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UBC

# PHYSICAL THERAPY

MOVEMENT AND FUNCTION FOR LIFE

VOL 8 | FALL 2010

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



**One step closer to practice.**

The Masters of Physical Therapy  
Class of 2011 enters their final  
semester.



**a place of mind**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



FACULTY OF  
MEDICINE



**Janice Eng**  
2010 Woman of Distinction



## PHYSICAL THERAPY

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**FACULTY OF  
MEDICINE**

**UBC PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**VOL. 8 | FALL2010**

A publication of the University of British Columbia's Department of Physical Therapy in the Faculty of Medicine, providing news and information for and about faculty members, students, staff, alumni and friends.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



In an effort to meet the demand of the Province the department has undergone extreme growth in the last couple of years and we have been lucky to recruit high caliber faculty members. Dr. Kristin Campbell started her faculty appointment in 2009 and we have grown by four more faculty members since then!

The addition of these high quality researchers and teachers has helped strengthen us in some areas and filled gaps in our expertise in others. Dr. Campbell brings her knowledge of exercise in prevention and treatment for cancer to the Department. Dr. Michael Hunt strengthens us in the area of orthopaedics in his pursuit of knowledge into biomechanical risk factors and consequences of injury and disease. This is complemented by Dr. Alex Scott's search for answers about tendonopathies and tendon biology. Dr. Pat Camp has both clinical expertise and research knowledge in the diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul improves our ability to teach content as well as add to the knowledge base about pediatric conditions. She also strengthens the department's reputation as a powerhouse in neuroscience with her interest in brain development.

Our Masters of Physical Therapy class size is now 80 strong and we do not anticipate further growth in enrolment for the near future. We do however anticipate an increase in our capacity to train the next generation of researchers as our newer faculty members staff their labs with research trainees at the MSc, PhD and Postdoctoral levels.

**GREETINGS**  
from the  
Department Head

Bristol Meyers Squibb has supported the Department of Physical Therapy with an educational grant for the development of a "Technology-Enabled Arthritis Module (TEAM) for Interprofessional Learning." This will dovetail beautifully with the IEP virtual case development, another major educational initiative in the Department.

We will continue to be responsive to the needs of the Province and are pursuing opportunities to expand continuing education opportunities for clinicians and a combined MPT/PhD program for students as well as expansion into Northern BC to meet the needs of the communities there.

We welcome suggestions and need the continued participation of our PT community in our quest to be the best Physio program in Canada.

**Dr. S. Jayne Garland, PhD, PT**

*Professor and Head, UBC Department of Physical Therapy*

# News from the MPT I class

Patricia Otukol, MPT I Class member



After one month of studies under our belt, the Class of 2012 is more motivated than ever. We are the largest Master of Physical Therapy class to grace the halls of the Friedman building at UBC. Eighty strong, fresh, diverse, and incredibly enthusiastic, we are excited for the challenges we are going to face over the next two years. Even after having to purchase a pathology text that weighs as much as a small child and with nearly 2000 pages, we remain undaunted and confident in our decision to become Physical Therapists.

September has been a whirlwind of orientations, access cards, a lot of paperwork, a pink lab coat, and the odd celebration here and there. But as September comes to a close, we are beginning to get focused.

The Class of 2012 is happy to meet you – our colleagues and classmates, our teachers, and our mentors – and we look forward to making our own contributions to this profession and to a healthier BC.

# News from the MPT II class

Scott M. Okrainetz , MPT2 Class Rep

With one year down the MPT2s' confidence has grown immensely as have the many friendships in our close-knit group. We've also happily welcomed in our new first year class even though the halls are a bit more crowded with their increased numbers. This coming year brings a much larger practical element to our classes as we learn everything from manual therapy to various electrophysical treatments. Studying is definitely key in our lives right now as many of us are realizing how hard it is to retain everything we've learned in the past year, while packing in all the new information. There is always some balance though, on our breaks many of us are hitting the gym, the pool, or running as we prepare for upcoming marathons, half marathons, triathlons, and of course UBC's 'Storm the Wall.'

Our summer practical placements were amazing thanks to our supervisors at the many sites around BC and the Yukon! Placements also reaffirmed our love for physical therapy, even at times when the studying seems to get a little too rough. The classroom can only give us so much, but it's when we get to work with actual patients that our passion to help others gets out. So of course all of us are looking forward to our placements that are coming up all too soon on either side of the winter break.

**FOCUS ON:  
Students**



**Julia  
Wierzchowski**

Keeping the fun in physio with a break in studying for manual therapy

Most of us will be staying close to home in BC, but a few will have the unbelievable experience of their January placement taking place in India!

We are so grateful for all the experiences that UBC physiotherapy has given us, and we can't wait for the many opportunities coming around the corner including the Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress coming next July in Whistler, BC. It's just one more amazing opportunity for us to grow and get ready for the rest of life as physiotherapists!



## Ryan Hill initiates the new research placement option in the MPT program

**UBC began offering research placements to MPT students as an option for one of their elective clinical placements. Ryan was the first to pioneer this placement type in Dr. Boyd's Lab and shares his experiences.**

*"I absolutely loved my research placement! It was definitely one of my top favourites. It gave me an unique perspective of the lives of research students, lab coordinators, and principal investigators. Getting to work with the TMS machine was also a real treat!"*

### During my 5 weeks I:

- Gained exposure to over 11 studies that were being run within the Brain Behaviour Lab
- Worked side-by-side with each of the graduate students, assisting them with their projects and picking their brains about pursuing a career in research
- Obtained initial and final objective measures to studies involving stroke and Parkinson's Disease participants
- Helped with experimental task trials
- Had my brain scanned by a MRI machine and was subjected to TMS
- Watched a functional MRI scan trial
- Assisted with TMS application on participants
- Sat in a PhD thesis proposal
- Participated in a community stroke talk
- Spent time in the Stroke Clinic at VGH trying to recruit research participants
- Scripted code to read MRI data
- Drew over 1500 computerized 'masks' on functional MRI scans to determine the activation patterns on certain areas of the brain during a specific task
- Learned the ins and outs of applying for grants as a research grad
- Helped principal investigators from other departments (i.e., Engineering) or schools (i.e., SFU) use the TMS machine for their own research projects
- Sat in a 500 level Neuroscience class taught by Lara Boyd

I learned so much about the functional regions of the brain and their implications for motor learning before and after injury/disease. I also learned a lot about the potential benefits that TMS may have on the lives of those affected by stroke and Parkinson's Disease. I learned everything there is to know about being a research student, working in a lab, and going on to become a principal investigator. I think this experience was invaluable and I really encourage those interested in research to seek out this type of placement.

# News from the Research Trainee Program

Jeanie Zabukovec  
Grad Student Representative

In Lara Boyd's Brain Behaviour Lab, **Sean Mehan**, post-doctoral fellow, and **Jodi Edwards**, PhD candidate were featured in UBC reports in June. Jodi was also a recipient of a P.E.O. Sisterhood award. Sean will be moving on to a faculty position at Michigan at the end of the year but the BBL will remain a busy place as **Katie Wadden** has joined Lara's lab from Newfoundland, where she completed her MSc. Katie's research background focused on electromyography during various stress-induces activities, including plyometric training, PNF stretching and acute hypoxic conditions. Katie has received a PhD level NSERC scholarship for the research that will be carried out with Lara. *Welcome Katie.* MSc student **Meghan Linsdell** is busy analyzing and writing up the conclusions to her study on the effects of inhibitory trans-cranial magnetic stimulation over contra-lesional primary motor cortex on use of the affect arm. Meghan hopes to be all finished up by the end of the term. I have taken on the responsibility as the MSc student representative for Rehabilitation Science and have been sharing time between UBC and ICORD trying to put together the final touches of my study before proposing my thesis project this fall.



Photo by Martin Dee

Bill Miller has a new PhD candidate! Congratulations to **Brodie Sakakibara** who has successfully defended his PhD thesis proposal. Brodie focuses his research on wheelchair mobility use among older adults: satisfaction and self-efficacy as indicators for participation. Good luck with the rest of your studies Brodie; it's smooth sailing from here, right?

**Rochelle Stokes**, supervised by Lisa Holsti, successfully defended her MSc thesis "*Mothers' Experience of an Interdisciplinary Team Process for their Child with a Feeding Disorder*" in August.

**Sarah Neil**, a MSc student in Kristen Campbell's lab, successfully completed her thesis proposal this summer. Sarah is currently busy recruiting breast cancer patients for her study on cancer related fatigue after treatment. Good Luck Sarah.

PhD Candidate, and PhD student representative for Rehab science, **Shalini Lal** will be immersed in data collection this fall for her study on resilience in early psychosis.

**Alanna Simms** has been working on her MSc with Darlene Reid and Linda Li from a distance, in Vernon B.C. Over the course of her studies she has: had two children, completed an Ironman Triathlon, worked part-time as a Physical Therapist (when not on maternity leave), moved, and has been undertaking a major home renovation. She admits she's not purposely trying to make every other Master's student look bad and adds "it's been a long slow journey but a fruitful one." She is eagerly waiting to see an article accepted by Physiotherapy Canada appear in print. She has just completed a draft of her thesis and although she anticipates a few more hurdles she hopes to complete her studies at the end of November 2010. Hopefully Alanna will have the chance to meet some of the other current PT graduate students at graduation in May 2011.

After defending her thesis proposal in April, **Stephanie Glegg** gave birth to a baby girl in May and completed the triple crown with a CIHR CGSM award.

**Marie Westby's** ability to juggle the rigors of working, raising children and pursuing an advanced degree was featured in UBC reports in May.



**Hanna Al-Banny** is in her third year of the program as a doctoral student. She successfully passed the candidacy requirements early July 2010 and is now in Saudi Arabia working on her first study titled "*Health knowledge, beliefs and behaviours of Saudi women.*" This study involves interview questionnaires collected from Dammam, the capital city of the eastern province in Saudi Arabia. What a great experience.

Former Msc representative **Robin Roots** is busy writing her Master's thesis on rehabilitation practice in rural areas. This has kept her busy travelling all over the place to present her research at meetings and conference in Prince George, Ottawa and Atlanta. She wonders if someone has shortened the number of hours in the day!

Congratulations to **Babak Shadgan**, a PhD candidate supervised by Dr. Darlene Reid. He was awarded one of 26 Scholarships from the International Society for Optics & Photonics and the "D.J. Lovell Award," the society's largest and most prestigious award. Also from Darlene's lab, **Marc Roig** successfully defended his PhD and is now doing a postdoctoral fellowship in Denmark.

**Lois Lochhead**, PhD candidate in Rehab Science received a CIHR Banting and Best Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award and a WorkSafe BC Research Training Award.

An update and interesting information: Rehab science's staff member for student support, **Sally Clark**, can not only add you into any course you want, but can is also a writer and an artist! Sally just had a novel published by Cormorant Books. It's called "*Waiting for the Revolution*" and is available at Chapters and Indigo bookstores, as well as at Hager's in Kerrisdale. When Sally isn't busy responding to grad students request and writing novels, she is busy painting. Although unconfirmed, she will be showing two paintings at the Vancouver Cultural Center in October. Her paintings will also be on display in the Waterfront Theatre lobby from mid-November to the end of December. You can find out more about our talented student support worker at [www.sallyclark.ca](http://www.sallyclark.ca) if you are interested.



Rehabilitation Sciences  
Grad Research Students  
Orientation & Social  
September 2010

## FOCUS ON:

## Faculty

**Lesley Bainbridge** received a grant from the UBC Teaching & Learning Enhancement Fund for the purpose of bringing health and non-health students together to talk about determinants of health and their respective roles in addressing the determinants..



**Lara Boyd**, newly promoted to Associate Professor, was nominated for the Killam Research Prize by Max Cyander of the Brain Research Center. She also recently received a grant from CIHR for her study on the interactions between the brain hemispheres in people with stroke.

**Kristin Campbell** received a grant from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation for her study “*Can Exercise Improve Cancer Associated Cognitive Dysfunction?*” and is currently recruiting participants. She also received a grant from the Physiotherapy Foundation of Canada for “*The effect of prospective monitoring and early physiotherapy intervention on the incidence of arm morbidity (at 6 months) post breast cancer surgery.*” On October 12 she also hosted a visiting Scientist, Dr. Kathryn Schmitz, who spoke at noon rounds: “*A vision of cancer rehabilitation programming that provides continuity of care from the point of cancer diagnosis, through treatment, back to work, and on to wellness and health promotion.*”



**Janice Eng**, 2010 YWCA Woman of Distinction, is the lead of the Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE) project. SCIRE is a knowledge translation project to inform clinicians of the best practice in spinal cord injury rehabilitation. Janice, and post-doctoral fellow Ada

Tang, participated in a consensus workshop to develop clinical practice guidelines for aerobic training in stroke. A core set of guidelines were generated based on best evidence and their next step will be to pilot these guidelines in rehabilitation and community settings.

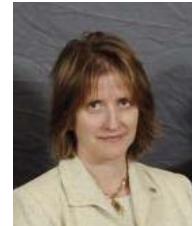
**Linda Li** is part of the 2010 Excellence in Interprofessional Education Teaching award winning team (The Interprofessional Rheumatology Teaching Team). This team is comprised of OTs, Nurses, Physicians, Social workers and patient educators. She also held a successful chronic disease workshop and pre-workshop clinical lecture. Participants included international researchers and knowledge users.



Last month **Alex Scott** was on hand as a member of the scientific committee, at the International Tendonopathy Symposium in Umeå, Sweden, to serve as keynote speaker and presentation judge.



**Pat Camp** received a CIHR Knowledge Synthesis Grant for “*Safe and Effective Prescription of Exercise in Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Consensus of Experts.*” Part of this study will be conducted by MPT students. She is in the process of hiring a research assistant for this study as well.



Two final year BSc PT students from Hanze University in The Netherlands are on an exchange program within our department under the supervision of **Elizabeth Dean**. They are completing a research project and clinical placement while here and will receive credit for these by their university toward their degrees.

**Michael Hunt** received a pilot grant from the Canadian Arthritis Network. The panel only funded one application so receipt of this award speaks to the quality and innovative aspects of his work. He also authored a paper “*Validity and reliability of the Nintendo Wii Balance Board for assessment of standing balance*” which was the most downloaded paper of the journal *Gait and Posture* in June.



**Teresa Liu Ambrose** organized a special lecture and two day workshop on Cognition and Exercise here in Vancouver in May.

## Clinical Faculty Profile

# Educating at all levels

**Andrea Reid**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

I first became involved in the UBC School of Physical Therapy when I returned to Vancouver from Western (2001-2005). After completing a sports medicine fellowship at the Fowler-Kennedy Sports Medicine Centre, and an Orthopaedic Stream MSc, I came home to work at the Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre. I had my first teaching experience in the School of Physical Therapy at Western, and knew that I was eager to become involved at UBC.

The combination of my clinical experience and my post-graduate diplomas in Sports Physiotherapy and also Manipulative therapy put me in a good position to help in the orthopedic portions of the physical therapy program. In the past three years I have helped with anatomy, biomechanics, orthopedics, manual therapy and sports physiotherapy portions of the program.

Working with the entry-level masters students is challenging, rewarding and lots of fun. It's inspiring to see how excited the students are about our profession, and how eager they are for knowledge.

Given my combination background of clinical work and research, in 2009 I was approached by the then "new" MRSC program. This program offers practicing clinicians the opportunity to complete a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Science part-time and online while they continue to work clinically. My role as course facilitator allows me to guide the on-line learners in how to put research into practice, specifically in orthopaedics and sports medicine. Many of the students are embarking on their graduate studies well into their careers, so it's interesting to guide discussion between people with as many as 30 years of clinical experience.

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to both programs and will continue to work to make physiotherapy programs the best they can be.



Andrea is a Clinical Assistant Professor and practices full time at the Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre at UBC. She is the Education Manager for the Physiotherapy Association of BC, and holds executive positions on the BC Sports Medicine Research Foundation and Sport Physiotherapy BC. She is the physiotherapist for the National Women's Field Hockey Team and joined them at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India.

# Welcome new faculty

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## Alex Scott



Dr. Alex Scott is a graduate of the UBC Rehabilitation Physical Therapy program, and the UBC Experimental Medicine PhD program. He recently completed his post-doctoral fellowship in cellular and physiological sciences and was a member of the CIHR funded Skeletal Regenerative Medicine team. Dr. Scott's research targets a widespread problem, overuse injuries and chronically painful tendon disorder in workers and athletes. His priorities in research will focus on understanding the influence of movement on tendon biology, and to incorporate this knowledge into new clinical strategies for tendonopathy.

His future research projects will include clinical trials, mechanistic studies as well as biomedical exploration. He has ongoing collaborations with the University of Umeå (Sweden), University of Paris (France), Deakin University (Australia) and the University of Calgary.

Dr. Pat Camp is a physical therapist and clinician-scientist at St. Paul's Hospital. Her position is the first clinician-scientist appointment jointly supported by the University of British Columbia Department of Physical Therapy and the Providence Health Care Research Institute. As the clinical-specialist for the Respiratory Rehabilitation Program at St. Paul's Hospital, Dr. Camp directs the clinical care and research activities associated with the program. Dr. Camp's research interests focus on the diagnosis and management of individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Her research pursuits in COPD include epidemiology and health outcomes, gender differences, gaps in care, and the development of clinical decision-making tools for exercise prescription for patients with COPD. She is currently Setting up the UBC/SPH Respiratory Rehabilitation Research Program and is recruiting graduate students who are interested in conducting health outcomes research in respiratory rehabilitation.

## Pat Camp



## Naz Virji-Babul



Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul is a physical therapist and neuroscientist who has been studying perceptual-motor and social-emotional development and learning in children and adults with Down syndrome. Her group uses a combination of behavioural and brain imaging tools (i.e., MEG) to probe the brain and investigate the patterns of brain activation as they relate to perception and learning. Her research priorities will focus on understanding patterns of altered communication in distributed cortical dynamics underlying both spontaneous activity and those involved in perception, cognition and action across a range of developmental disabilities. She will also explore how information based on brain dynamics can be effectively integrated into intervention for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

# Welcome new staff

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## Diana Dawes, Research Coordinator



Diana joined the Departments of Physical Therapy and Family Medicine as a Research Coordinator in September. She hopes to build strong relationships between these two departments for collaborations in research. Prior to moving to Vancouver she worked as coordinator for a knowledge translation project at the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at McGill University. She also worked for the Outcomes Axis of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology on projects concerning program evaluation, prehabilitation, clinical care pathways, cancer and amputation. She has a Master's Degree in Evidence-Based Health Care from Oxford University and previously worked as a prosthetic physiotherapist in Oxford, England.

Diana loves the breathtaking views in Vancouver. She enjoys playing the flute, hiking, sailing, cross-country and downhill skiing with her family and Brittany spaniel. She is looking forward to exploring this stunningly beautiful area by foot and water.

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## Clare Newlands, Instructional Designer



After receiving her Bachelor of Engineering degree from Napier University, Edinburgh, Clare went on to complete a Multimedia Development post-graduate certificate within the Institute for Computer Based Learning at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. She began working at The University of Edinburgh in 1996, first at the Office of Lifelong Learning, moving to CLIVE (Computer-aided Learning in Veterinary Education) at the Royal Dick Veterinary School in 1999 (within Edinburgh University's Faculty of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine). Her work there involved creating eLearning materials, including Virtual Patients, for veterinary students. In 2006, Clare moved to Vancouver and has developed eLearning materials for clients such as Accenture, BC Hydro, and

BCTC. She is very much looking forward to being involved in the development of virtual patients for the IEP Program and the Department of Physical Therapy.

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## Irina Trouchenko, MPT and IEP Assistant



Irina is started with us in September and will be working one day per week on MPT Administration and one day per week on IEP administration. Irina has UBC experience and also has a theatrical background. She is a BCIT student but already has a Masters degree in Fine Arts and diploma in Enterprise Planning from Russia. She is a Stage and TV director/producer of a number of stage and film projects in Vancouver, including the International Russian-Canadian theatre pilot project with support of the Canada Council for the Arts. She has also traveled through Yukon territories with Nakai Theatre stage production which fits her well as she is passionate about exploring new cultures and languages and is crazy about Vancouver outdoors, Northern wilderness, extreme hikes, fishing and photography. She also likes to cook, bake and share food with friends.

# Online Masters Program

Sue Stanton, Director, Rehabilitation Science Online Graduate Programs

## MRSc Grads Contribute Evidence to Solve Workplace Challenges

Addressing critical questions or chronic problems unique to their practice context is the focus of many of the major project research conducted by the Master of Rehabilitation Science (MRSc) learners. Abstracts of the graduates' research can be found on the MRSc website under "Research for You".

### May 2010 Graduates and Topics of Research

**John Campbell** from Chilliwack, BC.

*Examining Factors Related to Recruiting and Retaining Physiotherapists in a Small Community Hospital in British Columbia.* Supervisor: Sue Murphy

**Janice Duivestein** from Vancouver, BC. *Pediatric Dysphagia: What is an effective education and learning model for clinicians?* Supervisor: Alison Gerlach

**Nancy Littke**, from St. Albert, Alberta. *Reflection on practice as part of continuing competence: Is a guided written process of reflection as useful to physical therapy clinicians as a peer-facilitated process?* Supervisor: Dr. Lesley Bainbridge

**Denise Sylvest** from Castlegar, BC. *Piloting an implementation evaluation of the SAIL\* falls prevention program.* Supervisor: Dr. Cheryl Beach



**MRSc May 2010 Grads** (left to right): Denise Sylvest, John Campbell, Nancy Littke, Janice Duivestein and Sue Stanton

At the May 2010 Grad Reception Lesley Bainbridge (left) described the various hurdles that had to be overcome in the program's five years and Sue Stanton's "capital T for tenacity" that made it all possible.



## November 2010 Graduates and Topics of Research

A reception honouring these graduates will be held on November 25, 2010, the evening before their convocation in Vancouver. For further information please contact us at info@mrcs.ubc.ca.

**Maureen Duggan from Burnaby, BC.** *Outcome Measurement in the Total Joint Arthroplasty Patient: Identifying Barriers and Facilitators of its Use.*

**Clare Faulkner from Sidney, BC.** *Comparison of the Norwich Regime to the Static Splinting Protocol for Extensor Tendon Injuries.*

**Claudia Hernandez from Toronto, ON.** *Pilot Project to Explore Clinicians' Experiences and Lessons Learned Related to a Patient Safety Initiative: The SAFE Initiative at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.*

**Caroline Jones from Aurora, ON.** *Usefulness of the WOMAC and the MDHAQ Questionnaires in an Outpatient Osteoarthritis Clinic.*

**Meg O'Brien from Kanata, ON.** *Understanding Physiotherapists' Experiences with Job Rotations*

**Peter Rowe from Ottawa, ON.** *The Recent Experiences and Challenges of Military Physiotherapists Deployed in Afghanistan.*

## Connecting with Graduates



After 5 years of trans-Atlantic studies Claudia Hernandez (left) and Chris Carpenter meet at Claudia's workplace, the Toronto Rehabilitation Centre. Chris was conducting a seminar at the Centre and is currently at Coventry University in England.

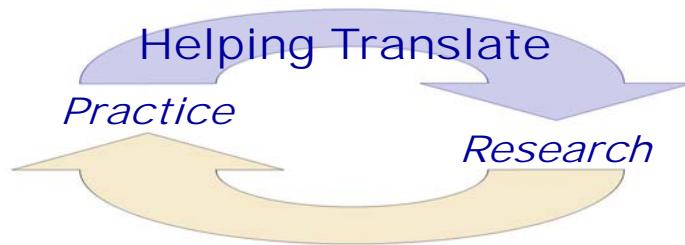
Many of our graduates and their research supervisors meet for the first time at professional conferences, sometimes to present together. This summer, at the Canadian Physiotherapy Congress in St. John's, Newfoundland, Dr. Chris Carpenter met Peter Rowe to present his research regarding: *Recent Experiences and Challenges of Military Physiotherapists Deployed in Afghanistan*. Maureen Duggan was unable to attend the Congress but her research was presented as part of a larger study led by Alison Hoens.

### The following research papers were recently published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals.

Davidson, K. F., & Bressler, S. I. (2010). Piloting a points-based caseload measure for community based paediatric occupational and physiotherapists. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77(3), 174-180. doi: 10.2182/cjot.2010.01.00.

Hurtubise, K., & Carpenter, C. (in press). Parents' experience with role negotiation within an infant services program. *Infants and Young Children*, 24(1).

Widmer, C., & Beach, C. (2010). Use of standardized assessments for low back pain patients: Influence on physiotherapists' clinical reasoning. *Physioscience*, 6(1), 2-12. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0029-1245154>.



It is been just over a year (June 2009) since the Physical Therapy Knowledge Broker position was launched. As a result of the incredible symphony of partners a tremendous amount of exciting work has been accomplished – here are some of the highlights:

- 60 BC PT clinicians, 15 researchers, 11 decision-makers and 11 MPT students are involved in the various PT KB projects
- 7 grant applications have been submitted: 3 funded, 4 awaiting results; 1 grant application is in process
- 5 major projects are in process
- 2 publications are accepted for publication; 5 more are planned
- 7 presentations on the PT KB role have been made at regional, provincial and national events

And, the best news, thanks to the amazing partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and Providence Health Care Research Institute, funding was secured for both an increase in FTE from 0.4 to 0.5 FTE and an extension of the contract for a further 3.5 years!

It has been fabulous to work with so many committed, passionate and skilled partners on the various projects. Some of the highlights of the projects include:

**SAFEMOB:** The final version of the clinical decision-making tool to help guide PTs in when it is safe to mobilize patients in acute care settings is just about ready for distribution. Two new team members have joined the team and we are in process of supporting the release of this tool with either a podcast or webinar. Stay tuned! A spin off from this project is a successful CIHR grant “Safe and Effective exercise prescription of patients with acute exacerbation of COPD.” Dr. Pat Camp is leading a team of researchers and students on this systematic review and a consensus of experts (Delphi process).

**TJAOM:** The chart audit and focus groups are complete. The results of the chart audit are available on the website and those of the focus group are coming soon. The survey is almost complete and the MPT students are busy entering the data for analysis. Publications will follow shortly thereafter.

**SKIN & WOUND PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT:** The results of the survey are posted on the website. Education sessions are planned for October and November – these will be video taped for future access. To increase the awareness about the role of PTs in skin & wound care BC PTs who are PABC members received sticky notes with the catchy logo “PTs and Skin: We’ve got you covered.” An inventory of useful resources is posted on the PT KB website.

**WHEELCHAIR GUIDELINES:** A team of PTs and OTs is completing the updating of the UK Guidelines (2006) for the provision of wheelchairs in progressive neuromuscular disease.

So, year one is over and much has been accomplished. However, there is more exciting work underway with lots of opportunity to enhance evidence-informed practice and practice-informed evidence. Please contact Alison Hoens at [alison.hoens@ubc.ca](mailto:alison.hoens@ubc.ca) if you have any questions about the above outcomes and activities.

# We want to hear from you.

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If you have a suggestion for a story, comment or would like to keep us informed about a change in your contact information, please contact us.

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