



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Occupational Science
and Occupational Therapy

OT Lens – Spring 2017

Welcome!

In this issue of the OT Lens, we feature:

- Information about an upcoming two-day workshop: Advanced Community-based Occupational Therapy: New Perspectives for Practice & Research - An Eco-Social Practice Workshop
- Details of award-winning research and activities by
 - ◇ Dr. Catherine Backman
 - ◇ MSc Student Kamaldeep Gill
 - ◇ PhD Student Stephanie Glegg
 - ◇ PhD Student Laura Bulk
 - ◇ MOT Students Sacha Trivett & Roberta Bezati
 - ◇ Dr. Skye Barbic
- Information about Dr. Melinda Suto's Community Gardening project
- An audio file of Dr. Ben Mortenson's recent CBC Radio interview
- A one-on-one interview with Dr. Bill Miller
- The latest news from the Rehabilitation Sciences Online Programs:
 - ◇ Enhancing OT and OT Assistant Collaboration
 - ◇ Highlighting RHSC 505
 - ◇ Disseminating New Knowledge



Message from the Department Head

Welcome! We're happy to announce we've had a productive spring semester and are looking forward to the coming summer and some sunshine. This July we are offering an inspirational and unique continuing educational opportunity with two European scholars, **Dr. Salvador Simó Algado** and **Dr. Maria Kapanadz**, both OTs with international profiles in social justice issues. The two-day workshop will offer an opportunity to hear from and participate with these presenters, as well as **Dr. Skye Barbic**, on **eco-social practice in occupational therapy**. It truly is an opportunity not to be missed.

Dr. Melinda Suto retired on December 31, 2016 after more than 27 years of distinguished service to the Department. A highly regarded educator from day one, particularly in psychosocial rehabilitation and qualitative research methods, Melinda received the prestigious UBC Killam Teaching Excellence Award in 2008. She provided outstanding guidance as a graduate supervisor to MOT, MSc, and PhD students. As a dedicated researcher, her work focused on recovery from mental illness, most recently as principal investigator for a collaborative, community-based project on community gardening, which you can read more about below.

With CAOT-BC, OSOT is actively participating in lobbying the provincial government to increase the number of students in the UBC Master of Occupational Therapy program. There are two and a half times the number of OT jobs as there are students graduating. With the UBC program being the smallest English-speaking program in Canada, it no longer meets the health needs of British Columbians. The time is now: the province must have more student OTs to meet the province's growing demands.

Finally, please remember to save the date for this year's **Capstone conference**, which will take place on **Monday July 24th**.

Best,
Sue

Advanced Community-based Occupational Therapy: New Perspectives for Practice & Research An Eco-Social Practice Workshop



Friday, July 14, 2017 & Saturday, July 15, 2017

Join our international visiting scholars, **Salvador Simó Algado** and **Maria Kapanadze**, and local faculty **Skye Barbic**, in a two-day intensive continuing professional development opportunity at UBC with a global focus on community-based practice with diverse populations.

This workshop presents an eco-social perspective to guide intervention and research. The creation of healthy, inclusive, and sustainable communities requires in-depth understanding of contemporary social challenges such as ecological and economic crises, long-term unemployment, poverty, and forced displacement. Vivid international examples of project development are offered, and participants are encouraged to apply knowledge gained from a step-by-step design process to their own professional practice. Content is applicable to Canadian and global contexts. Theoretical content is complemented with project-based learning, group dynamics, videos, and case studies.

The course will appeal to occupational therapists working in **psychosocial rehabilitation, global health, social services, and with vulnerable populations** marginalized by economic, employment, geographical, and other disparities. However, it is not limited to occupational therapists and everyone is welcome to register.

Register online at <https://www.eply.com/advancedcommunity-basedoccupationaltherapy>



[For more information including presenter biographies and a draft schedule of events, please visit the OSOT website.](#)

Catherine Backman Wins University of Southampton International Visiting Scholar Fellowship



Catherine Backman will bring her internationally-recognized excellence in arthritis research to the University of Southampton for a three-year collaboration on research and education. To be eligible, fellows must be from a university ranked among the top 50 in the world.

While serving as a Southampton Diamond Jubilee Visiting Fellow, Dr. Backman will strengthen the networks between Canadian and British research initiatives, like Arthritis Research Canada and the Arthritis Research UK Centres of Excellence for Musculoskeletal Health and Work, and for Sport, Exercise and Osteoarthritis. For more information about Dr. Backman's award, please visit [the UBC OSOT website](#).

MSc Student Kamaldeep Gill Wins CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship - Masters Award



Congratulations to Kamaldeep Gill and her supervisor, Dr. Jill Zwicker. Kamal has won a **Canadian Institutes of Health Research Canada Graduate Scholarship - Masters Award**, which will help to fund her research into the brain networks and pathways that underly the motor difficulties experiences by children with both Developmental Coordination Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. You can [read more about Kamal's research on the OSOT website](#).

PhD Student Stephanie Glegg Wins CCHCSP Career Enhancement Award

Congratulations to Stephanie Glegg (BScOT, 2004), who recently received the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP)'s Career Enhancement Award in support of her PhD research. Stephanie's project, titled **"Using Social Network Analysis to Advance Knowledge Translation in Pediatric Rehabilitation,"** draws on her training in the UBC Occupational Therapy program, as well as her ten years of experience as an occupational therapist.



Co-supervised by Dr. Liisa Holsti (UBC OSOT) and Dr. Anita Kothari (Western University), Stephanie will study the social relationships and networks between researchers and healthcare providers in children's rehabilitation, in order to understand the best ways to support the implementation of cutting-edge scientific research into clinical practice.

PhD Student Laura Bulk wins 3M Student Fellowship

Congratulations to PhD student Laura Bulk, who has won a 3M National Student Fellowship from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Her doctoral supervisors are Dr. Tal Jarus and Dr. Laura Nimmon.

Laura was recognized for having "demonstrated outstanding leadership" in her life, and for "embrace[ing] a vision of education that enhances [her] academic experience and beyond." [Read the STLHE's profile of Laura here.](#)



MOT Students Recognized by CAOT

MOT 2 students Sacha Trivett (left) and Roberta Bezati (right) were recognized by CAOT for their project **Professionalism and Disability: The Client's Perspective**. Their abstract was the top ranked among those submitted from UBC students.

In recognition of their strong submission, Roberta will be attending the 2017 CAOT Conference in Charlottetown, PEI, under a CAOT Student Bursary Award.



Dr. Melinda Suto: Community Gardening as Path to Wellbeing

In her first public report on the findings of the three-year Community Gardening as Path to Wellbeing study, Dr. Melinda Suto shared the findings of her research into the health effects of community gardening on people with severe mental illness. Dr. Suto spoke to an audience of mental health professionals, family members of people with mental health issues, and people with lived experience of mental health problems.

Dr. Ben Mortenson Interviewed on CBC Radio



Ben Mortenson was featured on CBC Radio Vancouver's "Early Edition" to discuss the results of his study investigating the online dating profiles of older adults.

Dr. Mortenson's work with Dr. Laura Hurd Clark and Dr. Mineko Wada is helping to change what we think of as "successful ageing." [Listen to Ben debunk ageist assumptions with Rick Cluff](#) or [read more about his research on older adults' online dating profiles.](#)

Bill Miller Interview

Read an informal [one-on-one with Bill Miller](#) on the UBC Faculty of Medicine website, in which he describes the quality he most admires in a leader, his vision for health professions training programs, and his favourite songs to listen to while on his bike!

2016 OSOT Research Initiative Fund (RIF)

UBC OSOT's newest faculty member, Skye Barbic, has won the 2016 OSOT Research Initiative Fund award for her study, "**Testing the Effectiveness of an Intervention to Facilitate Employment and Training for Young Adults Living with Mental Illness.**" This study will assess the effectiveness of the Youth Breakthrough to Employment And Training (Y-BEAT) employment program, which supports youth with mental health challenges to build the confidence, skills and experience needed to kick-start their careers.

This research has the potential to produce a **well-tested, widely applicable psychosocial rehabilitation intervention for young adults with mental illness** and improve the standard of care for young adults who experience mental illness in Canada and beyond. [Click to learn more about Y-BEAT](#) or [watch a related PsyRehab.ca webinar.](#)

For all those who supported this OSOT Research Initiative Fund: your investment is being well used to support evidence in OT practice, and is making a difference in the lives of those with whom we work. To support future UBC OSOT research projects, please see the [OSOT Donations page](#), or contact Letitia Henville, Research Grants Facilitator, at letitia.henville@ubc.ca.

Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program News

The Rehabilitation Sciences Online Program creates possibilities for clinicians to facilitate change and improve practice. MRSc Graduate and Occupational Therapist Louise Donnellan shows how ...



Louise spent the last year interviewing and shadowing OTs and OT assistants. What she learned changed her views and approach, has highlighted staff education needs and will inform how tasks are delegated and communicated at her workplace. [Read more about Louise's MRSc Major Project.](#)

Highlighting RHSC 505: Measurement for Assessment, Planning and Evaluation

A core course in the online program is [RHSC 505: Measurement for Assessment, Planning and Evaluation](#). Recently redesigned by OSOT Assistant Professor **Dr. Skye Barbic**, a health outcomes research expert, this course helps learners to better understand the assessments they use regularly and to reimagine their assessment practices and possibilities.

Students say:

"This course made me feel like I was learning a whole new language of how to think about measurement tools. I am more thoughtful in my selection of outcome measures than prior to this course."

"Assignments were applicable to my workplace because RHSC 505 tailored the course content to fields of practice directly."

Knowledge Dissemination

Congratulations to Occupational Therapist and 2016 MRSc Graduate Andrea Wilson, and her supervisor Dr. Susan Harris, on the publication of Andrea's Major Project work in Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics:

[Wilson, A. L., & Harris, S. R. \(2017\). Collaborative Occupational Therapy: Teachers' Impressions of the Partnering for Change \(P4C\) Model. Physical & Occupational Therapy In Pediatrics, 1-13.](#)

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