

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT**

Report of Education Enhancement Grant awarded to Susan Effgen, PT, PhD, for the 2009-2010 academic year.

In the fall 2009 contacts were made with Gladys Cheing, PhD, Associate Professor, and Director of Clinical Education at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in Hong Kong. Dr. Cheing indicated that an exchange program between our universities would be the most beneficial. She would hope that PolyU students could come to Kentucky for in-depth physical therapy (PT) clinical experiences and that our PT students could go to Hong Kong. Over the next several months options to have that exchange were investigated. Apparently there is no way international students can obtain a visa to come to the US for just comprehensive clinical experiences. They can come to observe, but not participate in clinical practice. After months of investigation, an apparent option was found involving a formal student exchange program that would enable the Hong Kong students to obtain an Exchange Visitor Visa (J visa). Only then was a trip to Hong Kong initiated to further study the options for both universities. Therefore this trip was completed in the fall 2010 semester instead of the spring 2010.

The US has a long history of allowing international students to study in the US; however, students must be accepted to the university and must plan to matriculate as full time students. Then they can obtain a J visa. Given that information, discussions were had with the PolyU and UK faculty regarding having their students come to UK as full time PT students for a semester. The semester would involve the typical classroom and clinical course work for their students.

PolyU had previously investigated this option with other US PT programs but the obstacle was that those programs could not accept the PolyU students since those universities required an undergraduate degree for acceptance. That should not be an issue at UK since many of our PT students enter the PT program as undergraduates and we do not require a degree for acceptance. Also, the PT students are accepted directly by the College of Health Sciences which also decreases the logistics required for acceptance. None the less, the acceptance and visa process will be time consuming.

Given that the significant barrier to having PolyU students come to the US can be addressed, the issue of sending UK students to Hong Kong was addressed. The UK Medical Center Student Exchange contract was shared with the PolyU faculty, including the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences chair, Alice Jones, PhD; director of Physical Therapy, Margaret Mak, PhD; and the directors of Clinical Education Gladys Cheing, PhD, Associate Professor, and Sharon Tsang Man Ha, BS, MS. After reviewing the contract, they did not believe there would be any significant problems with it. They wished to have us sign our contract and send it to them for processing through their university. With this report hopefully the process of getting the agreement signed by UK authorities will be initiated.

During discussions both UK and PolyU faculty agreed that they would assist the students in obtaining housing, but would not provide or guarantee housing, as outlined in the contract.

PolyU has a very nice, new student dormitory that would be appropriate for the UK students. Dr. Effgen toured that facility and it will certainly meet the students' needs. The only problem might be getting a room for portions of a semester since the UK students will probably not be on the exact PolyU calendar.

Also discussed was the need for both UK and PolyU students to have their own health insurance. PolyU students have many international clinical experiences and they already have identified international health insurance carriers. We will need to investigate whether UK has specific requirements regarding health insurance.

To make this program work, the students would be exchange students. That is two students from UK and two students from PolyU would be exchanged for a semester as outlined in the contract. There would be no tuition required by either set of students as this would be an even exchange. They would be responsible for paying their home university tuition. The UK document outlines the specifics involved in such arrangements. The UK Physical Therapy Program faculty would have the PolyU students for a semester, probably the winter of the 3rd year, which includes course work in January and February followed by course work in clinical education. The UK students could also be included in PolyU course work, but the main focus would be clinical education course work done at the out-patient PolyU Rehabilitation Clinic: http://www.rehabclinic.org/clinic_eng.asp

Outcomes of the Objectives identified in the grant application are as follows:

Objective 1

The University of Kentucky, Division of Physical Therapy will establish relationships with at least two clinical teaching sites in Hong Kong.

Activities

Dr. Effgen initiated email correspondence with clinical sites recommended by faculty at PolyU and Hong Kong Child Assessment Services to explore appropriateness of settings, expertise of staff and interest and willingness to accept UK students. The clinical facility at PolyU has been identified as the best location for the students' clinical experiences. English is used by all clinic staff and in all written communications. The vast majority of the patients speak English. The Child Assessment center will probably not be a good placement since Chinese is the primary language of most of the children and families. This site would welcome any UK student who spoke Chinese (knowledge of written Chinese would not be required).

Another option to consider is the out-patient rehabilitation facility at the School of Physical Therapy at Mahidol University Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Effgen toured that facility and apparently the faculty would welcome consideration of UK students for clinical placement. Language would be an issue with patients, but the Thai PTs seemed to think that those barriers could be overcome and that the patients would welcome an international student. The medical staffs all speak English and I believe the medical records are in English.

Objective 2

Dr. Effgen will examine sites and choose those which exhibit characteristics consistent with excellence in physical therapy practice as defined by the current Guide to Physical Therapist Practice.

Activities

Dr. Effgen traveled to Hong Kong and visited with staff at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hong Kong Child Assessment Services in November 2010. As noted above, out-patient clinical facility at PolyU would be the most appropriate placement for our students.

Objective 3

Appropriate housing options will be identified.

Activities

The PolyU dormitory was visited. It is suitable housing for UK students in Hong Kong. There are cooking areas on each floor and a comprehensive cafeteria in the building which serves both Asian and Western foods. Students pay a very reasonable price per meal (purchase of a meal plan is not required).

Objective 3

Hong Kong pediatric clinical instructors will attend a continuing education course on evidence based practice in pediatric physical therapy.

Activities

Several pediatric continuing education courses had already been planned in Hong Kong in October and November. Instead of presenting in Hong Kong, Dr. Effgen was invited to give a presentation to the pediatric physical and occupational therapy community in Bangkok, Thailand at the School of Physical Therapy at Mahidol University. The presentation was on the *Evolution of Pediatric Physical Therapy*.

Objective 4

One or two students in the DPT Class of 2011 will participate in a clinical education course in Hong Kong.

Activities

Drs. Effgen, English and Simpson will meet with the students to explain this unique clinical experience and the logistics involved in this experience. Students will be provided with reading material regarding Chinese culture, the Hong Kong health care system, and Hong Kong physical therapy practice. The exchange would not occur until all the contracts are signed and time allowed for planning for this exchange.

Objective 5

Students participating in the clinical course in Hong Kong will use a Blackboard site created for the course to participate in a discussion with classmates and instructors concerning their experience.

Activities

Instructor will create a blackboard shell with assignments to facilitate the discussion described above.

Objective 6

At the completion of the course, students will demonstrate integration of knowledge and skills including comparison/contrast of the US and Hong Kong healthcare system and physical therapy practice.

Activities

Students will give a presentation and paper as assigned during their clinical experience.

Student learning outcomes:

UK students selected for the Hong Kong internship opportunity will:

1. Complete a pre-clinical survey identifying knowledge about topics to be explored during the international internship.
2. Complete a written assignment based on required readings to broaden the student's knowledge of the Chinese culture, Hong Kong health care system and physical therapy practice.
3. After participation in this diverse cultural and clinical experience, the students will present this information to students and faculty upon their return.

Measurement: Project success will be measured by

- 1) success in establishing the collaborative relationship with quality clinical sites,
- 2) students select to participate in the Hong Kong clinical education experience,
- 3) grading of the student's written project and the presentation based on criteria/rubric established by the instructor,
- 4) student evaluation of the clinical experience, and
- 5) Hong Kong Clinical Instructor evaluation of the experience.

Main contacts at PolyU:

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