

4-YEAR EVALUATION OF A MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS EDUCATIONAL TRACK FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Multiple Sclerosis Standardized Training and Education Program with University Partners (MS STEP UP) is a collaboration between:

- The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program
- The Greater Carolinas National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) Chapter

MS STEP UP Main Goals:

- Educate and mentor DPT students to become MS-Certified Specialists
- Provide specialized physical therapy services to MS populations locally and nationally

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the outcomes of the first 4 cohorts of MS STEP UP scholars using:

- MS Competencies Rating Scale (MSCRS) scores
- MS STEP UP Online Activity Tracker data

METHODS

Figure 1: MS STEP UP program overview

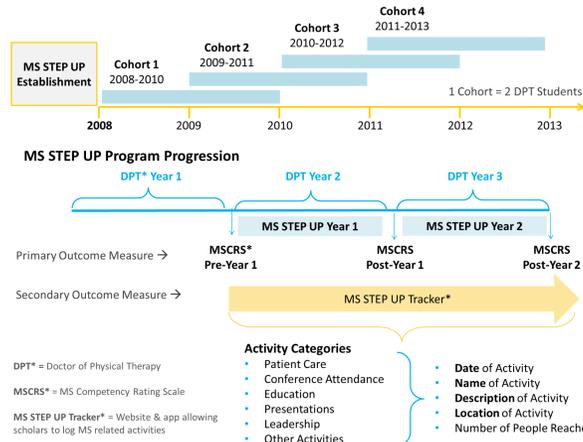
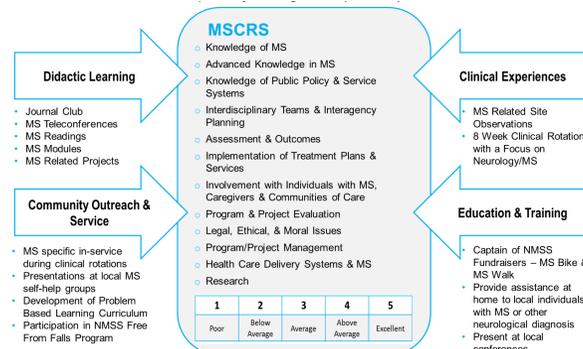


Figure 2: MSCRS and associated activities



RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Figure 3: MS competencies rating scale (MSCRS) scores of first 4 cohorts for each time point

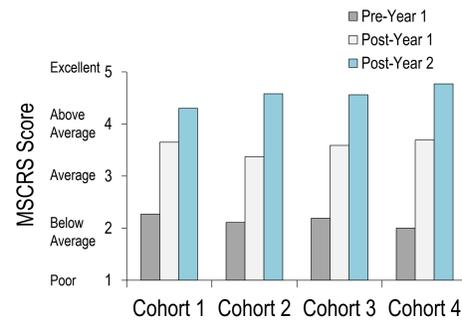


Figure 5: MS STEP UP Data – distribution of activities per cohort

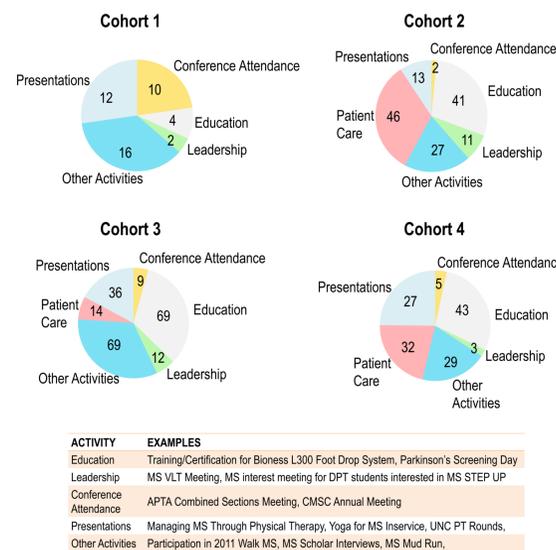


Figure 4: MS STEP UP activity tracker data: number of people reached by first 4 cohorts

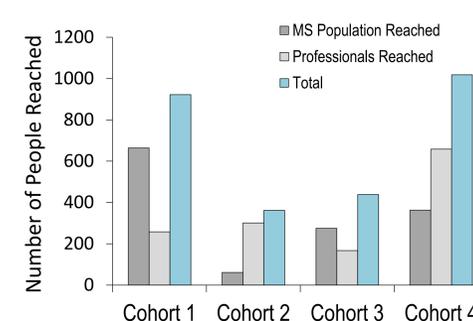
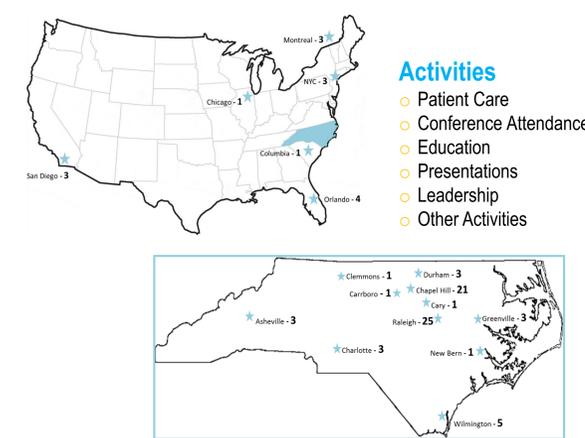


Figure 6: Location and number of activities reports for first 4 cohorts



Note: Data based on MS STEP UP Tracker self-reported data

Note: These data are self-reported by scholars using an online tracking tool and should be considered estimates only of the number of activities in each category.

- Since 2008, 8 DPT students have completed MS STEP UP, and 4 have obtained the MS Certified Specialist (MSCS) certification
- On average, MSCRS scores changed from “below average” to “above average” after the 2-year program (**Figure 3**)
- MS STEP UP scholars have reached many individuals with MS and professionals, based on data collected through the MS Activity Tracker (**Figure 4**)
- Cohorts have varied in the types of activities they have recorded since 2009 (**Figure 5**)
- MS STEP UP scholars have impacted the Greater Carolinas National MS Society Region in addition to several locations throughout the United States and Canada (**Figure 6**)

SUMMARY

Findings:

- Student-rated MS competencies increase across all competency categories
- MS Scholars have a huge impact on the MS community through various activities

In conclusion:

- MS STEP UP improves the clinical skills and knowledge of DPT students
- MS STEP UP adequately prepares graduates to become certified specialists in MS
- MS patient care will most likely benefit from the national expansion of MS STEP UP among DPT programs
- Future research should evaluate the effects of specialized training for therapists and students on patient outcomes.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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