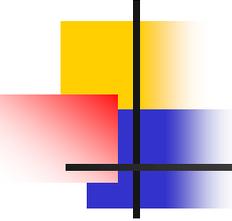


Factors Affecting the Propensity to
Adopt Evidence-based Practice Among
Physical Therapist

Patricia Hulseley Bridges, PT, EdD

Laura Bierema, EdD

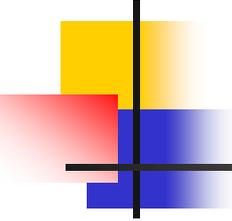
Thomas Valentine, EdD



The Goal of the American Physical Therapy Association

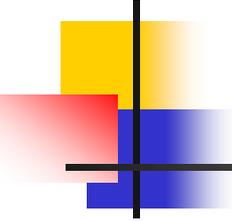
VISION 2020

“ Guided by integrity, lifelong-learning and commitment to accessible health programs for all people, physical therapists and physical therapy assistants will render evidence-based health services through out the continuum of care...”



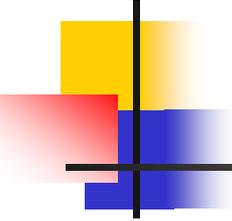
Problem

- No matter how important EBP appears to be to APTA, the ultimate decision on whether or not EBP will be adopted and meaningfully used is going to be made by the clinician providing direct patient care in a practice setting that does or does not support EBP.

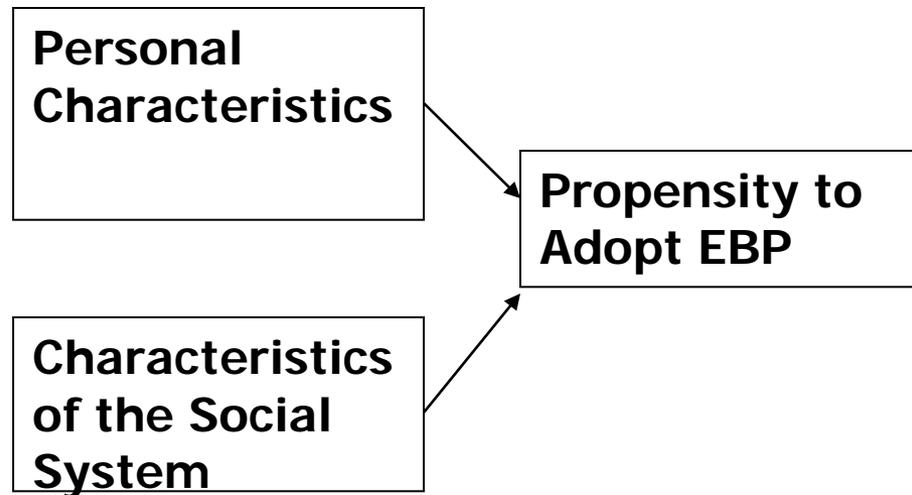


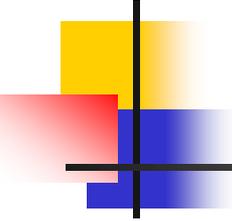
Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to determine to what extent do personal characteristics and the characteristics of the social system in the workplace influence the propensity of physical therapists to adopt evidence-based practice.



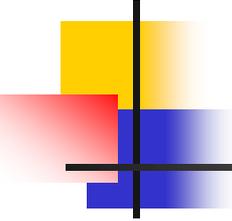
Questions Guiding the Study





Instrument

- **Psychometric Instrument (Green, Gorenflo, Wyszewianski, 2001)**
 - Propensity to adopt evidence-based practice, Practicality, and Nonconformity
- **Self-directed Learning Readiness Scale for Nurse Education (Fisher, Tague & King, 1999)**
 - Desire for learning, Self-management, and Self-control
- **Dimensions of the Learning Organization Questionnaire (Watkins, Marsick & Yang, 2002)**
 - Continuous learning, Dialogue & inquiry, Team learning, Embedded systems, Empowerment, System connection, and Provide leadership
- **Demographic Variables**



Sample

- The sample population consisted of a simple random sample of 1,320 licensed physical therapists in the state of Georgia. The sample was drawn from a pool of 3,897 licensed PTs. 959 questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 73%.

Personal Characteristics of Study Respondents (n=831)

Variable	Value
Age	<i>M</i> = 39.4
Years as a licensed physical therapist	<i>M</i> = 13.4
Female	72.7%
Male	23.7%
Race	
White/Caucasian	86.1%
Asian	6.1%
Black	4.6%
Highest Degree Held	
Bachelor of Physical Therapy	53.2%
Master of Physical Therapy	42.4%
Doctor of Physical Therapy	1.4%
Other Doctorate	1.8%

Personal Characteristics of Study Respondents (n=831)

Variable	Value
Employment Setting	
Outpatient	41%
Hospital	20.8%
Home Health Agency	12%
Skilled Nursing Facility/Extended Care/ Assisted Living	7.2%
Acute Rehab or Sub-acute Rehab	4.3%
School System	3.6%
Academic Institution	1.8%
Percentage of Time	
Direct Patient Care	<i>M</i> = 77.5%
Administration	<i>M</i> = 13.4%
Education	<i>M</i> = 5.7%
Research	<i>M</i> = 1.4%

Reliability of the Scale Variables

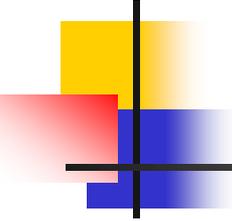
	N	Coefficient Alpha
Dependent Variable		
Propensity to adopt EBP	8	.83
Personal Characteristics		
Self-management	10	.87
Desire for learning	6	.85
Self-control	6	.80
Nonconformity	6	.56
Practicality	4	.66
Characteristics of the Social System		
Continuous Learning	3	.79
Dialogue & inquiry	3	.87
Team learning	3	.81
Embedded systems	3	.79
Empowerment	3	.81
System connection	3	.80
Provide leadership	3	.89

Linear Regression of Variables Predicting the Propensity to Adopt EBP

Personal Characteristics	<i>r</i>	<i>r</i> ²	<i>p</i>
Desire for learning	.36	.13	.001
Practicality	.27	.07	.001
Nonconformity	.24	.06	.001
Self-control	.18	.03	.001
Self-management	.09	.01	.006
Age	-.07	.01	.026
Years licensed as a physical therapist	-.10	.01	.002
Percentage of time spent in direct patient care	-.07	.01	.025
Characteristics of the Social System			
Empowerment	.11	.01	.001
Continuous learning	.08	.01	.015
System connection	.08	.01	.012

Best One, Two, and Three Variable Models

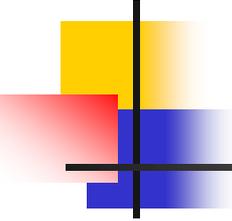
Model	Model R ²	Predictor	Beta
One variable model	.14	Desire for Learning	.369
Two Variable model	.19	Desire for Learning	.333
	.19	Highest Degree Held	.241
Three variable model	.23	Desire for Learning	.282
	.23	Highest Degree Held	.236
	.23	Practicality	.187



Limitations

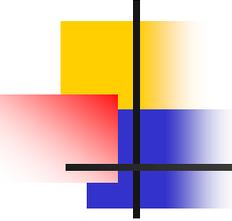
- Despite the theoretical integrity of these predictors we have limited explanatory power. This raises the intriguing question: What other variables would predict the propensity to adopt evidence-based practice?





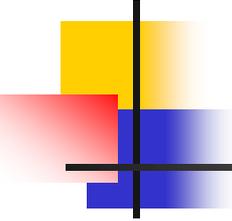
Conclusions

- Physical therapists who had a desire to learn demonstrated the propensity to adopt EBP.
- Physical therapists who had obtained a higher degree (highest degree held) demonstrated a propensity to adopt EBP.



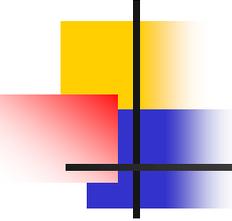
Conclusions

- Physical therapists who perceived that EBP could be used in day-to-day practice without impacting productivity demonstrated the propensity to adopt EBP.



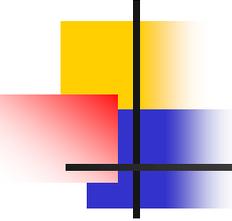
Conclusions

- Physical therapists who were comfortable engaging in clinical practices that were out of step with how others in the local community provide care or with what experts recommend (nonconformity) demonstrated a propensity to adopt EBP.



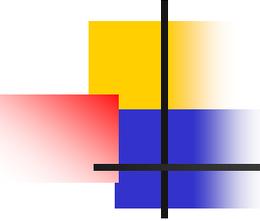
Conclusions

- Males agreed more strongly than females that scientific evidence was perceived as the best source of knowledge about what constitutes good practice as opposed to clinical experience and authority.
- Characteristics of the social system in the workplace had minimal impact on the propensity to adopt EBP.



Conclusions

- The propensity to adopt EBP was negatively correlated with age, years licensed as a physical therapist, and time spent in direct patient care. This suggested that there may be potential resistance to the propensity to adopt EBP.



Conclusions

- Multiple factors affected the propensity to adopt EBP. This suggested there was no magic bullet that would foster the adoption of EBP.