

ACOTUP Researcher Profile

Name of researcher: Marie-José Durand, Université de Sherbrooke

Degrees and professional qualifications (including fellowships):

Postdoctoral internship the Interdisciplinary Health Research Group; (GRIS), Université de Montréal; PhD Clinical Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke; MSc Biomedical Sciences, Université de Montréal; BSc Occupational Therapy, Université Laval

Email: Marie-Jose.Durand@USherbrooke.ca

Website: <http://www.usherbrooke.ca/sciences-cliniques/recherche/les-principaux-themes-de-recherche/profils/durand-marie-jose/>

Area of research: My research program deals with prevention of disability at work. More precisely, I develop and validate measuring tools to take into account in a situation of disability at work, for instance: representation of the illness, questionnaire of to prolonged incapacity risk factors or obstacles to return to work and to overcome them. Also I come up with readaptation programs based on a mixed approach, both building on a synthesis of scientific literature and on the needs of users. This way, I develop a program theory and its validation, and I also analyze the implementation of work rehabilitation programs. My research programming has been developed for an adult clientele with musculoskeletal disorder, mental illnesses, and cancers. Through my work, I write up the important contribution that an Occupational Therapist can offer in re-entry and re-training into the workforce for a person excluded from their role as a worker. An Occupational Therapist represents the key interloper to intervene with employers.

Research related awards and honors:

- Senior Researcher (senior), Quebec Health Research Fund, FRSQ (2008-12)
- Research Scholar (junior 2), Quebec Health Research Fund, FRSQ (2006-08)
- Research Scholar, Canada Health Research Institutes (IRSC) (2001-05)
- Canada Medical Research Council Fellowship, 2 year scholarship for post doctoral internship (\$46,844/year) (1998-2000)
-
- Research grant from the Health Information Liaison and Application Network (Research Excellence Centres Network), supported by the Canadian Medical Research Council, postdoctoral internship (\$34,000/year) (1997)
- Honorable mention from the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, for the quality of academic record and scientific work in doctoral studies, the Université de Sherbrooke (1996)
- Quebec Health Research Fund Fellowship, doctoral studies, 18 months (\$34,240) (1994-96)

Grants/funding history : (last 5 years)

- Durand MJ, Corbière M, Coutu MF. (2013-17). Study of Psychometric Qualities of the Occupational Disability Identification Tool (OISHT) used in workers with a skeletal muscular disorder or transitory mental disorder. IRSST (research competition by

- competition) (\$210,790).
- Durand MJ, Vézina N, Corbière M, Coutu MF, Reinharz D, Gaudreault N, Tremblay D, Nastasia I, Panaccio A. (2012-16). Interdisciplinary research program on preventing and reducing incapacity to work. FRQS (\$765,000).
 - Durand MJ, Tremblay D, Anema JR, Fassier JB, Loisel P, Shaw WS, Panaccio A. (2013-15). Defining the theoretical basis of work rehabilitation programs: a realistic review. IRSSST (\$198, 875).
 - Loisel P, Anema JR, Baril R, Breslin C, Bultmann U, Cassidy JD, Cooper JE, Corbière M, Côté P, Coutu MF, Dewa C, Dionne C, Durand MJ, et al. (2009-15). CIHR strategic training program in work disability prevention. IRSC (training program grant) (\$1,950,000).
 - Durand MJ, Corbière M, Coutu MF, Reinharz D. (2011-13). Participatory approach in a business aiming to improve work absence management. IRSC (\$168,234).

Research collaboration: I have been part of two interdisciplinary research teams between 2000 and 2008, which were financed by the government of Quebec, and I currently direct my own research team in prevention of inability to work (2012-2016). The main characteristic of these teams was interdisciplinary. They were made up of the following disciplines: medicine, biomechanics, ergonomics, anthropology, occupational therapy, psychology, work psychology physiologists, and evaluative research expertise, management science, social sciences, organizational analysis. More precisely, I have completed several projects in collaboration with researchers in ergonomics, anthropology, psychology, evaluative research, and organizational analysis. This collaboration is extremely rich, as it allows me, for one, to broaden my understanding of work disability , both in individual and organizational components, and secondly, to appropriate different research approaches, and ones that are intimately linked to real environments. Also, several of my publications are in collaboration with researchers on those teams.

What is the most important thing in mentoring graduate students?

Enable creativity while strengthening the research methods

It is important to convey openness and also a capacity for critical analysis

Most significant publications:

- Book Chapters
Durand MJ, Coutu MF, Hong QN. (2014). (Invited Submission) The evaluation of implementation of rehabilitation interventions. In Corbière M, Larivière N. (Eds.), Qualitative Methods in Context of Mental Health Rehabilitation. Québec: Université du Québec Press.
- Article
Durand MJ, Berthelette D, Loisel P, Imbeau D. (2012). Validation of the program impact theory of a work rehabilitation program. Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation, 42(4), 495-505.
- Book
Corbière M, Durand MJ. (Eds.) (2011). From Mental Disorder to Inability to Work: A Transdisciplinary Perspective Aiming to Better Seize these Problematics and Offer Intervention Paths. Québec: Université du Québec Press.

Tips would you give for new investigators:

- Start a research program which starts with the prolonging, at least in part, one's

previous works. You have to pursue that momentum instead of starting over on a new research topic.

- Seek out small grants at first to pursue pilot studies and create a base of preliminary data. This will let you confirm your ability to write an application and complete a short project. In addition, preliminary data are an asset for projects with a larger span.
- Avoid participating as a co-researcher in too many studies, as this will tend to spread you out too much and will take away time from developing your own research program.
- Choose your co-researchers carefully; this collaboration should be respectful and enriching.

Resources/supports/training programs for new investigators? At this time, it seems important to me to do postdoctoral internships in at least two different universities. It is important to expose yourself to a variety of teams and functions. This study period is essential to broaden methodological approaches and acquire theories in a broader scope in our field of study.