

.....

The Science Corner: An Educational Method to Encourage Cooperation Between Scientists and Practitioners?

MIRANDA VELTHUIS; M. NEDERSTIGT-VAN LIESHOUT;
D.M. KEESENBERG; N. GROENEWEG; R. VAN RAVENBERG;
J. VAN DER WEES; N. VAN MEETEREN

*U.M.C. Utrecht / Divisie Hersenen
Postbus 85500, Huispostnummer F 00.810, 3580 GA Utrecht
The Netherlands*

PURPOSE The majority of research in physiotherapy deals with topics that are not directly applicable to the provision of patient care - apparently a gap exists between science and practice. Education has not completely succeeded in bridging this gap. To encourage cooperation between future scientists and practitioners, an educational method - the Science Corner - was developed. **RELEVANCE** Early in their studies students learn to involve practitioners in research, aiming that they will continue to do so as MSc graduates in Physiotherapy. **DESCRIPTION** As part of the Science Corner, students gathered research questions among visitors of the annual Royal Dutch Society of Physiotherapy congress (n=5600) by means of structured interviews. Afterwards, the Science Corner was evaluated by 1) analysing the research questions 2) distributing a questionnaire concerning their appreciation among the students. **RESULTS** 252 of the 349 research questions (72,2%) that were gathered, concerned the effectiveness of interventions. The students appreciated the method of the Science Corner (7.1 (? 0.9 (scale 1-10)). Afterwards, students (4 of 31) published an article about the Science Corner and participated - as coach of bachelor students - in subsequent Science Corners. **CONCLUSIONS** Practitioners are highly interested in studies dealing with the effectiveness of physiotherapeutic interventions. Cooperation with practitioners at applied research - by formulating research questions as part of the Science Corner - was appreciated by students. This cooperation should be further stimulated by additional educational methods, in order for more applied research in physiotherapy to be performed in the future.