

Community Tree: Addressing Social and Structural Determinants of Health through a Community of Learning Cases

Dawn Magnusson, Lisa Dannemiller, Catherine Bilyeu, Andrew Smith, Tamara Struessel, Graciela Salinas, Isabel Lorimer, Orlando Mosley



Rationale

Social and structural factors strongly influence the health and well-being of our clients and communities. Teaching Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students about the social and structural determinants of health (SSDH) and resulting health disparities is complicated by the fragmented presentation of these constructs throughout the DPT curriculum. The result is an incomplete picture of factors that influence a client's prognosis and the potential reinforcement of negative stereotypes.

Conceptual Frameworks and Case Development

Informative Frameworks & Models:

International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF)

PT Client Management Model

Bronfenbrenner

Socioecological Model

Andersen and Aday Behavioral Model of Health Care Use



Collect existing cases and categorize content according to relevant conceptual frameworks and models



Identify gaps in SSDH content; Consider opportunities to enhance integration of SSDH constructs; Link cases across courses



Grow our Community Tree - create an interconnected group of diverse individuals that students will come to know over their time in our program

Objectives

Students and faculty from the DPT program have worked to enhance conversations around SSDH through the development of a Community Tree - interconnected cases that students come to know over their time in our program. The objectives of this Community Tree are to:

- 1) Address student concerns regarding biased case presentations
- 2) Facilitate rich conversations around SSDH
- 3) Understand our clients as diverse human beings whose lived experiences are complex

Snapshot of 1 Case across the Curriculum

Summer 1 Course: Health Promotion and Wellness I
Sample Objectives:
1) Summarize key aspects of your client's social history
2) Describe the relationship between individual, social, and structural determinants of health.

Spring 1 Course: Musculoskeletal I
Sample Objective:
Formulate a clinical impression of your client's newly developed low back pain (lumbar spinal pathology)

Summer 3 Course: Health Promotion and Wellness II
Sample Objective:
Co-create a plan of care that integrates SSDH and reflects your client's values, priorities, and preferences

Next Steps

Implementation: 6 interconnected community members will be introduced Summer 1 to students and faculty
Evaluation: Acceptability, usability, and feasibility will be assessed via student and faculty surveys
Expansion: Within 2 years, our Community Tree will grow to 20 members

References:
Krishnan et.al. Addressing race, culture, and structural inequality in medical education: A guide for revising teaching cases. *Acad Med* 2019
Kim et.al. A conceptual framework for developing teaching cases. *Medical Education*. 2006