

**CSOS and SSO:USA Joint Occupational Science
Pre-Conference Institute**

MULTI-SITE RESEARCH ON OCCUPATION

**October 14, 2010
University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada
1:00 – 5:00 pm**

The purpose of this Institute is to learn about the methods, outcomes, challenges, and joys of conducting multi-site research on occupation. Three teams of occupational scientists will report on their multi-site research projects. The Institute will begin with a brief overview of the definition of multi-site research and followed by the presentations of each team. There will be time for discussion after each team's presentation and for a general question and answer period at the end of the Institute. The projects are as follows

**Exploring Occupations of People with Hand Osteoarthritis (HOA) –
A European Qualitative Multi-Site Study**

Birgit Prodinger, PhD Cand., MSc, OTR

Vienna Medical University, Department of Internal Medicine III, Division of Rheumatology,
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Tanja A. Stamm, Ass. Prof., PhD, Dr. Hum. Biol. MSc, MBA, Mag. Phil., OTR

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The aim of our study was to achieve a broad understanding of concepts related to occupations important to people with HOA in five European countries (Stamm et al. 2009). A qualitative multi-site study was conducted using focus group technique as a method for data collection in Austria, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and United Kingdom. The qualitative data analysis followed a modified form of 'meaning condensation' and was theoretically guided by the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The concepts which revealed in the analysis of the data were compared with instruments which are currently recommended for measuring functioning in HOA (Stamm et al. 2006).

In the frame of the Institute presentation, we will reflect on the qualitative, multi-site character of this study and the challenges we experienced in initiating and conducting this study. Furthermore, our reflections will refer to issues as well as opportunities related to language and translation throughout data collection and analysis; to findings related to occupations of people with HOA that were common across countries, and findings that were specific to a national context, and the potential of using an international framework such as the ICF in a multi-site study.

Stamm, T., Geyh, S., Cieza, A., Machold, K., Kollerits, B., Kloppenburg, M., Smolen, J. & Stucki, G. (2006). Measuring functioning in patients with hand osteoarthritis - content comparison of questionnaires based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 45(12), 1534-1541. doi: kel133 [pii] 10.1093/rheumatology/kel133

Stamm, T., van der Giesen, F., Thorstensson, C., Steen, E., Birrell, F., Bauernfeind, B., Marshall, N., Proding, B., Machold, K., Smolen, J. & Kloppenburg, M. (2009). Patient perspective of hand osteoarthritis in relation to concepts covered by instruments measuring functioning: a qualitative European multicentre study. *Annals of Rheumatic Diseases*, 68(9), 1453-1460. doi: ard.2008.096776 [pii] 10.1136/ard.2008.096776

Other Team Members

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Pragmatic Challenges and Theoretical Questions Arising from Multi-Site Research
The Well Elderly Study II

Jeanne Jackson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Associate Professor, Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

The Well Elderly II study at the University of Southern California offered the research team an opportunity to grapple with the benefits and challenges of conducting multisite research. The purpose of this presentation is to address the pragmatic challenges and theoretical questions that arise when research requires the use of multiple sites. First, we will briefly review the Well Elderly research study and findings with a particular focus on the magnitude of a project this size. Second, we will describe challenges with respect to cultural diversity and therapist participant matching, as well as our successful and unsuccessful solutions. Finally, the presenters and the audience will explore theoretical questions such as: Which theoretical perspectives provide us the most useful lens for grappling with the concept of multi-ethnicity? How is the notion of multi-ethnicity framed within occupational science and occupational therapy and should it be more nuanced by examining the intersection of class, neighborhood and local culture? What are the limitations of clinical trials in producing the information needed to build occupational science knowledge? As a group we will enter a discussion that furthers theory and research in Occupational Science. This institute will include a combination of presentation and discussion.

Other Team Members

Florence Clark, PhD	Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
Jeanne Jackson, PhD	Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy
Stanley P. Azen, PhD	Preventive Medicine, Biostatistics
Chih-Ping Chou, PhD	Preventive Medicine
Barbara Cherry, PhD	Cognitive Psychology
Maryalice Jordan-Marsh, PhD	Nursing
Brett White, MD	Family Medicine
Douglas Granger, PhD	Psychology /Salimetrics, Pennsylvania State University
Robert Knight, PhD	Psychology
Michael Carlson, PhD	Social Psychology
Deborah Mandel, MA	Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
Jeanine Blanchard, MA	Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Respecting Regional Culture in an International Multi-Site Study: Methods of the Elder Women's Food Preparation Study

Doris Pierce, PhD

Endowed Chair in Occupational Therapy, Eastern Kentucky University, Department of Occupational Therapy

Valerie Wright St. Clair, PhD

Senior Lecturer, Auckland University of Technology, School of Occupational Therapy

International, multi-site studies of occupations promise benefits to occupational science that include the development of: a) theories that are informed by multicultural perspectives, thereby transcending the Western origins of occupational science, b) richer theoretical understandings of occupation in context, and c) effective methods of collaborative international analysis that minimizes inter-cultural bias. Although disciplines disagree as to whether cross-cultural research is appropriate, some sciences have created sophisticated methods for internationally comparative research.

The International Study of Elder Women's Celebratory Food Preparation was completed in three regions: urban Auckland, rural Chiangmai, and rural Kentucky. In each location, three groups of older women participated in a focus group discussion of preparing regional celebratory food for Christmas or Thai New Year. The presentation will focus on the research group's original refinement of the derived etic approach (Berry, 1989), which depends on collaborative analysis by regional teams. The seven descriptive themes, as they were expressed in variation across the three sites, will be briefly described to illustrate the study's methods.

The challenges of internationally collaborative research included: language and communication, research and work style differences, multiple institutional reviews, equalizing financial support, managing large amounts of data, and the need for team travel. These challenges were well worth the benefits, which included: high contrast data, theoretically complex results, fresh discoveries, development of new methods, testing boundaries and assumptions of occupational science, multiple shared publications, and building international relationships.

Other Team Members

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REGISTRATION: \$65.00 USD per person includes round trip transportation to and from the Ivey Spencer Leadership Conference Center at the University of Western Ontario, refreshments, and Institute materials.

TRANSPORTATION: Only one 24-person continuous shuttle will be providing transportation between the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre and London Hall at the University of Western Ontario. We therefore ask that you plan ahead and arrive well before the Institute begins. Transportation before the Institute will start at 11:30am, so if you arrive early there will be plenty of time to explore the university campus. Transportation after the Institute will run until 6:30pm.