



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Occupational Science
and Occupational Therapy

OT Lens – Fall 2017

Welcome!

In this issue of the OT Lens, we feature:

- A profile of our newest faculty member, Dr. Suzanne Huot
- Snapshots of research highlights and awards won by OSOT faculty, clinical faculty & students, including:
 - ◊ Minnie Teng
 - ◊ Abilee Kellet and Justin Turner
 - ◊ Brooke Fenn and Elyse Stokely
 - ◊ Sara Izadi-Najafabadi
 - ◊ Melissa Austin
- Highlights from the 2017 CAOT Conference in Charlottetown, PEI
- An article on Dr. Ben Mortenson's recent research on accessible outdoor activities
- New research on teaching practices that promote student wellbeing
- Selected details from the 2016 OSOT Annual Report
- Details of the Rehab Research Program's Research Participant Appreciation Event
- A report on the 2017 Vancouver Summer Program OSOT session
- Highlights from the Rehabilitation Sciences online program, including:
 - ◊ A profile of recent MRSc grad Ivonne Montgomery
 - ◊ Research about the benefits of an online community of learning
 - ◊ Info about available Research Relay webinars



Message from the Department Head

We have had an incredible last couple of months in the Department of OSOT. We are indeed the “little engine” that can and will keep on going. Highlights of this past summer include the annual CAOT conference in Charlottetown, PEI--read more about UBC's impact at the conference below.

The beginning of the fall also means we have now launched another cohort of occupational therapists with the completion of the Capstone Conference and the last requirements for their degrees. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all recent graduates who are now putting their skills into practice as OTs. We are so proud of your accomplishments and your contributions.

OSOT will also be well-represented in next spring's World Federation of Occupational Therapy Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, which will feature nine faculty members 22 presentations, collectively.

On a much more sobering note, we have been confronted by the tragic loss of Dianna Mah-Jones -- a consummate occupational therapist and the 2015 Outstanding OT of the Year. For her enduring contribution to the profession and deft generation of occupational therapists, please see our website post, "In Memoriam: Dianna Mah-Jones."

Best,

Sue

Welcome Dr. Suzanne Huot, Assistant Professor



We're delighted to have Dr. Suzanne Huot as a new member of our faculty. Dr. Huot's research primarily addresses the occupational implications of international migration to Canada through focused, critical examination of governmental legislation, policies and discourses; of service providers and their roles; and of the experiences of individual immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Her work is sure to make a difference among Canadian's under-recognized linguistic minority populations.

Faculty Research Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. Jill Zwicker's investigation into the neurobiology that underlies Developmental Coordination Disorder continues to extend its high-impact reach:
 - ◇ Dr. Zwicker received a 5-year renewal for her BCCHRI Scientist Level 1 Award effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023.
 - ◇ Dr. Zwicker was one of the inaugural recipients of the MSFHR Reach Award, which will support the dissemination and effective update of her research in clinical practice. Read more about Dr. Zwicker's work on her MSFHR profile.
- Dr. Skye Barbic continues to make a strong impact on the domestic and international youth mental health research scenes:
 - ◇ Then-Federal Minister of Health Jane Philpott on June 12, 2017, visited Skye at the first Foundry clinic in downtown Vancouver. Foundry is a province-wide network of integrated health and social service centres for young people. Read more about Dr. Philpott's visit on the CHEOS website, and more about Dr. Barbic's work with Foundry here.
 - ◇ Dr. Barbic was named the 2017 recipient of the International Society of QOL Research (ISOQOL) Emerging Leader Award in Honour of Donna Lamping, to recognize leadership within ISOQOL and dedication to the field of health-related quality of life research.
 - ◇ Dr. Barbic was selected by the Editorial Board of the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology (JCE) as "Reviewer of the Year" for her constructive and helpful review.



Making a Splash at the CAOT Conference in Charlottetown

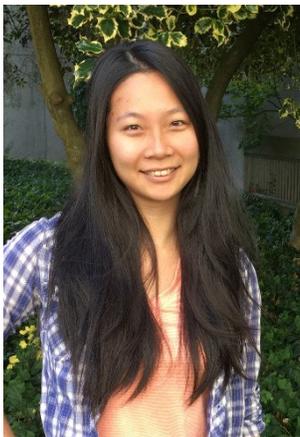
UBC's presence at the 2017 CAOT annual conference included the following commendations and awards:

- Sue Stanton, Associate Professor Emeritus, won the CAOT Life Membership award for her life-long professional contributions to occupational therapy and work with CAOT.
- Dr. Karen Whalley Hammell, Honorary Professor, delivered the Muriel Driver Memorial Lecture, the highest award in Canada for occupational therapy.
- Sandra Bressler, Clinical Associate Professor, won the CAOT Helen P LeVesconte Award for outstanding volunteerism to the profession of occupational therapy and health care
- Two of our MOT2 students, Melanie Tait and Kendall Miller, won best student poster for their project *The Road to Recovery: The influence of mindfulness on occupations for people with MH conditions and Substance Abuse*.
- Dr. Susan Forwell was named the 2017 CAOT-BC Outstanding OT of the Year. She will be giving her address at the Annual Joint Meeting of CAOT-BC and COT-BC on October 28th, 2017.
- Certificates of Appreciation went to Catherine Backman & Susan Forwell.
- 27 presentations were delivered by UBC faculty and students.

Congratulations to VCH Occupational Therapists



Hearty congratulations to the winners of Vancouver Coast Health's 2016 Knowledge Translation Challenge competition, which included three occupational therapists: Renee Lieu, Judi Dueck, and Melissa Austin. Austin is a Clinical Faculty Instructor in our department, and Dueck is one of our Clinical Assistant Professors. Read more about this competition and its recent winners on the VCHRI website.



MOT Student Minnie Tang Wins UBC Affiliated Fellowship

Congratulations to MOT student Minnie Tang, who has won a UBC Affiliated Fellowship. Recipients of these awards are selected based on their academic excellence. Minnie's research project will investigate the barriers associated with referrals to low vision rehabilitation services.

MOTs Abilee Kellet and Justin Turner in Design Competition

Abilee Kellet and Justin Turner, recent MOT alums, were selected as one of six finalists, and then finished second, in the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Student Design Competition for their design of "ChairStairs", a wheelchair mounted folding staircase that allows independent chair-to-floor transfers for manual wheelchair users. The RESNA Student Design Competition is a multidisciplinary showcase of innovative assistive technology designs created by students in engineering, design, and health related fields at the undergraduate and masters level.



Brooke Fenn and Elyse Stokely: COTF Future Scholars

Congratulations to 2016 MOT grads Brooke and Elyse, who recently were named as COTF Future Scholars for their research project, *Virtual Reality Intervention for Children with Autism: Client Centered Design*. Brooke and Elyse were selected for the potential of their contributions to research.

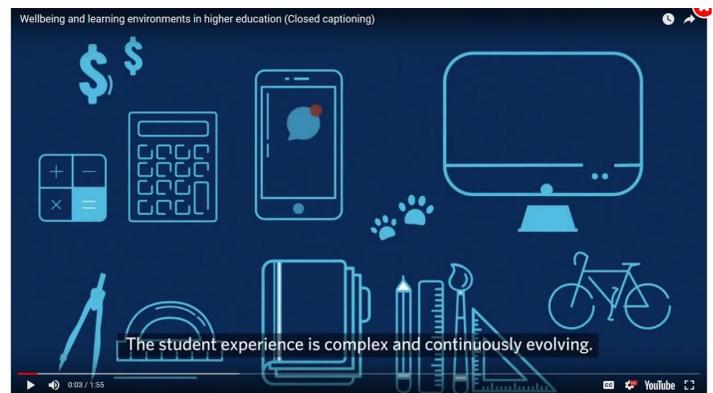
PhD Student Sara Izadi-Najafabadi Wins LSVT Global Student Small Grant



Congratulations to PhD student Sara Izadi-Najafabadi for winning an LSVT Global Student Small Grant, in recognition for her strong potential for excellence in research related to behavioral treatment studies in children with Developmental Coordination Disorder, a neuromotor condition. Sara is pictured here with her supervisor, Dr. Jill Zwicker.

Exploring the Relationship between Teaching and Wellbeing

OSOT Senior Instructor Michael Lee has spent much of the last year working with an interdisciplinary team to develop classroom and instructional strategies that enhance student mental health and wellbeing. “Students are seeing or interacting with faculty on an ongoing basis, and we inevitably [have] a very major impact on student wellbeing,” Lee is quoted as saying in a research UBC profile of this project. Read more about this initiative and watch the video the team has developed on the UBC Flexible Learning website.



Research Participant Appreciation Event put on by the Rehab Research Program



In late September, Drs. Bill Miller and Ben Mortenson and the nine faculty in the Rehab Research Program of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute hosted a Research Participant Appreciation Event at the GF Strong Rehab Centre. Over 80 people attended -- most had participated in multiple studies as research subjects, in addition to playing key roles in consumer working groups or as consumer reps on research advisories. Participants enjoyed interactive exhibits from faculty and trainees on current research.

In the News: "Making the Great Outdoors Accessible to People of All Abilities"



Dr. Ben Mortenson's recent research on an adaptive hiking program was profiled by the Vancouver Coast Health Research Institute's media team in July. MOT Students Larissa James and Janet Shing are co-authors on the original paper, "Experiences with and perceptions of an adaptive hiking program."

Read more about this research on the VCHRI media website.

2016 OSOT Annual Report Now Available

Our 2016 Annual Report is now available on the OSOT Annual Reports webpage. It highlights our collective achievements of the last year, including data on student awards and research funding, and stories of innovations under development.



OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE &
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



**FROM EXCELLENCE TO EMINENCE:
2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

UBC Vancouver Summer Program (VSP) at UBC



related to living with a chronic condition. The results of their feedback suggest high satisfaction among students and instructors.

This summer, Clinical Assistant Professor Sharon Smith coordinated the second annual session of the Vancouver Summer School at OSOT. We hosted 38 students from 5 countries in this year's 4-week summer school session. The students pursued in-class, clinic-based, and community sessions on pressing health issues

Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program News

The Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program creates possibilities for clinicians to facilitate change and improve practice.



MRSc Grad Profile: Ivonne Montgomery

After hearing about the MRSc program over the years from her colleagues at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, MRSc 2017 graduate Ivonne Montgomery decided to enroll to further develop her evidence-based practice and research skills, with a focus on handwriting challenges in school-aged children. Frustrated with the lack of accessible tools for children with handwriting challenges, Ivonne had co-created a user-friendly, free to download, easily accessible program called *Printing Like a Pro!* She then used her passion for research to evaluate the effectiveness of this program through her MRSc Major Project: *Applying Printing Like a Pro! in a School-based Printed Club: A Pilot Study.*

Sense of Community with Online Learning

While many OTs are returning for further graduate education, they can face challenges juggling work, life and studies. Online studies offer flexibility and convenience, but some may wonder about feeling lonely or unsupported without face-to-face classroom interactions.

Feeling a sense of community is critical for online learner satisfaction and achievement. Recent research indicates that connectedness is very possible with online health professional graduate courses, especially when supported by careful course design and interactive instructors. These findings concur with UBC RSOP learner course and program evaluations, in which learners describe caring and supportive classmates, practical course outcomes and responsive instructors.

Research for your Practice: Research Relays

Recent MRSc graduates present free webinars highlighting their clinical research and directed study projects. Visit the MRSC Program website for upcoming details of the fall schedule. While there, check out past presentations, such as Kaeli Scott's *The lived experience of pulmonary rehabilitation participants in a rural community.*

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or email us at info@mrsc.ubc.ca

GCR: Apply by May 15 for September entry; October 15 for January entry
MRSc: apply by April 30 for September entry; September 30 for January entry