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(See below-referenced readings on my web page)

Introduction: AOTF/AOTA articulated a Research Agenda for the next decade (AOTF/AOTA, 2009). The Agenda identifies **intervention, translational & health services research** to be of “**paramount importance**”. My research is concentrated in **intervention**. The long term goal is to conduct comparative effectiveness research. To do this, it is necessary to define, describe & categorize what the therapist actually does in providing therapy (Rogers, 2009; 2010). The collective works of Gordon (2009), Hart (2010), Heinemann (2008), Whyte & Hart (2008), etc., provide the underlying rationale for my line of research.

Schultz - Two Lines of Inter-Related Research

Line #1. Develop and test a tool to define & describe the nature and characteristics of what therapists actually do in providing therapy, i.e., the **active ingredients** of OT intervention. These ingredients will identify therapists’ actions, methods, specific interventions & therapeutic use of self. The tool will be developed/refined in everyday practice settings.

Benefit: This research will provide data on the unique contributions of occupational therapy in everyday practice settings. It will provide a tool to monitor interventions, improve practice and conduct comparative effectiveness research.

Line #2. Develop and test interventions for everyday practice that are evidence based & driven by OT theory. These interventions will be developed into **manualized treatment protocols**. Protocols will be tested for feasibility, examined for fidelity, and then assessed in everyday practice settings. The protocols will emphasize what therapists do to help client/patients become more adaptive, self-directed, and improve occupational performance. Protocols will be driven by the Theory of Occupational Adaptation (Schultz, 2008) and relevant population-specific treatment techniques.

Benefit: This research will generate OT- theory based interventions for common practice settings and set the stage for comparative effectiveness research between interventions.

Schultz - Current Research Activity on Line #1 & Line #2

Line #1. The OT-Cinical Improvement Measure, version 1.0, was presented at the 11/2009 Mountain Central Occupational Therapy Conference. A group of 14 expert-level therapists critiqued the tool at a 4-hour workshop. Five PhD students participated in the development and presentation of the tool. The tool was also critiqued by K. Ottenbacher, J. Rogers, & T. Mallinson (serving as expert panel members). Two PhD students are co-writers on an initial manuscript - slated for submission Fall/2010.

Available student projects – participate in the next stage of development & testing of the OT-CIM. Appropriate settings (populations) are:

- a. Inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation & home health (neuro-cognitive rehab/psychosocial)
- b. ECI/pediatric/schools (developmental delay/psychosocial)

Line #2. Manualized Protocols – The OA/Emotional Behavior Disorder Model was piloted and theory-tested over three semesters in an elementary school. It has been presented at numerous national conferences and was the basis for an *OT Practice* CE article (Schultz, 2003). The North Carolina Dept. of Ed. sponsored a six-hour workshop on the OA/EBD Model (11/2009) - 250 school-based therapists attended. The Model is ready for development into a set of manualized protocols.

Available student projects – participate in the development of manualized protocol-driven interventions. Appropriate settings (populations) are:

- a. Inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation & home health (neuro-cognitive rehab/psychosocial)
- b. ECI/pediatric/schools (developmental delay/psychosocial)