With the arrival of a new cohort, the end of summer set the tone for our usual busy time of year at UBC PT. To top it off, on August 29th—after the culmination of a lot of hard work and planning from a lot of people—we also celebrated the official opening of our new student-led clinic with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception. (Read more to the right.)

The clinic had a soft opening, with the “two Melissas” (Melissa Idle, Clinic Administrator and Melissa Shu, our interim Clinic Receptionist) working full steam ahead spreading the word about the clinic and welcoming patients. Our first referral was actually courtesy of me, and resulted in the very first clinic patient being my 93-yr old mom! (Happy to report that she is a good patient, compliant with her exercises, and is benefiting from the treatment she is receiving!)

Now as we enjoy the beautiful patchwork of fall leaves on campus we set our sights towards November convocation. Two years always goes by so quickly...

Carolyn

It’s official!!

Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens our new UBC Physical Therapy & Research Clinic

BY KAREN SAUVE, AHCE

Thank you to all who joined our Grand Opening event for the UBC Physical Therapy & Research Clinic in late August! It was wonderful to celebrate this milestone with our MPT students, staff, faculty, and clinical partners. We were honoured to welcome Dr. Andrew Szeri (Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver), Dr. Dermot Kelleher (Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Vice-President, Health), and Dr. Roger Wong (Executive Associate Dean, Education, Faculty of Medicine). Eric Bennett (UBC MPT Student and PTSS President) shared a memorable story reinforcing the impact of clinical education on his learning and the value of this new student-led clinic. Thank you all for your heart-felt words of support. My full gratitude to our committed Steering Committee members for your ongoing efforts and insights.

The clinic is open and growing! Melissa Idle, Clinical Administrator, supported the first student in the clinic this fall—an MPT student from McGill—while offering individual and group-based programs. We now have three UBC MPT students in the clinic on placement for the November 2A block. Students on placement at the PTRC will be exposed to a variety of aspects of clinic management, including scheduling, outreach, marketing, social media, booking and billing.

We are pleased to offer quality, evidence-informed student-led services at an affordable rate while providing an opportunity for integration of departmental research and interprofessional collaborations. FAME for NEUROFITNESS (adapted from Dr. Janice Eng’s Fitness and Mobility Exercise (FAME) program) is running in the clinic again this month, as is the GLA:D program for hip and knee osteoarthritis. The clinic is also partnering with the Centre for Brain Health and the Brain Wellness Program to develop and offer group exercise programs for adults with neurological conditions. We are thrilled about this partnership and the incredible PT services, research and educational opportunities it brings.

Additionally, Edwin Betinol, Implementation Manager, is offering student mentorship and clinical support on a part-time basis in the clinic as part of his Centre for Health Education Scholarship (CHES) Fellowship.

We look forward to many innovative collaborations with our faculty, facilitating awesome clinical learning experiences for our students (right down the hall!), and providing physical therapy services to students, staff, faculty and our neighbours on the UBC campus.

BY KAREN SAUVE, AHCE
Jasmine joined our team in August. Her role is new to the department, and to our Clin Ed team. This is an overview of what her role entails:

The Department of Physical Therapy’s Clinical Education Manager manages projects, strategy and processes related to clinical education. She works to expand the number of clinical placement opportunities for MPT students across the province, particularly in Northern and Rural communities. In collaboration with the larger PT team, she works to retain and recognize existing clinical placement sites, manage the delivery of continuing professional development opportunities for current clinical educators, evaluates strategies, and conducts research and analysis on clinical education statistics.

Let’s get to know her, with a few questions...

Like 91% of our department staff, you do not have a PT background. What is yours, and how do you look forward to applying it to the world of PT & Clin Ed?

I come to UBC with over 10 years’ experience working in post-secondary environments as an academic advisor, program manager, and student services manager. I spent the past 7.5 years working in sustainable international development working as a project manager. My projects were related to climate change resilience and adaptation, Indigenous communities engagement, environmental and resource management, community consultation, and policy. This experience has already come in handy here at UBC as our department strives to improve assessment of clinical education data, to improve data-driven decision-making and to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the new student-led clinic. I look forward to getting to know our team and the clinical placement sites better. Feel free to stop by or give me a shout anytime!

How does it feel to be a part of the PT community?

It is definitely a very exciting time to have joined the department and the PT community. Expansion is driving a lot of exciting changes and intriguing challenges. There are a lot of very supportive and helpful people on the team and I’m excited to see where we go from here.

How would you describe yourself... in four words!

Snap-happy lover of coastlines.

What one fun thing we might be surprised to learn about you?

In my free time, I help to run a non-profit focused on conservation of our local marine megafauna.

[Ed. note: Are you like me and have not heard the term “megafauna” before? This graphic from National Geographic is a great visual of some “mega marine life!”]

Time again, for the Clinical Educator Recognition draw; a semi-annual lottery for physiotherapists who supervise and mentor our students on clinical placement.

Every time you supervise an MPT student on a placement you earn points. When you have attained sufficient points within a time frame you can submit an application for a draw (at various levels) and have the chance to win $300, $475, or $1,000 (the top prize also includes a 1-year PABC membership). Draws are semi-annually. March and October.

For more information on the Clinical Educator Recognition Program, or to apply, click here. FYI our next draw deadline is March 1, 2020.

MEET new team member

Jasmine Mason
Clinical Education Manager

Our day-long workshops are great for anyone taking a student in one of our upcoming placement slots starting in February, March or April (or anytime in 2020!). The day is full of information, collaboration, and networking with peers!

Thinking about taking a student? Want a refresher? You are also very welcome!

For information, or to register, please visit our Workshops Calendar page.

*Very limited space left for this workshop.

Interested in becoming a UBC Clinical Faculty member? You just need to have supervised one student to start the process...

Look here or email for information!
In the summer of 2018, the UBC Department of Physical Therapy (in cooperation with the departments of Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and Audiology) initiated the "Program for Excellence in Telerehabilitation Education and Research", or "PETER." This program was financed by a grant received from the Faculty of Medicine’s Strategic Investment Fund with the vision of bringing the benefits of telehealth tools to rehabilitation in British Columbia. PETER’s goal was to create educational resources for students, faculty and clinical educators and to facilitate telerehabilitation research. We are happy to announce the program is now completing its work and you as a clinical educator are invited to access the resources created by the program. Read on to find out more!

**But first, what is Telerehabilitation?** Many have heard of telehealth, but the term telerehabilitation is not as familiar. Telerehabilitation is a form of telehealth, or virtual health care, that uses technology to deliver and support rehabilitation services from a distance. Many British Columbians do not have physical access to physiotherapists. Either they live a considerable distance from locations with these services, or a limited number of physiotherapists work within their communities. These residents frequently go without rehabilitation to the detriment of their health or incur significant costs to get the services they need.

But now technology is allowing all sorts of rehabilitation assessment and therapy to be delivered from a distance. In fact, that is what the prefix “tele” means—from a distance. Around the world, technology developers and creative clinicians are working together to meet the unique challenges of providing rehabilitation in this way.

Telerehabilitation is not just the videoconferencing you might think of when you first think of telehealth. Telerehabilitation can use various technologies such as sensors, virtual reality, internet portals and dashboards, mobile apps, videoconferencing, or a combination of all of these.

It can be individual services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, audiology and speech pathology—or it can be a combination of these to provide the right solution, at the right place, at the right time. It can also use various methods of care delivery such as in-home videoconferencing in real time, or supportive care such as home monitoring and directed educational resources.

Using this variety of technologies, disciplines and methods, telerehabilitation is poised to overcome the barrier of distance and provide services to British Columbians that they never had before. But more than that, there is the potential to transform the way we do rehabilitation in general. Whether you live in downtown Vancouver, the rural Kootenays, or Haida Gwaii, telerehabilitation is about using technology creatively to improve the health of British Columbians through enhanced rehabilitative care.

**So what is available to help increase your knowledge about telerehabilitation and maybe even include it in your practice and the experience of your students?** PETER has created an online telerehabilitation hub for clinical educators, students, and faculty on the PETER Canvas Site. At first, this site will serve as a home for the interactive educational modules and tools that we have created and resourced for you to use. There is also a toolkit to assist in the practical application of telerehabilitation and a guide for the telerehabilitation software UBC has purchased (eHab) for student training and research projects. In the future, we hope the PETER Canvas Site will become a Virtual Community of Practice facilitating online telerehabilitation discussion groups and webinars.

If you would like to learn more, have access to the PETER Canvas Site, or become a part of the Telerehabilitation Virtual Community of Practice, we can sponsor a UBC CWL (campus-wide login) for you. Please email telerehab@med.ubc.ca.

To find out more about telerehabilitation, click or visit peter.health.ubc.ca.
What is the role of the Associate, Head Clinical Education and the Clinical Education team?

BY KAREN SAUVE, AHCE

As we move forward with planning for expansion of the MPT program in the Department of Physical Therapy, the Clinical Education team remains focused on fostering partnerships and building capacity for clinical placement opportunities for our students! What a timely opportunity to highlight the role of the Clinical Education team.

McCallum and colleagues (2018) interviewed individuals from 11 Physical Therapy programs across North America to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Director of Clinical Education—or Associate Head, Clinical Education (AHCE). They best summarize this role as the “bridge agent” between academic and clinical environments. As with many faculty roles, the AHCE role is multi-dimensional with administrative, teaching, scholarship and service commitments. The successful management of the Clinical Education program and fulfillment of the broad scope of responsibilities requires a strong team of committed individuals. We are so fortunate to have just that—a team of individuals who value their roles and the relationships fostered!

Each Clin Ed team member plays a critical role in the following key aspects of our mandate:

• Building and maintaining relationships with clinical partners
• Fostering clinical placement opportunities
• Developing policies and procedures for clinical education in the MPT program
• Coordinating and providing student pre-placement educational sessions
• Developing clinical educator resources and training
• Monitoring and coordinating student pre-placement requirements
• Overseeing the clinical affiliation agreement process
• Supporting students and clinical educators throughout the placement process
• Serving as a link between academic and clinical programs

Our responsibilities are to our students, our clinical partners, the Department and the broader University. We strive to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of these key partners. Expansion brings a need for greater capacity building, new and innovative clinical placement opportunities, and sustained support for students and clinical educators. We value our relationships with all of you. Please reach out with any questions or ideas regarding our Clinical Education program.


SECP FYI!

You might be familiar with the SECP (or Student Evaluation of the Clinical Placement), which is a mandatory form our UBC MPT students complete for each of their six placements. The student reviews the clinical site and CI (Clinical Instructor). At Interim and Final review time students review their feedback with their Clinical Educator(s).

This online form works in the same way the ACP evaluation. When reviewing, your student will do so with you on screen.

Advantages:

• Paperless!
• Students can easily access the form via their HSPNet accounts.
• No signatures are required!

Note: If you are a CI or Site Leader you can request a printed copy from your student.
Greetings from UBC! Congratulations to our 2019 MPT graduates! There is always a sense of excitement as we celebrate convocation in November. The pride and sense of achievement is evident as our graduates walk across the stage! We wish them all the best as they transition from student life to working life as RPs.

Meanwhile, our MPT2 cohort successfully completed an intense course block (there were resounding cheers from the students upon completion of their OSCE last week!) and they have now started 2A clinical placements. Thank you to our Clinical Educators—we had an overwhelming number of 2A placement offers and we greatly appreciate the ongoing support! We hope you experience the benefits of mentoring MPT students on placement (several of which have been reported in the literature1,2,3) including:

- Opportunity to remain current on curriculum, evidence and practice
- Opportunity for professional growth
- Contribution to the development of professional and future physical therapists
- Recruitment of future employees
- Improved patient satisfaction
- Personal fulfillment from mentoring students
- Improved productivity of the clinical educator4

The latter point was examined in a recent publication by Apke et al.5 in Physical Therapy. This study demonstrated that clinical educator productivity significantly increased when supporting a PT student in various clinical settings—namely, outpatient orthopedics and inpatient rehabilitation. Productivity approached significance in outpatient neurology as well. These data were collected over a three-year time period in various practice settings [acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient orthopedics and outpatient neurology] within an academic medical centre in the United States.

Do these findings and benefits align with your experiences in supporting MPT students? We always appreciate feedback! Please reach out if you have questions or comments.

BEST, KAREN

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1. Apke T, Siles A. Perspectives of Clinical Site Educators of the Processes, Benefits and Barriers to PT and PTA Clinical Education. In: APTA Combined Sections Meeting, 2014.

Greetings from Northern BC, where winter seems to be knocking on the door! For our 2017-2019 NRC Cohort, that door is graduation, and on the other side a world of opportunity! We wish our graduates all the best as they launch their careers, and look forward to hearing where they end up.

The first five cohorts of the NRC have made significant contributions to filling positions in under-serviced communities across the province. Tracking our graduates is an important part of program evaluation, and we recently received a grant to delve into the data and answer the research question: Nature or Nurture: how do factors related to admission and clinical experience affect where MPT graduates seek employment? We look forward to sharing the results with you.

In September we admitted the eighth and final Northern and Rural Cohort. The NRC program will sunset once the 2019-2021 cohort completes its academic block in the north and placements. Meanwhile, we will welcome the first cohort of the MPT-North program to UNBC in September 2020. Planning is well underway and the excitement of our clinical community was palpable when Sue Murphy, Department Head, came to Prince George for a Town Hall to share the details of the MPT program expansion.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our Clinical Educators who supervised the graduating NRC Cohort!

CHEERS, ROBIN