Countries working toward PT regulation: China - A Case Study

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WHO Action Plan 2014-2021

• Basic facts:
  ➢ More than 1 billion people with a disability – 15% of the world’s population
  ➢ Disability disproportionately affects women, older people, and poor people

• Three goals:
  ➢ To remove barriers and improve access
  ➢ To strengthen and extend services and programs
  ➢ To strengthen data collection and research across countries
Progress Made

February 2017 World Health Assembly – Geneva, Switzerland

Rehabilitation 2030: A Call For Action

- **Awareness**: Strengthen Rehabilitation in health systems to meet existing and future needs of populations
- **Rehabilitation Strategies**: Across WHO strategies in achieving SDG Goal #3
- **In-Country Models**: Country implementation as a window and a mirror for all countries.
Interlocking MATRIX: Four Pillars

- **Competence** is at the core of the four pillars interacting to ensure safe delivery of care.
- Is the care provider **competent**?
- How can we ensure individual **competence**?
- What are the standards?
- How can we get there?
China: An In-Country Model

Background information
“Healthy China 2030” Planning Outline

National Health

Focus on the Grass-roots

Strengthen early rehabilitation intervention

Play the core role of traditional Chinese medicine

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Rehabilitation Challenge For Chronic Diseases and Aging

◆ At present, the population aged 60 and above is over 200 million and the population of the elderly will exceed 300 million by 2030.

◆ The population of people with chronic disease is over 260 million, accounting for 86.6% of the death toll.

◆ In 2015, the economic loss of chronic diseases in China reached more than 550 billion U.S. dollars.


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Demands of rehabilitative service across lifespan
China: An In-Country Model

Rehabilitation service
Rehabilitation Service System

Health System
- Rehabilitation medical specialist of general hospital 4000;
- Rehabilitation specialist hospital;
- Community based rehabilitation center

Civil Administration System
- Rehabilitation welfare institution;
  - Welfare Homes;
  - Nursing Homes;
  - Orphan asylum

Peoples’ Insurance System
- Work injury rehabilitation center

Disabled Persons’ Federation System
- China rehabilitation research center;
- China rehabilitation science Institute;
- China disabled aids center;
- Disabled rehabilitation center (30);
Medical Rehabilitation Hierarchy With Two-way Referral and Upper and Lower Linkage

Rehabilitation hospital /secondary general hospital

Rehabilitation medicine of large general hospital

Acute phase of Disease
- Early intervention

Stable phase of Disease
- Specialized treatment

Convalescence phase of Disease
- Professional guidance, Self-Management strategy, popular science education

Community based health service institution
Community Based Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation Facilities have been Built
  - 39639

- Develop Community Based Rehabilitation
  - 947 municipal districts, 2015 counties

- Community Rehabilitation Personnel
  - 454,065 Community Rehabilitation Coordinators, 351026 of whom were trained

"2016 Statistical Yearbook of China’s disabled cause-community rehabilitation"
Demands of rehabilitative therapists

- Physiotherapy is not a licensed profession in China
- Survey in 2009
  - 14 thousands rehabilitative therapists (1/100,000)

- According to international standard: 8/100,000
  - Short of hundreds thousands (>350,000)

http://www.ieduww.com/z/gkxx/153672/
China: An In-Country Model

Education related to rehabilitation therapy
Educational Pathways

4-Year Bachelor degree “Rehabilitation therapy” (80)

3-year vocational diploma “Rehabilitation therapy” (160)

4-year Bachelor degree Sports Rehabilitation (6)

2018 – Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Program (6000 graduates/year)

2018- Teaching quality standards for undergraduate programs published.
WCPT & WFOT Accredited program

• West China clinical medical college of Sichuan University
• Kunming Medical University
• Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
• Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
• Capital Medical University
Challenge of WCPT Accreditation....

• Cost
• Qualified faculty
• Qualified clinicians in the clinical environment to support clinical rotations/education
• Is this scalable? At what rate?
• How will other countries with less resources achieve this minimal standard?
China: An In-Country Model

Qualification of physical therapists
Standardized and specialized training in therapists

- **Chinese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (CARM)**
  - Plan on team construction of rehabilitation therapists in 2019
    - Role competence standard: connect with education and service
  - PT qualification certification evaluation expert committee (PTQCEEC)
    - Established in 2014, 28 committee members
    - Drafted “temporary methods of qualification certification of Physical Therapists in China”
The challenge:

• Problem 1:
  • Non-differentiated education for Rehab therapists (PT/OT/ST)
  • All the rehabilitative therapists “could” be PT/OT or ST based on hospital need
  • Many therapists have not participated in CSDLM exam organized by WCPT
  • Not practical to only validate PT qualification by WCPT (can’t be approved by China health department)
Possible solution:

- Help promote discipline differentiation between PT and OT
- Organize post-graduation standard training in China for both faculty and graduates
- Provide advice for unified national qualification test by professional committee
China: An In-Country Model

A Unique Challenge
WCPT accredited programs

• Continued growth of accredited programs
Increased need for qualified supervision
Augmenting the basic education....
Enhancing the Curriculum
Health Care Evolution
UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP ALLOWS DU TO HELP CHINA WITH NEED FOR REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS

By Rose Ravasio, A390

With China’s booming population aging and living longer, the nation is experiencing a critical need for health care professionals who specialize in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

The John G. Rangos School of Health Sciences, through its partnership with the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SHUTCM), is hosting 14 health care professionals from China who are taking classes as part of a unique program designed to help them specialize in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

The arrangement was developed with backing from the Chinese government, and Duquesne is the only American university involved in such an arrangement.

“In many of China’s universities and medical schools, they only have a rehabilitation school or department, and what they offer is more comprehensive treatment, rather than a specialty like physical therapy or occupational therapy,” explains Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology Dr. Yang Chen, who worked with Rangos Dean Dr. Greg Frazer to develop the program. “Now, there is a big need for rehab, but they don’t have enough manpower to fill that need.”

Through the partnership, the SHUTCM sends eligible Chinese health care professionals to Duquesne to earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation sciences with concentrations in either physical therapy or occupational therapy.

“In China, they want to add specialties to their...
“Hosting 14 Chinese health care professionals....
To fill the urgent demand of high-level physical
therapists and occupational therapists in
China...”
International collaboration- “Localized training”

Professor Alice Jones
International collaboration- “Post professional clinical training”

Dr. Lilian Chen  
Dr. Joseph Godges  
Dr. Michael Wong
USC Orthopaedic Residency and Spine Fellowship

- 39 - 40 weeks of Real time clinical mentoring
- 11 weeks of Education modules built upon Clinical Practice Guidelines
Clinical Practice Guidelines Application...
Clinical Testing - Clinical Practice Guidelines
Technology driven guideline implementation
Powerful impact... with significant limitations

• Sphere of impact is difficult to scale
• Short term influence may not have long term effect
Influx of Continuing education

Anatomy Trains for Manual Therapists

¥ 4500

May 26 – 28, 2017
Beijing, China

This course is intended for Manual Therapists.
Powerful influx of new knowledge...

- But whom is this knowledge for?
Common participants in continuing education

- Physiotherapist
- Personal trainer
- Surgeon
- TCM doctor
If everyone learns about Rehabilitation...

• Which profession will ultimately be defined as the specialist in Rehabilitation?

Physiotherapist?

Personal Trainer?

Physician?
A critical moment...

• Establishing Physiotherapy as a government recognized specialist in rehabilitation

• Carefully defining and defending the scope of Physiotherapy practice in China

• Supporting curricular development in emerging PT programs in China
  • With an achievable pathway to accreditation

• Self-policing who can attend rehabilitation related continuing education
The struggle of Physiotherapy clinical practice...

• A lack of clear direction to the profession of choice for Neuromusculoskeletal care

• Competition with well established cultural norms for musculoskeletal care
  • Massage
  • Reflexology
  • Acupuncture
  • Herbal medicine
Key thoughts:

• Recognition that PT needs to be a regulated profession for public safety
• Development of standards for practice and education
  • Accepting standards from outside China
  • China creating its own set of standards and processes
  • Or both
• All current attempts have limited scalability
Regulation can bring about systemic change!

Systemic Change

- Organisation
- Teams
- Individuals

Not just Teams!
How can we help PT become a regulated profession in China?

• Working with PT Qualification Certification Evaluation Expert Committee (PTQCEEC)
• Establishing a Government Health Policy that recognizes the role of the Physiotherapy profession
• Establishing a Professional Physiotherapy Association to represent the practitioners in the country and on the world stage
• Adopting matrix thinking to effect system change
• INPTRA member nations can provide technical assistance
Comments? Questions? Thank you!

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