Advanced Physiotherapy Practice: A qualitative study on the potential barriers and challenges to implementation in Ghana

Andrews Tawiah PT, MSc University of Alberta
Alan Borthwick OBE PhD University of Southampton
Linda Woodhouse PT, PhD, University of Alberta

✉ atawiah@ualberta.ca
🐦 @Andytawiah
Physiotherapy in Ghana

• 2001: first physiotherapy bachelors degree - University of Ghana
• Over 200 graduated
• 150 registered physiotherapist WCPT
• Few specialist, No Advanced Practice
• Low doctor to patient ratio 1:9043
• Below # Universal Health Coverage
• Other health professionals will need to expand their scope to meet the health needs of the country

Ghana Physiotherapy Association 2017, WCPT 2017, Ghana Health Service 2014
Aim

• To understand the views and perceptions of physiotherapists and orthopedic surgeon in Ghana on the potential barriers and challenges to the implementation of Advanced Physiotherapy Practice.

Methodology

• **Basic Qualitative/Interpretative Study** (Merriam and Tisdell 2016)

• **Focus group** discussion with 8 physiotherapists

• **One-to-one interview** with the Director of Orthopedic Surgery

• Purposeful Sampling technique

• Semi-structured questions were used as discussion guide and interview schedule

• **Thematic Analysis** (Braun and Clarke 2013)
Key Findings

Theme 1
Jurisdictional Disputes

Professional boundaries could restrict advanced practice

Theme 2
Management support

Support from hospital management is key to setting up advanced roles

Theme 3
Change in Law and Policy

There is the need for changes in law and policy to support advanced practice

Theme 4
Post-graduate training

Advanced level training at the masters level is required to skills and competencies
This study highlights the potential challenges to the implementation of APP in Ghana.

Most programs in developing countries are implemented before challenges are being addressed, leading to program failure.

These challenges if addressed will ensure an effective implementation of APP in Ghana.