

UBC Physical Therapy NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Fall 2009



Welcome MPT I, Class of 2011

I feel an emotional link to the incoming MPT students as we begin in our new roles with the Department of Physical Therapy at UBC. Just as the students should be proud to have been admitted to the MPT class and excited about their future challenges, I feel great pride to be chosen to lead this department. The department's tradition of striving for excellence has been instrumental in our international reputation for excellence in teaching and research. I am also excited about the future challenges for me personally, for the department and the profession. There are opportunities for establishing new patterns of physical therapy practice. The knowledge base in rehabilitation and basic science research is ex-

September 4: The incoming Masters of Physical Therapy I, class of 2011 in the Friedman Courtyard

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panding at a rapid rate and UBC researchers are playing critical and leading roles in knowledge discovery and translation. Physical therapy practice is changing more rapidly than most of us imagined it could and demands practitioners with an extraordinary knowledge base and the ability to integrate scientific evidence into clinical practice. Our task here at UBC is not merely to follow trends but to take the lead in developing the curriculum and physical therapy practice patterns that will set the agenda for the physical therapy profession both nationally and internationally.

In the coming years we are committed to provide leadership within the physical therapy community, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. We will advance in research in diverse fields from the basic sciences to knowledge translation as well as in the use of innovative curricular approaches in education such as the student run, inter-collaborative clinic, and in the development of effective clinical practice.

In order to accomplish these goals we need to work together. My most important task is to facilitate that collaboration among our great faculty, students, staff, practitioners, and alumni. I have no illusions that it will be easy but I look forward to the challenge and to your input. I know that it will be an exciting year for me as well as the students!

Section 1: Department Highlights

Program Expansion

Jayne Garland and Brenda Loveridge, Special Advisor to the Faculty of Medicine Dean for Allied Health Professions, in tandem with other members in the faculty of medicine have long been working toward program expansion to UNBC. A request was made to the Ministry for the intake of 40 students which would provide the funds required to run a distributed program with some students at UNBC. The government has approved only the initial 20 seats and not the full 40, we are now attempting to find a model that can work to bring the program to the north. We are excited about the opportunity to expand to the North and will keep you posted on any progress on these efforts.

Visiting Scientist

The Department wishes to welcome Carolyn Emery PhD, MSc, BScPT as a visiting scientist. Carolyn is an assistant professor holding a joint appointment in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Community Health Sciences and Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary (U of C). Carolyn holds a Professorship in Paediatric Rehabilitation at U of C and is an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Population Health Investigator and a CIHR New Investigator. Carolyn completed her PhD studies in Epidemiology from the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta. Her MSc was also in Epidemiology from the U of C (1998). She is a graduate (BScPT) of Queen's University, Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences. Carolyn has 20 years of clinical experience and expertise in paediatrics, orthopaedics and sport medicine. She has been part of the U of C Sport Medicine Team for 13 years. She is the co-Chair of the Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre at the U of C where her research focuses primarily on injury prevention in sport, with a focus on the child and adolescent population. Specifically, her research interests include examining risk factors and evaluating injury prevention strategies in sport-specific settings (i.e. basketball, soccer), more global school settings and examining the impact of injury on long-term health outcomes (i.e. osteoarthritis). Carolyn also has a national multi-centre research program examining the risk associated with body checking policy in youth ice hockey players. Carolyn is the Canadian Associate Editor for the North American Journal of Sports Physical Therapy and is a scientific reviewer for several journals in sport medicine, epidemiology, physiotherapy and paediatrics. She is currently the Canadian Physiotherapy Association Division Research Liaison and Chair of the National Physiotherapy Research Advisory Consortium.

She will be working out of the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility and forming collaborations with UBC faculty members through next summer.

Olympic Torchbearer for the Department

Tyler Dumont who has been nominated to represent the Department in the 2010 Olympic flame relay as a torchbearer. The Department was provided with this opportunity, in recognition of our equipment donation to the 2010 Games and we had a nomination process for selection. Tyler received an overwhelming number of nominations to receive the honor. He is an exceptional teacher in our MPT program (previous recipient of the Faculty of Medicine excellence in clinical teaching award), did his MSc in our Rehabilitation Sciences graduate program. Tyler will be carrying the torch on Feb 10 for 300m in North Vancouver.

Holiday Happenings

The Department's second annual pumpkin carving contest will be particularly competitive this year as members of the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences will join in. Awards will be given to Scariest, Most Humorous and Most Creative.

The PT Student Society will also host a 'Spooky Social' in the Friedman Courtyard on Oct 30th with prizes for best costume.

Alumni Profile

by Heather Branscombe



Heather Branscombe (née Bews)

Graduating Year: 1997

I graduated from UBC in 1997 with a couple of important guiding principles in my tool belt: evidence and teamwork are important. I look back on my years at UBC as a very fun and exciting time where I was allowed to grow both professionally as well as personally. These foundational experiences have proved to be instrumental in my career.

When I left UBC I had a love of orthopaedics due to my sports background, but thanks to Dr. Susan Harris, I had developed a love of paediatrics as well. One of the great things about this profession is the breadth of practice experiences available, so like a kid in a candy store I sampled a variety of practice areas and settings in my first few years. Some could see this as unfocused, but I choose to see it as now knowing my favourite flavour because I have tasted so many!

I spent the next portion of my career focusing on the paediatric population, both in the hospital and in the community setting. What I continue to love about this population is the meaningful impact we can have in family lives.

In early 2006 I finished my Masters of Business Administration. I did so while working as a PT in a non-profit child development centre. I had many people ask me during this time whether it was my intention to go into private practice after completing my MBA, and at the time it wasn't even on my radar. I was working full-time, going to school part-time, and I had three children under the age of 5...even now I wonder how I did it. I have wonderful support from my husband and family who have always helped me to achieve my dreams.

Our middle child is a happy and loving boy who happens to have spastic hemiplegic cerebral palsy. He has most definitely shaped my career like no other. I can say that I can see how our profession impacts families, on a professional as well as a personal level.

It was and continues to be a wonderful experience to be on the receiving end of great physiotherapy for a loved one. The reality of timely and quality evidenced based rehabilitation has taken a new role in our lives. I saw a need for this kind of quality care for both children and adults with neurological impairments in our area and with an MBA in my back pocket Abilities Neurological Rehabilitation was born in October of 2007.

My mission for our clinic is to be a center of excellence for both clients and therapists alike. With limited initial resources both from a therapist perspective as well as a funding perspective, my UBC tool belt of team work and evidenced based practice has served us well to be effective and to grow quickly.

We have grown from a sole practitioner to a multi-disciplinary practice of four therapists and seven support staff. We have brought some leading edge technology, such as the Saebo arm training program, and the

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Section 2: People News

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Bioness L300 foot drop system to BC. We have the honour to be collaborating with Dr. Carlo Menon (SFU engineering) and Dr. Lara Boyd (UBC PT) in upcoming research projects and we have the ability to deliver high quality care in a multi-disciplinary way.

I have learned quite a bit of skills since I have left UBC, but I know that my tool belt, albeit limited when I first graduated as a PT, had the quality tools that have helped to build me into the professional I am today.

When people ask me what I do for a living, I can proudly say that I work at Abilities Neurological Rehabilitation and that I took my physiotherapy training at UBC. I am very thankful for this school that guided me towards my career path and continues to be a source of pride in all their accomplishments.

New Staff Profiles

Carolyn Andersson **Clinical Education Officer**



Carolyn “officially” joined the department June 1st this year, after coming to work with PT on a temporary basis in January. Her history with UBC goes back a long way – she first started out working for what was then “Distance Education” and remembers mailing out beetle and wood samples to the students taking Forestry correspondence courses! A big part of her working life (12 years) was spent in various roles at Green College (a little-known gem on campus), lastly as Event Coordinator & Alumni Liaison. Carolyn really enjoys her new role at PT because she has the opportunity to work on many projects, and is able to dabble into graphics, which is a big interest of hers.

Carolyn is an anomaly – a born-and-bred Vancouverite! She has a Dipl.T. in Broadcast Communications (Radio) from BCIT. It’s a long story why she never ended up following a career in radio, but needless to say it involved heading off on a travel adventure, and resulted in the fact that she met her husband via those travels! She now considers herself half Canadian and half Swedish, and travelling remains a big part of their lives.

Carissa McRae **MPT Curriculum Assistant**



Carissa was born and raised in Port Moody, and (for now) calls Steveston home. She has worked in a variety of administrative roles, and is excited to be working on an amazing campus. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Geography, with a minor in Criminology, at Simon Fraser University in 2006.

While not at work, she loves to be outside playing sports. She likes trying new activities and attempting new challenges, most recently, this involved competing in and completing the 2009 Canada Ironman in Penticton, B.C. (and she has the tattoo to prove it!). In addition to swimming, biking, and running she plays ultimate Frisbee and dodge ball in Vancouver leagues.

Faculty News



Congratulations to **Janice Eng** who on Monday Sept 21, 2009 was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Fellows elected to the Academy are well recognized by their peers nationally and internationally for their contributions to the promotion of health science. They have demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies and a commitment to advance academic health science. Such individuals are elected to the organization after a nominating and peer review procedure that seeks to recognize those who are marked by a record of substantial accomplishment. Janice is one of only five physiotherapists to have been elected as a CAHS Fellow.

Dr. Eng was also named the recipient of the 2009 Jonas Salk award. The Jonas Salk Award is presented annually to a Canadian scientist, physician or researcher who has made a new and outstanding contribution in science or medicine to prevent, alleviate or eliminate a physical disability.

Since 1992, Dr. Eng has published 104 peer-reviewed articles in refereed journals. Not only is Dr. Eng a Canadian Institute of Health Research National Career Scientist but also a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Provincial Career Scientist. The many honors that she has received for her research include UBC's highly coveted Killam Research Prize (2006) (award in recognition of scholarly contributions of international significance); UBC's Outstanding Young Alumnus in 2002; Outstanding Researcher by the Physiotherapy Association of BC (2002), and Distinguished Merit Award (2007) (one of 10 faculty members from within the Faculty of Medicine). Dr. Eng is not only internationally recognized for developing novel treatments to assist people with disabilities; she has been instrumental in translating this knowledge to clinicians and patients worldwide. Dr. Eng has taken steps to ensure that her research goes on to yield immediate beneficial outcomes for society by working within community settings with both clinicians and policy makers. For example, her evidence-based Fitness and Mobility Exercise (FAME) program (www.icord.org/fame.html) has now been adopted for roll-out across Canada. The protocol has also been implemented in over 75 sites, including BC, Ontario, Australia, Iceland, Hong Kong, Taipei and Chicago. The program has been used with a variety of populations, i.e. thousands of people with stroke, Parkinson disease, and chronic conditions have benefited from the positive health effects of this program.

Dr. Eng is the innovator and leader of the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE) project. The SCIRE project is a synthesis of evidence designed to enable the best treatment for clients with SCI (www.icord.org/scire). SCIRE has created a highly accessible source of quality information for health professionals, clients and their families, and advocacy groups. In the last year she has taken this project a large step forward to ensure that this large compilation of best evidence leads to improvements in physical function following a SCI and reduces the severity of complications associated with SCI.

The Graded Repetitive Arm Supplementary Program (http://www.rehab.ubc.ca/jeng/Our_Exercise_Manuals/GRASP.htm) developed by **Janice Eng** and her former student Jocelyn Harris was showcased on CTV June 10, 2009. The program not only improved the client's ability to use

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Section 2: People News

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their stroke-affected arm in the hospital and home setting, but it also reduced depressive symptoms. The results of her study of this program were published in the journal of Stroke (June 2009 issue). In July she was again interviewed by CTV for her stroke exercise research project at ICORD.

Dr. Janice Eng has clearly made sustained, novel and outstanding contributions that are aimed at reducing disability in persons with stroke or SCI, as well as improving the functional capabilities and quality of life in these individuals through various rehabilitation interventions.



Congratulations are also in order for **Sue Murphy** on her promotion to Senior Instructor. This is a well deserved recognition of the years of service she had provided the Department in a variety of roles. Sue began work with the School in 1995 as a teaching assistant and has held roles as diverse as course coordinator, instructor, fieldwork educator and assisted with admissions. From 2002-2006 she served as interim Division Head during a period in which we underwent curriculum renewal and a move to a graduate level program. She currently serves as the ACCE, a position she has held since 2008.

The ongoing CIHR-supported study of **Teresa Liu-Ambrose** trying to identify cognitive impairments associated with recurrent falling to devise better fall-prevention strategies was featured on the CIHR website: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/39927.html> in August. She also received a CIHR grant to host a meeting on Aging titled 'International Symposium on Exercise to Promote Cognitive Health and Functional Independence' which will be held in summer of 2010. The purpose of the meeting is to advance current research efforts in delineating the role of exercise, what type of exercise facilitates cognitive health in seniors and to establish a research agenda for future international collaborative and consensus efforts.

Dr. Liu-Ambrose was also invited to speak at The Exercise and Physical Activity in Aging Conference put on by the Section on Geriatrics of the American PT association held in July of 2010.

Linda Li's research project developing an animated, web-based program that will help patients with rheumatoid arthritis find the best treatment option for their condition was also highlighted on the CIHR website in September: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/40066.html>. For this project she has teamed with instructors and graduate students at the Centre for Digital Media in Vancouver to create the Animated, Self-serve, Web-based Research (ANSWER) tool, an innovative program that will eventually be posted on The Arthritis Society's website.

Lara Boyd has received considerable press after her article, which was written with graduate student Meghan Linsdell, was featured by BMC Neuroscience in July. A number of press outlets picked up the story about the effect of repetitive Transcranial Stimulation (TMS) over the dorsal premotor cortex motor on learning including the Globe and Mail. In addition, her TMS and stroke work is scheduled to be featured on Breakfast TV November 5th. On October 22nd she was also the keynote speaker at the Harvard Braintree Neurorehabilitation Conference.

Physical Therapy Student Society

by Helen Ko, MPT 2 Class Rep

This year, the Physical Therapy Student Society (PTSS) kicked off with a BZZR garden. It was a great first event of its kind and all students who came enjoyed socializing amongst themselves and with Faculty members. The First Year Orientation was also a success and many First Years mentioned how much they enjoyed the interactive scavenger hunt and potluck lunch hosted by the MPT2s. Special thanks to Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia for their donations to the potluck lunch and to the PT Department for the scavenger hunt prizes. This year's fall ball, a themed "Chocolate Masquerade" was also a particular treat as MOTs and MPTs competed for the best cake and best masks- both of which the MPT won! Held at Koerner Ballroom, the night was filled with desserts and disguise. In terms of how students find the MPT program so far, **Robert Edwards** (MPT 1) says, "It's awesome, the people are great. Thursday is my favorite day- a full day of anatomy, from lectures to hands-on labs". The MPT 2s are also keen to acquire more practical skills this term to add to their repertoire and are looking forward to their upcoming placements.



*Day of the Longboat Divisional winners:
MPT 2 "Quad-Row-Ceps"*

Left to right: Teryn B, Haley C, Heather J, Rosemarie S, Stephanie H, Christine D, Kaya D, Cheryl C, Katie M, Michelle B



Welcoming BBQ, September 10, 2009

Left to right: Kyle F, Jamie S, Mikaela R, Jane B

Section 3: Student Highlights

Research Trainees in the Rehabilitation Science Graduate Program

by Meghan Linsdell, MSc Class Rep



The research graduate students started off the school year with an orientation session to meet the new students and to reconnect with returning students. We'd like to welcome new trainees **Jeanie Zabukovec**, **Sarah Neil**, **Dominik Zbogar**, **Stephanie Glegg**, **Krista Best**, **Courtney Pollock**, and **Lois Lochhead**. Summer term always seems to be a productive one for the research students, within the past few months many of us have had papers submitted and published, grants submitted, and of course have been working away on our research projects. **Meghan Linsdell** and her supervisor Lara Boyd had their paper "Excitatory repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation to left premotor cortex enhances motor consolidation of new skills" published in the journal BMC Neuroscience and it was also featured in the Globe and Mail. **Jill Zwicker**, PhD candidate has applied for funding from the March of Dimes to continue her research on children with developmental co-ordination disorder. **Bubblepreet Randhawa** has submitted a paper to the Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy entitled "The kinesthetic and visual imagery questionnaire (KVIQ) is a reliable tool for individuals with Parkinson's disease". The graduate students also recently moved some workstations into the Margaret Hood Lab and are very thankful for the natural light provided by windows. **Babak Shadgan MD**, MSc. Sports Med., Dip. FA PhD Candidate & Research Assistant is once again involved in research during the Olympics. He has been assigned as a Medical Officer and an IOC (International Olympic Committee) clinical researcher at 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. He will be involved in a research project in which IOC will monitor sports injuries in all disciplines during the Olympic Games. The aim of this surveillance study is to better understand the nature, incidences and characteristics of sports injuries related to winter sports at the Olympic level in order to devise the necessary strategies for prevention of the injuries. The research group consists of 5 sports physicians and orthopaedic surgeons under leadership of Professor Lars Engebretsen, Head of Scientific Activities of IOC Département médical & scientifique.

It seems as though everyone was else was too busy with their work to provide an update, so we'll have to assume its going well!

Knowledge Broker (KB) and Partners Current Projects

1. SKIN & WOUND CARE GUIDELINES

The Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia (PABC) Practice Guideline Advisory (PGA) Task Force requested guidance for clinicians in best practice for skin & wound care. Recently developed documents from OT, PT and Nursing exist to do this, the next steps will be: (1) to determine the current level of awareness of PTs regarding the PT role in skin & wound care issues (2) to determine the number of PTs who utilize basic and more advanced assessments & interventions (3) to develop learning resources / adoption strategies to guide basic risk assessment and intervention and (4) to review existing resources on advanced assessment and intervention, augment if required, and make available on-line. The resources will be collected and posted on the PABC and UBC websites.

2. WHEELCHAIR PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH NEUROMUSCULAR CONDITIONS

A joint endeavor being undertaken by both the PT and OT KB is to appraise, update and adapt the ***UK Best Practice Guidelines for Wheelchair Provision for Children and Adults with Neuromuscular Conditions*** for use by OTs and PTs in BC. The UK guidelines will be reviewed with the AGREE instrument and will be updated based on a new synthesis of the literature. The completed guideline will be made available on appropriate websites.

3. TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY – IS OUTCOME MEASUREMENT KEY? (TKAOM)

This initiative is a compilation of unique and complementary projects designed to address 4 objectives: (1) to establish a baseline of current utilization of OM in TKA care, (2) to document clinician identified barriers and to use of OM in TKA care, (3) to develop learning resources and tools necessary to facilitate use of OM in TKA care and (4) to disseminate and implement learning resources and tools using the information from the first two objectives in conjunction with evidence from implementation science.

A team of physiotherapists has been assembled for a VCHRI Program Evaluation course to evaluate current utilization of outcome measures. A MSc project will identify barriers and solutions to OM utilization. The Provincial Rehabilitation Advisory Group Subcommittee on Outcome Measurement is completing an inventory of OM suitable for the TKA population. The Inter-regional Orthopaedic Working Group identified the topic of OM– How, What, When and Why for the Oct 15/09 forum.

Information from all of these sources will be used to meet the first three objectives of this project. The PGA from PABC has identified evidence-based practice (EBP) in TKA as one of three priority areas for the development of tools and resources to assist clinical practice and will therefore assist with meeting the fourth objective. The CEO, the librarian, the Communications Director and members of the Task Force from throughout the province will be involved in the implementation and evaluation.

4. SAFEMOB

The PGA Task Force of PABC also identified the need for some form of guidance for BC PT clinicians with respect to the safe mobilization of acutely ill medical and postsurgical patients. A formal systematic review will be undertaken by MPT students which will be completed in 2011. Because there is an obvious need for guidance prior to 2011 a group of content experts has been convened to produce an 'interim' tool to guide clinician decision-making. This tool will be made available on and PABC websites and be supported by knowledge translation activities such as the development of a DVD or podcast to train PTs in using the tool.

As can be evidenced by the scope of the above projects, this is an exciting time in BC physiotherapy. The extent of the collaboration between administrators, clinicians and academic faculty is notable and the support of the Department, PABC and the BC Rehabilitation Science Research Network in providing resources to enable these projects is outstanding.

More information about these projects can be found on the website: http://www.physicaltherapy.med.ubc.ca/research/Physical_Therapy_Knowledge_Broker.htm

Focus on Interprofessional Education

by Sue Murphy, Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education



Over the last few months there has been significant activity in the Department to enhance Interprofessional learning opportunities during clinical placements, as each student is now required to complete a placement with an interprofessional component.

Interprofessional Learning is defined as students “learning with, from, and about each other” (Centre For The Advancement Of Interprofessional Education [CAIPE]2002) and is different than students simply being “in the same place at the same time”. In Interprofessional Education, formal learning experiences are designed for student teams whose membership is comprised of students from multiple professions. These learning activities are specifically designed to facilitate student interaction and learning, and can include activities as varied as shared patient care, case reports, inter-professional rounds, visits to other clinical locations, and many others. The goal

of IPE is to improve client care by having students practicing in a more collaborative way once they have graduated.

This summer, several PT students participated in Interprofessional learning in settings around the province. Two students were placed with the Interprofessional Rural Placement of BC (IRPbc) in Port McNeill and in Powell River. In an IRPbc placement (www.irpbc.com), students from multiple professions form a team which live and work together as they complete a clinical placement in a rural / remote location. As well as an enriching learning experience our students also enjoy wonderful local hospitality.

In a more urban setting, a pilot project was carried out in acute neurosciences at Royal Columbian Hospital. Students from PT, OT, SLP and nursing engaged in a variety of activities, including a visit to the Rehab unit at Eagle Ridge Hospital to observe the progression of care after their patients leave RCH. Our thanks go to the Vancouver Foundation and UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund who provided the funding for this initiative and to Bev Parno and May Urbina from RCH physiotherapy department, who very competently developed and led this successful initiative.

The trend towards Interprofessional education in the clinical setting will continue with the student led clinic at RCH moving towards an inter-professional model in November. It is also hoped to form links with the family practice clinic at UBC which would provide additional inter-professional opportunities. Stay tuned for future developments!

News from the Provincial Advisors for Clinical Education Committee

Anne Rankin served as head on a task force for the Provincial Advisors for Clinical Education Committee. The “task force” was formed to examine what preceptors (from a variety of practice areas and from throughout the province) felt would be meaningful recognition. A series of teleconferences were held over the summer exploring this issue with preceptors. The most valued methods were educational opportunities e.g. teleconferencing courses; provision of certificates for area specific textbooks/other learning resources; or scholarship opportunities. Other opportunities for improvement identified involved health authority recognition, as well as support for this type of learning within their facility (e.g. provision of extra staff etc during the initial learning period of the student). This was brought forward at the most recent PACE meeting and will be discussed and explored further.

Clinical Faculty Profile

by Scott Brolin, Clinical Assistant Professor



Winner of the Health Employers Association of BC 2009 Award of Merit in the Academic Health Category

I first decided that I wanted to become a physiotherapist while working as a volunteer trainer for the Simon Fraser University Women's Soccer team. Seeing the other therapists in action, realizing that I could make a difference when someone was hurt or recovering from injury solidified my drive to get into 'Physiotherapy School'.

I completed my physiotherapy program at Curtin University in Perth, Australia in late 2001. Since moving back to Canada, I have held several positions related to physiotherapy. I worked as the Program Leader for a Workplace Health Program at Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) that provides PT/OT services to hospital employees with workplace injuries and as a casual physiotherapist as a supplement to my program leader position on various in

patient units at RCH.

In 2004, I began a new role as the Practice Leader of the RCH Physiotherapy Department. Since that time I have participated on many teams and committees to improve and standardize physiotherapy practice in Fraser Health, and have been on secondment for the past 18 months to focus these efforts across the region.

I have had the privilege of working with the most amazing group of physiotherapists – most notably those of the RCH Physiotherapy Department. In this new position I felt I should join the Physiotherapy Association of BC and soon realized that the network of physiotherapy practitioners', passion and drive to do the right thing is widespread in BC. I chaired the Public Practice Advisory Committee for PABC, served as a Board Director and in April of this year became the President of our Association.

I have also served as a member of the CPTBC Legislative Committee as examination coordinator for the Physiotherapy Competency Examination. I have held a clinical faculty appointment with the Department of Physical Therapy since 2004 and was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor in this past July.

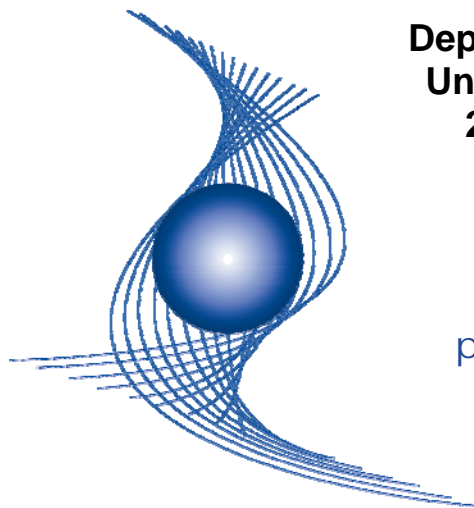
I cherish my Clinical Faculty position with the Department. I see it not only as a way to give back to our profession (through my small number of lectures/workshops to the students) but also through the valuable connections made with the rest of the Department and Faculty.

I value the collaborative relationships I have made with past and present staff and faculty in the Department. Sue Murphy and I successfully received funding to open the first student-run physiotherapy clinic in BC. As a PABC representative I worked with Brenda Loveridge and others in successfully advocating for an increase in enrollment for the MPT program. I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Parhar (Department of Family Medicine) to enhance medical student understanding of the role of physiotherapist in managing our mutual patients. I continue to enjoy this type of interaction with the community to push forward the interests of physiotherapy.

The Department has an ability to connect so many of us together, whether it is through clinical education, partnering on research initiatives that improve the way we practice, or through the development of initiatives, curriculum and advocacy campaigns that maintain the students' position as one of the best prepared physiotherapists in the Canada. I am truly proud to be associated with such a fine institution that provides such a meaningful contribution to education and the health system.

Talk to us!

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If you want to continue receiving this newsletter and currently are receiving it only in paper form please contact us and let us know you wish to continue receiving this:



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