It has been a busy spring for our “Southern” Clin Ed Team (a.k.a., Sue, Carolyn and Ingrid.) Sue continued with her crazy travel schedule, facilitating workshops, visiting sites, and heading to the east coast for conferences and meetings. In the past few months I have personally been responsible for sending her to Cranbrook, Penticton, Kelowna and Victoria!

In April our team travelled to Prince George to meet up with our “Northern” Clin Ed Team, Robin and Amy. We had a really productive long weekend up there, and enjoyed some great hospitality (thanks again Robin, Amy, Terry and Klari!). We also had a day of visits to several sites, and it was (and always is) wonderful to put faces to names and meet our Clinical Educators on their home turf. Thanks to all of you for taking the time.

It was Ingrid’s first visit to Prince George, so it was especially fun for her to see the city, visit the university, and take in the sights. We have such close ties (with our Northern and Rural Cohort) that it’s good to be familiar with everyone there.

Who knows - maybe we’ll visit another part of the province next year. We’d love to meet you.

Sue

www.physicaltherapy.med.ubc.ca

UBC PT Clinical Education Newsletter
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Call for Offers reply for non-HSPnet users now online!!

With my new-found (quasi) skills in WordPress (our website design platform) I’ve been whipping up all sorts of forms for online use. Ingrid wondered about making a form that some of our clinical sites could use, via our website. This one was a little out of my league, so Ingrid and I were able to have this new form created for us!

Let us introduce.... the “Offers Acceptance Form!” (Yes, we realize it is not a very “sexy” title, but that’s the best we could come up with!). This form is intended for those sites that are not on HSPnet (HSPnet is a web-enabled Practice Education Management system used by BC Health Authority sites). The form will give private practice sites (and others) the opportunity to provide all the pertinent placement information that Ingrid needs, and she can then input accepted Calls for Offers (CFO) into HSPnet on a site’s behalf. It will also mean a lot less emailing back n’ forth for everyone!

The form has to be tweaked and updated with each CFO, so Ingrid will always supply the correct link when she sends out an email.

Please let Ingrid know if you encounter any problems or have any suggestions!

Or should I say, “Please Remember!” (My Swedish husband - brought up with lovely manners - always reminds me that it’s a much nicer way to say it!)

Some people get very confused when a sentence doesn’t end as they potato.

Psst... Update on new Canadian evaluation form

The new pan-Canadian evaluation form, which is now in draft form, is currently being pilot tested throughout the country. Our UBC MPT program is one of the test sites, and we will be asking some of our Clinical Educators to trial the new form and provide feedback. As the form needs to be tested with students of different levels, the pilot testing will be ongoing until the end of the 2013. The form will then be revised based on the feedback received and should be available for use hopefully soon after that!!

Psst...

Are you a Clinical Educator who has taken students in the last 3, 5, or 8 years?

If yes, check and see if you have amassed enough points to enter the draw for our next Clinical Educator Recognition Program!!

Every time you supervise an MPT student on a clinical placement you earn points. When you have attained enough points for a certain level we encourage you to submit an application online. We will enter your name in the next two draws.

So, "What’s in it for me?, you ask? Well, does the chance to win $300, $500, or $1,000* (plus a 1-yr PABC membership) peak your interest?? It is our small way of saying a BIG thank you to all of our Clinical Educators who contribute so much to our MPT program by taking students on placements each year. Next application deadline is October 1!!

For more information, click here.
Get your (search) engine ready...

To quote Prissy, the maid in Gone with the Wind, “I don’t know nothin’ ‘bout birthin’ babies!” I kept likening this project to giving birth - it took about nine months, and in the end, after all the work, something amazing appeared!

Last October I set about to bring the Clinical Site Profiles Search Engine to life. The idea had been bandied about amongst us for a while. There were many emails back and forth within the Clin Ed team, and eventually a “storyboard” mock up and wish list came to life. Luckily I was introduced to Graham, a great Systems Analyst in MedIT at UBC; we started working on bringing the idea to life. I learned so much about web authoring, website creation, and HTML. If I do say so myself, the finished product is pretty cool!

The idea behind the Search Engine is to offer our MPT students a lot more information about clinical sites than was available on HSPnet (i.e., zip). Our students have the opportunity to rank their top five choices per placement, but never had any kind of comprehensive information about the various sites. Now, with the new search engine, they can put in various criteria (such as city, type of category, or facility type) and see the results immediately. From there, they can click on a specific site and be taken to a full Site Profile, which provides a ton of information - everything from website links for the clinic and the city, to accommodation suggestions. Sites also provide information on physiotherapist expertise at the site, and lists interprofessional and learning opportunity options. A “Welcome Message” sets the tone, and offers a friendly hello to our students.

The initial “Snapshot” view shows search results...

If you would like to take a look, click here for the link!

A second, and valuable use for this search engine is the fact that it can offer your site/clinic the opportunity to advertise with our students. Having a profile readily available means students might choose a placement with you! Once a student has completed the MPT program, there is also a possibility it might lead to a recruitment opportunity. Also, having students at your site shows your patients that you contribute back to the community, as a teaching site. Great PR!

Inclusion in the search engine is entirely voluntary, but that being said we are happy to have over 155 sites already listed!! If you would like to include your site profile, it’s easy peasy. Just click here and you will be taken to the online submission form. I suggest taking a quick read through it, so you know what information is being asked, and typing up any longer paragraphs in Word, then cutting and pasting. Also make sure you have a photo at the ready, to upload. Once I receive the information, I’ll put it up on the site right away!
Late Summer Greetings from Prince George! We’ve been blessed with great summer weather in the North, even if it did take a little while to get here. With Northern and Rural Cohort (NRC) students scattered about the province, we are frequently reminded of just how different the weather and health care can look from one corner of the province to the other. We had 10 MPT1 students in Prince George for 1A where students couldn’t get over the experience of paddling down the Crooked River, past snowbanks, lathering on sunscreen so they didn’t get burned to a crisp, in May! In the North!

However it wasn't all play in the North; the NRC students have become very involved in the community. NRC students Kailen, Kate and Danielle (right) enthusiastically shared their newly acquired physiotherapy knowledge with the public at the Prince George Home Show and Health Fair.

We had 12 MPT students in Prince George for 1B, some of whom received a true northern experience: Kaley Strachan (NRC) relays this story: “A few of us went out on the trails the other day and that was our first big encounter with northern wildlife. No, not bears, CATERPILLARS!!” However, caterpillars didn’t deter Kaley, Trevor and Curtis (below) from helping out at the Prince George Walk for Arthritis event on June 8th.

In addition to those in Prince George, the NRC were dispersed across the province for 1A and 1B, 2 in Kitimat, 2 in Fort St. John, 2 in Trail, 2 in Fernie, and 1 in each of the following communities: Terrace, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Salmon Arm, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Sidney and Kelowna. Not only were our students spread out in various communities, a few of them even had the chance to visit other communities, taking part in the Healthcare Travelling Roadshow 2013. This is a unique opportunity for students from many healthcare disciplines to tour around the smaller BC communities and visit schools. They talk to students about their chosen profession, and give them a hands-on chance to try the tools of the profession. See the story (page 6) from Kaley and Kailen (our two MPT1 students who participated this summer).

We are thrilled at the ever increasing number of northern and rural clinical sites that are offering to take students, and many of them willing to try different models – multiple students to a single preceptor or a placement split between public and private practice. These have been enormously successful according to the students and the Clinical Educators.

Click on the letter to the right to read a testimonial from Berend, a public practitioner in Campbell River who shared a student with Klari, a private practice physio. These type of collaborative placements give students an opportunity to see how the context in which services are delivered shapes physiotherapy practice. Students also get a taste of what the possibilities are and the work reality of many physiotherapists. We continue to work on a number of innovative models for clinical education in the North and we look forward to sharing details with you in the next newsletter this Fall!

Fall?! That must mean that our First Northern and Rural Cohort students have completed one full year of the program! Congratulations and Welcome to the 2nd Northern and Rural Cohort of 20 students starting in September!

Robin Roots
Coordinator for Clinical Education, Northern and Rural Cohort Prince George/UNBC Campus
Spring 2013, in pictures!

I can only describe Sue as being “a complete nut job” for doing this. While in Toronto at Alliance meetings she decided to try the CN Tower “Edgewalk.” It consisted of being hooked up to a harness, walking around the platform, and letting some complete stranger convince you to hang over the edge!!! Pity about the weather, but personally I’d think a cloudy day was MUCH better than a clear one - can’t see the buildings 147 stories below!!!
Hello Clinic Owners/Managers/RCs/DCs/Preceptors!

Whew! There are a lot of you and we are grateful for all the clinical placement opportunities you provide for our students.

As you know, we always welcome new sites/clinics and preceptors on board. I’d love to hear from you if you have any questions or feedback on any part of the placement procedure.

For those of you who have tried the new ‘Acceptance of Offers’ form by using the link in the latest Call for Offers, please do let me know how it is working for you.

I will continue to juggle (yes, that’s me juggling this time around!) to ensure that we have wonderful placement experiences for our UBC students! We have been able to offer some innovative split placements with multiple preceptors in the last Level 1s and 3s. The cooperation between public and private facilities has been fantastic and has sprung some of the most interesting clinical experiences. The students are coming back and telling us how awesome their experiences were and how interesting it was to see how public and private interweave and work together.

Thank you for the great response for our upcoming Level 2A/2B placements! Until next time, Ingrid.

Ingrid’s Corner
Feedback is an essential part of a student placement. As a Clinical Educator, the feedback you provide is most effective if it is linked to specific examples of what was well done or what could be improved.

Although “That was great!” is always nice for a student to hear, “That was great because you communicated effectively with the patient. Your example of being able to walk more easily with their grandchildren worked really well to motivate the patient to walk an extra 30 feet” is a lot more effective as it tells the student exactly what was “great” about their treatment, and enables them to replicate it in the future. Likewise, “You need to work on your handling skills” is less effective than “When transferring Mrs. A she was off-balance because you were standing too far away from her. If you were closer you could have enabled her to take her weight more evenly on both sides by providing support to her left hip.”

Often it is not possible to give that level of feedback immediately, so keeping notes or a student log can be helpful so that you can refer to specific examples when a formal feedback session occurs.

The Healthcare Travelling Roadshow began in 2010; “it was conceived by the Rural Coordination Centre of B.C. as a grass roots initiative to address rural healthcare workforce shortages. It involves a multidisciplinary group of healthcare students travelling to rural communities to showcase career opportunities from the perspectives of the students training in those programs.” This year MPT1 Northern & Rural Cohort students Kailen Houle and Kaley Strachan joined the roadshow. Here is their report back from the road...

Healthcare Travelling Roadshow 2013

This past June, during our first year of the UBC MPT program, we had the opportunity to join Medical, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Medical Lab Technician and Medical Radiography Technician students on a Healthcare Travelling Roadshow. As students who are part of the Northern and Rural Cohort, we jumped on the opportunity to visit other rural communities like those in which we are from. We hit the road for a week to visit schools in the communities of Burns Lake, Southside, Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof and Fort St. James. The aim was to educate students and offer guidance towards a career in healthcare. The intention was to spark interest in the respective professions with the hope that the students would return to their underserviced communities after receiving their education.

The roadshow was led by Dr. Sean Maurice, a Clinical Instructor for the Northern Medical Program at UNBC. This was the third and largest group of students from various disciplines, with 11 taking part from all areas of BC. Thus, this was a great opportunity to improve our interprofessional understanding through stories and conversations as we spent five days together.

Each day we presented to 2-3 large groups of students. To begin, we delivered a short presentation on who we were, why we chose Physical Therapy as a career, and what we found fun about it. Afterwards, the children had the opportunity to visit the Physical Therapy booth to learn more and try some interactive activities including: joint models, bones, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, bosu balls and various exercise equipment.

Throughout our week-long adventure, we were well looked after by members of each community. We were invited into hospitals and health clinics for tours of the facilities. Evening activities included BBQs with Mayors and Council members, organized canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, speed boat and horseback riding. Everyone we met shared such passion and enthusiasm for the northern communities that they call home. We feel very appreciative to have had the chance to participate in the Healthcare Traveling Roadshow and would highly recommend this interprofessional event to future students!

Click here for more information on the Roadshow

“Skelly” posing with Kaley

Enjoying some free time in a canoe adventure... Kailen, and with Med student Benny and OT student Luc (who just happens to be my (Carolyn’s) nephew!). He was on placement in Vanderhoof, so was excited to join the roadshow for one week of his placement.
Sue does it again!

In May it was announced that Sue had won the UBC Faculty of Medicine “Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Education.” The website (rather dryly) indicates that the award “Recognizes individuals whose performance during an assessment period (April 1 to March 31) was particularly meritorious.” Translated, that means she does a pretty great job of contributing to the education of our students! Congrats Sue!!

Student-led clinics

It’s hard to believe that it has been four years since the first student-led clinic in BC opened at Royal Columbian Hospital. Since then, this very successful model has been replicated in the Lower Mainland at GF Strong, and in a pilot project at Vancouver General Hospital (which we hope will result in ongoing funding). Northern Health has also embraced the idea and a clinic is under development in Prince Rupert which will be taking its first students with the Level 2 placements later this year. Also in the works is a clinic at Surrey Memorial Hospital, which is based on the RCH model and will be accepting students as of November. We look forward to working with Clinical Educator Melissa Idle.

These clinics provide wonderful experiences for students as well as much needed services to patients and their families. We are delighted that the number of clinics is growing throughout BC.

Fall 2013 Vancouver-area Clin Ed Workshop just booked!!!

We have just confirmed the next Vancouver-area Clinical Educator Workshop. It will take place at the Diamond Health Care Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Full-day workshop)

This free workshop is open to all physios who are interested in taking a student on placement, or to those who have taken a student but would like a refresher! Everyone is welcome to this informative, fun day.

If you would like further information, please contact Carolyn. To register, click here.

By the way, have you...

…supervised UBC MPT students?
…or served on a UBC committee?
…or instructed in the MPT program??

Are you interested in becoming more involved at UBC?
Did you know you could become a UBC Clinical Faculty member?

Look here, or contact Carissa Dyck for more information!