

The Globe

UBC PT Clinical Education Newsletter

Spring 2012



Looking Forward

You'll see that I've chosen the beautiful forsythia as the representative for this season, and rightly so, as it is indeed one of the harbingers of spring! Here in Vancouver we have just emerged from the grey and rain (that we call winter), looking forward to spring.

We are also looking forward to this year, as it is bringing a lot of positive changes, among them the addition of a new team member! As well, the Northern and Rural Cohort (a max of 20 students per class) will be officially starting September 2012.

There is a lot to keep the four of us busy, busy, busy.

Happy spring!

Carolyn



Symposium



A few of the symposium participants hamming it up for the camera!

Our 2nd Annual *UBC PT Clinical Education Symposium* took place on Friday, February 3rd on the UBC campus. Ingrid, Sue and I really enjoyed the event and (if we do say so ourselves!) think it went really well. In all, 29 of our PT "relatives" gathered to spend the day hearing about what's up with Clinical Education at UBC.

We were pleased to have such a great cross-section of attendees, and that people took time out from their busy schedules to spend a whole day with us. We were especially grateful to those who travelled

from Prince George, Kelowna and Vancouver Island to be on hand.

The symposium is an opportunity for us (the MPT Clin Ed team) to pick the collective brains of those who work closely with us, whether it is on a committee, as faculty, practice coordinators, or practicing PTs. Each person's input is important, helping us to see clearer, get the pulse of the community, and formulate our next steps.

There were quite a few presentations (with Ingrid and I both getting our feet wet for the first time!), group work and discussion, and a LOT of laughter!

We were pleased to have Megan Dalton (from Monash University) at the symposium (see article, pg. 2). She was visiting our department and was able to join us for the day. She gave a presentation on the clinical evaluation tool she has developed (*the APP - Assessment of Physiotherapy Practice*). Everyone attending was very interested to hear about this alternative to the CPI that we hope to implement by the November 2012 placements. Megan added an international perspective—and her Aussie personality, enthusiasm, and sense of humour—to the day!

We have come away from the symposium with great feedback, insight and suggestions from all corners of the province. A symposium report has just been completed and is available to view on our website (*Clinical Education > Reports Archive*). In it there is much for us to concentrate on in terms of communications, placement models, etc. We received great feedback from everyone, and at the end of the day our team was reminded of what a fantastic group of supportive, innovative (and fun!) people we associate with! Many thanks to everyone who was involved!! We look forward to next time around.

It's official!!

Robin Roots has joined the UBC PT Clinical Education team and will be our "Face in the North" in her role as **Coordinator of Clinical Education, Northern and Rural Cohort**. Recently Robin has been working on contract for us, helping us build capacity and engage with clinicians in the North. Her official start date is May 1, 2012. Sue, Ingrid and I are all very happy to welcome Robin to our small (and awesome!) team.



P.S. See Robin's column "Northern and Rural News" on page 2...

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

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FACULTY OF MEDICINE

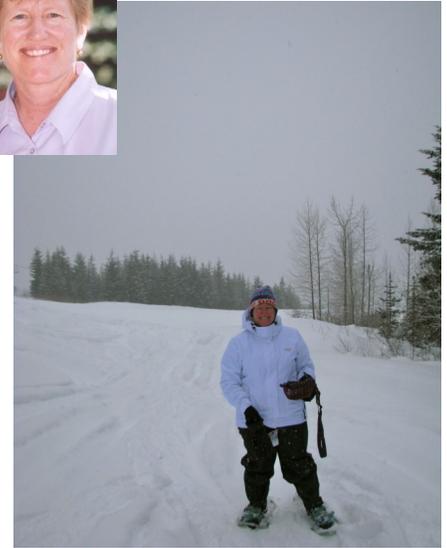
Visit from Oz

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Megan Dalton (*Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, Brisbane, Australia*) to our department as a visiting scholar. Megan's research has revolved around the development, testing and implementation of a new tool for the assessment of entry-level competence in physiotherapy called the APP (Assessment of Physiotherapy Practice).



Megan came to UBC for a two-week visit at the end of January. Sue had her on a pretty hectic schedule – Megan presented inservices, went on site visits, and attended our Clin Ed Symposium, among other things. She also made a quick visit up to Prince George (a bit of a shock, coming from an Australian summer!) and through the facilitation of Robin Roots, met with Northern PTs and provided some continuing professional development for local clinicians. She even had the chance to attend a potluck dinner with 15 local PTs!

Megan's presentations about the APP were very well received and sparked a lot of dialogue and interest. Sue and Megan have been working on a revised version that is suitable for Canadian context. The form is currently being trialed with some volunteer preceptors who (bless their hearts) are filling out both the CPI and the APP for their student's placement—so the two forms can be compared. Although there is not consensus across Canada to use the APP (rather a Canada-wide evaluation tool is being developed) it is hoped that in the interim our UBC MPT program can replace the long and time-consuming CPI with this much shorter and user-friendly adapted APP until the Canada-wide instrument is implemented.



Like every true Aussie, Megan threw herself into the local lifestyle! Here she is in Prince George, trying snowshoeing.

More information on the APP see Megan's e-Thesis: <http://arrow.monash.edu.au/hdl/1959.1/479140>

ClinEd Teaching Tip

Logging your feedback

One of the things students crave on placement is specific feedback (“*You gave great instructions to Mr. X during that difficult transfer*” is much more meaningful and helpful to the student than “*You are good at patient transfers*”). By the time midterm or the end of placement rolls around and you are completing the formal evaluations, it is often difficult to remember specific examples of what makes your student so great, or examples of things the student needs to work on. By keeping a “feedback log,” and jotting down examples of both strengths and areas for improvement for the student, the examples you are able to give can be more meaningful and provide more impetus for discussion and learning. It doesn't have to be a complicated process –jotting down some “memory joggers” so that you can discuss specific examples rather than talking in generalities is often all that is needed!

So, what is the Northern and Rural Cohort, you ask?

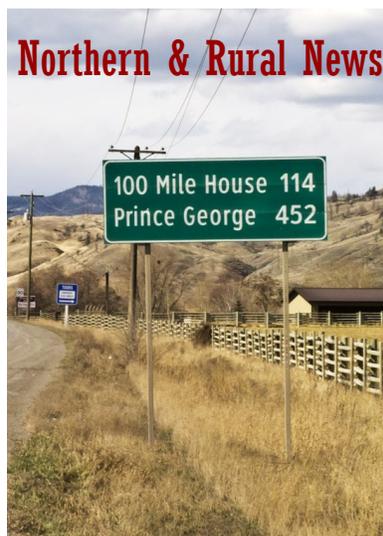
The **Northern and Rural Cohort (NRC)** is a partnership between the UBC Department of Physical Therapy and UNBC, and is funded by the provincial government. Up to 20 MPT students (within the existing 80 students) will complete four of their six placements in northern and rural communities in BC. The aim of this initiative is to increase recruitment and retention of physiotherapists to northern and rural communities through offering MPT students the opportunity to experience rural practice and rural life during their clinical education.

I have been hired to assist Sue Murphy in coordinating clinical education for the NRC. Having worked as a physiotherapist in private and public practice in many rural communities across BC (including Parksville, Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Kitimat, Terrace and Prince Rupert), I have first-hand experience of the rewards and challenges of being in rural practice and the benefits of clinical education in the rural setting for both students and preceptors. My MSc research looked at the practice of OTs and PTs in rural BC and I completed an environmental scan of the capacity for clinical education in northern and rural BC as

background to this Cohort. Often referred to as *specialist generalists*, rural physiotherapists have a broad scope of practice and work in a variety of different settings: small town hospitals, lumber mills and other industrial sites, community centres and private practices - all excellent learning environments for physiotherapy clinical education. I look forward to working with all the rural 'specialist generalist physiotherapists' to foster clinical education opportunities for students and enhance the rehabilitation workforce in rural BC.

I am honoured to join the faculty of UBC's Department of Physical Therapy and I am grateful for the opportunity to work together with the faculty and staff at UBC and at UNBC, as well as the clinical community, in developing and delivering outstanding physical therapy clinical education in northern and rural BC.

This NRC column will be part of “The Globe” from now on. I look forward to keeping everyone up to date on what is happening in BC's northern and rural communities, and welcome your feedback, comments and suggestions at any time.



Robin Roots

Meeting our Community PT Partners...



Klari is a well-known clinician, staunch supporter of the profession and of physiotherapy education, and passionate about her field of ergonomics. She has provided placements for numerous students over the years as well

as providing mentorship for students and new grads alike.

Why did you get involved with taking students?

I completed my own training in Australia, where early on we were introduced to the value and the need to combine our various expertise toward the rehabilitation of our patients as well as the assessment of their work, home and leisure activities. I do my best to be part of a team approach wherever I practice. After lengthy years of being part of many teams, I believe that team work is the only way to go, so having an opportunity to share such a functional approach was a given to be able to introduce this idea to the future physios. When working as a team, one can benefit from the various individuals who work around us in hospitals and rehab centers as well as outside the walls of such organizations (e.g., the role of support staff, kitchen, janitorial, engineering, prosthetics, etc.).

Tell us about your practice

My practice has grown out of the above team work as well as thanks to many of my physio colleagues and patients who have encouraged me to move into private practice where one can further build on ideas, continuing to share the background of physio in outlying areas where I have had the good fortune to deliver what our profession has to offer.

The opening of Campbell River Physiotherapy Clinic took place on January 22, 1979. In the beginning I worked by myself in an 850 s.f. location downtown close to various shopping

Klari Varallyai Campbell River Physiotherapy Clinic

centres and to the Quadra Island ferry, which offered practical access to my clinic from town and from the small islands close by. Part of the caseload is outpatient clients with the usual conditions, however a variety of work injuries are also present, ranging from light to heavy industrial as our region covers everything from logging, commercial fishing, fish farming, and agricultural farming, to medical and office work environments. Our case load also includes everyday home and recreational accidents as well as sport-and performing art-specific injuries. As for younger populations, the 'pediatric' group, we see a small number of neurological and orthopedic type neuro-musculoskeletal and cardio-respiratory conditions. We also see senior populations with age-related medical conditions.

Our region's populations are from local and outlying areas of first nations, various parts of Canada, USA, Europe, etc. I share this because it is often thought that smaller towns have a narrow caseload. That is not the case in our region, and even more in the last 20 years, as our town has grown from 11,500 in 1979 to 32,000 today.

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

Having students at our clinic offers a two-way learning experience between physiotherapists and future physiotherapists. Both parties have a great deal to share – the years of hands-on experience combined with an ongoing post-graduate education cross-pollinate well with the upcoming generation's knowledge. We combine our shared experiences to structure physiotherapy and ergonomic strategies and solutions for the benefit of our clients.

What are some of the challenges you have as a private practitioner hosting a student?

They vary from student to student. I look at the challenges as opportunities and I feel privileged to play a role besides that of a physiotherapist – "as a catalyst for change" –

during the student's placement. To step out from their previous work and study environment, and move into physio private practice, the challenge is to balance out the time we share to create an atmosphere to learn, combining hands-on physio assessment and techniques as well as understanding various other aspects such as insurance paperwork and the actual running of a business, as a physiotherapist.

What has been your most rewarding experience so far with a student?

The most rewarding experience for my colleagues, my office staff and me is to hear about the future colleague's daily interactions with their patients, staff and other team members. The opportunities to learn together and from each other, as we observe and assess the various individuals seeking physiotherapy, together with planning their management, offers a great opportunity to reinforce my own belief in the profession, that learning is a life-long experience.

What is tips you would pass on to other PTs who are taking a student for the first time?

- Talk to colleagues who have taken students.
- Attend the Clinical Educators Workshop organized by the department.
- Be ready and willing early on to share time daily to revise the patient's assessment and management, and later to share time a few times a week for this.
- Create an environment where the student shares his/her experience and technical knowledge with us, PTs who have been in the work force for many years. It is a very valuable experience I always look forward to with each future colleague.
- Last, but not least, make time to share your surroundings, your town, and the outdoors – a great way to welcome them for now and in the future too.



That caught your attention, didn't it!?!
Välkommen is Swedish for "Welcome..."

We welcome the following new clinical sites...

Laurel Place

Surrey
Residential Care facility
www.laurelplace.ca

PhysioLife Physiotherapy Clinic

White Rock & Surrey
physiolife.ca

West Coast Kinesiology

Physiotherapy Clinic, Maple Ridge
www.westcoastkinesiology.com

Ingrid's News Corner



Hello Everyone! I would like to thank all of you for supporting our last round of placements. We were short in the first instance and a lot of you stepped in to help us out. It is a testament to Physiotherapists, Receiving Coordinators and Clinic Managers as to what great people and team players you all are! It allowed us to stay on schedule and keep things rolling.

As you know, the next round of placements is always just around the corner. To this end, I will be sending out the next **Call for Offers** by the end of May. These will be for our MPT1 cohort with the following dates:

- **Level 2A:** November 13 – December 14, 2012
- **Level 2B:** January 2 – February 1, 2013

I look forward to hearing from you and doing it all over again! Please email me any questions/concerns you may have about the placement process or inputting offers into HSPnet.

Ingrid Dill

Artwork courtesy of Kaia Dill, age 8!

tidbits

We need you!

We are looking for volunteers to trial the new APP form and give us feedback. If you are taking a student in a placement this summer (that's Level 1 or Level 3), and would be willing to spend about an hour of your time helping us evaluate the new form, please contact Sue – she would love to hear from you!

Placement dates

Prospective and new PTs/sites often ask us when our MPT1 and MPT2 placements take place during the year. We have now uploaded that information to the Clin Ed section of the UBC PT website.

In the left hand drop down column, go to:

- > Clinical Education
- > For Clinical Educators
- > UBC MPT Placement dates

Note: Although the timing is the same, the date ranges change slightly with each cohort.

See you at the Forum??

Come and drop by our booth at the **PABC/CPTBC Physiotherapy Practice Forum** on May 5th! We would love to say hi, and it is an opportunity for you to put a "face to a name" and meet the Clin Ed Team. We will be in the *Trade Show* area signing autographs (*just kidding!*) and we will have lots of great information for you including a referendum question as to whether we should change our evaluation tool to the APP form. Vote in the referendum and your name will be entered in a **draw to win an iPod Nano**, kindly donated by T-Res!

We appreciate you, we really do!!!

We have listened, and are now looking into implementing a "**Preceptor Recognition Program**," where those PTs who have provided a learning experience for our students on a regular basis will have their names entered in ongoing draws for some great prizes. More to come in the next edition of *The Globe!*

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