



Committee for the Evaluation of Physical Therapy Studies

The College of Judea and Samaria

The Department of Physical Therapy

Evaluation Report

December 2007

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Chapter 1- Background

At its meeting on March 8, 2005 the Council for Higher Education (CHE) decided to evaluate study programs in the field of Physical Therapy during the academic year 2005-2006.

Following the decision of the CHE, the Minister of Education, who serves ex officio as the Chairperson of the CHE, appointed a committee consisting of:

- **Prof. Stuart Binder-Macleod-** Department of Physical Therapy, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, U.S.A, Committee Chairman
- **Prof. Ruth Dickstein-** Department of Physical Therapy, Haifa University
- **Prof. Steven H. Tepper-** Division of Physical Therapy, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia, U.S.A
- **Dr. Margaret Yekutiel-** Department of Physical Therapy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Emeritus).

Ms. Alisa Elon- Coordinator of the committee on behalf of the Council for Higher Education.

Within the framework of its activity, the committee was requested to:

1. Examine the self-evaluation reports, which were submitted by institutions that provide study programs in Physical Therapy, and hold on-site visits to those institutions.
2. Present the CHE with final reports for the evaluated academic units and study programs - a separate report for each institution, including the committee's findings and recommendations, together with the response of the institutions to the reports.
3. To submit to the CHE a report regarding its opinion of the examined field of study within the Israeli system of higher education. The committee will submit a separate report to the CHE in this matter.

The committee's Terms of Reference document is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The first stage of the quality assessment process consisted of self-evaluation by the institutions. This process was conducted in accordance with the CHE's Guidelines for Self-Evaluation (of October 2005) and on the basis of the Specific Questions for the Field of Physical Therapy which were compiled by the committee.

Chapter 2-Committee Procedures

The committee held its first meeting on 20.3.06 during which it discussed fundamental issues concerning Physical Therapy study programs in Israel and its quality assessment activity.

In June-July 2006 the committee members received the self-evaluation reports.

During January 2007 the committee members conducted a two or three-day visit to each of the institutions offering study programs in the field under examination as well as to their clinical training centers.

During the visits, the committee met with the relevant officials within the organizational structure of each institution, as well as faculty and students.

In accordance with the committee's request, the institution publicized in advance details of the committee's upcoming visit and it invited academic staff members, administrative staff and students to meet with the committee in order to sound out their opinions of the Physical Therapy study programs offered at the institution.

This report deals with the Department of Physical Therapy at the College of Judea and Samaria.

The committee's visit to the College of Judea and Samaria took place on January 17 and 18, 2007. The schedule of the visit, including the list of participants representing the institution, is attached as **Appendix 2**.

The committee members thank the management of the Institution and the Department of Physical Therapy for their self-evaluation report and for their hospitality towards the committee during its visit.

Chapter 3- Evaluation of the Physical Therapy Department at the College of Judea and Samaria

Background

The College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel was established in 1982. Its academic history began as an extension of Bar-Ilan University.

In 1996, the CHE accredited the college, giving it the authority to award academic degrees in its own name.

In the academic year of 2005-6 the total number of students at the College of Judea and Samaria was about 6,600.

The first Physical Therapy (PT) students enrolled in 2000-1. In 2003-4, the Physical Therapy Department at the College of Judea and Samaria was recognized by the CHE.

The Physical Therapy Department operates within the framework of the School for Health Sciences.

In the academic year of 2005-6 the total number of Physical Therapy students studying towards a BPT was 155.

Following a careful review of the unit's self-study document and a two-day site visit (January 17 and 18, 2007), the committee noted many strengths related to the academic preparation of the physical therapy students. There are, however, several weaknesses that need to be addressed to improve the quality of the program.

The **strengths** include:

- 1) The faculty members within the Department of Physical Therapy are all committed to the training of outstanding PT students. There is a nice mix of experience levels and areas of content expertise within the department's faculty members. In addition, the students appreciate their close professional relationships with the faculty. The students feel well prepared for their clinical rotations and ultimate entry in the workforce and are very pleased with their education.

2) The committee was impressed with the quality of the students that we met. All groups that we met with during our site visit praised the quality of the students, their academic abilities, and commitment to their studies. The clinical instructors and external faculty commented that they were most favorably impressed with the students' willingness and ability to learn. In addition, the external teachers stated that they found the PT students generally to be highly motivated, extremely intelligent, and better than students from other departments in the College.

3) The student classrooms and laboratory facilities were excellent. The library facilities were attractive and open for students' use until midnight all evenings.

4) The curriculum is comprehensive and adequately addresses each of the major areas of contemporary clinical practice. No major weakness in the students' academic preparation was noted by the clinical instructors that we interviewed. The faculty members of the PT Department have effectively used input from the external teachers, clinical instructors, and students to make many improvements to the curriculum during the six years that the program has been in existence. The pattern of clinical education, where students alternate between their academic and clinical internships beginning in the first semester of their third year of study, is a strength of this curriculum that should be maintained. Observation of patients afforded the students prior to and following their full-time clinical internships were very helpful to the students and a strength of the curriculum.

Weaknesses and Recommendations

1) **There is an inadequate number of core faculty members within the PT Department.** There is only one full-time faculty member employed by the PT program. Although the number of students within the program has grown significantly since its inception, there has not been a commensurate increase in staff or faculty. Because the program has grown to 50 students within a class, all of the practical classes need to be divided, requiring double the number of instructional sessions. In addition, the

Department currently has neither the staff nor the facilities to support a research oriented MPT program.

Recommendations: The recruitment and retention of additional core faculty members to the Department are essential. The College must take steps to increase the number of full-time positions immediately. A minimum of four full-time faculty positions are urgently needed. Recruitment should commence immediately (within the next academic year) and these positions should be filled as soon as qualified applicants are identified. Every effort should be made to fill all four positions within the next two years and, at the very latest, they must be filled within a three-year timeframe. Two additional full-time equivalents (not necessary two full-time individuals) should also be added as candidates are available. Similarly, every effort should be made to fill these positions within the next two years and, at the very latest, they must be filled within a three-year timeframe. Finally, a full-time administrative assistant is needed to adequately administer the program. This position should be created and filled within the next year. In addition, for each of the positions that are added, adequate office space and resources (e.g., desks, computers, research equipment) must be provided.

2) **Although the program is very comprehensive, it needs reorganization.** The curriculum has too many credits and requires too many contact hours by the students to allow optimal training. The students are in class nearly 40 hours/week for the first two years of the curriculum. This PT curriculum has more than 500 hours above all other programs.

Recommendations: The faculty needs to revise the curriculum by one of two approaches. They can reduce the number of credit hours by making major cuts. Alternatively, they can keep the number of credit hours and restructure the program so that students are awarded a BSc after three years (approximately 120 credits) and then continue on to a two-year Masters in Physical Therapy program. For either option, the faculty must revise the curriculum by reducing the number of small courses taken by the students and re-sequencing the current course offerings. Also, the faculty must reduce

the amount of overlap and redundancy of courses within the curriculum. As an example, the students noted that they were taught the same material three times over the in the field

of geriatrics. Any restructuring of the program should only be done in coordination with all of the concerned parties, including those in charge of budgeting and accreditation, such as the PBC and the CHE.

3) Available placements for clinical practice – This is a problem that challenges physical therapy education throughout the country. There are not enough high-quality clinic sites to train the current number of students.

Recommendations: The committee believes that neither this nor any other current PT program within the country should increase the number of students being trained without a comprehensive plan for increasing the number of available clinical sites. Indeed, a 10% reduction in student numbers would ease this situation. In addition, the committee strongly believes that there should be no increase in the number of PT training programs within the country.

4) Although the **library** is attractive and accessible, several concerns were noted. First, the students reported that many of the journal articles that they need to read are not available in full-text. Second, they cannot access electronic journals from outside the College. Third, the number of rehabilitation related journals in hard or electronic copy is grossly insufficient. Improved holdings will benefit both students and faculty.

Recommendations: The library must increase its holding in rehabilitation and related sciences.

5) The self study process and report: Although the Department has taken the process of self evaluation seriously and has invested considerable efforts, the committee has several major dissatisfactions with the documents presented. As we noted during the site visit, there were many errors, inconsistencies, and omissions in their self-evaluation report. This made it difficult for the committee to get a clear picture of the present program and future plans. As examples, job descriptions were unclear, an overview of the

curriculum was not included in any of the tables or appendices, and many of the

questions directly posed by the CHE were not answered. Finally, the document did not summarize the weaknesses of the program in the final chapter of the report.

Other comments and issues:

1) Although **research productivity** was noted by the President as being a major criterion for promotion of the full-time faculty within the department, there are currently no research facilities nor equipment available on campus for the current faculty. We anticipate that this situation may worsen with the addition of new full-time faculty members. In addition, we are concerned that the high teaching loads and faculty shortage may make it difficult to retain and promote faculty members within the department.


2) The large majority of the students and graduates that we interviewed noted that when applying to PT school, they would have preferred to have attended one of the other PT programs within Israel, but were not accepted there; however they were all content with their decision to attend the College of Judea and Samaria. This issue highlights the need for the immediate recruitment of outstanding full-time faculty in order to keep high academic standards and continue to attract outstanding students.

3) The College provides "Study Days" for external teachers; most knew about them but none had taken them.

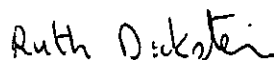
Summary

Overall, the administration and faculty must be commended for the development of a BPT program that does a very good job of training students. The students are trained to function at a high level and are qualified to practice in all setting presently served by physical therapists. Nevertheless, there is presently an inadequate number of full-time faculty members to ensure that the quality of the program will be maintained and that outstanding students will continue to be recruited. The College must immediately commence searching for additional faculty members and staff to join the PT Department. All positions must be filled in a timely manner and should be completed within three years of acceptance of this report.

Signed By:



Prof. Stuart Binder-Macleod
Chairman



Prof. Ruth Dickstein



Prof. Steven H. Tepper



Dr. Margaret Yekutieli

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Terms of Reference of the Committee



מדינת ישראל

STATE OF ISRAEL

Minister of Education Culture and Sports

November 7, 2005

To:

Prof. Stuart Binder-Macleod - Department of Physical Therapy, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, U.S.A
Prof. Ruth Dickstein - Department of Physical Therapy, Haifa University
Prof. Steven H. Tepper - Division of Physical Therapy, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia, U.S.A
Dr. Margaret Yekutiel - Department of Physical Therapy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-sheva (Emeriti)

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby appoint you as members of the Council for Higher Education's (CHE) Committee for the Evaluation of Physical Therapy study-programs (that have already received authorization) within institutions of higher education in Israel.

You are kindly requested to operate in accordance with the Appendix to the Terms of Reference of Evaluation Committees (study-programs), which is attached to this Terms of Reference document.

The Committee is requested within the framework of its activity to:

1. Examine the self-evaluation reports which shall be submitted by the institutions that provide study-programs in Physical Therapy, and hold on-site visits to those institutions.
2. Present the CHE- by January 2007- with final reports regarding the evaluated academic units and study-programs- a separate report for each institution including the Committee's findings and recommendations, together with the institutions' responses to the reports.

Within the framework of the final reports, the Committee is requested to refer to the following topics, among others, in relation to each of the study-programs:

1. The goals and aims of the evaluated academic unit and study-programs.
2. The study-program and its standard.
3. The academic staff.
4. The students.
5. The organizational structure — both academic and administrative - of the academic unit and study-program.

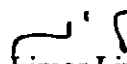
6. The broad organizational structure (school/faculty) in which the academic unit and the study-program operate.
7. Physical and administrative infrastructure available to the study-program.
8. Internal mechanisms for quality assessment
9. Conclusions of the academic unit and the study-program.
10. Other topics to be decided upon by the Evaluation Committee.

In addition to its final report concerning each study program under examination, the committee shall submit to the CHE the following documents:

1. A report regarding its opinion as to the examined field of study within the Israeli system of higher education.
2. A proposal of standards for studies in Physiotherapy.

Professor Stuart Binder-Macleod shall preside over the Committee as Chairman.
Ms. Alisa Elon shall coordinate the Committee's activities.

Yours sincerely,



Limor Livnat

Minister of Education, Culture and Sport
Chairperson of The Council for Higher Education

cc: Mr. Naftali Weitman, Secretary of The Council for Higher Education
Ms. Alisa Elon, Committee Coordinator

Enclosure

Appendix to the Terms of Reference of Evaluation Committees (study-programs).

Appendix to the Terms of Reference of Evaluation Committees **(Study-Programs)**

1. General

On June 3, 2003 the Council for Higher Education (CHE) decided to establish a system for quality assessment and assurance in Israeli higher education. Within this framework, study-programs are to be evaluated once in six years and institutions once in eight years. The quality assessment system came into effect in the academic year of 2004-2005.

The objectives of the quality assessment activity are:

- To enhance the quality of higher education in Israel;
- To create an awareness within institutions of higher education in Israel of the importance of this subject and to develop internal mechanisms for the evaluation of academic quality on a regular basis;
- To provide the public with information regarding the quality of study programs in institutions of higher education throughout Israel;
- To ensure the continued integration of the Israeli system of higher education in the international academic arena.

It is not the CHE's intention to rank the institutions of higher education according to the results of the quality assessment activity. The evaluation committee is requested not to make comparisons between the institutions.

2. The Evaluation Committee

- 2.1 The CHE shall appoint a Committee to carry out quality assessment of the study-programs.
- 2.2 A senior academic figure in the examined field shall be appointed as Chairman.
- 2.3 The Committee shall include 3 to 5 senior academic figures in the field from leading institutions in Israel and abroad. In exceptional cases, and in cooperation with the committee chairman, an authoritative figure who is not on the academic staff of an institution of higher education may be appointed as a committee member.
- 2.4 In the event that a member of the committee is also a faculty member in an institution being evaluated, he will not take part in discussions regarding that institution.

3. The work of the Evaluation Committee

- 3.1 The Committee shall hold meetings, as needed, before visiting the institution, in order to evaluate the material received.
- 3.2 The committee shall visit the institution and the academic unit being evaluated within 3-4 months of receiving the self-evaluation report. The purpose of the visit is to verify and update the information submitted in the self-study report, clarify matters where necessary, inspect the educational environment and facilities first hand, etc. During the visit the committee will meet with the heads of the

institution, faculty members, students, the administrative staff, and any other persons it considers necessary.

- 3.3 In a meeting at the beginning of the visit, the committee will meet with the heads of the institution (president/rector, dean), the head of the academic unit and the study-programs, in order to explain the purpose of the visit. At the end of the visit, the committee will summarize its findings, and formulate its recommendations.
- 3.4 The duration of the visits will be coordinated with the Chairman of the Committee according to the issue, and in any event will not be less than one day.
- 3.5 Following the visit, the committee will write its final report, including its recommendations, which will be delivered to the institution and the academic unit for their response. The institution's and the academic unit's response will not result in changes to the content of the Committee's report, unless they point out errors in the data or typographical errors in the Committee's report. In such cases, the committee will be able to make the required corrections in its final report.

4. The Evaluation Committee's Report

- 4.1 The final report of the evaluation committee shall address every institution separately.
- 4.2 The final report shall include recommendations on the subjects listed in the guidelines for self-evaluation, and in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.
- 4.3 The recommendations can be classed as one of the five following alternatives:
 - 4.3.1 ***Congratulatory remarks and minimal changes recommended, if any.***
 - 4.3.2 ***Desirable changes recommended*** at the institution's convenience and follow-up in the next cycle of evaluation.
 - 4.3.3 ***Important/needed changes requested for ensuring appropriate academic quality*** within a reasonable time, in coordination with the institution (1-3 years).
 - 4.3.4 ***Essential and urgent changes required, on which continued authorization will be contingent*** (immediately or up to one year).
 - 4.3.5 ***A combination of any of the above.***
- 4.4 The committee's report shall include the following:
 - 4.4.1 **Part A — General background and an executive summary:**
 - 4.4.1.1 General background concerning the evaluation process, the names of the members of the committee, a general description of the institution and the academic unit being assessed, and the committee's work.
 - 4.4.1.2 An executive summary which will include a description of the strengths and weaknesses of the academic unit and program being evaluated, according to the subjects listed in the body of the report and a list of recommendations for action.
 - 4.4.2 **Part B — In depth description of subjects examined:**
 - 4.4.2.1 This part will be composed according to the topics examined by the evaluation committee, in accordance with the committee's Terms of Reference and the report submitted by the institution, and at the discretion of the committee.
 - 4.4.2.2 For each topic examined - the report will present a summary of the findings, the relevant information and an analysis thereof, and conclusions and recommended actions.
 - 4.4.3 **Part C — Summary and recommendations:**

4.4.3.1 A short summary of every one of the topics described in detail in Part B, including the committee's recommendations.

4.4.3.2 Comprehensive conclusion/s and recommendation/s regarding the evaluated academic unit and the study-programs.

4.4.4 **Part D- Appendices:**

The appendices shall contain the committee's Terms of Reference, relevant information about the institution and the evaluated academic unit, the schedule of the on-site visit.

4.5 The final report will be delivered to the institution, with the deadline for its and the academic unit's response noted.

4.6 The Committee's final report together with the response of the institution and the academic unit will be brought before the CHE.

4.7 The CHE will discuss these documents and formulate its decisions within (approximately) a year from the time the guidelines for self-evaluation were sent to the institutions.

APPENDIX 2

The schedule of the visit

**JUDEA & SAMARIA COLLEGE –
Physical Therapy – schedule for the On-site visit**

First day – 17.1.07 (Wed.)

All meetings will be held in the upper campus, building 3 a- second floor.

| Time | Subject | Participants |
|-------------|--|--|
| 09:00-09:20 | Opening session with the heads of the institution and the senior staff appointed to deal with the quality assessment | Prof. Dan Meyerstein, President Prof. Zilla Sinuany-Stern, Vice-President for academic affairs Mr. Yoram Shai, General Manager Prof. Yair Shapira, Dean, School of Health Sciences Dr. Nitza Davidovitch, Director of Academic Development |
| 09:20-09:40 | Meeting with the Dean | Prof. Yair Shapira |
| 09:40-10:45 | Meeting with the academic head and the administrative head of the department | Ms. Josepha Danziger, Head of Department Dr. Tamar Jacob, Deputy Head of Department |
| 11:00-13:00 | Meeting with committees | Students committee- Ms. Josepha Danziger - Chairperson. Dr. Zvi Kozol Dr. Tamar Jacob Dr. Simona Bar-Haim Dr. Rivka Cohen- Teaching committee- Dr. Tamar Jacob - Chairperson Ms. Josepha Danziger Dr. Zvi Kozol Clinical affiliation committee- Dr. Zvi Kozol - Chairperson Ms. Josepha Danziger Dr. Tamar Jacob Dr. Alon Rabin- Ms. Anat Yehuda- Mrs. Noa Refaeli |
| 13:00-13:45 | Lunch 3 rd floor, building 3A. | <i>Committee members</i> |
| 13:45-14:30 | Meeting with senior academic staff | Dr. Zvi Kozol Dr. Simona Bar-Haim Dr. Alon Rabin Ms. Anat Yehuda |
| 14:30-15:15 | Meeting with junior academic staff | Dr. Hadas Margalit Dr. Yossi Milbaum Dr. Gaby Weinstein Mr. Yuval David Ms. Daniela Hofman Mr. Alon Kalron Ms. Dina Kopilevitch Ms. Merav Kedem Ms. Dania Hofi Mr. Zvi Katz Ms. Izana Lavi Mr. Sezi Levy. |
| 15:15-16:00 | Meeting with faculty | Prof. Ester Fride |

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| | members who lecturer to Physical Therapy students, but are not member of the PT Department (e.g., physicians, statisticians etc.) | Dr. Tovit Rosenzveig Dr. Gadi Turgeman |
| 16:00-17:00 | Meeting with graduates | Haya Rothenstein (2004) Netanel Levi (2004) Shani Vaklin Cohen (2005) Yael Elron (2005) Reuven Benyamin (2005) Enon Atiya (2005) Aviv Saposhnik (2006) Shanon Hulda (2006) |

Second day – 18.1.07 (Thu.)

| Time | Subject | Participants |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 09:00-10:00 | Meeting with clinical instructors | Monika Gat (Belinson hos.) Gadi Bartur (Reut rehab. center) Shery Cohen (Hadassa hos.) Eran Kristal (Giora out- patients clinic) Mili Weiss Harel (Rotshild out- patients clinic) Galit Senior (Lewinstein rehab. center) |
| 10:00- 11 :00 | A general tour in the campus – Visiting library, Classes, Students laboratories and Research laboratories | |
| 12:00-13:00 | Meeting with Students | David Reznik (1st year) Shirin Phalach (1st year) Yehuda Gefen (2nd year) Archil Binashvily (2nd year) Efi Haleli (3rd year) Michal Kalman (3rd year) Yael Brilliant (4th year) Inbal Matas (4th year) |
| 13:00-16:00 | Lunch and closed door working meeting for site visit team | Site visit team |
| 16:00-16:30 | Summation meeting with heads of the institution and the academic unit | Prof. Dan Meyerstein, President Prof. Zilla Sinuany-Stern, Vice-President for Academic affairs Mr. Yoram Shai, General Manager Prof. Yair Shapira, Dean, School of Health Sciences Dr. Nitza Davidovitch, Director of Academic Development Ms. Josepha Danziger, Head of Department Dr. Tamar Jacob, Deputy Head of Department |

