

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Doctor of Physical Therapy**  
**Capstone Project Proposal**

Student Name Jennifer Mickey

Date January 19, 2012

Project Advisor Laurie Ray

Title of Project The Fundamentals of Evidence-based Wheelchair Training for International Contexts

Type of Project : Case Report  Education  Administration  Research  Other

Committee Members:

Name: Dr. Zach Sommermeyer Credentials Doctor of Physical Therapy

Special expertise or contribution that this individual will make to your project

Dr. Sommermeyer, a physical therapist living in Turkey, let me know about the need for a wheelchair educational curriculum for a non-profit organization in Turkey, Friends of Kardelen. This organization cares for families of children with disabilities, which includes wheelchair donations. Dr. Sommermeyer is my main contact person for Friends of Kardelen. He presented me with the general need, the information that needed to be included in the curriculum, and he will likely be the one translating the final product and implementing it in Turkey. Dr. Sommermeyer has provided excellent guidance so far by building the basic skeleton of the project, and will continue to contribute his expertise in physical therapy and Turkish culture.

Name: Susan Parker Credentials Master of Physical Therapy

Special expertise or contribution that this individual will make to your project

Susan Parker is a pediatric physical therapist that works with Duke Hospital and in Durham county public schools. Susan has had much international physical therapy experience with wheelchair distribution with an organization called Joni and Friends. Susan will contribute special expertise in pediatric physical therapy, pediatric wheelchairs, and international therapy experience.

### **Project Description/Scope**

The final goal of this capstone project will be to have an evidence-based video script and supporting Master Document that can be used to develop a video on an "Introduction to wheelchairs" to educate donation recipients and their families in Turkey. The video script is being developed for a non-profit organization in Turkey called "Friends of Kardelen". Friends of Kardelen supports and cares for children with disabilities and their families. The video script will focus on pediatrics and be created for an audience with a low educational and literacy level. The video script will be created in English and

translated to Turkish by the organization. A significant problem Friends of Kardelen has seen with their wheelchair donations is the lack of education the families are being provided results in the donated wheelchair not be used properly or not being used at all. For instance, many times when the Kardelen workers visit homes, the child is not using the chair and it is folded in the corner collecting dust. If they are using the chair, they do not demonstrate adequate understanding of how to position the child in the chair properly, how to use the chair up and down stairs, in the community, pressure relief, transfers, etc. The intent of this project will be to have a product that can be put into video format in Turkish by Friends of Kardelen with the hope that education will correct the problem of the chairs not being used properly.

**Personal learning objectives:**

- Develop knowledge and understanding of wheelchairs.
- Develop understanding of international wheelchair donation and practical implementation.
- Learn how to incorporate health literacy principles into easily understood patient educational materials.
- Develop advanced research synthesis skills.

**Project goals:**

Develop a resource that...

- Is an evidence-based educational tool.
- An educational video can be produced from.
- Can be easily translated and incorporates appropriate health literacy.
- That is simple to understand to a population with low education and literacy level.
- Will give a general reader a basic overview of wheelchairs.

*1. Describe how this project relates to your clinical practice/professional development goals*

My professional goal is to provide physical therapy with a focus on pediatrics in developing countries with limited access to rehabilitation services. I desire to educate caregivers and local/prospective health care workers on working with this population. My ultimate goal is to increase access to physical therapy services by participating in cross cultural rehabilitation and education.

This project relates directly to my professional goals, as I am creating a valuable educational resource to be used in a developing country. This project incorporates gaining experience in several aspects of my professional goals, including experience in pediatrics and patient/family education. I am creating this project for a physical therapist and a non-profit organization in Turkey to implement with children and families that are recipients of wheelchair donations. My hope is that one day I would be able to not only create educational resources, but also have them opportunity to implement them in developing countries.

*2. Previous course work/projects completed or planned for this semester that relate this topic.*

Previous coursework that will add to this project are the evidence table and research paper I completed in the EBP II course. The topic of this coursework was: **For children with developmental disabilities, is adaptive seating more effective than standard seating in improving function?** This research will contribute to the section of the Master Document and video script that discusses the benefits of using adaptive seating for function.

3. *If this project relates to previous work, clearly describe what NEW literature review you will do as part of this project.*

This majority of this project will be a new literature review. I will be doing research on all aspects of wheelchairs- their uses and purposes, general conditions for using a wheelchair, types and parts of wheelchairs, general safety and maintenance, positioning, transfers, use in the environment, etc.

4. *Identify potential barriers to the plan and how these will be addressed, related to timelines, your own skills with particular technologies, dependence on others, etc.*

Potential barriers could be...

- 1) Finding primary sources for evidence, as there is limited access to this literature.
- 2) The majority of the research is considerations, rather than recommendations.
- 3) Communication, as I am developing this resource for an organization in Turkey.

5. *Describe the product(s) that will emerge from the project AND their intended audiences.*

Two products will emerge from this project. One product will be a master document and one product will be a simple video script. The master document will contain all the evidence, explanations, and citations for what is written in the simple video script. The video script will be the document that is primarily used to create the educational video for a population that has a low literacy and education level.

6. *Describe the EVALUATION component you have for your project that will be useful to provide you with feedback AND to improve the quality of the product(s) in future revisions.*

The evaluation component of this project will include having therapists, wheelchair vendors, people who use wheelchairs, and parents of children who use wheelchairs read the simple video script prior to the production of the video. Then they will have a questionnaire form in which they can rate the effectiveness and give feedback on the video script. I will also have my advisor and committee members provide feedback on the master document and video script.

7. *Describe how you will demonstrate progress toward the end goal at the midpoint.*

I plan to have a rough draft of the master document, simple video script, and evaluation questionnaire at midterm.

## **Time Line for Completion**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Completed task</b>
January 27, 2012	Capstone proposal submitted to advisor
February 3, 2012 (or after proposal approval)	Communicate with all committee members
February 10, 2012	Review capstone requirements and grading rubrics to be sure I am covering all aspects of project
March 12, 2012	Submit rough draft materials to advisor and committee members and request feedback
March 19, 2012	Complete review health literacy information posted on Capstone wiki
April 17, 2012	Post all capstone products on wiki site
April 20, 2012	Respond to two classmates projects on wiki site
April 24, 2012	Respond to any comments on wiki cite and make appropriate edits to wiki cite