitioners both rely on publications from related professions, mainly psychology.

This qualitative study explores and compares the views of novice and competent occupational therapists on communication with individual clients when involved with occupation. Two focus group interviews were conducted with 6 novice and 9 competent occupational therapists. Analysis of the data, using a constant comparative approach, revealed the following themes: rule bound versus intuitive behaviour, neglect of occupation as a therapeutic agent, limited awareness of environmental factors, and shift of communication problems from client to colleagues. The findings lead to implications in the areas of curriculum development, fieldwork supervision, further education and research.

In the introduction of the study, a literature review and definitions are provided. In the reflection, the design, the findings and the methods are discussed and the relevance of the study is demonstrated.

(213) **Inger Wallenbert, MSc. OT, Västerås Sweden** (September 2002)

The dilemma of habits and routines in daily occupations

A study of reorganisation after stroke

Key words: Habits and routines, occupation, stroke, qualitative methods.

**Wallenbert I., Jonsson H. (2005); Waiting To Get Better: A Dilemma Regarding Habits in Daily Occupations After Stroke
AJOT 2005 vol.59 no.2 pp.218-224**

The **aim** of the study was to explore and describe peoples` experiences of habits and routines in daily occupations after a stroke. This study has a qualitative approach. Data was obtained through semi-structured interviews. The constant comparative method was used for data analysis. The themes that emerged out of the data mirror the processes of frustration, struggle and dilemma regarding habits and routines in daily occupations. The findings show that there was a lack of ability and automation of habits and routines in this post-stroke phase.

To manage in daily life there was a need for planning, thinking and reflecting when carrying- out an occupation. The participants had not adapted to their stroke by making any changes to theirs habits and routines in daily occupations. The conflict regarding adapting in this process reflects the fact of fear to be dependent on technical aids, adaptations and other people. There was a change of structure to people`s days as every day occupations took so much more time to perform than before and participants had less energy left for more enjoyable occupations. It was also found that few new habits and routines in daily occupations had been established.

The **findings** have implications how occupational therapists can guide and support people with stroke in the early post-stroke phase.

(212) **Kirsten Storminger, MSc. OT, Virum Denmark** (September 2002)

Characteristics of Meaningful Occupations of Children with disability

Aspects presented from the perspective of parents of children with disability

Key words: qualitative research, characteristics of occupations, client-centredness, special schools, children with disability and collaborative partnership.

Consumer satisfaction related to special needs education has an increased political interest, which has implications for applied services such as occupational therapy, too. This corresponds with the professions increased focus on a client-centred approach in assessment and intervention of occupational therapy services. This dissertation presents, in the form of an article and a reflective introduction and critique of work, a research into some of the characteristics of meaningful every-day occupations of children with disability experienced by their parents.

This qualitative comparative research **design**, using in-depth interviews with open-ended questions, had the aim of exploring and understanding, how parents experienced their childrens every-day occupations. A mixed convenience and purposive sampling strategy was used through which eight participants were recruited. The transcribed interviews were analysed using a qualitative com-paring method in combination with the process of coding. Criteria's of trustworthiness were applied through the process of research.

The **analysis** identified three main themes with subthemes as some of the characteristics of meaningful occupations of the child with disability experienced by the parents, 1) Learning to orchestrate one's own life.2) Participating in family life. 3) Mastering one's own life as a grown-up.

Implications of the findings underline the need for scrutinizing both occupational therapy assessment and intervention procedures as well as the process of collaboration with parents related to special needs education.

(211) **Tanja Stamm, MSc. OT, Vienna Austria**

(September 2002)

Occupational Balance of Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis in Austria: A Qualitative Study

Stamm T., Wright J. (2004); Occupational balance of women with rheumatoid arthritis in Austria; a qualitative study. *Musculoskeletal Care* 2004

Objective: Occupational balance has been advocated to be an important factor in maintaining health. Rheumatoid arthritis reduces functional ability and quality of life and may thus reduce occupational balance. The aim of this qualitative pilot study was to explore occupational balance in women who have rheumatoid arthritis.

Methods: Nine female patients with rheumatoid arthritis with past, but not current paid work experience, no other confounding neuro-motor disease and with disease duration ranging from 0.75 to 31 years (mean \pm SD: 49.1 \pm 10.7) were selected from an Austrian rheumatology outpatient clinic. Age range of the participants was from 28 to 68 years (mean \pm SD: 10.1 \pm 10.9). A semi-structured interview was conducted with each participant and transcribed verbatim. Data were analyzed by the constant comparative method from an occupational perspective.

Results: Three main categories emerged: The participants experienced a process of change (1) due to the rheumatoid arthritis which led from their initial situation of occupational balance to the current state. This new state was characterized by a certain level of ongoing instability (2) and changed levels of involvement in physical, mental, social and rest occupations. Overall, the new state of occupational balance was valued differently (3): either positively, indifferently or negatively.

Conclusion: Rheumatoid arthritis was found to have a considerable impact on occupational balance. The experience is not invariably seen as negative as previous literature would suggest. Further research should explore the longitudinal dimension of occupational balance in people with rheumatoid arthritis.

(210) Ton Satink, MSc. OT, Amsterdam the Netherlands (September 2002)

Daily occupations with or without pain

the influence of chronic low back pain on the creation of motives for occupational performance

Key words: Occupational Therapy, Chronic low back Pain, Motives for Occupations, Qualitative study, Narrative

Satink A.J.H.M., Winding K., Jonsson H. (2004); Daily Occupations with or without Pain. OTJR Fall 2004 vol.24 no.4 pp.1-7

Occupational therapists support patients with chronic low back pain during their adaptation process. Although we have access to an extensive source of information about this patient group, there is still a lack of understanding about their experiences. This thesis aims to explore and understand how life with chronic low back pain influenced the reasons for occupational performance. A narrative approach was used throughout the research and the data have been analysed with the constant comparative method. Three phases in the course of life with chronic low back pain are identified in which 'the self', 'the pain' and 'the environment' are interrelated elements that influence the creation of motives. Initially patients did want to meet social and personal expectancies, which led to an ignorance of the low back pain. Subsequently patients withdrew from occupations, which is an example of an occupational risk factor. During the different phases, participants become more conscious about the interrelating elements which finally results in more insight in their personal desires for engaging occupations and ongoing dilemmas: 'Engaging occupations with or without the pain' and 'Dealing with the environment'. The thesis shows how a narrative approach can help occupational therapists to gain a deeper understanding of patients' experiences and give new subjects for treatments for patients with chronic low back pain.

**(208) Marie-Theres Nieuwesteeg-Gutzwiller, MSc. OT, Biel Switzerland
(September 2002)**

Changing Occupation

Keywords Occupational performance, changes and losses in occupational performance, adaptation strategies, learning experience

**Nieuwesteeg-Gutzwiller M.T.(2003); Ein heraus fordernder Alltag.....
Veränderungender Handlungsfähigkeit bei Multiple Sklerose
(Changing Occupation).
NON review Ergotherapie 1/2003 Ergotherapeuten-Verband Schweiz**

The article and the reflective introduction and critique review present a research about changing occupation in persons suffering from a progressive neurological e.g. multiple sclerosis (MS). A qualitative research design, using the constant comparative method, was chosen to reveal the experience of persons suffering since a long time from diminishing occupational performance due to MS. Eight semi-structured interviews were conducted to elicit how the informants experienced changes in their occupational performance, what kind of changes occurred in their daily live and how they adapted to the demands of the environment. The findings show that changes in occupational performance are perceived as a slow process, lasting over years. The informants use as long as possible their usual repertoire of occupational pattern and adopt if necessary, mostly unconsciously, different adaptive strategies. Informants abandon occupations if their commitment in comparison with the benefit is out of balance. Different theoretical approaches about adaptation are explored and the effect of changing occupational performance upon the identity are discussed. Some theoretical approaches to occupation are argued as well as the impact of different languages upon the research process. Implications for occupational therapy practice are elicited as well as further research efforts.

(206) Isabel Margot Cattin, MSc. OT, Neuchatel Switzerland (September 2002)

Access technology and dementia care: influences in a secure unit

Keywords : dementia, access control technology, well-being, ethnographic methodology, hospital secure unit.

**Margot-Cattin Isabel and Louise Nygård (2006); Access technology and dementia care: Influences on residents' everyday lives in a secure unit
SJOT 2006 vol.13 no.2 pp.113-124**

**Margot-Cattin I.; L'influence de la technologie sur les personnes âgées ayant une démence.
NON review Ergotherapie 1/ 2003-30 Ergotherapeuten-Verband Schweiz**

As technology becomes more commonly used for assisting people with dementia and well-being is a field of concern for occupational therapy, there is a need to understand how individuals with dementia are influenced by an access control system in daily life. The aim of this study was to describe the influences of the technology on the occupational life of people with dementia in a specialized care secure unit. The staff members and the unit's inhabitants participated in the study, with 3 persons with dementia being followed more closely. Data were collected through observations and semi-structured interviews, and were analyzed by a comparative method. The detailed results show that conditions were necessary for influences to appear. But when they are present, the study showed that access control technology may be an aid for people with dementia's well-being and increased their opportunities to feel in place in the unit. Overall, the behaviours expressed by persons with dementia in relation to the technology's influences seem to indicate that even in a later stage of the disease, they retain abilities and resources.

(205) **Jet Lancée, MSc. OT, Heerlen the Netherlands** (September 2002)

Occupational therapy in adult physical rehabilitation in the Netherlands: Effect of changing demands

Key words: Changes in the health care sector, range of treatment offered, adult rehabilitation, focus group method, occupation.

Recent developments in health care, like demand-controlled care, affect the work of the occupational therapists. The range of treatment offered to clients has changed, as has the use of theoretical models. These changes highlight the need for clarification of key concepts, such as ‘occupation’ and ‘activity’ and meaningful activities in current practice. The aim of this qualitative study, based on focus group design was to describe how occupational therapists working in adult physical rehabilitation experience their work with respect to occupation in every day practice in the Netherlands and how their experiences relate to one of the core values in occupational therapy, namely use of occupations.

Ten professional occupational therapists working in different rehabilitation institutes participated in three focus group sessions. Semi-structured questions were used in every focus group session to clarify the question till saturation was reached.

The study reveals that the occupational therapist’s work is largely determined by a number of peripheral factors. These include multidisciplinary work and the use of occupational therapy models do not help to a clarification the occupational therapist’s position.

Results imply that perhaps occupational therapists should claim the areas of work and leisure as an integral part of their profession far more explicitly than currently do. The concept of ‘purposeful activity’ requires specification, as well as terms such as occupation activity.

Occupational therapy educators and professionals working in the field might need to define their position more explicitly with regard to the range of treatment offered and the adjustments that are required for the professional role of occupational therapists. It is proposed that occupational therapy needs to critically examine and renew its foundations in theory and practice.

(204) Mieke Le Granse, MSc. OT, Heerlen the Netherlands (September 2002)

Promoting autonomy of the long-term mentally ill client

Views and experiences of occupational therapists from the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium

Key words: Personal autonomy, long-term mentally ill client, occupational therapy, qualitative research.

**Granse le M., Kinébanian A, Josephsson S. (2006); Promoting Autonomy of the client with persistent mantal illness: a challenge for occupational therapist in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium
OT International 2006 vol.13 pp.142-159**

The **aim** of this qualitative study was to analyse how occupational therapists perceive the barriers that seem to exist with regard to client autonomy and how they try to promote the autonomy of clients in long-term mental health care. Sixty participants from the Netherlands, Germany and Dutch-speaking Belgium (or Flanders as it is also called), the majority of whom working in psychiatric hospitals, shared their views and personal experience by filling in two successive semi-structured questionnaires. A qualitative research design was chosen, employing content analysis by developing coded categories and subcategories. Credibility was examined by means of a pilot before sending out both questionnaires. Member checking took place by sending back a feedback report after analysis of the questionnaires.

The **findings** stress the importance of motivation of the client and the importance of encouraging and empowering the client in displaying initiative. The analysis of the information gathered also show that participants find it difficult to deal with and support unmotivated clients. In addition to such difficulties, the culture within the institutions and the norms and values upheld by society are considered to be the major barriers to the promotion of client autonomy.

The **analysis** of the data also shows that the participants hold different views with respect to the promotion of the long-term mentally ill client's autonomy as part of the intervention process. These different views indicate an increasing influence of the client, which finds expression in various strategies for promoting client autonomy, ranging from goal-setting by the occupational therapist to negotiating with the client and supporting and respecting the client's choices.

(203) **Hetty Fransen, MSc. OT, La Marsa Tunisia** (September 2002)

Mastering daily life occupations. Experience and meaning in two families of children with special needs

Key words: mastery, daily life occupations, families of children with special needs, qualitative methods, occupational therapy, adaptation.

This dissertation, in the form of an article and a reflective essay, presents a qualitative study on the lived experience of mastery in daily life occupations in families of children with special needs participating in mainstream education. An ethnographic design allowed an in-depth examination in two families that adapted successfully. Data were collected by several home-visits, using multiple data gathering strategies, with as main method narrative interviewing. Analysis was based in life-history and phenomenology to reveal and understand the experiences of mastery in the context of the unfolding family-lives. The reconstruction of the chronological life-stories provided insight in the process of mastering from the perspective of the families. Four constituents were essential for the experience of mastery to appear: 'achieving results', 'being able to act', 'perceiving a fit with the school environment' and 'experiencing well-being of all the members of the family'. Furthermore, mastering was analysed as a process of 'meaning-making', 'becoming an active agent' and 'timing'. Collaboration with the school environment was lived as essential. This study suggests occupational therapists to put emphasis on the well-being of the family and develop sensitivity to processes of mastering in everyday life occupations. Implications for occupational therapy and further research are discussed.

(202) Anne-Stina Dolva, MSc. OT, Lillehammer Norway (September 2002)

Functional performance in children with Down syndrome

Key words: 5-year old children, everyday life, PEDI

Dolva A.S., Coster, W., Lilja, M. (2004); Functional Performance in children with Down syndrom American Journal of Occupational Therapy AJOT 2004 vol.58 no.5 pp.621-629

Objectives. Functional performance in every day life occupations has rarely been described in children with Down syndrome. The purpose of this study was to explore and describe functional performance in 5-year-old children with Down syndrome (DS) from a parental perspective, to increase knowledge and from there to create more specific research questions.

Method. In a cross-sectional study, the functional performance of the population of 5 year-old children with DS in Norway (n=43) was described and analyzed within quantitative methodology. Functional performance was measured with the Norwegian translation of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI), a parental interview. Supplementary information related to health, disabilities and function was gathered in an additional questionnaire.

Results. Great variation in functional performance was found. The main foci of parents were language functioning and for the children not yet toilet trained, the management of bladder and bowel in relations to starting school. Functional performance in self-care activities seems to be disabling when fine motor skills are required. Functional performance in the mobility domain is not disabling, but there is a question of quality in performance. Of typical medical concerns such as heart, hearing and visual conditions, no significant findings indicate any effect on functional performance.

Conclusion. The considerable variability in functional performance in children with DS indicates a need for individualized intervention. This study suggests occupational therapists to address the foci and priorities of parents, to reduce a child's handicap situations in every day life. The study contributes evidence on the importance of having a family/client centred, top-down perspective on occupations in everyday life in research as well as in therapy.

(201) Marion Ammeraal, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands (September 2002)

The process of work reintegration for occupational therapy clients with a major depression, a qualitative approach

Key words: Work reintegration, occupational therapy, major depression, qualitative research

The amount of persons with depressive disorders that stop working and receive a disabled benefit is a large societal concern in the western countries. Occupational therapists support patients with depressive disorders to resume work. There is little knowledge on experiences of clients to successful work reintegration.

In this thesis the result of a qualitative study aimed to explore and understand the course of work reintegration for persons who participated in an occupational therapy program towards work resumption is described. Six participants, two years after their work resumption, were interviewed.

The **findings** are categorised in five themes, two related to work resumption: engagement in work tasks and engagement in work community and organisation, and three themes are related to work maintenance: knowing one's possibilities, knowing one's needs and knowing one's aims.

The findings contribute to a deeper knowledge about the process of work reintegration and have implications for occupational therapy practice: the importance of the actual doing, the meaning of fit, the importance of being an active agent and the dynamics of occupational balance.

The chosen qualitative design (semi structured interviews and a constant comparative analysis) proved to be a suitable method to understand how the reintegration process took place.

(105) Marie Cederfeldt, MSc. OT, Mölndal Sweden

(January 2002)

Occupational status of stroke inpatient as documented in patient's record

Key words: Documentation, occupational status, occupational therapy records, occupational performance, occupational areas, occupational aspects, constant comparison, stroke inpatients.

**Cederfeldt M., B. Lundgren Pierre, G. Sadlo (2003); Occupational Status as Documented in Records for Stroke Inpatients in Sweden
SJOT 2003 vol.10 no.2 pp.81-87**

The literature shows shortcomings in the documentation of occupational therapy in patient records, especially goal setting and evaluation at discharge. Modern society has adopted the language of medicine as a framework of organising all health service, and the law and regulations do not clearly define how to document goals or the evaluation of the interventions. Since occupational performance is the current concept in goal setting and evaluation of occupational therapy, the aim of this study was to obtain an understanding of how occupational performance is documented for stroke inpatients. Twenty occupational therapy records from stroke inpatients were analysed with the method of constant comparison. The result showed a general structure, an occupational status including time dimensions, occupational areas and aspects that occupational therapists documented regarding occupational performance in patient records. The time dimensions were pre-occupational status, occupational status and occupational status at discharge. The areas documented were personal care, meal preparation and transfer at home. The aspects in the occupational status were independence, difficulty, performance problem related to impairment, patient contribution, safety and physical environment. However, the result showed that occupational therapists regularly documented some occupational areas for this inpatient group and assessed occupational performance from six different perspectives.

(109) **Netta van 't Leven, MSc. OT, Rotterdam Netherlands (November 2001)**

Doing, being... In a nursing home- Environmental influences on occupational performance of elderly in a nursing home

Key words: elderly, nursing home, occupational therapy, qualitative study

Leven van 't N., Jonsson. H.(2002); Doing and Being in the Atmosphere of the doing: Environmental Influences on Occupational Performance in a Nursing Home. SJOT 2002 vol.9 no.4 pp.148-155

The **aim** of this study was to explore how elderly residents of a nursing home, with somatic diseases perceive supports and constraints of the nursing home-environment on their occupational performance. Environment means the physical, as well as the social and cultural environment. Interviews were conducted with ten residents in one nursing home. The constant comparative method was used for data-analysis. Three themes were found to describe the influence of the environment on occupational performance: having social contact with other residents, having the possibility to decide and feel control and continuation of one or more meaningful activities. According to meaningful activities this thesis showed that some persons need to continue performing such an activity themselves, others were not missing the doing as such, but being 'in the atmosphere of the doing' may fulfil the same need.

(115) **Marjan Stomph, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands** (October 2001)

Views of experienced occupational therapists on client-centred practise in the Netherlands- concern, competency and constraints

Key words: client-centred practice; compassion and competence to respond to the need of the client; barriers in client-centred practice; multi-strategies to discover the need of the client; interactive reasoning

**Stomph M. (2002); Client gericht werken, het ideaal en de praktijk. (Views of experienced occupational therapists on client centred practice in the Netherlands)
NON review NTET 2002 vol.30 no.6**

Client-centred practice is an international topic in health care and occupational therapy, which emerged from health promotion during the seventies.

In the Netherlands these changes in culture led to a demand-based system of health care. Within this changing culture The Dutch Association for Occupational Therapy took several actions to improve occupational therapy services, such as the implementation of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measurement (COPM).

This grounded theory study explored the understanding of occupational therapists of client-centred practice. The outcome concerns compassion and competence to respond to the need of the client, including strong desire to meet the need, multi-strategies to reveal the need, conditions that facilitate the discovery and barriers to the supply. Therapists seem skilled and motivated although there probably are shortcomings in knowledge and skills to remain focussed on the need of the client.

Central was new information about Dutch occupational therapy: therapists most concerned about their ability to respond and to discover clients' needs using multi-strategies, but often found many constraints to maintain the ideal of client-centred practice.

In the introduction to the study definitions, a review of the relevant literature is given. In the reflection design, the results and the method are discussed and also the relevance of the study.

(107) Sippie Formsma, MSc. OT, Groningen Netherlands (October 2001)

Identification of valued information by clients and team members of a Rheumatoid Hand Outpatient Clinic

Objective. The purpose of this study was to identify what information the medical team and the clients of a Rheumatoid Hand Outpatients Clinic expect from an Occupational Therapy Assessment.

Method. The method that was used had a qualitative semi-structured approach. The ICDH-2 classification was used as a framework for data-collection and data-analysis. Four team members and four clients of the Rheumatoid Hand Outpatients Clinic at the University Hospital of Groningen participated in semi-structured interviews to expose the information they expected from an Occupational Therapy assessment. Content analysis was used to analyse the data.

Results. Eight themes emerged after analysis of the interviews. Three themes were found on body functions and structures level; 'Experienced pain by the client', 'General condition of the client', and 'Anatomical situation of the hand'. Also three themes were found on the activities level; 'Using the hand within daily activities', 'Compensating strategies for daily functioning', and 'Accepting or coping with the situation'. On both the participation level and the contextual factors level one theme occurred; 'Participating in social environment', and 'Experienced influence of contextual factors'.

Conclusion. It can be concluded that it is important to look at the needs of both the clients and the team. They are equal participants in the decision process on the treatment policy to follow. Both have different demands and expectations towards information they value from an Occupational Therapy assessment.

(114) **Annika Sköld, MSc. OT, Uppsala Sweden** (September 2001)

Adaptation in young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia

Key words: Strategies, Occupational therapy, Integration

**Sköld, Annika, Staffan Josephsson, Ann-Christin Eliasson (2004); Performing Bimanual activities: The experiences of young persons with hemiplegic cerebral palsy
AJOT 2004 vol.58 no.4 pp.416-425**

This qualitative study examined adaptation in young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia from an occupational therapy perspective. 14 young persons were interviewed on their experiences of using alternative strategies in daily activities. Data was analysed by a comparative method. The findings show that adolescents and young persons with cerebral palsy hemiplegia use various strategies in order to handle practical problems related to the deficiency of their arm and hand. The choice of strategy is a balance between competing interests related to the wish to appear normal and the wish to solve problems in the most practical way. The situation of having a minor handicap in a society with high demands of integration accentuates the conflict. The discrepancy between the demands of the activity and the capability of the person on the one hand and the wish to appear normal on the other hand creates a tension upon which the person has to act. This action can be seen as adaptation to challenges in life. Occupational therapists have the possibility to intervene in this process in order to facilitate occupational performance.

(113) **Birgit Randløv, MSc. OT, Herning Denmark** (September 2001)

Participants' experiences in activity groups in a day care unit within mental health - a qualitative study

Key words: occupational therapy, group work, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, qualitative method

The **aim** of this study was to describe the participants' experiences of participating in occupations in activity groups on a daily basis. Data were obtained by non-participant, overt observations and open-ended, in-dept interviews. The data analysis method used was the Empirical Phenomenological Psychological (EPP) Method.

The main **findings** of the study demonstrated the following main constituents; (a) participants need for having a place to be competent in by doing, (b) to have space in occupations, and (c) to have space in one's daily life. Each main constituent consists of a number of sub-constituents.

Participating in activity groups in an occupational therapy setting seems to be an important part of providing an occupational space both within the setting and outside in one's daily life, and meet the participants' needs for having a place for being competent.

(112) **Barbara Piškur, MSc. OT, Ljubljana Slovenia** (September 2001)

Occupation and well-being: a study of some Slovenian people's experiences of engagement in occupation in relation to well-being

Key words: occupational therapy, occupation, well-being, qualitative method

Piskur B., Kinébanian A., Josephsson S. (2002); Occupation and well-being: a study of some Slovenian peoples experiences of engagement in occupation in relation to well-being. SJOT 2002 vol.9 no.2 pp.63-70

This study investigated some Slovenian people's experiences while being engaged in daily occupations in relation to well-being. No research was done in this area in Slovenia. To be able to better understand the needs of the potential clients knowledge about peoples' experiences is needed. In this qualitative study focus groups were used for data gathering including twenty-four Slovenian people from different part of the country. The findings have been structured around three central themes that came out of the analysis. The constitutes that describe the phenomena of the engagement in occupation in relation to well-being were: finding a balance between what feels good and what feels bad, experience a feeling of being on the top and meaning of occupation for social relationships. These themes show the general pattern for all the interviews.

(111) **Dick van der Pijl, MSc. OT, Hoensbroek Netherlands (September 2001)**

Validation of the assessment of communication and interaction skills (ACIS) in clients with intellectual disabilities in the Netherlands

Key words: Intellectual disability, communication, interaction, validation, the Netherlands, MOHO.

**Pijl van der D. (2002); Nederlandstalige versie van het Assessment of Communication and Interaction Skills' Validering van het instrument (Validation of the ACIS for the Netherlands)
NON review NTET 2002 vol.30 no.6**

The *aim* of this research was to do a validation study of the Assessment of Communication and Interaction Skills, ACIS. The study focused on the properties for use in the care for intellectually disabled clients in the Netherlands. In this paper research on reliability and construct and external validity is presented. The study was performed by training 25 Occupational Therapists and two Speech- Language Therapists who consequently rated three persons from videotapes in groups. Additional scores were obtained through the rating of two of their own clients. Inter rater reliability outcomes are good and construct validity expressed by Spearman's rho is also good. In an explorative factor analysis the scale structure could not be found so is likely that the ACIS is a unidimensional construct which means that the ACIS can be considered as one scale. Feasibility of use, expressed as practicability and process quality, is satisfactory and the instrument is easy to administer although a number of adaptation are needed. Based on recent views on communication and interaction processes the development of additional assessment instruments is recommended.

(110) **Brigitte Oberauer, MSc. OT, Valens Switzerland** (September 2001)

The relationship between occupational performance and life satisfaction

Key words: cerebrovascular disorders, subjective wellbeing, activities

**Oberauer. B.(2003); Am Anfang jeder Studie steht ein Problem... Über den Zusammenhang zwischen Handlungsfähigkeit und der Lebenszufriedenheit nach Schlaganfall
NON review Ergotherapie 1/2003 Ergotherapeuten-Verband Schweiz**

Optimum life satisfaction is increasingly acknowledged as a final aim in stroke rehabilitation. Occupational therapists pursue this goal by enabling occupations. There is little empirical research on the assumption that an occupational balance facilitates a satisfying life. The present study evaluated the relationship between occupational performance and life satisfaction in persons with stroke and considered especially the individual's perspective towards occupations.

Persons with first-ever stroke discharged 6 months earlier from four Swiss rehabilitation centres were surveyed by mail. Sixty-nine informants completed a life-satisfaction questionnaire, the Frenchay Activities Index about their occupational life-styles before and after stroke, and self-administered questions on demographic data and on the importance of domestic, leisure, outdoor and vocational occupations.

Gardening was the only activity significantly related to life satisfaction. Also subjectively valued occupational performance and stroke-caused change of occupational performance showed no significant correlation with life satisfaction.

Eventually persons with stroke do not spontaneously perceive occupational performance as a major determinant of life satisfaction. The solitary influence of gardening underlines the relative importance of enabling activities that are not related to self-maintenance and vocation. In-depth explorations of the experiences of people with stroke are recommended to better understand the surprising weak relationships of most occupations with life satisfaction.

(108) **Berit Hvalsøe, MSc. OT, Naestved Denmark** (September 2001)

Characteristics of meaningful occupations aspects seen from the perspective of long-term mentally ill people living in the community

Key words: characteristics of occupations, long-term mental illness, community setting, phenomenology

Hvalsøe B, and Josephsson S. (2003); Characteristics of Meaningful Occupations from the Perspective of Mentally ill People. SJOT 2003, vol.10 no.2 pp.61-71

In recent decades there has been a trend of integrating persons with mental illness in society. One goal in this process has been to support a satisfying everyday life for the individual. However there is limited research identifying what this group of persons experience as meaningful everyday occupations. The aim of the current phenomenological study was therefore to explore and understand the characteristics of the occupations experienced as meaningful, by eight long-term mentally ill living in the community. Informants participated in-dept individual interviews, inspired by a narrative approach. A modified form of Empirical, Phenomenological, Psychological method (EPP-method) were used to analyse and interpret the data. Validity was examined in relation to 'horizontal consistency' and peer debriefing.

Findings stress that characteristics of occupations experienced as meaningful, were closely related to feelings of being supported in living a life towards normality. And as creating a natural arena of social interaction facilitating the identity of the individual and the sense of well-being. Also the essential relation between creating meaning and coherence and the development of identity through engagement in meaningful occupations, were issues of discussion. And further the similarity of meaningful occupations with work or work related occupations, was addressed from a societal perspective.

(106) **Ramon Daniëls, MSc. OT, Amsterdam Netherlands** (September 2001)

Experiences of Occupational Therapists in Stroke Rehabilitation

Dilemmas of some occupational therapists in in-patient stroke rehabilitation

Key words: stroke rehabilitation, occupational therapy, qualitative method

Daniëls R, Winding K., Borell L. (2002); Experiences of occupational therapists in stroke rehabilitation. Dilemmas of some occupational Therapists in inpatient stroke rehabilitation. SJOT 200, vol.9 no.4 pp.167-175

The **aim** of this study was to explore and gain understanding of occupational therapists' experiences of therapy with patients in in-patient stroke rehabilitation, through the identification of their considerations for practice. Two focus group interviews were conducted. The considerations for actions were triggered by using a written case sample. The **analysis** of the study took a perspective of meaning interpretation to the statements of the occupational therapists. The meaning structure that arose was that occupational therapists experience dilemmas when they are considering their actions. Three dilemmas were named: 'focusing on adaptation while the patient is focused on recovery', 'being client-centred and protective in the same time' and 'setting meaningful goals in a institutional context'. From the three dilemmas it can be understood that setting meaningful goals in in-patient stroke rehabilitation is not easy to achieve for occupational therapists.

(104) Peter Bontje, MSc. OT, Kobe Japan

(September 2001)

Occupational Adaptation as Undertaken by Some Dutch Elderly Persons with Physical Disability

Key words: occupational adaptation, the Netherlands, elderly, occupation, occupational therapy, activity

Bontje P, Kinébanian.A, Josephsson. S. (2004); Occupational Adaptation as undertaken by some Dutch elderly persons with physical disability. AJOT 2004 vol.58 no.2 pp.140-149

**Bontje, P. A. Kinébanian, S. Josephsson, Y. Tamura (2005); Aanpassen van het handelen
NON review NTET 2005 vol.33 no.2**

This dissertation, in the form of an article and a reflective introduction and critique, presents a research into Dutch elderly persons' experiences with adapting occupations after acquiring physical disability. A qualitative research design, phenomenology, allowed for revealing new insights and understandings relevant to client-centred occupational therapy. Its aim was to describe occupational adaptation, tentatively defined as overcoming disabling influences to engagement in occupations. Unstructured interviews exploring life-worlds were conducted to elicit meaning from persons' experiences and to describe the essence of this phenomenon. Eight older independently living occupational therapy clients were recruited based on a mixed convenience and purposeful sampling method. This resulted in 11 hours of rich-in-information data. The analysis process, adapted from Giorgi (1985), consisted of identifying and describing meaning, and reflection and free imaginative variation resulted in a general structure describing the phenomenon. Occupational adaptation was found to be a non-linear cumulative undertaking in three phases. Three specific dimension described the meaning of occupational adaptation. These related to aversions to dependence, continuity with individual's life-course, and to the informants' environment. Implications for occupational therapy practice and theory specific to older persons are discussed.

(103) **Beatrice Bonnier, MSc. OT, Stockholm Sweden** (September 2001)

Effects of intervention based on constraint induced movement therapy in adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy- a day camp model

Key words: Adolescents, Hemiplegia, Constraint Induced Movement Therapy, Occupational Therapy

Bonnier, Beatrice, Ann-Christin Eliasson, Lena Krumlinde-Sundholm (2006); Effects of constraint-induced movement therapy in adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy: A day camp model
SJOT 2006 vol.13 no.1 pp.13-22

Eliasson, Ann-Christin, Beatrice Bonnier, Lena Krumlinde-Sundholm (2003); Clinical experience of constraint induced movement therapy in adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy—a day camp model
Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology 2003; vol.45 issue.5 pp.357-360

In Sweden, children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy commonly have contact with occupational therapists. However, as they reach adolescent years this contact is infrequent. If this, in actual fact, has to do with not needing intervention or if it has to do with therapists not finding forums for treatment can be contemplated upon. In an attempt to find an intervention form that can be applied with adolescents, a new form treatment has been introduced and employed. Nine adolescents with hemiplegic cerebral palsy between the ages 13-18 were enrolled at a 2-week day camp where intervention was given based on the concept of Constraint Induced Movement Therapy. This implied that they were restricted of using their dominant hand in various daily and recreational activities by wearing a glove-like restraining splint. The purpose of this study, based of theories of motor learning principles and the use of occupations acting as a therapeutic change agent, was to examine if restraining the dominant hand was an agent for increasing adolescents' hemiplegic hand function and occupational performance outcomes. Assessment intake took place before and after intervention as well as upon a 5-month follow-up. On the measured hand function parameters improvements were observed in speed dexterity, precision and manipulative abilities however non-significant results were observed in grip strength. The extent to which the motor skills impacted on daily activities as measured by the AMPS showed significant changes after intervention but did not sustain upon a 5 month follow-up. Occupational performance improvements were seen in Frisbee Golf, a recreational game that was played during intervention.

(102) **Gunnel Arvidsson, MSc. OT, Gothenburg Sweden** (September 2001)

Intellectually Handicapped Adults Experiences Using Time Aids One Year After Their Introduction

Key words: Intellectually Handicapped, Time Aids, autonomy, independence, phenomenography, Occupational Therapy.

Arvidsson, Gunnel and Hans Jonsson (2006); The impact of time aids on independence and autonomy in adults with developmental disabilities. *OT International* 2006 vol.13 no.3 pp.160-175

The **aim** of this thesis was to describe how Intellectually Handicapped adults experienced the use of Time Aids 1 year after their introduction by an Occupational Therapist. A historical view, paradigm shift and the new role for the Occupational Therapists, among other factors, are presented as being important to get a deeper understanding concerning the use of Time Aids in the present time. Data was obtained through semi structured interviews.

The **analysis** was performed using a phenomenographic qualitative approach. The phenomenons chosen were independence and autonomy. Results showed that independence and autonomy should be considered as 2 separate phenomenons. Four different relations between these 2 phenomenons were found. These implications indicate the importance to contextualise the use of Time Aid, as many different persons are involved during their introduction and follow-up. Concerning usability of Time Aids, knowledge, interest and motivation appeared to be the main factors to consider in a longer perspective. Occupational Therapists have to recognise the importance of frequent communication with the Intellectually Handicapped persons to understand the phenomenons around them. Based on the study, recommendations in prescribing Time Aids are proposed.

(101) **Mette Andresen, MSc. OT, Næstved Denmark** (September 2001)

Co-housing for Seniors Experienced as an Occupational Generative Environment

An explorative study about how well elderly living in co-housing for seniors in Denmark, experience their occupational choices and occupational performance

Key-words: occupational performance, occupational choice, well elderly, health promotion and disease prevention, social network.

Andresen M, Runge U, Co-housing for seniors – experienced as an occupational generative environment. SJOT 2002 vol.9 no.4 pp.156-166

Health promoting and disease preventive housing environments for the growing populations of elderly in Europe are issues of increasing political interest. A relatively new and popular trend in housing for the elderly in Denmark is co-housing for seniors. Little is known about the occupational, health promotion and disease preventive perspectives of this way of living.

The **aim** of this qualitative study was therefore to identify and explore experiences of occupational choices and occupational performance among well elderly living in co-housing for seniors and relate the findings to health promotion and disease prevention.

A semi-structured discussion guideline with three main topics - occupational environment, occupational performance and occupational choices were the basis for three focus group interviews, each with 6 participants. The analysis was performed by using a modified qualitative meaning condensing approach, and member-checks with the original focus groups.

The study demonstrated that participants see themselves as living in an environment which generates their occupational performance and choices and their feeling of autonomy. In general, they have the experience of their choices and performance as enabled or increased, they link this to their physical and social environment, and emphasise they have a strong social network. Some participants do point at experiences of occupational limitations in relation to either their physical or their social environment.

Implications of the findings for this way of living will be discussed from an occupational therapy and health promotion and disease prevention perspective.