

SPOTLIGHT ON DEB STEWART OF MCMASTER

Debra Anne Stewart, MSc., BSc.OT is an Occupational Therapist and Assistant Clinical Professor at McMaster University in the School of Rehabilitation Science in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Several years ago she completed a challenging piece of work entitled "Development of Mutually Exclusive Lists for Activities and Participation: WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health". She presented that work at a North American Collaborating Center meeting in New York in the Summer of 2001. Last year she published "The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health: Implications for Occupational Therapists" in Occupational Therapy Now, July/August 2002, 17-21, 2002. This year, she is working on "Mapping of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure and the WHO ICF" with colleagues Anne Carswell, Sue Baptiste, and Mary Law. She is part of a private practice with several other occupational therapists who provide community-based occupational therapy services to families of children and teens with special needs. This is what keeps her "grounded" --working with families is her 'raison-d'etre'. It's the parents and the teenagers who provide her with the best evidence and support for a social model of health and function that emphasizes person-environment interactions and participation! On the personal side, Deb is a gardener at heart, walking (outdoors) is her second favorite activity, and camping is a close third. She lives in Mississauga with her husband and two teenagers...her daughter is 19 and just finished her first year of university, and her son is 16 in grade 11. And then there is the dog Joey who clearly sees himself as one of the 'pack' (if not the dominant member at times). Last year, she and her husband had their first big trip to Scandinavia and took a Baltic Sea cruise. We hope to see Deb in Halifax at next year's NACC meeting! Contact Deb at stewartd@mcmaster.ca.