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Achieving quality occupational therapy practice: Enhancing your thinking and critical review skills

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Background

High quality occupational therapy practice is dependent on the availability of high quality research and knowledge. This is accessible via publication. Critical review skills are essential to the publication process. This leads to the availability of information that clinicians can use in practice. Therefore, all members of the occupational therapy profession have a role to play in contributing to this process.

Aim/Purpose

The aim of this workshop is to assist participants to develop skills in the review process and give participants hands-on experience in reviewing articles.

Method

The workshop will include: a discussion of the thinking a critical review skills needed to evaluate papers submitted for publication, a review of the manuscript submission requirements for the Australian Occupational Therapy Journal - AOTJ (including manuscript Central), activities to help participants gain or increase skills in critical review, and tips on how to provide constructive feedback when reviewing an article. These activities will be targeted towards participants with limited experience.

Discussion

The goals of AOTJ include producing a high quality, peer-reviewed journal to disseminate high quality research that can be applied to practice. The AOTJ also communicates occupational therapy research in an international and interdisciplinary arena. To achieve this the AOTJ is dependent on contributions made by reviewers that determine the quality of what appears in the journal.

Conclusion

Scholarly writing is an important medium to stimulate new thinking on a topic, challenge practice and promote change and the advancement of professional knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

- - Skills in reading and evaluating a research manuscript submitted for publication
- - Identification of strengths and weaknesses of the content of submissions
- - Increased confidence in using Manuscript Central
- - Greater awareness of the role that the AOTJ plays in the development of the OT profession through the publication of research evidence.