

Educational Research: The Road to Excellence
Educational Leadership Conference
October 5-7, 2007
Minneapolis, MN

**Educational Research:
The Road to Excellence**

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EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2007
American Physical Therapy Association
Education Section
Minneapolis, MN
October 5 - 7, 2007

Objectives

- Discuss approaches to developing educational research
- Provide examples for successful funding in educational research
- Discuss example strategies for successful scholarship in educational research

**Educational Research in
Physical Therapy**

Where do we **want** to go?
Where do we **need** to go?

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Growth and Development of Educational Research in Physical Therapy



- Route 66 or the interstate freeway system??



What is.....

- Growing number of contributions to the literature in educational research across journals
- Generated around **thematic areas**
- APTA Educational Research Agenda (2003)

Education Research Agenda

American Physical Therapy Association
Education Division, 2003

- **Diverse and engaged participants (#1)**
 - What factors are associated with student learning, development, and performance and quality academic teaching?
- **Connected program requirements (#2)**
 - What is the minimal expected set of knowledge, skills and behaviors that all graduates should have upon program completion? (PT/PTA)

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Education Research Agenda
American Physical Therapy Association
Education Division, 2003

- **Interactive teaching and learning (#3)**
 - What are the valid/reliable tools for measurement of student learning and performance of the expected set of knowledge, skills, and behaviors? (PT/PTA)
- **Diverse and Engaged Participants (#4,5)**
 - What are the most effective methods for ongoing assessment of _____ (eg, curriculum, quality instruction, academic faculty, clinical faculty, student learning, development and performance, faculty learning, development and performance)?
 - How do clinical education models (eg, internship, integrated, self-contained) influence student learning, development and performance?

Education Research Agenda
American Physical Therapy Association
Education Division, 2003

- **Adequate Resources (item#36)**
 - What strategies are effective in the recruitment and retention of a diverse student population?

Content Areas/Journal of Physical Therapy Education (1987-2003)
(Domholdt, Siefert, Graham, Ritzline, 2003)

- **Teaching/learning methods**
- **Clinical education**
- **Curriculum**
- **Practice and employment issues**
- **School admissions**
- **Critical thinking/decision making**

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American Educational Research Association (AERA)
Division I (Education in the Professions): *Agenda
for Professions Education Research/Core Areas (1980s)*

- Student selection/admissions to professional education
- Student learning and development
- Faculty development and evaluation
- Competence assessment and professional accountability
- Continuing professional education
- Social influences on educational policy

Research in Medical Education

(Regehr, 2004)

- Curriculum and teaching issues
- Skills/attitudes – structure of profession
- Characteristics of medical students
- Evaluation/assessment issues

Community-level Reflective Practice

(Regehr, 2004)

- Knowledge-building in a community of scholars
- Difference between scholars who are working on the same topic and
- Scholars who are working together on a shared goal

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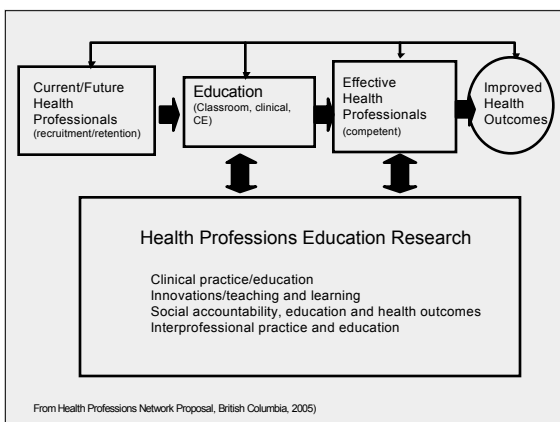
Community level consensus
directions – variety of sources

- Political institutions
- Funding agencies
- Like-minded groups of researchers from a community of practice

Challenges

(Regehr, 2004; Norman 2002; Sullivan 2005)

- Need to link education to OUTCOMES
- Purpose of education: competent professionals meet societal need –favorable health outcomes



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What could be....

- Can we move from a thematic view to programmatic view?
- What would it take?

Key Leadership Steps for Change

(Kotter, 1996)

- Sense of **urgency**
- Clear **vision/strategy**
- **Committed** to a vision for change
- Empowered for **broad-based action**
- Generate **short term wins**

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Need to think critically, reflectively... beyond our comfort zone -- ourselves and our profession...

I believe the field of education in the professions has an obligation to itself and the broader community to be less parochial, less centripetal in its orientation and more concerned with linkages between what it does and the broader range of educational, psychological, and behavioral science questions... Engage in the particular and the general...
Shulman, 1986

Research Networking

- Collections of interconnected people sharing a common focus
- Networks facilitate:
 - Collaborative research
 - Enable training programs
 - Share protocols
 - Standardize data collection/analysis

Dream big – National Center for Health Professions Education Research

(Wartman, O'Sullivan, 2004)

- Health care as a team sport
- Integrative – horizontally driven educational research approach across all health professions
- Funded by % of R and D fund
 - Basic research
 - Translational research
 - Applied/Clinical
 - Systems research

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Discussion Questions

- How do you build on the strategies you discussed for the local department/school/clinic level?
- What areas are most critical for demonstrating that health professions education is effective and results contributing to health outcomes?
- What strategies could be used to build research networks and fund educational research for physical therapy?
- What strategies could be used to build research networks in educational research across health professions?
