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136 respondents completed the survey, 20 of whom completed it both before and after adoption of their hens. The quantitative data yielded positive but not statistically significant changes. Thematic analysis of the qualitative data illustrated that adopters expected effects to their own wellbeing and that of others in their household, although improving the hens' lives was their main objective. Post-collection observations commonly reported reductions in stress, anxiety and depression, plus increased confidence and self-efficacy resultant from mastering hen-related tasks.

The human–animal bond presents a versatile platform for the significant role of nurturing others in occupational engagement. Our findings inform occupational therapy theory and practice by highlighting the impact of companion animal relationships on service users' worldview, wellbeing and healthcare choices.

Ethical approval from the Institute of Health and Society Ethics Committee, University of Worcester. Reference PLP180216.

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Keywords

Adult physical health, Mental health

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Author Biographies

Lianne Peters is one of the first cohort of occupational therapists to graduate from the University of Worcester. A passionate, inventive crafter as well as an animal lover, she is fascinated by the relationships we form with animals and how these affect occupational engagement.

Dr Yvonne Thomas is an experienced occupational therapy educator and researcher, having worked in universities in New Zealand and Australia, prior to moving to the University of Worcester. She is specifically interested in development of professional identity and practice education.

Poster P101

What is the future role of an occupational therapist working within oncology in an acute setting?

Eckford R: Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Purpose: In 2014, the College of Occupational Therapists' specialist section for HIV, Oncology, Palliative Care (HOPC), research priorities were updated. 'What is the role and remit of occupational therapy in cancer and palliative care in an acute hospital setting?' (2014, HOPC) was one of the objectives which became the starting point for this research.

Aims of study:

1. To identify what aspects of the occupational therapist role are completed in an acute hospital, working specifically in cancer care.
2. To examine the challenges and barriers to executing other parts of the occupational therapist role.

Design and methods: A mixed methods study was conducted using an online survey and semi structured telephone interviews. The quantitative data was collated and percentages, frequencies and averages obtained. Audio-recorded interview data was transcribed verbatim and analysed using framework analysis.

Results: Twenty-four occupational therapists completed the survey and five occupational therapists were interviewed. The main challenges to the role were lack of time, lack of understanding of the occupational therapist role and inconsistencies within both internal and external services. Some of the findings are similar to a thematic review by Hammill *et al.* (2014).

Conclusions: The boundaries of the occupational therapist role need to be defined via a national benchmarking process to allow occupational therapists to set parameters to the role to decrease the impact of time and inconsistency of external services.

Ethical approval: 034122 obtained from University of Southampton Ethics and Research Governance Online (ERGO).

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This research formed part of my MSC in Clinical Leadership in Oncology, Palliative and End of Life Care.

Poster P102

Occupational therapy: supporting a pre-school child-care setting to promote physical activity as a healthy occupation for life!

Bell F: University of Cumbria

Early childhood experiences, including physical activity (PA), are crucial in establishing the foundations for health and wellbeing throughout the lifespan (Macdonald *et al.*, 2006; The Lancet, 2013). PA contributes to children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, while physical inactivity (PiA) can have significant adverse effects on children's health and development, with consequent impacts on occupational performance and participation (Tucker, 2008). Recent research concluded that PiA is one of the top ten risk factors to health for adults in England (Newton *et al.*, 2015). There is evidence that time spent in childcare can have negative impacts on the amount of time spent doing PA (Bellows *et al.*, 2013), reducing the likelihood of developing PA as an occupation through the lifespan.

This participatory action research project explores the impact and effectiveness of providing occupational therapy support to staff in a private child-care setting to facilitate the promotion of PA as an occupation to pre-school year children. A student

occupational therapist will work with nursery management and staff to help them identify what support they would find useful in promoting PA as an occupation to the children in their care and implementing this over a period of 6 weeks. The impacts and effectiveness of the support provided will be measured by a specially developed reflective workbook and by analysis of focus groups held with the setting staff.

Ethical approval has been obtained through the University of Cumbria Research Ethics Process for University of Cumbria Taught Degree Students Ethics Application for Research involving Human Participants.

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Ongoing research

Poster P103

Occupational therapy service delivery in the UK for children and young people with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)

Rihtman T, Gadsby N, Campion C: Coventry University

Introduction and aim: Increasing numbers of referrals of children and young people with Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) continue to increase pressure for occupational therapy services (Horton and Hall 2008). DCD service pathways are generally inconsistent across the UK (COT 2003) and developing knowledge, skills and confidence amongst clinicians/students regarding topics of relevance to DCD is key. This study aimed to investigate the current state of occupational therapy practice with young people with DCD within the UK, while considering means of further development of this field.

Methods: After obtaining ethical approval, a study day was offered to paediatric occupational therapists working with young people with DCD and a limited number of final year occupational therapy students. Delegates registered online and selected the teaching foci for the event. A mixed-methodological approach was adopted: a series of questionnaires was

administered during and after the event to measure shifts in perspectives, enhanced by data collected via a series of focus groups.

Results: Similar challenges regarding DCD occupational therapy service provision were reported by clinicians from various geographical areas; focused provision of information and training about issues relevant to DCD may improve confidence about addressing them. Changes in perceptions were observed, suggesting that strategies adopted in this study to investigate this area while addressing clinical and educational need may be beneficial.

Conclusion: Occupational therapists have a role to play in DCD diagnosis, intervention and support (COT 2008). Clarification of profession-specific issues and challenges, with educational provision geared to address these, may provide opportunities to further occupational therapy service provision with this population.

The research study has received ethical approval from Coventry University Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

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Poster P104

Using constructivist grounded theory to explore the experience of meaning in circle dance

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Circle dance, which derives from the tradition of folk dances, is a popular form of dance and is practised worldwide (Borges da Costa, 2012; Borges da Costa and Cox, 2016). This poster explores the process of applying constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2006) to provide an understanding of the subjective occupational experience among people who engage in circle dance (central research question) and the potential contribution of this leisure occupation to well-being through the lens of occupational therapy and occupational science.

From a methodological perspective, grounded theory can be seen as a suitable methodology to study, in depth, various occupations (Stanley and Cheek, 2003) and understanding of how occupations are enacted within daily life and the meanings