

# Abstract IPRO 309

## Educational and Technical Support of Orthotics and Prosthetics Education in Latin America and the US

### Problem:

Currently in Latin America there are over 2.5 million people in need of prosthetic and orthotic (O&P) treatment. However, there are only 1500 people who can provide this type of care. In particular in Colombia over 250,000 people are in need of O&P treatment with less than ten certified practitioners to provide the care.

### Solution:

Centro don Bosco in Bogotá, Colombia has started a program to train technicians to fabricate the O&P devices. The goal is to have the program accredited by the International Society for Orthotics and Prosthetics (ISPO); the program would be Category III meaning that the students who complete the program will be certified to manufacture O&P devices.

**Objectives:** The main objective of the IPRO was to assist in the accreditation process by producing educational material required by the ISPO accreditation board.

### Key Tasks:

- Develop three slide shows regarding the background, physical effects and O&P treatment of Diabetes, Osteoporosis and Cerebral Palsy
- Develop pamphlets that will provide an overview of the material in each slide show
- Translate all material into Spanish for use by all Spanish speaking students in Colombia and the US
- Prepare the modules for use at a four day O&P conference in Colombia this coming May

**Barriers and Obstacles:** The group faced several obstacles while completing the project. Most students working in the group had no previous knowledge of orthotics and prosthetics; because of this there were many times that group members had to look up medical terms to gain a better understanding of the concepts. The group also faced an ethical barrier; the Hippocratic Oath says that a practitioner must do no harm. With this being said the group had to insure that all information they provided was correct and would only help patients not harm them. To ensure that the information was correct the group allowed their modules to be reviewed by professionals who thoroughly checked them for correctness.

**Recommendations:** This IPRO recommends to future IPRO teams that they keep the ultimate goal in mind. By always keeping in mind your audience the educational modules will be properly geared toward the students using them. It is also important that the team leader(s) make sure that all team members are participating equally and everyone's ideas are heard. By reminding the team of the large impact this IPRO can have if done properly the team members will stay enthusiastic and put forth a tremendous effort.

## **Results:**

**Accomplishments:** The IPRO team has currently completed all three educational modules as well as the pamphlets to go along with them. Several of the presentations have been translated to Spanish. The group has finalized the presentations for the O&P conference in Colombia; four students will be traveling to Colombia to present the modules.

**Future Work:** In the remaining few weeks of the semester the IPRO team will be working to translate all of the material to Spanish. The team will also be preparing notebooks containing all of the modules and other material to give to Centro don Bosco upon their arrival in Bogotá. The IPRO will be continued next semester with a similar format. During the summer months Prof. Kevin Meade will be in Colombia working to develop an IPRO there; this will double the productivity of the IPRO and expedited the accreditation process.

## **Participants:**

**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Kevin Meade

**Team Members:** Allison Bagby, Elise French, David Gracia, Peter Maksimowicz, Michael Morley, Christopher Pellico, Vinit Prabhu, Carolanne Rife, Karen Sedacki, Nil Valls

## **Collaborating Organizations:**

Centro Don Bosco, Bogotá, Colombia

Laboratorio Gilete, Bogotá, Colombia

Bioconcepts, Inc., Burr Ridge, IL

Gulbrandson Orthotics & Prosthetics, Cary, IL

Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

Northwestern University Prosthetics and Orthotics Center, Chicago, IL