



SY 2E2.2 - The Impact of Distance Learning Modalities in Prosthetic Education Programs

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The presentation describes a pilot program involving the delivery of a twelve-month continuing education course in lower extremity prosthetics. The course was delivered using distance-learning modalities from the Center for International Rehabilitation in Chicago Illinois to professional students employed in ten prosthetic centers in three Central American countries. The program is a public private partnership between the Center for International Rehabilitation and WebCT Corporation and is conducted in coordination with the Organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization. The program began in July of 2001 and

concluded in July 2002. The in-career students participate in a blend of live conferences and workshops, synchronous and asynchronous on-line activities and self-study. The presentation describes the nature of the program, its start-up, pedagogy, the information and communication technology (ICT) systems utilized and experience gained. The technical topics addressed include, the use of hybrid CD Roms, internet-assisted content delivery using WebCT courseware, email and communication tools. The potential of this innovative initiative for professional development in low-income countries is highlighted.