

Presenter's name: Ninette du Plessis

Degree, affiliation: PhD, Svitani International team

Curriculum vitae:

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the University of Pretoria (UP), 2023.
- Master (MOcc Ther) by virtue of research at UP, 2016.
- Bachelor's in Occupational Therapy at UP, 1995.

Membership of professional societies:

- Vice Chairperson of the Equine Assisted Therapy Association of South Africa.
- Registered at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.
- Registered at the Health and Care Professions Council of the United Kingdom.
- Member of the Equine Facilitated Occupational Therapists of the United Kingdom.

Publications:

- Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2023: Hippotherapy concepts: A scoping review to inform transdisciplinary practice guidelines. <https://doi.org/10.1080/11038128.2023.2231562>
- British Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2019: Effect of hippotherapy on physiological cost index and walking speed of adolescents with diplegia. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308022619841318>

Languages: Fluent in Afrikaans and English

Category: Oral presentation

Topic: Education: Others

Authors:

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Title: INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF EDUCATION AND PRACTICE IN EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY AND OTHER SERVICES

Keywords 1: Equine Assisted Services

Keyword 2: Best Practices

Keyword 3: Education Systems

Abstract:

Introduction: Many countries worldwide have therapists incorporating Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT), including physiotherapists (PTs), occupational therapists (OTs), speech and language therapists (SLPs),

and other services incorporating equines, including psychology, education, and sport. These countries have also developed educational and academic programs and training for professionals involved in these services, including EAT.

Objective: This presentation will give an overview of what is happening in six different countries and discuss future international endeavours, including education, consultation, and collaborative research to help therapists determine which physical, psychological or social aspects of engaging with equines can benefit their clients.

Design: The information will be presented in a narrative format and was not derived from a research study but from therapists involved in the EAT in these countries.

Results: A summary of EAT training provided in the Czech Republic, Finland, South Africa, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and the United States will be given. The participants of these training courses as well as the course providers will also be introduced to the audience.

Conclusion: This presentation will add to the knowledge about EAT and other services by explaining and describing the international development thereof. It will inform participants on the overview and availability of EAT training internationally to not only OTs, PTs and SLPs but also to psychologists and sport scientists who use the movement of quine or environment to reach functional goals within their professional scope of practice. Thus, expanding the world vision and understanding of the participants. The following education and services will be presented; see the table.

Disclaimer: Seven professionals compiled this proposal to the best of our ability. It adheres to the HETI terminology and guidelines but may occasionally differ due to country-specific terminology.