



Renee with translation headset

REPORT: XII International Congress of Therapeutic Riding, Brasilia, Brazil. August 2006

By Renee Casady PT MS HPCS

Imagine three and a half days of research presentations by colleagues from around the world. Presentations from 8 am to 5 pm were packed into two tracks in two locations at the large conference center in the heart of the capital of Brazil. Presenters spoke in their native language. Audience members listened to a language translation through radio headset. [Smile when you envision Beth Macauley SLP, Tulsa OK and Renee appearing quite confused when a speaker was talking at the podium but the English translation channel was dead air fuzz! Surprise...The speaker was giving the presentation in English!]

There were 81 oral presentations and 38 posters submitted to the Federation of Riding for the Disabled International. Beth and Renee brought the only studies from the USA. 62 research reports were from Brazil and the majority of these were from PT or OT or Speech students. Nice representation that students can and do put out good work even if it is a case study, they used valid/reliable outcome measures. The program manual listed the presentation abstracts in order of presentation from one day to the next. Attendees relied on the program manual to follow along each day. The program manual is printed in English, thank goodness. Attendees also are given a CDROM of authors' full text versions of their work, although only about 50% of the research is on the CDROM.

Making sense of the international terminology was complicated. There were 25+ different terms used by the researchers, authors and speakers. See the list along with the frequency of use. Deciphering whether the terminology of each researcher or the title of the research denoted true therapy was not easy and was most often impossible. The titles of the abstracts or posters called the work whatever the author chose to call their study. Per individual country, there may not actually be definitions to distinguish riding for recreation from riding for therapy. Professional designation or credentials were missing for the authors in the manual and there was apparently no requirement for the authors to disclose in their abstract or in their oral presentation: who or which professional rendered the therapy or riding sessions in the study. Thankfully, audience members could send written questions to the presenter which were either answered immediately from the podium or answered later by email from the presenter. Some people in the audience probably tired of hearing the question from Renee Casady of the USA ... "please tell the audience who or what professional worked in the riding sessions with the subjects in your study". If only the FRDI organization appreciated the importance of disclosing WHO did the WHAT. Maybe this will change for 2009 FRDI conference in Germany.

Serious about returning home with more



front seat of a taxi cab where passengers typically sit back home in S. Africa. Taxi driver thought it quite amusing also and offered to let her drive. ♦ Watching the precision of the Cavalry Regiment on 90+ horses performing synchronously while the military band played live.

evidence in favor of hippotherapy, I was disappointed with only uncovering twenty definite studies carried out by PT-OT-SLP. You will see four of those studies in this issue. I assure you that the collection in this issue of HIPPOThERAPY is not in neglect of OT or Speech interest in research. The authors who have been in continuous contact with me since I have returned from Brazil, just happen by mere chance to all be PTs. My apologies to our OT and SLP members. I will continue to work on making email contact with other researchers. Take notice though of the variety of outcome measures you will see used by the PTs in Brazil and Finland: Force Plate - GMFM - Muscle Tone Evaluation - BERG

INTERNATIONAL TERMINOLOGY USED AT FRDI 2006

- Frequency ♦ Term
- 29 ♦ Hippotherapy
- 27 ♦ Therapeutic Riding
- 14 ♦ Riding Therapy
- 12 ♦ Equootherapy; Therapeutic Horse(back) Riding
- 6 ♦ Equine Therapy
- 4 ♦ Horse Therapy
- 3 ♦ Equoterapia
- 2 ♦ Therapeutic and Remedial Vaulting; Equestrian Rehabilitation; Hyppotherapy
- 1 ♦ Horse Riding Therapy; Equinoterapia; Equestrian Re-Education; Hippotherapy Vaulting; Equine Assisted Therapy; Horse Riding for Therapy; Educational Riding; Equine Assisted Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy; Special Equestrian/Equitation Therapy; Therapeutic Lessons of Horse Riding; Equine Movement Therapy; Equestrian Therapy; Horseback Riding Training

Favorite Memories

- ♦ Being mistaken for the woman in black tights from the Analysis of Horse and Human Movement video...no, not me.
- ♦ Spread of fresh fruit, cheeses and bread at breakfast every morning.
- ♦ Catching Barbara Engel by the left shoulder when we shockingly discovered that right-turn-on-red-after-stop is not customary in Brasilia or simply that pedestrians do not have the right of way in the crosswalks.
- ♦ Laughing hysterically as an acquaintance from South Africa almost seated herself in the left

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