14.4 ‘INNOVATION FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY’ – A NEW EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

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Background

‘Innovation for SLP’ is a semester-long educational seminar we have recently developed for advanced speech language pathology (SLP) students in Slovenia. The seminar is designed to provide students with tools for creative problem solving in their future professional environment.

Method(s)

During theory classes students are introduced to a range of innovative applications in the field of speech language pathology. The principles and technologies behind these applications are discussed and representative examples are illustrated through rich multimedia materials. Demonstrations of assistive applications in other clinical fields are provided with the idea of exposing students to the possibilities and underlying principles of creative problem solving. During the practicum, students experience the process of creating an innovative concept themselves by going through a structured work-process.

Result(s)

The seminar was given during the 2010 Spring semester to 4th year SLP students. Students divided into groups, and chose a clinical context for the practicum (followed by the proposal and formulation of an innovative concept which addresses the findings from the field-work). Groups were supervised with regular meetings, discussions and evaluation sessions. Finally, the groups summarised their findings and prepared their final presentations.

Conclusion

In order to evaluate the potential benefits of the developed course for enhancing SLP education curricula, we have collected questionnaire responses from SLPs working in Slovenia and from SLP students. The results and discussion will be presented at the conference.