Orthotics and Prosthetics Education in Latin America

“Give a man a fish for a day and he eats for one day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life.”

There is a shortage of certified orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) specialists in Latin America. There is a need to update and introduce interdisciplinary information to an already established O&P program in Bogota, Colombia at the Centro Don Bosco.

Our project was addressed by creating three subgroups, each one was responsible for the conception and development of 5 seminars:

• **Materials Subgroup**: Focused on biofidelity and material selection.
• **Well-Being Subgroup**: Focused on the 8 stages of adjustment.
• **Medical Record Keeping Subgroup**: Focused on the techniques of medical record keeping.

One seminar in each topic was designed to address ethical issues on the area of each subgroup.

It is important for the three ISPO categories to communicate and work as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team. This is the best way to improve patient well-being. It is also important to be able to convey information effectively to students outside of their normal field of study.

Continue to improve education and expand awareness for O&P in Latin America through implementing the capstone courses and increasing the number of O&P programs.

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**Problem**

There is a shortage of certified orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) specialists in Latin America. There is a need to update and introduce interdisciplinary information to an already established O&P program in Bogota, Colombia at the Centro Don Bosco.

**Background**

O&P educational track has three categories set by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fabrication</th>
<th>Patient Care</th>
<th>Research and Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category A: Prosthetics/Orthotics</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category B: Rehabilitation Technology</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category C: Education</td>
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2.5 million O&P patients in Latin America.

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**Objectives**

Design capstone course to prepare all categories for participation in an interdisciplinary treatment team.

- Improve patient focused treatment
- Convey the methods and importance of medical record keeping
- Use of information about material compatibility in fabrication and treatment

**Methodology**

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**Results**

- 15 presentable seminars prepared for use in Centro Don Bosco, 5 for each capstone topic.
- Gained personal insight about the challenges faced during O&P treatment both in fabrication and treatment. Learned the stages for preparing an orthotic device through field trips to BioConcepts. Learned about the challenges during patient treatment and adherence through a field trip to the Children’s Memorial Hospital.

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**Conclusion**

It is important for the three ISPO categories to communicate and work as part of an interdisciplinary treatment team. This is the best way to improve patient well-being. It is also important to be able to convey information effectively to students outside of their normal field of study.

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**Future Work**

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**Acknowledgments**
