

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ROLE OPPORTUNITIES IN PRIMARY CARE: AN INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION

Category: Population Health/Primary Health Care

Catherine Donnelly¹, Leanne LeClair⁴, Pamela Wener⁴, Carri Hand², Carolynne White⁵, Lori Letts³
¹Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, ²Western University, London, Ontario, Canada,
³McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, ⁴University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada, ⁵Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Victoria, Canada

Learning Objectives: Countries around the world are moving toward team-based interprofessional primary care that includes occupational therapists. International perspectives can enhance occupational therapy practice in this area. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Describe core features of primary care in international contexts.
2. Articulate how to apply occupational therapy practice models within a primary care context.
3. Describe unique roles for occupational therapy in primary care and apply assessment and intervention strategies, with an emphasis on health promotion and chronic disease management/prevention.
4. Identify key evidence-informed resources to inform primary care occupational therapy.

Description of teaching methods: Active learning strategies will be employed including: pair and share, small and large group discussion and case based learning. Focusing on an international perspective, presenters will invite participants to share their perspectives while exploring how primary care principles and processes can be combined with occupational therapy models to enable the community participation of individuals and groups who are at risk of or experience disability and illness. Evidence-informed resources will be described and integrated into case-study examples that illustrate the application of occupational therapy practice processes and enabling strategies into a primary care context. Participants will be introduced to the Do-Live-Well, an occupation-based health promotion framework that can be used to support primary care interventions. The workshop will highlight how the primary care context creates unique opportunities for practicing occupational therapy to full scope.