

CP Population: Future Research in the Field of Orthotic Management

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Past/Current Issues

- Research Design/Methodology
 - Orthotist “Visibly” Absent from Research Team
 - Orthotic/Prosthetic Education Level
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Research Design/Methodology

- ❑ Limited RCT (this is the obvious)
 - ❑ Greater deficit: Majority of existing orthotics research is not reproducible
 - ❑ Inclusion criteria is too broad
 - “Children with CP...as if this was a homogeneous population” R. Bowers
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Research Design/Methodology

- Orthotic Intervention (details limited)
 - Alignment (Shank angle to floor, ankle angle of AFO)
 - Foot plate length
 - Distal aspect of lateral/medial wall of AFO
 - Material Stiffness
 - Standardized shoe-wear
 - Standardized fabrication
 - Terminology
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Orthotist's Absence from Research Team

- ❑ Need for more orthotist to perform research
 - ❑ Research team needs to be more purposeful and intentional about including orthotist at the methodology and design level (not just fabrication)
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What Can Be Done (Is being done?)

Education!!

US O&P Schools (Currently)

Entry-level Bachelors

- B Sci. O&P
- Post-baccalaureate certificate
- Master's in O&P

Curriculum

- Research Methods taught in all schools (most schools require submission of research proposal)

Residency

- One year residency (each discipline)
 - Directed study required
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Entry-level Master's

- 2010 (new schools)
 - 2012 (existing schools)
 - Curriculum
 - Increased research
 - EBP
 - Rehabilitation science
 - Behavioral sciences
 - Neuroscience
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Increased Opportunities for Funded Research within O&P Profession

OPERF

- Awards from \$1000-\$25,000
 - Research
 - Fellowship
 - Resident
 - The Center for O&P Learning & Evidence-Based Practice
 - Awards \$8000
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Thank You
