Telepractice: A Concluding Post-Script
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Telepractice: A Transformational Force
- It’s here – there is no denying it!
- The challenges
  - Reduce barriers (policy, reimbursement; licensure)
  - Educate receptive members of the current workforce
  - Fully integrate telepractice into university training

Invent “Next Generation” Therapies
- TR has the capacity to spawn:
  - Previously unimagined therapeutic strategies, materials, and adaptations of new technologies
  - Assessment and therapy within authentic environments
  - New opportunities to promote generalization
  - Virtual environments
  - Training
  - Clinical practice
  - “Smart rooms”
  - SLP and AuD generated “apps”
- Among those pushing these boundaries: Michael Towey and colleagues

Fully Explore TR’s Role in Prevention
Telepractice can:
- Obviate delays in service
- Avail specialty services to underserved populations
- Identify areas in which TR can contribute to significant costs savings:
  - Avoid readmissions
  - Prevent expensive to treat conditions

Research “Spaces”
- Proof of Concept
  - Much progress; work remains in all disorder areas
- Comparative Effectiveness Research:
  - In-person vs. Telepractice Interventions
    - Clinical results
    - Time
    - Length of service
    - Efficiencies for clients and clinicians
    - Healthcare economics/data mining
- Research benefits to patients, insurers, society
- Benefits to corporations/industry/military

Research “Spaces”
- Readiness (for TR) Scales
  - Client/patient
  - Clinicians
  - Clinical supervisors
  - Universities/institutions
  - Schools
  - Healthcare organizations
- Stakeholder Satisfaction
- Quality Assurance Protocols
- Privacy
Telepractice and Inter-professional Education

- Telepractice presents authentic, common training opportunities
  - Technical
  - Telepresence
  - Ethical
  - Cross-training
  - Interdisciplinary teams
  - Educational/IEPs
  - Medical

Resources

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  - Website
  - SIG 18 – Telepractice
  - Perspectives (SIG #18 and others)
  - Staff resources: Janet Brown and Janice Brannon (state licensure)
- American Telemedicine Association website and e-journals
- International Journal of Telerehabilitation
  http: telerehab.pitt.edu

International Opportunities

- University training
- Clinical practice
- Research collaborations