

Evaluation Methods

Written and/or practical tests are used to evaluate student' performance at the end of each course throughout the training period. A pass mark of 50% must be obtained in each test in order for the student to proceed with studies.

Towards the end of the training course, each student will undergo six clinical assessments. It is required that the student should obtain not less than 50% in each assessment in order to be eligible to sit for the final examination which consists of two, three-hour written papers.

Throughout the course, students' attitudes, behaviour, attendance and participation is monitored.

Course Monitoring

At all times, feedback from students, supervisors and lecturers is received and utilised to develop the training course and review the curriculum to meet the changing needs in a developing country.

Teaching staff continue to upgrade their knowledge and skills by participating in inter-sectoral activities attending courses and workshops.

Rehabilitation Assistants at Work

Work Placements

The training course aims to prepare Rehabilitation Assistants to work at district positions, they are responsible for the complete rehabilitation of clients in hospital and at home in the surrounding community.

Job description

Rehabilitation Assistants work under intermittent supervision from therapists. Their duties include:

- assessment and treatment of clients in hospital and at home.
- provision of appropriate aids, equipment and appliances.
- education of other health personnel, community workers, family members and the disabled about rehabilitation and disability.
- liaison and referral to other health professionals and organisations involved in rehabilitation.

Awareness Campaign

This campaign is to be initiated in order to establish contact with physiotherapists in other countries in Africa. Namibia and Uganda are in the process of submitting applications for WCPT membership and it is hoped that other countries will follow suit.

*Dorcas Madzivire
President WCPT-Africa*

WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY 1995

The 12th International Congress of the WCPT to be hosted by the American Physical Therapy Association, will be held June 25-30, 1995 in Washington, DC, USA. A Call for Papers will go out to WCPT member countries in early 1993. Additional information on registration, exhibiting and logistics will also be available early in 1993.
The 1995 Congress theme is: **Dimensions of Excellence.**

OBITUARY

PATRICIA CUMPSTY

Pat Cumpsty, Senior Physiotherapist, Department of Physiotherapy, Red Cross Children's Hospital, died on Friday 14 August 1992. Although ill for 18 months, she continued working and treating her patients as if there was nothing untoward.

Pat joined the Developmental Clinic, Child Health Unit, in the 1970s and was one of the founder members of the Unit. She dedicated her life to the well being of the handicapped child, having a

mentally handicapped son herself. A firm believer in team work, she maintained high standards and included parents at all stages of diagnosis and treatment. Her unique manner endeared her to children and even the most resistant of patients. As one of the doyennes of neuro-developmental therapy in Cape Town her particular interest was in the development of community based rehabilitation. She made regular trips to Worcester and East London, where her expertise was greatly sought after.

I had the privilege of working with Pat for the past six years during which time she taught me much about physiotherapy, children and life in general.

Three weeks before she died she wrote a brief talk for the NDT Conference at Vista Nova. In this she expressed her philosophy of care and we print this in her memory.

"Throughout the ages the dolphin has been regarded as benign, playful and helpful and he has, from time to time, been said to rescue folk from dangerous, often life-threatening, situations. With his acute awareness of, and sensitivity to his environment, and with his great speed and strength he has been able to respond amazingly quickly to signs of distress.

Consider a man who, in fear of his life, is thrashing about in the water, sending vibrations in all directions. On picking up these vibrations the dolphin moves swiftly to the drowning man and, using his other attributes, eg intelligence, sensitivity to touch and contact, strength and speed, does whatever he deems necessary to save this life.

One of the documented accounts of rescues tells of feeling firm, beating movements of a fin on the man's back and the sudden realisation that this was an attempt at postural drainage - and it was working. When his lungs were clear enough he was able to collaborate with the dolphin and strike out in the direction in which he was being directed.

The dolphin creates a swell from his head to tail, diving under the victim so that he or she is lifted on the little wave and carried towards the target. In this case the target was the coast and the man struck out with renewed energy and a sense of wonderment that a dolphin was capable of such planning and adaptation to circumstance.

Watchers on the shore put out a small boat and came into the calmer waters to get him, and he was safe.

It was not, one thinks, the dolphin's immediate concern that there were watchers on the shore. His prime aim seemed to be to bring a drowning man to an environment in which he could receive the care he needed then.

This analogy is made between therapist and dolphin in their supportive roles. The dolphin uses closeness without actually touching to save a drowning person. Similarly our skills can be provided to assist the child or patient out of trouble in a way which is supportive but never complete or dominating. We form part of a team of professionals and non-professionals who themselves must be considered as full and capable contributors within that small facet of the overall problem which is their area of expertise."

Pat also liked to quote Albert Camus, when he said:

"Don't walk ahead, I may not follow.

Don't walk behind, I may not lead.

Just walk beside me and be my friend."

Peter Lachman

Consultant, Developmental & Assessment Clinic

Red Cross Children's Hospital

The Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town, would like to set up a fund in Pat Cumpsty's memory. The money will be used to sponsor physiotherapists to travel to peri-urban and rural areas to treat patients in the community.

If you would like to contribute to this fund please make out your cheque to: The Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UCT and send to: Mrs Margaret Whiting, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Red Cross Hospital, Rondebosch 7700.