Robin Roots, our face in the north, demonstrates ankle mobilization techniques and the overhead camera system allowing close visualization of proper hand placement from anywhere in the room.
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Change is inevitable. Progress is optional. We are definitely making changes with new faculty and staff and while we retain core elements that will meet accreditation standards, we are striving to make progress by improving content delivery and expanding our program both geographically and through development of new programs.

In this newsletter, you will learn a little bit about our newest faculty member, Jordan Guenette in our faculty profile section. Our second newest member, Robin Roots, Clinical Coordinator for the Northern and Rural Cohort (NRC), is exploring options for a “student-run” clinic in the North while her lower mainland partner Sue Murphy will be starting a pilot project for a geriatric clinic at Vancouver General Hospital.

We are also looking to expand our program offerings; we have already submitted a proposal for a combined degree (MPT/PhD) program for approval by the Faculty of Medicine. My Post-Doctoral Fellow, Kim Miller, is working on the Department’s strategic commitment to support a post-entry level program for physical therapists. Dr. Miller was previously (since 1998) the coordinator of the postgraduate and undergraduate Neurology programs in the School of Physiotherapy, University of Melbourne. She has met with Sue Stanton, Director of Master of Rehabilitation Science Online Program, to discuss potential opportunities and means by which the post-entry level programs could dovetail with the existing MRSc online program. She will be meeting with specialty groups to discuss next steps. Clinical faculty members Pat Lieblich, Penny Wilson, and Marcy Dayan are working toward the development of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction courses that might be offered in the MRSc online program. A manipulative therapy stream within the MRSc program is being developed with Jan Lowcock and Carol Kennedy. Tara Klassen, Instructor, is also working with Dr. Miller toward a neurological physical therapy stream.

I am proud of the ways in which our Department members are engaging the Physical Therapy community with events, tools and research projects. The student and faculty sections of this newsletter highlight just a few of these things and we are committed to strengthening our connection to the physiotherapy community. We will be asking your opinions in an upcoming survey but for now we want to know what is happening in the lives of our alumni. Please send us your news and photos for use in our upcoming alumni event during the PABC/CPT practice forum next April and help make this a memorable experience. Gillian Clayton (class of 2007) has provided a great piece about what she has been up to and you can read about an initiative that Nancy Cho (class of 1982) is leading on page 4.

We welcome your suggestions and appreciate your assistance in furthering change and progress in the Department.
**UBC Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Bursary**

If you have ever been a student, mentored a student, had a student loan, won a scholarship or bursary this is for you...

The UBC Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Bursary has helped 48 students in the last three decades which amounts to almost $60,000. The UBC Class of '82 who created this bursary, are spearheading another round of fundraising to bolster this much needed funding for our UBC students.

Help us reach our goal to raise an additional $30,000 to ensure another 30 successful years of supporting UBC students in the Masters of Physical Therapy program. We have had some early donations towards this goal but need your support. Your donation to the *UBC Rehabilitation Sciences Alumni Bursary* will help us grow this important endowment so that we can continue to support rehab students well into the future.

To make a donation go directly to: [http://physicaltherapy.med.ubc.ca/giving/](http://physicaltherapy.med.ubc.ca/giving/)

For more information email: nancy.cho@vch.ca

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**Alumni Profile**

**Iron Woman**

Gillian Clayton, Ironman Canada 2012

Class of 2007 and Clinical Skills Assistant

I graduated from Dalhousie University in 2004 with a BSc in Health Education, where I worked in not-for-profit grass roots organizations as well as for the Atlantic Centre of Excellence in Women's Health for legislation of midwifery in the Atlantic provinces.

Since graduating from the PT program in 2007, I have been working in public health care. I've worked in many different areas from Intensive Care, Transplant Rehab, Chronic Pain, Orthopedics and Geriatrics. There is no shortage of variety when you work within a hospital, and a lot of benefit to trying new and challenging areas.

I was previously a competitive varsity soccer player but had moved onto marathon running for a challenge in 2004. I became more competitive in 2010, taking on the Boston Marathon in 3:20, then the Victoria marathon later that year in 3:09, and the Eugene marathon in 2011 in 2:54, which is where my personal best currently sits.
I moved onto try triathlon because a friend of mine had decided he would try a 1/2 Ironman. I would have never made this leap on my own, but with a friend and a fan club it felt possible, but I had to learn to swim first! After completing that race, I knew Ironman was in the cards, and I signed up for Ironman Canada 2010.

In 2011 I took a sabbatical from a full-time employment in order to train full-time in triathlon. Working full-time always had me feeling I just didn't have enough time to do as much training as I could. I had many people tell me to do whatever I felt I needed to do while I was young, and had the ability. So with some luck and a great support system, I was able to do what I felt I was destined to do.

I had a very successful year, training hard and targeting Ironman Canada as my 'A' goal race. I finished with the 5th fastest time of the day for women, in 10:01 and was the amateur women's champion. I was elated!

This ensured a spot to travel to Kona, Hawaii, for the Ironman World Championships. There I competed and successfully finished in 10:14, which placed me in the top 25 amateur women, and the top 50 women overall (pros inclusive). It was a terrific experience and a lifelong dream - and it had all happened really quickly.

My results in 2011 allowed me to qualify for a pro card and I took this to compete in 2012 as a professional triathlete. At this point I also returned to work part-time as a physio, which allowed me to balance work and life commitments.
I had another unbelievably successful year placing Top 5 or better as a professional in almost all of my races, except for the ITU Long Distance Elite World Championships, where I placed 13th. My season peaked with winning Ironman Canada! Some days I still have to remind myself I won! It will always be one of the greatest days of my life.

Since the win it has been eye-opening and heart warming to receive so much support and congratulations from family, friends and sometimes total strangers. It has been really nice letting the win sink in, and coming to appreciate what a fantastic year, and dynamic life, I've been able to have.

I've learned so many new things about myself in triathlon - which was never my comfort zone. I've come to learn I had the ability to surpass any limits I thought I had, giving me a lot of confidence in myself. I think I understand who I am as a person more clearly - which translates into all areas of my life.

I'm happily popping into UBC as a Clinical Skills Assistant from time to time for different courses. It's an opportunity I really enjoy - as I was a student not that long ago and I remember what was useful and inspiring to me as a student. I try to bring my best self to help students learn, have fun, and enjoy stretching their limits to become the people they want to be.

Send us your story and photos

We are looking forward to our Alumni event at the Physiotherapy Forum in April and need your news and photos. Darlene Reid will be putting together a slide show that can be viewed at the forum.

We hope to see you there in person but if you cannot attend we still would like to see and hear about your life events, both professional and personal. Please send us a few lines about what you have been up to since graduation and any photos you can add to our slide show, please include your graduation year. Photos and news can be emailed to Darlene.reid@ubc.ca

We want YOUR opinion!!

Please take our short survey so we can improve our engagement with the physiotherapy community.

The new semester has been a busy one for both the new incoming students and the senior class. We started off with a bang with a week of orientation events for the 1st years hosted by the 2nd years. Both the MPT1s and MPT2s have had chances to bond through various social events including the campus scavenger hunt followed by a night out dancing, the welcome back BBQ and the traditional Pink Lab Coat Party.

Our MPT students have been making PABC’s CEO very happy by sending in lots of pictures of ourselves out in the community participating in various events and demonstrating why we are one of the most active professions around. Just recently, at the end of September, a group of MPT 1s participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation’s Run for the Cure. Though geared up in their running attire, they certainly did not go unnoticed due to the bright pink touches added to their outfits.
FOCUS ON:  
MPT Students

We are also heavily involved in UBC Recreation this year, entering nine teams into various sports. Our co-ed softball team took first in a tournament early in September and just recently, the MPT1 Long Boat team hosted the Champion’s Cup at Jericho Beach. We’ve been dominating on all courts and fields so far, and we look to take home champion T-shirts in Dodge Ball, Basketball, Soccer and Flag Football this year!

Not only are we busy competing, studying and having a little fun, but we’re also trying to stay active in the community. The blood donation campaign set up by Dave Carter (Community Rep) has already recruited over 40 units of blood since the summer and fundraisers for “Movember” are in the works.

Recently, the MTP2s had a visit from Sports Physio BC who brought us Rick Celebrini, Greg Bay and Tara Laraski for a Sports Physio Panel information session, where they graciously shared stories of success and offered up invaluable advice.

Looking forward, our Social Reps Carly Lochbaum and Danielle Boyd have been busy planning the annual Fall Ball with our peers in SLP and OT. Needless to say, this is just the beginning of what will be a fun and eventful year!
Upon graduating as a physiotherapist I made the mistake of using the word 'never' as I confidently stated that I would never go back to school! My original plan was to work in hospitals for 2-3 years, gain increased breadth of knowledge and then move into private practice. As with the best of plans...my plans changed. The first ten years of my physiotherapy career was spent working in academic hospitals. My experience working in academic hospitals spurred my interest in clinical research and the opportunity to use clinical research to progress rehabilitation practice and effective program development in public healthcare. However, involvement in clinical research at the level of establishing research agendas and designing study approaches was somewhat limited for physiotherapists during that time. Feeling somewhat frustrated by what I perceived as limited opportunities for physiotherapists to play meaningful roles in ongoing research directed towards rehabilitation program development, I began MSc training at the University of Western Ontario to strengthen my ability to participate in clinical research. This was a slippery slope which ultimately led to pursuing PhD training at UBC.

UBC has been an excellent environment in which to pursue my PhD. The faculty members in the Department of Physical Therapy and the quality of the research which they conduct is truly exceptional. My exposure to and training in both clinical trials and basic physiology research has exceeded my expectations. The ongoing research amongst the faculty members continues to strengthen my interest and further develop my understanding of the integration of clinically directed research and clinical practice. Important progress in recent years demonstrates the commitment of the faculty members to clinically directed research; the development of an academic clinical position with St. Paul's Hospital, the partnership of many patient interest groups with research labs in physiotherapy and the development of new graduate physiotherapists who are increasingly viewing their clinical careers as academic clinicians, is extremely motivating.

It is exciting to think that today's graduates will have greater opportunity to establish themselves as academic clinicians who are able to meaningfully contribute to the clinical research that will continue to progress physiotherapy and direct the future of rehabilitation practice in public healthcare. Although in the past I may have been frustrated by systems’ slow to progress, I now see opportunity. The opportunity to be a part of the education of future physiotherapists and research aimed at progressing clinical practice has been worth breaking my self-declared vow to never go back to school!
MPT Orientation week was extra special this year as it marked the official start of the first Northern and Rural Cohort (NRC). The 2012-2014 NRC is composed of 15 students: four from northern BC, two from Vancouver Island, one from the Interior, six from the Lower Mainland, one from rural Ontario and one who was recently living in the States. The NRC are selected from amongst the successful applicants to the UBC MPT program according to the rural affinity score they receive on their application to the NRC, which measures geographical background and attributes for rural practice.

The NRC will have their first opportunity for a northern or rural placement in April of 2013 (NRC students complete four of their six placements in Northern and rural communities). In the meantime, clinical placement sites in northern BC have been busy. This past summer nine MPT students were in Prince George for their third set of placements and that site will host another three MPT2 students this November, as well as two in Fort St. John, and one in Terrace.

The other exciting news from the North is the completion of the UNBC Physiotherapy Plinth Lab. This brand new lab is fully equipped for local teaching, with a document camera and nifty mobile camera ideal for physiotherapy skill demonstrations and is equipped with video-conferencing equipment to link with other Faculty of Medicine sites. The lab also contains a full complement of physiotherapy teaching equipment including nine plinths, anatomical models, electrotherapy equipment and some exercise equipment. The Plinth Lab is currently being used for continuing professional development sessions, NRC meetings, and student activities, such as the recent graduates from the MPT program who are studying for the PNE.

Planning is under way for a “grand opening” of the UNBC Physiotherapy Plinth Lab to showcase the space and its connectivity with UBC. When that occurs, we encourage everyone in the Friedman building to join in the celebration by attending the party in the Friedman Conference Room. We will keep you posted on the Grand Opening and also on the progress of winter!
Announcing Our Latest Graduates

The UBC online Master of Rehabilitation Science continues to graduate leaders in rehabilitation who give back to their practice in many ways. This November the following three graduates will cross the stage to receive their Master of Rehabilitation Science. Congratulations to them all.

Mireille Delorme, Occupational Therapist, Eganville, Ontario
Major project supervisor: Lesley Bainbridge
Fall Prevention for the Elderly: An Exploration of Roles
File review findings were compared to questionnaire results exploring opportunities for collaboration between home care occupational therapists and case managers in the delivery of fall prevention services. Additional education and a negotiated enhanced case management role during assessment and environmental hazard remediation may optimize health resources and provide earlier and effective fall prevention.

Tammam El-Khodor, Occupational Therapist, Montreal
Major project supervisor: Alison Gerlach
Nurses’ Perception of Occupational Therapy in an Acute Care Hospital
This qualitative study used interviews to explore three charge nurses’ perceptions of occupational therapy (OT). With charge nurses controlling referrals in one hospital, understanding their perceptions will inform the development of OT practices and improve referrals. Increased exposure to OT translated into a clearer understanding of the profession.

Kim Mullens, Occupational Therapist, Toronto
Major project supervisor: Darene Toal-Sullivan
Service Providers’ Knowledge and Attitudes Towards the Recovery Paradigm in a Secure Forensic Mental Health Unit
Mental health professionals were surveyed regarding their knowledge and attitudes about the concept of recovery and its application in a forensic inpatient unit. Findings revealed educational needs and ideas for the further implementation of recovery principles into practice as well as areas for future research.

Your Master’s is Just A Link Away
The program is 100% online and fosters professional networks across the country and around the world that continue long past graduation. It also provides you with the skills needed for true, evidence-based practice.

Mireille Delorme who graduates this Fall wrote the following about the program:

Completing this degree provided me with a skill set and foundational knowledge about research methods, rehabilitation program development and evaluation, the critical evaluation of research studies, and the development of knowledge transfer plans from available research. Every appraised study and every completed research project contributed to broadening my vision, improving my confidence and reaffirming the need for honesty and candor in the search for and the development of evidence-based practice.

Do something for yourself, study part-time or full-time and open your world to new possibilities.

Take the master’s designed for practicing health professionals. View details at www.mrsc.ubc.ca.

Please direct any questions you may have about the Rehabilitation Science Online Programs to Claire. You may reach her at: info@mrsc.ubc.ca or 604-827-5374.

Choose Your Path
Three options are now available for post-graduate studies in rehabilitation.

1. Graduate Certificate
2. Master in Rehabilitation Science (course-based)
3. Master of Rehabilitation Science (small practice-based research project)
FOCUS ON:
Faculty

Arthritis Awareness Month may end in September, but there’ll be plenty more ways to stay connected with what’s going on in arthritis. The Arthritis Society recently released Dr. Linda Li’s ANSWER tool on their website (arthritis.ca/ANSWER) in observance of World Arthritis Day. The tool is designed to help individuals living with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to determine if Methotrexate is the right treatment option for them. The tool was created by Dr. Li and her team from the University of British Columbia, Arthritis Research Centre of Canada, University of Ottawa and the Centre for Digital Media.

She and other experts from the health and digital media sectors also presented ‘Wired Café: Arthritis Management in a Digital World’ October 16th. Members of the public were able to learn and chat about opportunities that the latest online and mobile technologies are offering people with arthritis and chronic pain. This was standing room only and appropriately was also an interactive event attended many via live webcast and followed through Twitter. Dr. Li’s research in the use of digital tools for improved health care have recently been highlighted by CIHR and the government of BC.

Physical Therapy faculty member Alex Scott has teamed up with Lyndal Solomons, a private practice physiotherapist practicing in North Vancouver, to conduct a clinical study examining intramuscular stimulation (IMS), a dry needling technique developed by Vancouver general practitioner Dr. Chan Gunn. The technique differs from standard acupuncture, in that it targets specific anatomical structures, with the goal of releasing the chronic muscle tension that accompanies a variety of pain disorders commonly treated by PTs.

Many local physiotherapists have been trained in this needling technique over the years, however there are very few studies on its efficacy. This means that the decision to use, or not to use IMS, is currently driven by clinical reasoning, and patient preference, without access to the crucial “third pillar” of evidence-based medicine – clinical research.

The study was funded by the Chan Gunn IMS/Neuropathic Pain Research Fund, in conjunction with the UBC Sports Medicine division, and will be performed at two North Vancouver clinics, Kinetic Rehabilitation Centre and Canopy Integrated Health. Recruitment for this study is anticipated to start January 2013. Subjects with mid-portion Achilles tendinopathy will be randomized to receive exercise alone (the current gold standard treatment), exercise plus IMS, or exercise plus sham needling. More details can be found in the International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Register: http://www.controlled-trials.com/isrctn/search.html?srch=intramuscular+stimulation&sort=3&dir=desc&max=10&Submit=SUBMIT

Lesley Bainbridge continues to lead projects in interprofessional education. She recently received funding for a workshop expanding the health professions involved in Interprofessional Health Education accreditation. She is also serving as UBC lead on an Institute of Medicine global project which focuses on collaborative leadership skills for students, practitioners, practice leads/managers, and executive leaders. This project is headed by the University of Toronto and also involves Laval University, Queens University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.
I began my academic training at UBC in the School of Kinesiology where I developed a passion for exercise physiology. My first research project was in the 3rd year of my undergraduate degree where I examined pulmonary gas exchange limitations during exercise in elite endurance athletes. This initial exposure to research sparked a keen interest in using elite athletes as a model for understanding how the cardiovascular and respiratory systems can limit exercise capacity in humans. I knew after this first research project that I wanted to pursue a career in academia. I also knew early in my education that I wanted to use my knowledge and training to better understand exercise physiology in patients with chronic respiratory disease. However, I felt that in order to truly understand disease, it was critical that I first have a strong understanding of health. As such, I decided to pursue a Masters and Ph.D. at UBC where I continued to study the extremes of health by exploring the fascinating physiology of endurance athletes. Following my graduate training, I pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at Queen’s University where I applied the theoretical and technical expertise I gained in healthy populations to better understand the mechanisms of exercise intolerance in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Dyspnea (i.e., shortness of breath) is the hallmark symptom of COPD. This unpleasant and debilitating symptom can cause fear, panic and anxiety. Patients adjust by avoiding activities that provoke dyspnea leading to a vicious downward spiral of muscle deconditioning, further exercise intolerance and eventually dyspnea during less strenuous activities. The key to halting this downward spiral is to ensure that patients are participating in consistent and structured exercise training at home or as part of a pulmonary rehabilitation program. Unfortunately, our current understanding of the most effective exercise interventions for COPD management remains incomplete. Thus, before we can effectively prescribe exercise alone or in combination with pharmacotherapy, we must have a more comprehensive understanding of the physiological limitations faced by these patients during exercise.

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology (PREP) Laboratory uses an innovative approach to evaluate the pathophysiological mechanisms of exercise intolerance and dyspnea in COPD and in other respiratory diseases such as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The PREP lab is one of the only laboratories in the world with the ability to simultaneously measure blood flow and neural drive to multiple respiratory muscles in humans during exercise. Our laboratory, shared with Dr. Pat Camp, uses a number of novel measurement techniques to simultaneously assess the respiratory, cardiovascular, muscular and neuro-physiological responses to exercise. This allows us to systematically study exercise intolerance by examining the interaction of multiple physiological systems during exercise. The long term goal of this research program is to develop more effective rehabilitation interventions to improve exercise performance and quality of life for those suffering from chronic lung diseases.
Welcome new staff

**Clare O’Connor, Administrative Manager**

Clare comes from Australia and has previously lived in Vancouver for two years, one of which was spent working in the Faculty of Education at UBC. She has 15 years experience in university administration mostly in faculties and departments of medical disciplines. Prior discovering the delights of university administration, she had a number of careers including nursing, information technology and child care. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and History and a Master of Educational Administration, both from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

When not at work Clare spends time on creative writing, gardening, cooking and planning travel.

**Liam Mulrooney, Classroom and IT Support Technician**

Liam is from in Carrick-on-Suir, a small town in southeast Ireland. He received a Bachelor of Technology Degree from University of Limerick and went on to work as an Assistant Network Administrator in Galway, Ireland. Before moving to Vancouver in 2010 he spent years as a Recruitment Consultant in Dublin. He also worked for one year with Accenture in downtown Vancouver before coming to PT.

In his leisure time Liam has many hobbies. He plays guitar, drums and bass. He also plays football, badminton, boxing and a little poker. Since moving to Vancouver he has done some hiking and camping and plans to get some snowboarding done this winter. His main vices are poker and cars, which is where all his lotto winnings would probably end up.

**Sheila Williamson, Student Services Officer**

Sheila is originally from the Okanagan, where she received her BA in history and sociology from Okanagan University College now known as UBC-O. She has been employed at UBC since 2003 and comes to the department of Physical Therapy from the Enrolment Services Department, where she was the Examinations Coordinator since 2004.

In her free time, she likes to read, bake, and travel with her family.
Welcome new staff

**Amy Beyer, Admin Assistant Northern and Rural Cohort**

Amy is Calgary born, and raised in Prince George. She graduated with a degree in International Studies (with a Psychology minor) in 2008 from UNBC. After graduation she moved to Victoria for a short while, before moving home with her fiancé (now husband) for work.

Amy started working for UNBC in 2011 and is excited that physiotherapy is her first permanent position with the university. She spends her time gardening, running and cooking. During the summer Amy and her husband take road trips in their VW van. They drove the Oregon coast for their honeymoon and this summer drove across the country to Halifax. Next summer they hope to go to Alaska.

**Tiffany Moore, Graduate Student Support Officer**

Tiffany Moore provides Graduate Student Support for the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the Department of Physical Therapy within the Rehabilitation Sciences program. She has been with UBC since June of 2011. She works daily with students and faculty to prepare and organize all items related to running and maintaining a successful graduate program.

Her background primarily includes seven years of project management experience with secondary skills in graphic design. She has worked in a variety of industries such as advertising, online marketing and academia. When she’s not nestled in the office or the lab, she enjoys playing soccer,

**Claire Carigi, Online Program Administrative Manager**

Claire graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanistic Studies and holds a Human Resources Management Certificate from BCIT. She has extensive experience in distance learning having worked for the Commonwealth of Learning for nine years where she was the bilingual (French/English) educational coordinator for five UN agencies, supporting up to 1200 learners per year. More recently Claire has tutored communications courses for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees while practicing as a massage therapist. Her knowledge of rehabilitation practice is another great asset for the program.
We want to hear from you!

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.

Department of Physical Therapy
University of British Columbia
212 - 2177 Wesbrook Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 2B5

or

pt.newsletter@ubc.ca