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## **PPTC Quarterly Update** **October 2009**

This is a 'quarterly report' from the Office of the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant. The intent is that this update will increase awareness of the activities of this Office amongst stakeholders involved in paediatric therapy services in BC. Feel free to contact the Provincial Paediatric Therapy Consultant for further discussion or clarification regarding the content of this update. This is the second quarterly report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

### **Main Initiatives**

#### **Promoting Manageable Workloads**

- The Office is currently supporting a research project that is working on the development of a 'Points-Based Caseload Management Tool.' This tool will take into account variables such as complexity of caseload, level of clinician experience, travel time and other factors to help determine a manageable points-based caseload for paediatric therapists. This tool will add to the existing 'Preferred Practice Guidelines' document to provide stakeholders in paediatric therapy services with resources in the area of manageable workloads.

- The Office has issued a call for proposals for phase 2 of our eLibrary project. Phase 1 is currently available on the therapybc site, and consists of four referral management strategies agencies can draw from when developing/revising how to manage referrals. Phase 2 of the eLibrary will provide easily referenced tools, resources, and forms pertinent to the delivery of paediatric therapy services and the efficient and effective operation of a therapy department. The contractor for this project will seek input from both therapists and employers to assist in the creation of the tool. The call for proposals ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact [consultant@therapybc.ca](mailto:consultant@therapybc.ca) for more information.

#### **eLearning Fund**

- Funding continues to be available to support BC therapists and agencies utilizing technology to access continuing education opportunities. Funds to assist in the costs of continuing ed. via videoconferencing, telehealth/tele-CDR, etc. all qualify. Application forms and further details available at: [http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician\\_elearning.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_elearning.php)

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### **eMentoring Project**

- The PPTC has collaborated with Sue Stewart and Sunny Hill Health Centre to develop an electronic mentoring program for BC therapists. There is one dyad currently underway, and it features an OT with 2 years of experience being mentored by an OT with over 30 years of experience. We are very excited about the potential benefit this new initiative will have on therapist recruitment and retention. The program operates on a cost recovery basis. Please contact Sue Stewart at [sstewart@cw.bc.ca](mailto:sstewart@cw.bc.ca) for further details.

### **Paediatric Update Symposium 2009 and 2011**

- The 2009 Paediatric Update Symposium proved to be a tremendous success. Several of the presentations are now available via Sunny Hill Health Centre's A-tutor in the form of audiocasts and power point presentations. Please visit the following link to access the presentations: <http://sh-elearn.atutor.ca/go.php/31/index.php>

(A huge thank-you to David Jordan of Sunny Hill for recording and posting the sessions)

- The PPTC would also like to start facilitating preliminary planning for another Paediatric Update Symposium in **2011**. If you are interested in participating on the planning committee for the 2011 Symposium please contact Jason Gordon at [consultant@therapybc.ca](mailto:consultant@therapybc.ca). Planning will be via monthly teleconference, and is scheduled to begin before the end of the year.

### **TherapyBC Website: [www.therapybc.ca](http://www.therapybc.ca)**

- The therapybc website consistently receives more than 2,200 hits a month! It is advertised across Canada via professional association websites and newsletters, and is well positioned in the various search engines. In short, there is simply no better place to advertise your vacant paediatric therapist position, or look for paediatric job opportunities in BC!

- Make sure your colleagues and employees are registered in the therapybc database ([http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician\\_register.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/clinician_register.php)). Therapists who have registered their email information with the site and have chosen to receive updates from the PPTC will ensure they are informed of any new initiatives generated by this Office.

- Don't forget about the 'continuing education/upcoming events' box on the therapybc homepage. Submit details to the PPTC to have your event posted on the site (no charge for this service), and visit the site regularly to keep aware of any upcoming events in your area. Therapists may also select the 'receive email notification' option for upcoming events when registering their email information with the site.

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- Main additions over past 12 months:
  - eLibrary Referral Management Strategies, and Preferred Practice Guidelines: [http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting\\_manageable.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/promoting_manageable.php)
  - Therapist Assistants - 'Practice Profiles'  
[http://www.therapybc.ca/ta\\_use.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/ta_use.php)
  - Revised recruitment and retention guidelines  
[http://www.therapybc.ca/recruitment\\_guidelines.php](http://www.therapybc.ca/recruitment_guidelines.php)

### **Student Initiatives**

- Presented information regarding a career in paediatric therapy, therapybc job postings, and resources and supports available to paediatric therapists in BC to the following student groups in September:

- UBC PT Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (32 students in attendance)
  - University of Alberta SLP Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> (42 students)
  - University of Alberta OT Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> (25 students)
- Scheduled for October:
- UBC OT Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>
  - UBC SLP Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>

\* There has been a noticeable increase in interest for paediatric placements from UBC students. The Office is currently looking into how we may be able to work with UBC clinical coordinators to assist supporting therapists supervising students on paediatric clinical placements. Please consider being a clinical supervisor of a UBC therapy student as it is vital we ensure quality placement opportunities for BC's paediatric therapists of the future!\*

### **Research/Literature Tidbits**

- Postural dysfunction during standing and walking in children with cerebral palsy: what are the underlying problems and what new therapies might improve balance? Neural Plasticity 2005;12(2-3):211-9; <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/picrender.fcgi?artid=2565447&blobtype=pdf>
- Occupational Therapy Home Programs for Cerebral Palsy: Double-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial. Link to abstract (contact Jason if you are interested in the full text): [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19770175?ordinalpos=1&itool=Email.EmailReport.Pubmed\\_ReportSelector.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19770175?ordinalpos=1&itool=Email.EmailReport.Pubmed_ReportSelector.Pubmed_RVDocSum)
- Dr. Joanne Volden 'The Nature of Communicative Dysfunction in Autism Spectrum Disorder' webinar. Via University of Alberta: <https://admin.na4.acrobat.com/a827380087/p81502127/>