Project Title: Assessing physical therapy students' perceptions related to the utility of the Kinect™ video gaming system for balance and movement interventions

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to qualitatively assess physical therapy students’ perceptions of the Kinect™ for Xbox 360 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA) video gaming system as a clinical tool for the treatment of movement dysfunction, specifically balance-related impairments. Results of this study may assist faculty members in understanding the need for use of this technology in the classroom/lab and incorporating it into the teaching curriculum.

Method: A survey and focus group interview will be administered to student physical therapists in their third semester of the program and student physical therapists in their fifth semester of the program. This survey will be offered after a learning lab experience to trial the Kinect™ program and apply it to real or paper-based patients. Approximately 30 total students will be recruited via invitation. Survey responses will be gathered and grouped thematically by the investigators. Highlights of the survey will be shared with fellow academic and clinical physical therapy faculty members as well as members of the departmental curriculum and assessment committees.

Results: Findings from this study will provide physical therapy faculty members the opportunity to better understand students’ perceptions of the use of technology tools for interventions.

Implications: Incorporation of the use of technological tools for treatment of movement dysfunctions may enhance student-provided patient care.

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