



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Faculty of Medicine**  
Department of Occupational Science  
and Occupational Therapy

## OT Lens - Autumn 2016

### Welcome!

In this issue of the OT Lens, we feature:

- news of another CIHR Success: HIPPER (Bill Miller)
- the winner of the Chris Courtney Award for Excellence in Fieldwork Education 2016, Giovanna Boniface
- accolades for our combined degree graduate Elizabeth MacRitchie
- event details about the Healthcare Travelling Roadshow
- news of the first cohort of UBC Summer School students
- the latest issue of the Health Professional Student Journal
- info about the Rehabilitation Sciences Online Programs



### Message from the Department Head

As the summer draws to a close, many of the faculty here in OS&OT are launching newly funded studies, polishing articles for publication, and preparing to welcome the incoming cohort of Masters and PhD students. These past few weeks have seen a flurry

of activity, with more grants and awards recently announced, new initiatives like the Rehab Science Research Day about to kick off, and a new semester of the Rehabilitation Science Online Program--including coursework, monthly webinars, and special events--about to begin.

I'm trying something new this Autumn, having recently joined the social network Twitter. I look forward to using this platform to participate in ongoing conversations about OT news, research, events and initiatives. You can find me [@SusanForwell!](https://twitter.com/SusanForwell)

Best,

Sue  
Susan Forwell, PhD, OT(C), FCAOT

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## The HIPPER Study Funded by CIHR



“HIPPER”



Congratulations to Bill Miller and his team for their success in the latest highly competitive round of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Project Scheme funding cycle. Their two-year research project, titled "Feasibility of the Hip Instructional Prehabilitation Program for Enhanced Recovery (HIPPER) intervention protocol: an eHealth approach for pre-surgical hip replacement education," will refine and evaluate an online education program for older patients with osteoarthritis who are about to undergo hip surgery.

Bill's research with CanWheel recently was reported in the CIHR Institute of Aging newsletter, which speaks to the importance of the occupational therapy perspective in the aging research conversation, and Bill's continued impact as a result of the excellence in his research program.

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## Capstone Research Student Profiles

27 research projects were presented at this year's Capstone conference. Half of the projects have already been presented at national or international conferences, and nearly a third are set to be published in peer-reviewed journals.

To give a taste of the types of projects presented, eight MOT students have been profiled by UBC Faculty of Medicine News:

- **Andrea Smith** and **Taku Kawai** explored [how stigma influences the lives of adults with visual impairments](#).
- **Marieka Gerding** and **Sophia Bobovski** adopted a person-centered approach to [mental health recovery](#).
- **Marina Khenson** and **Chelsey Tyler** investigated a sexual device manual designed for people with disabilities in mind, and [spoke with people with spinal cord injury about sexual rehabilitation](#).
- **Julie Deveau** and **Catharine Eckersley** asked, "[Are scooter users receiving the training they need?](#)"

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## Congratulations Giovanna Boniface, Chris Courtney Award for Excellence in Fieldwork Education 2016 Winner

Congratulations to **Giovanna Boniface**, Managing Director of CAOT-BC, who is this year's winner of the Chris Courtney Award.

In the words of her nominee: "Working with Giovanna was a transformative experience. It shaped who I will become as an Occupational Therapist. She valued my opinions and prioritized my education and needs as a student. Giovanna was always humble, kind, inclusive, and enthusiastic about teaching. She taught and showed me the true meaning of leadership and what it is to be a "champion" of Occupational Therapy".

Read more about the Award and its namesake at the [UBC Fieldwork blog](#).

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## Representing OT at the Healthcare Travelling Roadshow



This past summer, Masters of Occupational Therapy student **Montana Bahen** represented her graduate program in the [Healthcare Travelling Roadshow](#), which showcases the range of healthcare career options to rural highschool students across BC. Speaking about the benefits of this travelling interprofessional educational opportunity, Montana has

said, "I learned about, with and from my student colleagues in medicine, nursing, massage therapy, lab technician, midwifery, and speech language pathology. I learned the boundaries, breadth, and scope of practice for these professions and how together we really help create the whole view of holistic care. I felt proud to be able to discuss Occupational Therapy and where it can fit in the puzzle of healthcare."

Hear from from Montana and other roadshow participants in this UBC Southern Medical Program YouTube video, "[Healthcare Travelling Roadshow.](#)"

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## alumni UBC Volunteer Leadership Achievement Award - Elizabeth MacRitchie



Congratulations to Elizabeth MacRitchie (BSc '70), one of our combined OT/PT graduates, who is co-recipient with her husband, Dr. Donald MacRitchie (BSc'68, MD'70), of the alumni UBC Volunteer Leadership Award.

For the past sixteen years, the MacRitchies have been involved in ensuring adequate numbers of

medical professionals are attracted to remote northern communities in the province. The MacRitchies are original members of the [Northern Medical Program \(NMP\)](#)--a partnership between the provincial government, all six health authorities, UBC, the University of Victoria, and the University of Northern British Columbia, which distributes education, clinical training, health sciences research and teaching across BC. Their hard work is leading to improved health care across the province.

A full profile of the MacRitchies is available in the [Summer 2016 issue of Trek magazine](#).

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## Rehab Science Research Day 2016

**Date: Wednesday Sept 28**

**Location: Conference Room, 1st floor, Brain Research Centre**

**Rehabilitation Science Research Day 2016** is the first scientific event organized by the Rehabilitation Sciences Executive Committee (RSEC), which acts to represent and advocate for trainees in Rehabilitation Sciences.

For the first time, Rehab Science students, post-doctoral fellows, clinical instructors, and faculty members will come together to share our work, discuss ideas and socialize. RSR 2016 will be an excellent opportunity to network with members of the Rehabilitation Sciences community, improve our understanding of the work being done in our program, and appreciate the diversity of the research areas that we are so passionate about.

The keynote speaker is [Dr. Susan Harris](#), whose talk is titled "Reflections from a Rehabilitation Researcher over the Past 40 Years". There also will be two featured trainee presentations (winners of the RHSC awards) and two prizes will be awarded at the end of the day (Outstanding presentation by a student in each department (OSOT/PT)).

The Twitter hashtag is [#ubcRSEC](#).

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## UBC Summer School Program



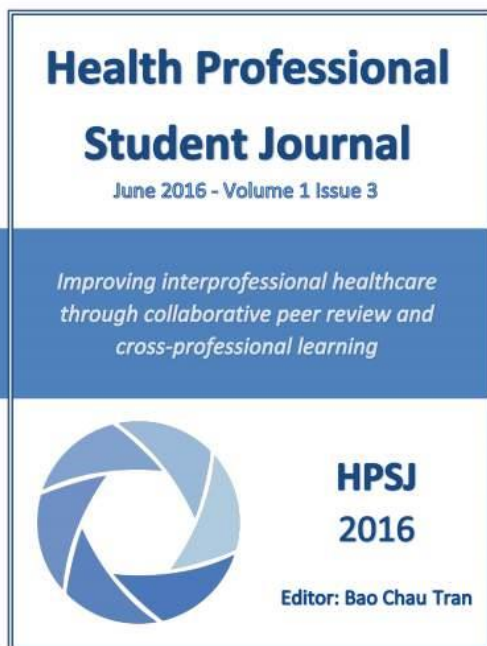
In June 2016 the department hosted 27 students from 7 countries in one of two [UBC Vancouver Summer School](#) programs. This would not have been possible without the support of our fantastic staff as well as ten excellent instructors: Ben Mortenson, Jennifer Gagnon, Tal Jarus, Liisa Holsti, Jill

Zwicker, Skye Barbic, Donna Drynan, Stephanie Glegg, Michael Lee, and Laura Yvonne Bulk.

The students learned about living with chronic conditions and disabilities, discovered a range of rehabilitation strategies and tools, and dove into exciting experiential learning.

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## UBC Health Professional Student Journal



This past summer saw the publication of [the third issue of the Health Professional Student Journal](#) (ISSN 2368-8645), featuring articles by UBC MOT students **Nicole Matichuk** and **Liv Brekke** and PhD student **Flora Miles**. The Health Professional Student Journal is an open access online student-run journal created to foster improved teamwork, collaboration, and communication between health and human service disciplines. The journal's mission is to advance interprofessional education, research and knowledge exchange by engaging students to learn and work together in a non-intimidating and supportive environment.

[View the full archives, including Issues 1 and 2, of the HPSJ here.](#)

## Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program News

The Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program is now into its second decade and continues to grow.

### Back to School

#### MRSc Course Tidbit:

The course most learners start with is [Evidence for Practice](#). While occupational therapists' attitudes towards **evidence based practice (EBP)** are generally positive, lack of confidence and skill in appraising and implementing research continue to be a deterrent for many. In this course, students:

- practice the skills needed to formulate searchable questions,
- find and appraise evidence,
- share evidence with clients and colleagues,
- put findings into practice.

With new knowledge and confidence, our learners are able to bridge the gap between EBP ideals and their everyday practice.

**This September, 14 new learners from a variety of health care disciplines will start the program, joining the 75 currently enrolled.**

### Research for Your Practice: MRSc Research Relays

The “Research Relays” series are monthly webinars in which recent MRSc graduates highlight their clinical research projects. Visit [MRSc Research for You](#) for more details.

Our Fall Research Relay webinar series will include:

- *Lived-experiences of people on the rural outpatient physiotherapy waiting list: How can quality of life be improved while waiting for services?*  
Presenter: Chrissy Woodcock
- *Community Perspective of Short-Term Physiotherapy Volunteers in St. Lucia, West Indies.*  
Presenter: Crystal Showers
- *Occupational therapists' perceptions of necessary organizational supports to use standardized assessments effectively in acute care*  
Presenter: Peter Haughton

While there, checkout links for past topics, such as [Recovery Practices: Opportunities for acute mental health care. A literature review](#) presented by Deb Watterworth or [Collaborative occupational therapy: Teachers' impressions of the partnering for change model presented](#) by Andrea Wilson.

## Emotional Intelligence and the Rehabilitation Professional: One-Day Workshop, October 15, 2016

*Change your Thinking, Change your View, Change Practice*



As complexity grows in our healthcare context, so does the opportunity for rehabilitation professionals to develop the skills to lead effectively. Leaders come in many forms. Join us for this one day workshop featuring workshop facilitator [Jason Giesbrecht](#) on Saturday October 15, 2016, at UBC Hospital. Space is limited. To register, visit [Research for You](#).

### It's time... Your Master's is Just a Click Away!

Check out course-based and research study options at [www.mrsc.ubc.ca](http://www.mrsc.ubc.ca) or email us at [info@mrsc.ubc.ca](mailto:info@mrsc.ubc.ca)

**MRS**c: Apply by April 30 for September entry; September 30 for January entry

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