

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science

PRACTICE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 6
April 2018



Department Update:

The AOTI Re-accreditation of the programme took place on the 21st & 22nd March. A two-day consultation took place in the OT Department. Representatives from the Practice Education team inclusive of OT Managers, Practice Educators, Practice Tutors and students had the opportunity to share details of the practice curriculum. We await their recommendations.

We are delighted to announce the expansion of the School of Clinical Therapies to include two new post graduate programmes: Physiotherapy and Radiography; both expecting their first student intake in September 2018.

Invite: You are welcome to attend the Year 4 Research Poster Presentation & Student Prize giving on Thursday the 17th May at 3.30pm in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC. Refreshments will be available. We would love to see you there.

Practice Education Team:

Acting Director of Practice Education – Aoife Carroll.
Practice Education Administrator – Eimear Keohane

Practice Tutors:

Shelley Mack (on leave) – Cork Mental Health Services
John Hastings – Cork/West Cork/Kerry
Miriam O'Tuathaigh – Cork Acute Services
Dervla Kennedy – Kilkenny/Tipperary/Wexford
Elizabeth Kennedy – Cork Nth & South Lee
TBC – Waterford/Dungarvan
Website: www.ucc.ie/en/ot/

Planning Ahead - Upcoming Student Placement Dates:

Many thanks to those of you who facilitated students in the past year and for your ongoing commitment to the development of the profession.

We would very much welcome offers to facilitate students for Practice in 2018/19:

4th Year students, from 1st Oct – 7th Dec 2018 (10 weeks)
We would welcome offers from any area of practice.

3rd Year students, from 7th Jan – 15th March 2019 (10 weeks)

Locum Practice Tutors:

Two temporary practice tutors have been recruited to support the Year 1 & 2 practice placements.

Aisling Carroll – practicetutorucc@gmail.com

Sinead Moynihan – sineadmpracticetutor@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENTS IN PRACTICE EDUCATION

Year 1 Preparation for Practice has been changed to include 6x 2hr sessions over the course of the term in addition to one full day prior to practice placement. The reason for this is to integrate practice across the semester allowing students to make links between academic teaching and clinical placement and prevent information saturation immediately prior to practice. Furthermore, the CBF assessment form for the Year 1 practice has been modified to make it more compatible to the shorter two-week practice making it less time consuming to complete.

OTPEN/PECNet: The national Occupational Therapy Practice Education Network (OTPEN) have been meeting regularly over the past two years to share ideas and look at possible joint research options. The Office of Health and Social Care have approved funding for the following two projects:

- A. To recommend a national framework for incentivising and credentialing health and social care professional managers, practice tutors, regional placement facilitators and practice educators.
- B. To develop a national quality framework for practice education systems for health and social care professionals.

Other News: Award for Occupational Therapist:

In December 2017 Occupational Therapist, Leona Moynihan & Social Worker, Conor Crowley from South Lee Mental Health Services, along with the Blackrock Hall Men's group, were the joint winners of the 2017 Health Management Institute Leaders Award

A short, two-part film project, *"Personal Journeys of Stigma and Recovery"* was written and produced by the men's social group within the Blackrock/Mahon adult mental health services. Over the course of 2016/2017 men's stories from personal experiences of stigma, to the resilience and strength gained through the recovery process were documented. The films provide an excellent insight into how the individual copes with his everyday mental health struggles. Since its inception, the film project has been very warmly received by a number of forums such as local carer's support groups, Hearing Voices groups and the UCC Critical Voices conference. The project has also been highly commended by the 2017 HSE Excellence Awards panel.



Picture: Year 3 students engaged in Post Practice reflections

Inside this issue:

Library resource update

OT & Physio positions in Emergency Department (pilot).

Book: Models in Practice

RESOURCES & TOOLS

We are delighted to advise that the *UpToDate* point-of-care clinical reference resource is now available through the library service.

About *UpToDate*:

UpToDate is an evidence-based, physician-authored reference tool to help answer clinical questions and improve patient care. *UpToDate* includes:

- evidence-based medical content that is researched, created, and continually updated by expert physicians
- summaries and treatment recommendations for over 10,500 topics in 23 specialties
- "Practice Changing UpDates" highlighting critical research that changes how you treat patients today
- "What's New" summaries of important new findings by specialty
- medical calculators
- patient information covering over 1,500 topics
- a drug database of more than 5,600 unique drug entries including adult, and paediatric drugs and a drug interactions tool that provides graded drug interactions information

UpToDate is available via your OpenAthens account and via mobile app. HSE LIBRARY website: <http://www.hselibrary.ie/>

Mandatory Requirements for Practice Educators and students:

It is now necessary for all students going out on practice to complete the Children First HSEland module <http://childrenfirst.hseland.ie>.

Prior to practice students are also required to familiarise themselves with the Trust in Care policy

https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hrppg/trust_in_care.html

BEING AN EDUCATOR

I work in the Occupational Therapy department in North Cork Mental Health Services based in St Stephens Hospital, Sarsfield Court, Glanmire. For me being a Practice Educator means teaching skills in the profession I enjoy working in. I love to share my own knowledge but also equally love it when I get students who are full of ideas, creativity and desire to learn.

I find many students have hidden talents and are shy to share them. When on placement in mental health they are encouraged to bring these talents to the fore in a meaningful and purposeful way; to use them as part of therapeutic interventions with clients. By sharing their musical, sporting or artistic talents, they can promote wellness with more ease for those they work with. It can assist to give students confidence if using familiar hobbies as skills to aid clients in their therapeutic pathway.

I feel very privileged to be an educator to be able to provide a resource for our OT's of the future. For me I would never have become an educator a number of years ago only for the encouragement and support of my previous OT manager and the Practice Tutor Shelley Mack. Since then, I have never looked back and have continuously offered student placements.

David Walsh, Senior Occupational Therapist, North Cork Mental Health Service.

SHARE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Since January 2017, there has been a full time OT and Physio service to the Emergency Department in University Hospital Waterford on a pilot basis, funded by winter initiative money. Since mid-2017 there has also been a Social Worker in post. The main aim of the OT service is the following: to assess a patient's functional and cognitive capacity, their ability to carry out their ADLs, assessment of home environment and need for aids/adaptive equipment and supports, provide education to patient and families, refer to appropriate services and D/C planning. Our main aim is for people to be discharged directly home and if this is not possible early referral to the ward is key.

This pilot programme has proven very successful with the approval of a fulltime senior post being granted recently. Understandably the nursing staff and medical team were initially unsure as to our role but with time they have come to understand and greatly appreciate the service. I personally feel very fortunate for the opportunity to work in such an upcoming area which is fast-paced, dynamic and rewarding, with every day offering something (or someone!) new and challenging. I am currently facilitating a third year UCC student, who is thoroughly enjoying the area and learning a lot. As a member of the Dementia Special Interest Group my current endeavour is to increase awareness and use of the, 'This is Me' tool in the department to gain information on what a person with dementia likes & dislikes so we can better understand and care for them. This initiative is developing successfully with many more exciting changes to come including further liaison with WICOP (Waterford Integrated Care for Older People) and an ANP (Advanced Nurse Practitioner) for frailty.

Eimear Kealey, Basic Grade Occupational Therapist, University Hospital Waterford.

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RECOMMENDED READING

JOURNAL ARTICLE: Olivia M. Wall, Maura P. Smiddy, (2017) "[Factors that influence hand hygiene practice amongst occupational therapy students](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOT-02-2017-0009)", Irish Journal of Occupational Therapy, Vol. 45 Issue: 2, pp.112-122, <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOT-02-2017-0009>

BOOK: Using Occupational Therapy Modules in Practice – A Field guide: Merrill Turpin & Michael K. Iwama (2011) Churchill Livingstone Elsevier

