



FACTUALITY OF  
MEDICINE

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Part of Sue's job as *Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education* involves putting in some air miles - for academic reasons, or on behalf of Clinical Education in the department. By the end of this summer Sue will have traversed Canada not once, but twice! She attended/presented an academic poster at the CCME Conference in Newfoundland in May, and will be heading back to "the Rock" for Congress at the end of July!

Sue has also been travelling to various health authorities and connecting with our Clinical Educators in private and public practice, either on site visits or to present a Clinical Educator Workshop. She is getting to know the West Coast very well! Last year, among other places, she headed off to Prince George and Parksville. This year it's Whitehorse, Bella Coola and Nanaimo, for starters!

facebook

A new way we are keeping in touch is via Facebook.

Although Sue and Carolyn didn't know anything about "posting on walls," Melissa is very much in the know, and has expertly set up a Facebook page for UBC PT Clinical Education! Become our friend and you can get updates on events, participate in discussions, and more!

You'll find us in Facebook as:

**UBC PT Clinical Education**



Happy summer!

## Contact Us...

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## Student Placement Update

At a recent UBC PT Faculty Meeting it was passed that starting with the next cohort of students (September 2010) **"Normally, a minimum of three out of six clinical placements will take place Out-of-Town\*"** - which means that the current "two Out-of-Town" placements requirement is being increased to three.

There are several reasons for this change. As UBC is currently the only PT program in BC, it is important that students experience the profession in both urban and rural environments throughout the province. In addition, many of our clinical partners in areas outside the Lower Mainland have expressed disappointment that their current offers are not always fully utilized. We also recognize that recruitment is a big issue throughout the province, particularly in some of the smaller, more rural locations. By providing additional exposure to these centres during the program, it is hoped that we can support both rural and more urban centres with their recruitment needs. However, those in the Lower Mainland should not be worried - we will still be placing at least 240 students with you each year!

## PABC

The PABC Practice Forum took place on April 17. Sue attended the whole day, and Carolyn and Melissa took turns meeting and greeting at the UBC Clin Ed table. *Nice to meet so many of you there!*

Oh, and we are delighted to announce that our poster (below) about the *Student-led Clinic* won first prize in the poster session!

### A Partnership: The Student Physiotherapy Outpatient Clinic at Royal Columbian Hospital

ABOUT THE CLINIC

The **Student Physiotherapy Outpatient Clinic** is located at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, British Columbia. It is an innovative program, created to help address a service gap for residents in Fraser Health while also providing a unique experience for Physical Therapy students. The clinic is run in partnership with the University of British Columbia (Faculty of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy) and Fraser Health. The clinic started operating in June 2009.

The goal of the clinic is to improve functional outcomes of patients and clients, improve patient flow through the health care system, prevent hospital admission or increased level of care of clients and also support the clinical education of physiotherapy students. The clinic may also provide an opportunity for physiotherapy research.

Physiotherapy outpatient services are provided by up to six students. The students are supervised by an experienced Clinical Instructor, who is a licensed physiotherapist. The potential 6:1 student to Clinical Instructor ratio provides an opportunity for innovative peer learning while providing hands-on clinical experience. Students participating in this clinic are encouraged to use a reciprocal peer coaching approach which provides opportunities for both professional and team development.



STUDENT



UBC



PATIENT



HEALTH AUTHORITY

BENEFITS

- Clinical learning-variety, diversity
- Students at different levels in their program
- Opportunity for peer learning
- Increased autonomy and integration of skills

- Increased capacity for placements
- Increased student satisfaction
- Increased diversity of placement models
- Opportunity to integrate skills and knowledge

- Access to care
- Comprehensive treatment
- No-cost service
- Decreased wait times
- Opportunity to "give back" to students

- Decreased pressure on health system
- Decreased wait times
- Health education for clients
- Increased capacity for PT in clinical care

FEEDBACK

"The clinic was a great environment to transition into a more independent physiotherapist as opposed to simply a student. I had lots of time to try different skills on my own but our supervisor was always available to add input and answer questions. Also, being around classmates who have their own caseloads allowed me to learn from them as they shared their experiences. Communication between classmates was also great, as we could work through common problems together."

— Paul Conzatti, UBC MPT Program Graduate, 2009

"From a teaching and learning perspective, the clinic provides a unique opportunity for students to integrate knowledge and practice skills in a real life setting. Student satisfaction is high with the opportunity for peer learning and interaction noted as a highlight of this clinical experience. The unique partnership between academia and the clinical setting has been invaluable in the success of the clinic."

— Sue Murphy, Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education, UBC

"I enjoy the variety of students and their level of training. Each student has a unique perspective. I wouldn't be where I am in my rehabilitation without their persistent encouragement. The students are a very good source of information and feedback in helping me understand the injury and rehab."

— James Butterworth, Clinic Patient

"The benefits of the student clinic to Fraser Health are clear. Fraser Health prides itself in providing quality placements for a high number of students. The ability to meet both health service needs through increased levels of service to our patients and innovation in student learning helps us meet a number of our strategic objectives. We hope to empower our students to the problem-solvers, and the peer learning approach of the student clinic does just that. Our hope is to build on the success of the clinic through its expansion to other sites as well as depth through interprofessional learning in the coming years and thus to establish our place as a leader in clinical education for our future health professionals."

— Scott Bevin, Program Director, Rehabilitation Allied Health

"The fact that my daughter was able to receive services during a rehab of her MD was a blessing for her and for us as concerned parents. Physio at the RCH clinic has been a great experience with dedicated professional assistance. I think this clinic should receive more attention, advertisement and funding in order to provide this valued service to the community. We feel very grateful that we were considered to receive this outpatient rehabilitation for our daughter."

— Mother of a Clinic Patient

**NEXT STEPS** With the current model proving successful the clinic is hoping to expand in depth or scope, for example, incorporating interprofessional learning experiences by including students from Occupational Therapy or Medicine

Comments? Want to be added to our mailing list? Email: [Carolyn Andersson](mailto:Carolyn.Andersson)



## Making a difference...

## Clinical Educator Profile: Chiara Singh

**Chiara Singh** works in the Rehabilitation Services Department - Physiotherapy at Surrey Memorial Hospital as a Clinical Supervisor (Mat/Child/Youth and Surgical Program) (*wow- that's a mouthful!*). She also wears the hat of FHA liaison for us here in Clinical Education at UBC. In that role she provides valuable assistance in expanding the role of ClinEd within Fraser Health. Chiara also leads some of our workshops in the region and is a wonderful advocate for Clinical Education in both public and private sectors. We are happy to have her as part of our team!

- **You are both a Clinical Educator and an FHA liaison. Tell us a bit about your “dual role...”**

I have always loved taking students as a clinician but around a year ago I had the opportunity to do some more work with UBC. I am essentially looking at how to increase capacity for students in the Fraser Health area (in private and public practice) and how to support Clinical Educators in this area. This role has included doing inservices about UBC Clinical Education, surveying private practitioners to look at barriers and benefits to taking students, as well as teaching the Clinical Educators workshops.

- **How does participating in a Clinical Educator Workshop benefit a PT interested in taking students (or a PT who has taken students in the past)?**

I think it is essential to prepare you for taking a student. You get a really good overview of the current MPT program at UBC (which is important even if you have taken students in the past) and you get to actually work on how you would structure your placement so you are prepared for taking a student. You also get the opportunity to work through real-life scenarios that may come up on the placement. The feedback we get from the workshop is that most people who take the workshop go from feeling *not prepared at all* to take a student to feeling *very prepared*.

- **Why did you become a Clinical Educator?**

I felt it was my responsibility as someone who had learned from Clinical Educators to become one myself. I also feel that being a Clinical Educator ensures that you will continue to learn and push yourself as a physiotherapist instead of just staying at one level or becoming complacent in your role.

- **What do you enjoy about hosting a learning experience for a student?**

I enjoy the challenge of questioning my practice and explaining why I do what I do. It validates my practice and makes me feel energized about physiotherapy.

- **What are some of the challenges you have encountered?**

Not having enough time to cover everything you want to cover is always a challenge. Also, sometimes your objectives for a placement do not match with the student's but I find if you discuss this early in the placement you usually can come to some shared objectives.

- **What is one tip you would pass on to other PTs who are thinking of having a student for the first time?**

Start early! In my opinion, the best time to start taking students is early on in your career as it is easy for you to put yourself in the student's position and you are able to explain things in a way they can understand.

### ClinEd Teaching Tip

## APTA forms

It was suggested by several of the PTs who attended *APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Workshop* (see below) that distributing a few of the forms (with APTA's permission of course!) to our Clinical Educators might make a welcome addition to their “toolbox.” One of the forms - the **Anecdotal Record** - is particularly useful for tracking behaviours and remedial actions for students who have exhibited learning/performance issues. The form should be reviewed and signed by both the student and the Clinical Educator to ensure clarity of process and to open the dialogue of the problem behaviour/performance. The completed form can also be used as a performance tracking method for completion of the CPI.

*P.S. These forms are now available to download from our [Clinical Education info page](#).*

## Melissa's FAQ corner...

### I have a copy of the CPI and so does my student. Do I have to submit them both?

Only the **supervisor copy** of the CPI (Clinical Practice Instrument) must be submitted to UBC (*in addition to the other forms given in your package*). Students have been asked to track their progress on their own CPI. Your student should have his/her CPI filled out when you meet for the midterm and final evaluations. If the student's responses are vastly different from your own or if the student does not agree with your assessment, please note his/her comments on your copy of the CPI to be submitted.

## APTA workshop @ UBC



Our department was pleased to play host to a two-day APTA **Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program** workshop in May. We had a great turnout of 32 participants. Brenda

Mori (University of Toronto) was the facilitator, and led everyone through a full day of information and interactive group work. We hope that people left with new insight and ideas to assist in their role as a Clinical Educator. This workshop was voluntary, but based on feedback, it was well worth taking!

Here's a sample:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed it, learned lots and am even more enthused than ever about taking students! There were so many great ideas and strategies that will help with the placements. It was just brilliant."*