

Faculty of Science and Health

FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE



Undergraduate Summer Research Internship Scheme 2017

Project Title:

Park-in-Dance.

The Impact of Movement to Music on Multisensory Impairment in Parkinson's Disease.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Johann Issartel

School/Research Centre: School of Health and Human Performance

Project Description

The School of Health and Human Performance seeks an Undergraduate Summer Intern to conduct, under the supervision of Dr. Johann Issartel, a project investigating the role and effectiveness of a dance / movement to music intervention on multisensory impairments in motor function in Parkinson's Disease (PD). PD is a neurodegenerative condition characterized by movement abnormalities such as tremor, gait disturbances and postural instability. There is growing evidence that movement to music, including Irish Dance, could have a beneficial role in PD rehabilitation. This project will be carried out in MedEx, DCU's community based chronic illness rehabilitation programme in collaboration with Dr. Noel McCaffrey and Dr. Brona Furlong.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of Dr. Johann Issartel, the Intern will:

- Work as part of the MedEx research team
- Engage in appropriate training as required
- Carry out a review of literature on existing type of dance rehabilitation and their impact for PD patients
- Actively engage in the Dance classes
- Develop a specific report on Tango rehabilitation programmes.
- Develop a 12 weeks Tango rehabilitation programme.
- Assist in participant recruitment and induction
- Administer and collate informed consent forms
- Schedule participants for data collection
- Generate and manage a database
- Collate, input, and clean data
- Perform descriptive analysis
- Write a report outlining the rationale, methods, and results of the project
- Carry out administrative work associated with the project as necessary

- Present the findings to the MedEx team

The following table, outlines the timeframe established to assess progress and ensure adequate completion of the project by due date.

June 4 th – June 22 nd	Research begins	Ø Initial Research and formation of SOP in Ø MedEx Review of literature and report of dance rehabilitation programmes
June 18 th – July 06 th	Development al Phase	Ø Development of Tango resources
July 09 th – July 27 th	Experimentatio n Process	Ø Testing Phase of the dance rehabilitation programme (initial phase)