

**Session Proposal for the Combined Sections Meeting
San Diego, CA; February 17-20, 2010**

Title: How are we intervening to improve children's activity and participation:
Beginning to open the black box

The course will consist of lecture and group discussion about Clinical Practice Improvement (CPI) methods and how these methods can be implemented within pediatric clinical practice. Clinical Practice Improvement methods involve the prospective collection of systematic detailed records of interventions and measurement of client co-morbidities and outcomes. Once these data are collected retrospective analyses of relationships between intervention and outcomes can be completed. CPI methods are well suited for program evaluation and research on effectiveness of interventions provided under typical clinical conditions to any member of a particular population, regardless of severity of the disorder or additional co-morbidities. The background and outcomes of the study entitled: "Pediatric physical therapy for young children with cerebral palsy: Current interventions and suggestions about effectiveness for gross motor and self-care activity" will be used to provide a specific example of the use of the Clinical Practice Improvement (CPI) methods and strategies to evaluate effectiveness of interventions. We will present preliminary descriptive and correlation results of our study of 25 physical therapists across the USA and Canada utilizing this design as a model for facilities and therapists to consider within their own practice. Course participants should understand how to apply the CPI methods to their own clinical practice at the completion of the course.

Course objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand Clinical Practice Improvement (CPI) methods
2. Describe a model for use of CPI methods in pediatric practice settings
3. Describe the pros and cons, successes and challenges of use of CPI methods
4. Use the knowledge gained through the description of a pilot study, examining the relationships between interventions and gross motor and self-care outcomes in young children with cerebral palsy, to implement the methods within their own pediatric settings.