

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

PRACTICE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 1
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NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 academic year began with semester 1 undergraduate orientation in the first week of September 2015. There are 30 students in Year 1 and they were welcomed to the first step on their journey to becoming an OT. As part of their orientation to the BSc (hons) OT degree they were given a presentation on the 4th September by the Acting Director of Practice Education, Aoife Carroll. This covered an overview of the expectations and requirements for the Practice Education component of the course. Returning students to Years 2, 3 & 4 were welcomed back after the summer break.

Practice Education Team:

Acting Director of Practice Education – Aoife Carroll.

Practice Tutors:

Shelley Mack – Cork Mental Health Services
Olivia Wall – PCC OT Cork Nth & Sth Lee, Adult Physical
Eoin Gorman – Cork/West Cork/Waterford
Aisling Carroll – Cork Acute Services/Kerry
Dervla Kennedy – Southeast Services
Alma Worrall - Cork Paediatrics
Miriam O Tuathaigh – Cork Acute Services

Practice Ed Administrator – 2 days per week

Student Placement Dates For This Year:

We would very much welcome offers to facilitate students for Practice

1st Year students, from 11th April - 22nd April 2016 (2 weeks)

We would welcome offers from any area of practice. Ideally, in pairs

2nd Year students, from 4th April - 27th May 2016 (8 weeks)

Require practice in Paediatric /Young Persons settings

3rd Year students, from 11th January - 18th March 2016 (10 weeks)

Require practice in Adult/Older Adult setting

4th Year students, from 26th September- 2nd December 2016 (10 weeks)

We would welcome offers from any area of practice

DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE EDUCATION

CORU

CORU is Ireland's multi-profession health regulator and was set up under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005. Its role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals. A panel from CORU visited the OSOT Department from the 7th- 9th of October 2015 to meet with a range of stakeholders involved in the UCC undergraduate OT course. We would like to take this opportunity to especially thank practice educators and managers for meeting with the panel and for sharing their experiences.

The CORU panel were particularly interested in the Practice Education aspects of the programme. We are pleased to announce that the panel spoke very positively about the current practice education structure and the progress of students across the 4 year programme. They were particularly impressed with the lifespan approach of the course and commented on the diverse range of services provided for student experiences. They remarked how wonderful it was that the programme is so occupation focused. A formal report will be received within 30 days of their visit. Following this, a recommendation will be made to the Board before a final decision is reached. Preliminary verbal feedback would indicate a very positive response.

NATIONAL CPD DAY

2015 CPD Day on Practice in Occupational Therapy: Sharing Best Practice and Research – was hosted by NUI Galway on the 7th October. UCC was well represented with three Practice Tutors in attendance. Two tutors presented. Olivia Wall presented on 'A hand hygiene initiative for UCC students' and Shelley Mack presented on 'A graded approach to pre and post Practice Education across the 4 years of the UCC BSc OT programme.

Inside this issue:

- Report on Practice Educator workshop
- HSElanD Practice Education on-line module
- Cork 'falls prevention' programme being developed specifically for persons with dementia

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

We are delighted to Congratulate Ellen Coakley a final year student on being honoured as the recipient of the NUI Dr H H Stewart Medical Scholarship award. Only one occupational therapy student in Ireland receives this reward every year. Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Literary and Medical Scholarships and Prizes are among the oldest awards to be offered for competition by the NUI.

RESOURCES & TOOLS



PRACTICE EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

We are happy to announce the resumption of our practice educator workshops. A two day Practice Educator workshop was held at UCC on the 16th & 17th September. 24 people attended. This was a foundation level workshop covering introduction to the OT curriculum at UCC. The workshop addressed topics such as tasks required on practice, supervision styles, how to give effective feedback to students and managing challenging situations. It provided an opportunity for a Practice Educator and a recently graduated student to share their experiences of practice education. A question and answer forum allowed participants to discuss their views and opinions.

Feedback was very positive. Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to a very successful day. Please keep an eye out for future workshop dates.

HSE LanD ON-LINE PRACTICE EDUCATION COURSE

Who is this for?

Practice educators - those planning to work with students for the first time or wishing to update or refresh on particular aspects.

What is involved?

An initial feasibility study with wide ranging consultation was completed in 2010. In summary, it was concluded that the majority of therapists who participated in the study had a preference for an easy to use practice education course, taking no more than 12 hours to complete, and requiring basic computer skills and limited computer access.

The course is self-directed and the modules may be taken in any order according to needs and preferences. Participation may be tailored to suit the time available, it can be accessed at any time and material can be saved and returned to at a later date. The course may be accessed via any device with an internet connection that can access HSELanD.

Log into www.hseland.ie. Find the tab under the hub of "Health and Social Care Professions".

There are 5 modules: 1. Education

- 2. Supervision
- 3. Assessment/evaluation
- 4. Professional practice competencies
- 5. Management & administration competencies

BEING AN EDUCATOR

Ode to the student

The Occupational Therapy Department in BGH opened in August 2007. In the Autumn of 2008, the first of many students arrived. Over the years, I have been a Practice Educator for 3rd and 4th year students. I enjoy having students on placement because they bring enthusiasm and a desire for learning. This service centres around acute stroke and physical rehabilitation. The demographic is the older age population with a few exceptions. In my experience, I have noticed that the students bring a fresh perspective and energy with new ideas for interventions. I have witnessed the positive impact that the students' presence has upon the patients who thrive on being part of a mutual learning experience. I try to impart as much knowledge as possible in helping the students to develop "skilled eyes" as a new therapist. I would encourage anyone to facilitate students as I have found it to be a rewarding experience.

Cindy Bennett, Senior Occupational Therapist, Bantry General Hospital, Bantry, Co. Cork

SHARE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA

Becoming a Dementia Champion

Working as an OT in a busy Primary Care network it can be difficult to see beyond the long waiting lists at times! As with many others the network that I am working in has a large older population with a very high level of falls. As part of my role I am currently facilitating a "Falls Prevention" group and working as part of the Community Rehabilitation and Support Team (CR&ST). Persons with dementia or cognitive impairment are not eligible for these services and I feel that this is a gap in the service.

In September I commenced the "Person Centred Dementia Care" professional development module facilitated through Dublin City University and the Mercy University Hospital. This module is blended between class time and online learning with funding provided by the HSE. The main assessment of this module is to implement a change project for people with dementia. Reflecting on my practice above I have decided to commence a "falls prevention" programme specifically for persons with dementia. There is global evidence to support this work but very little from an Irish context. My aim is to ensure the falls prevention information is dementia-friendly and to involve family and carers. The project is currently a work in progress as the module finishes in December and it is my hope to roll out the project in the New Year.

Triona Twomey. PCC OT Cork South.

RECOMMENDED READING

JOURNAL ARTICLE

What makes a quality Occupational Therapy practice placement? – Students' and practice educators' perspectives.

By, Sylvia Rodger, Cate Fitzgerald, Wendy Davila, Frances Millar and Heather Allison

Australian Occupational Therapy Journal (2011) 58, 195-20

BOOK

Recovery through Activity – Increasing Participation in Everyday Life. By, Sue Parkinson (2014)