

## ISWP Competency Subcommittee

### November 1st, 2017 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Competency Subcommittee met by conference call on Wednesday, November 1st, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. U. S. Eastern Time. This provides a recap.

**Meeting Recording Link:** <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/posvofj7w3j5/>

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 6th, 2017 at 11:00 am U.S. EST.

### Discussion

**1. Alex Miles' Dissertation related to Mentoring:** Alex Miles gave an overview of her Ph.D. dissertation work related to mentoring. Elsje Scheffler asked what the university research committee requirements are in terms of consent from participants (mentors and mentees) in various aspects of the service. Alex explained that the process was submitted to an IRB. Elsje explained further that participation in focus groups, for example, have specific requirements in other university contexts.

The nature of the topic is not sensitive, so participants can provide verbal consent. We also requested to use previous quality assurance data from previous programs (satisfaction surveys to make sure program is up to standards), and that was also approved.

Make sure everyone is clear on what is used for research and what is part of the mentoring program in general. Because it is action research and evaluation, constantly reiterating on approach. Anytime interact with mentors – say they can stop at any time. All scripts have been approved by university ethics committee. Because of nature of topic, do not have to obtain signatures. All data is de-aggregated; no personal data is included in the analysis.

**2. Phase 1 Mentoring Pilot – Mentors' Feedback:** Dietlind presented an update on the mentoring pilot phase 1 to the subcommittee. The overview of the mentoring pilot is that the program will help improve participants' skills to better assess for, prescribe and fit wheelchairs and postural support devices for intermediate level postural problems and will prepare intermediate service providers to pass the skills component of ISWP Wheelchair Service Provision Intermediate Test (2 case study submissions).

Phase 1 pilot had 12 participants representing Tanzania, Kenya, India, Pakistan and Mexico. The three mentors are Sue Fry, Dietlind Gretschel and Elsje Scheffler, all from South Africa with support from ISWP central team.

As a first step, the mentees' had to submit one case study which will then be scored by the mentors. The mentees' receive feedback on the submitted case studies and they then prepare the case study presentations. The case study presentations were an opportunity for the mentees to reflect on what they had learned from the mentors' feedback, in preparation to present their case studies, and to participate in peer review.

After the case study presentations, tutor or mentoring sessions were held. The goal was to improve the clinical application of theoretical knowledge and clinical reasoning and problem-solving ability of the mentees as the mentors felt that these skills generally come with practice and guidance.

After the case study presentation sessions, there were 10 tutor sessions, 2 hours each, and mentors covered the following topics:

- Observing unsupported sitting posture
- Pelvis and hip posture screen
- Temporary supports
- Hand simulation
- Prescription of PSDs
- Fitting

The tutor sessions were led by one mentor and all the mentees were invited to attend.

- In each of the sessions, the mentors discussed the given topic in depth by:
  - Providing explanations
  - Discussing common errors and misperceptions which we have picked up when reviewing the case studies submitted for the mentoring programme
  - Share and discuss case studies and examples to highlight errors and good practice
  - Practice skills such as posture drawings, PSD drawings, prescription of PSDs
  - Answer questions from the group

The mentors shared some of the highlights of their recommendations:

### Lecture prep and classroom style

- Keep number of documents referred to / uploaded to the minimum.
- Mentors to send pdf notes of the presentations in advance (at least 3 days in advance) so that mentees have a reference if their audio / visual connectivity drops.
- Mentees should have printed copies of the blank assessment, prescription and fitting forms to refer to and make notes on.

### Preparation for the mentors

- See: <https://helpx.adobe.com/adobe-connect/using/topics/adobe-connect-meeting.html>
- Screening tool: <https://helpx.adobe.com/adobe-connect/using/sharing-content-meeting.html>
- First session needs to be 20 min longer to allow for introductions, agreement on classroom conduct, function and use of tools, questions on process.
- Use the 'Pointer' during the presentation to reference easily.

### Duration of sessions

- A duration of no more than two hours is recommended per on-line presentation session.

### Classroom conduct

- Keep microphones muted to minimize noise levels.
- Switch on microphones for questions/discussions – 'raise hand' to speak to avoid more than one at a time trying to contribute.
- Type yes/no responses and brainstorm suggestions in the chat window.

The presentation is attached along with this email. Phase 2 mentors will provide feedback during December 6th call.

### 3. Brief updates from ISWP

- **Mentoring Pilot:** Ten (10) of the Phase 1 mentees will move on to Phase 2; 4 mentees will be new mentees. We have received case studies from all 14 mentees'. There will be two mentors. Sue asked why there are only two mentors since each person will be responsible for mentoring 7 mentees. Krithika explained that of 4 prospective mentors, two passed the requirements to be a mentor. A planning call with Phase 1 and Phase 2 mentors took place on November 1, preceding the Competency Subcommittee call.
- **ISWP Wheelchair Service Provision Basic Test:** The test is now available in 14 languages: Albanian, Arabic, English, French, Lao, Hindi, Mandarin, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian,

Romanian, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese. 2,126 Basic Test takers as of October 31 with 70% pass rate.

- **ISWP Wheelchair Service Provision Intermediate Test:**

**a. Knowledge Test** 254 test takers with 63% as the pass rate. 36 Spanish test takers with 13% pass rate. The feedback received from the intermediate Spanish test is being reviewed by the subject matter expert.

**b. Skills Test:** For English, 14 case studies from 9 test takers have been submitted so far. No case studies have been received yet for Spanish.

**4. Subcommittee Terms of Reference (ToR):** During October meeting, ToR were finalized, which were attached to the e-mail with the November meeting agenda.

**5. New Members:** Subcommittee welcomed two new members: Haleluya Moshi, a physiotherapist, is from Tanzania who works at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC). He has done basic and intermediate wheelchair service provision with a focus on spinal cord injury. He also is a Ph.D. student at University of Sweden, with a goal to complete in early 2019.

Maureen Story is both a physical and occupational therapist from Vancouver, Canada, who works at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children. She also chairs the International Seating Symposium in Vancouver (being held in March 2018). Maureen works on the position mobility team. She has done some research but mostly is clinical. Sunny Hill has done some mentoring but sees value in doing worldwide.

**Participants** *(check mark indicates participation on call)*

- ✓ Sue Fry, Motivation Africa  
Sarah Frost, Motivation UK
- ✓ Dietlind Gretschel, Rehab Lab (chair)  
Patience Mutiti, Motivation Africa  
Charles Kanyi, Motivation Africa
- ✓ Haleluya Moshi, KCMC
- ✓ Maureen Story, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children  
Megan Giljam, Shonaquip  
Catherine Ellens, Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children  
Sharon Sutherland, Consultant
- ✓ Elsje Scheffler, DARE Consult  
Nekram Upadhyay, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre
- ✓ Alex Miles, University of Pittsburgh (co-chair)



- ✓ Mary Goldberg, University of Pittsburgh
- Jon Pearlman, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Nancy Augustine, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Krithika Kandavel, University of Pittsburgh

Prepared by: Nancy Augustine and Krithika Kandavel