Spearman Correlations of .60 Are Not Poor

For many years, therapists have assumed a relationship between impairment and disability. More recently, researchers have begun to examine this assumption. "Motor Function and Activities of Daily Living Assessments: A Study of Three Tests for Persons With Hemiplegia" by Filiatrault,Arsenault,Dutil, and Bourbonnais (AJOT, September 1991, pp. 806-810) is a laudable example of such an examination. I have, therefore, no desire to malign their important work. What I want to address is the authors' interpretation of their Spearman coefficients. Although the magnitude of their correlations is large, I believe that the authors deliberately minimized the interpretations of their correlation coefficients above the .50-.60 range only when the correlations are measurement reliability coefficients" (p. 78).

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References

Issue on Clinical Reasoning Lacks Papers on Mental Health

I found the Special Issue on Clinical Reasoning (November 1991) most interesting and informative. I particularly liked the interdisciplinary nature of the articles, noting that many of the original sources were from philosophy, sociolinguistics, anthropology, and medical sociology. As an educator with 15 years of recent clinical experience, I understand the importance of clinical reasoning and of simply helping people to think. Other fields enhance and enrich our own ability to provide "good enough" treatment.

I was disappointed, however, that the field of psychology was not represented, nor was there an article that studied the clinical reasoning process of an occupational therapist who worked in the area of psychosocial dysfunction. I hope that this does not represent the total Clinical Reasoning Study funded by AOTF, that other fields of knowledge will be used, and that occupational therapists who work in psychological and social rehabilitation will be studied. This is important for two reasons. First, the thinking processes that were described and explicated are usually second nature to occupational therapists who work in psychosocial functioning. This is the way that they routinely and consciously carry out treatment. Second, there is much talk, at least in California, of the shrinking practice base in psychosocial dysfunction. Lack of focus on psychosocial occupational therapists and lack of interest directed toward their knowledge base minimize their contributions.

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Correction

For "Efficacy and Efficiency: Self-Designed Versus Instructor-Designed Study Tools" by Erica B. Stern and Ruth S. Hassanein (March 1992, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 253-258), the final sentence of the abstract should read, "The differences in efficacy and efficiency were similar for students of different learning styles (as classified by Witkin's field-dependence/field-independence continuum)." In addition, the final source in Table 1 should read, "Test x Card x Field." The AJOT editorial staff regrets this error and hopes readers were not inconvenienced.

Correction

For "Infant Neuromotor Assessments: A Review and Preview of Selected Instruments" by Lynn M. Einarsson-Backes and Katherine B. Stewart (March 1992, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 224-252), in the first sentence of the last paragraph on p. 225, the citation given for the Movement Assessment of Infants was incorrect. The sentence should read, "The Movement Assessment of Infants (Chandler, Andrews, & Swanson, 1980) was developed by physical therapists in response to a need for a neonatal intensive care unit follow-up evaluation tool." The AJOT editorial staff regrets this error and hopes readers were not inconvenienced.

The American Journal of Occupational Therapy welcomes letters to the editor. If you have a comment about or reaction to something that has appeared in the journal or about an issue that affects us or the profession, let us know your views. Type the letter double spaced and forward it to Elaine Vi- sellaier, Editor.