



ACOTUP/ACPUE is a national organization that promotes and develops occupational therapy education and research with an understanding of issues in a global context.

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 23 – 2015

## ACOTUP's 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS COMPING UP

ACOTUP is happy to announce that their fifth AGM and committee meetings will be occurring in Winnipeg, Manitoba this year! Don't forget to book your hotel and travel arrangements! Please note that the Annual General Meeting and the Education Innovation Forum Meeting are open to all ACOTUP members, and all other meetings are invite only.

Monday, May 25 2015: Annual General Meeting 9:00 AM

Monday, May 25 2015: Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 AM

Tuesday, May 26 2015: Curriculum Coordinators Meeting Time TBD

Tuesday, May 26 2015: Education Innovation Forum Meeting Time TBD

Tuesday, May 26 2015: Education Committee Face to Face 4:30 PM

Wednesday, May 27 2015: CUFE Face to Face Meeting 8:30 AM

Wednesday, May 27 2015: Research Committee Face to Face 5:00 PM

All meetings will take place during local time at the Fairmont Winnipeg.

## MCGILL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

*Sarah C. Marshall, Director's Academic Associate*

**P**RESS RELEASE: Montreal: To stay current with what's happening at McGill's School of Physical & Occupational Therapy (SPOT), check out the School's website [www.mcgill.ca/spot](http://www.mcgill.ca/spot) or join the group on Facebook or LinkedIn.

Dr. Annette Majnemer, Director and Associate Dean, School of Physical & Occupational Therapy is pleased to introduce Dr. Keiko Shikako-Thomas, newly hired Assistant Professor in the OT department. Dr. Thomas completed her occupational therapy degree, BSc(OT), at University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and then came to McGill to earn a doctorate in Rehabilitation Science. Hired in January 2015, she has just completed postdoctoral studies in Knowledge Translation in policymaking for children with disabilities (McMaster University) and Knowledge Translation in policymaking in Environmental Design and Accessibility, (Université de Montréal).

Currently, Dr. Thomas' research focuses on the promotion of healthy living and participation for children with disabilities. Her research program will adopt a participatory methodology to engage different stakeholders, including policymakers, children and their families, in finding solutions to change the environment, inform policymaking and promote participation of children with disabilities in different life roles and activities (see photo; credit O. Egan).



Dr. Keiko Shikako-Thomas

# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy

### 2014 Annual Faculty Assembly and Awards Ceremony

On December 4, we held the 2014 OS&OT Annual Faculty Assembly and Awards Celebration with the theme, "Leadership: Past, Present, and Future". Attendees enjoyed a wonderful time of inspiration, networking, discussion, celebration and refreshments in the beautiful Great Hall of Hart House.

Our speaker, Karen Goldenberg, Occupational Therapist and recipient of the Order of Canada, gave an inspirational speech on leadership, explaining how she influenced change for clients and society throughout the many stages of her career. She then outlined six indispensable qualities of leadership: vision, drive to excel, innovative thinking, passion and commitment, communication, and responsibility. Please see Karen's Power-Point slides for further details. The time of audience questions and comments yielded interesting and inspirational discussion.



Mandy Lowe, Status Assistant Professor within the department, gave a thoughtful response to Karen's speech, outlining where the department is in terms of exploring and teaching leadership competencies within the curriculum. We were challenged individually and as a profession regarding where we go from here.

The awards ceremony was a wonderful and exciting time to recognize the winners of both our Community Partners Awards and our Core Faculty Awards.



As a new feature this year, we had a display of posters that our community partners have presented at conferences over the past two years. It was very interesting to read about research and program initiatives in which OT's have been involved!

Thank-you to each one that came to this wonderful event! We look forward to seeing you and many others next year!

To see a list of all winners, please visit the ACOTUP/ACPUE website at <http://www.acotup-acpue.ca>

# Du nouveau à l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières!

Depuis septembre 2011, la Clinique multidisciplinaire en santé offre des services d'ergothérapie à des enfants présentant des difficultés dans leur développement et ce, dans le domaine de la pédiatrie sociale et dans certaines écoles (Shawinigan et Trois-Rivières). Il y a aussi du nouveau depuis septembre 2013! Le nouveau service « L'ergothérapie au bureau » est offert aux employés de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières qui sont à risque, ou qui présentent des difficultés dans leur rendement occupationnel au travail en lien avec l'utilisation d'un ordinateur.

Dans le cadre du programme « L'ergothérapie au bureau », des étudiants en ergothérapie supervisés par une professeure-clinicienne appliquent une vision holistique de la personne qui teinte l'approche utilisée en ergothérapie. Cette approche centrée sur la personne s'actualise par une analyse approfondie des caractéristiques de l'employé, de ses tâches de travail et de son environnement de travail. Cette dernière s'avère la plus efficace pour réduire les troubles musculo-squelettiques (St-Vincent, 2010; Van Eerd et al., 2010).

Plus spécifiquement, les stagiaires habilite l'employé à préserver ou retrouver une zone de confort dans son travail, améliorant ainsi son rendement occupationnel. Afin d'habiliter le client, l'ergothérapeute favorise l'engagement de la personne en bâtissant une relation de confiance, en lui permettant de s'engager dans l'action selon les besoins qu'elle exprime et le contexte dans lequel s'inscrit la consultation. De même, l'ergothérapeute éduque la personne en favorisant son apprentissage concernant les principes ergonomiques. L'ergothérapeute est un coach qui établit un partenariat avec la personne, l'écoute, l'oriente, la conseille et réfléchit avec elle tout en collaborant et en partageant des connaissances mutuelles dans tout au long de la résolution des difficultés. Finalement, l'ergothérapeute pourra adapter le travail de la personne en effectuant une analyse de la tâche selon ses besoins et l'environnement dans lequel le travail est accompli. C'est ainsi que l'ergothérapeute habilitera l'employé à analyser sa posture, ses tâches et son environnement, de même qu'à trouver les solutions aux difficultés qui pourraient survenir par la suite et à les concrétiser.

Les activités des stagiaires se regroupent en trois étapes distinctes. Ce sont des :

- **Activités de prévention et de promotion**

Afin de prévenir l'apparition des blessures musculo-squelettiques, des activités d'information sur les principes ergonomiques sont offertes. Les activités réalisées sont : la remise de documents informatifs, la réalisation d'un site web, la tenue d'un kiosque d'information.

- **Activités d'éducation**

Un atelier de formation est offert aux employés afin de parfaire leurs connaissances sur les principes de base en ergonomie, de même que sur l'importance de faire des exercices et de prendre des pauses (Bernards et al., 2008) (Omer, Ozcan, Karan, & Ketenci, 2003). Des mises en situation pratiques permettent aux employés de mettre en pratique les principes théoriques enseignés, et ainsi améliorer leur sentiment d'efficacité personnelle dans l'ajustement ergonomique d'un poste de travail à l'ordinateur. Cette formation est obligatoire puisqu'elle permet d'améliorer significativement l'efficacité des interventions réalisées (Goodman et al., 2012) (Marcoux et al., 2000).

- **Consultation individuelle**

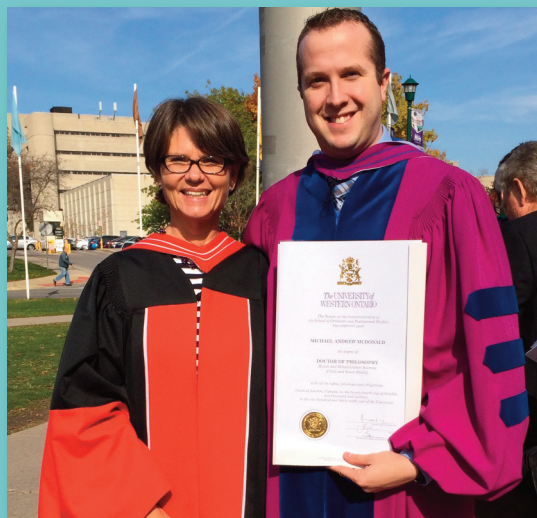
Le dernier volet d'intervention se réalise en collaboration avec l'employé. Il permet d'évaluer et d'analyser le poste de travail de chaque personne. Lors de cette consultation, l'enseignement des principes discutés lors de la formation de groupe, sont revus et transposés à la situation de la personne. Des ajustements dans l'environnement de travail ou dans la tâche sont proposés, (Marcoux et al., 2000) des équipements sont essayés par la personne et des recommandations d'achat d'équipement peuvent être faites à l'employeur si jugé nécessaires (Aarås, Dainoff, Ro, & Thoresen, 2002; Aarås, Horgen, Bjørset, Ro, & Walsøe, 2001).



## WESTERN CONFERS JOINT MSc OT/PhD PROGRAM DEGREES ON THE FIRST TWO GRADUATES

Western University, School of Occupational Therapy and Graduate Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences are pleased to announce the completion of the first two graduates of the joint MScOT/PhD program. Students in the program completed both the professional occupational therapy and doctoral degrees in five years.

Drs. Laura Hartman, supervised by Dr. Angie Mandich, and Michael McDonald, supervised by Dr. Jan Polgar, completed their degrees in the spring of 2014. Dr. Hartman's research explored the experiences of young adults of divorced parents. Dr. McDonald investigated the relationship between motivation, identity and secondary school volunteer requirements. Dr. Hartman is currently completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, while Dr. McDonald is in private occupational therapy practice in Halifax.



Dr. Jan Polgar and Michael McDonald  
graduating with his MScOT/PhD

## ACOTUP RESEARCHER PROFILE



**Name of Researcher:** Marie-José Durand, Université de Sherbrooke

**Degrees and Professional Qualifications (including fellowships):**

Postdoctoral internship the Interdisciplinary Health Research Group; (GRIS), Université de Montréal; PhD Clinical Sciences, Université de Sherbrooke; MSc Biomedical Sciences, Université de Montréal; BSc

Occupational Therapy, Université Laval

**Email:** Marie-Jose.Durand@USherbrooke.ca

**Website:** <http://www.usherbrooke.ca/sciences-cliniques/recherche/les-principaux-themes-de-recherche/profils/durand-marie-jose/>

**Area of Research:** My research program deals with prevention of disability at work. More precisely, I develop and validate measuring tools to take into account in a situation of disability at work, for instance: representation of the illness, questionnaire of prolonged incapacity risk factors or obstacles to return to work and to overcome them. Also I come up with readaptation programs based on a mixed approach, both building on a synthesis of scientific literature and on the needs of users. This way, I develop a program theory and its validation, and I also analyze the implementation of work rehabilitation programs. My research programming has been developed for an adult clientele with musculoskeletal disorder, mental illnesses, and cancers. Through my work, I write up the important contribution that an Occupational Therapist can offer in re-entry and re-training into the workforce for a person excluded from their role as a worker. An Occupational Therapist represents the key interloper to intervene with employers.

### Research Related Awards and Honours:

- Senior Researcher (senior), Quebec Health Research Fund, FRSQ (2008-12)
- Research Scholar (junior 2), Quebec Health Research Fund, FRSQ (2006-08)
- Research Scholar, Canada Health Research Institutes (IRSC) (2001-05)
- Canada Medical Research Council Fellowship, 2 year scholarship for post doctoral internship (\$46,844/year) (1998-2000)
- Research grant from the Health Information Liaison and Application Network (Research Excellence Centres Network), supported by the Canadian Medical Research Council, post-doctoral internship (\$34,000/year) (1997)
- Honorable mention from the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, for the quality of academic record and scientific work in doctoral studies, the Université de Sherbrooke (1996)
- Quebec Health Research Fund Fellowship, doctoral studies, 18 months (\$34,240) (1994-96)

### Grants/Funding History (last 5 years):

- Durand MJ, Corbière M, Coutu MF. (2013-17). Study of Psychometric Qualities of the Occupational Disability Identification Tool (OISHT) used in workers with a skeletal muscular disorder or transitory mental disorder. IRSST (research competition by competition) (\$210,790).
- Durand MJ, Vézina N, Corbière M, Coutu MF, Reinharz D, Gaudreault N, Tremblay D, Nastasia I, Panaccio A. (2012-16). Interdisciplinary research program on preventing and reducing incapacity to work. FRQS (\$765,000).
- Durand MJ, Tremblay D, Anema JR, Fassier JB, Loisel P, Shaw WS, Panaccio A. (2013-15). Defining the theoretical basis of work rehabilitation programs: a realistic review. IRSST (\$198,875).
- Loisel P, Anema JR, Baril R, Breslin C, Bultmann U, Cassidy JD, Cooper JE, Corbière M, Côté P, Coutu MF, Dewa C, Dionne C, Durand MJ, et al. (2009-15). CIHR strategic training program in work disability prevention. IRSC (training program grant) (\$1,950,000).
- Durand MJ, Corbière M, Coutu MF, Reinharz D. (2011-13). Participatory approach in a business aiming to improve work absence management. IRSC (\$168,234).

**Research Collaboration:** I have been part of two interdisciplinary research teams between 2000 and 2008, which were financed by the government of Quebec, and I currently direct my own research team in prevention of inability to work (2012-2016). The main characteristic of these teams was interdisciplinary. They were made up of the following disciplines: medicine, biomechanics, ergonomics, anthropology, occupational therapy, psychology, work psychology, physiologists, and evaluative research expertise, management science, social sciences, organizational analysis. More precisely, I have

completed several projects in collaboration with researchers in ergonomics, anthropology, psychology, evaluative research, and organizational analysis. This collaboration is extremely rich, as it allows me, for one, to broaden my understanding of work disability, both in individual and organizational components, and secondly, to appropriate different research approaches, and ones that are intimately linked to real environments. Also, several of my publications are in collaboration with researchers on those teams.

### What is the most important thing in mentoring graduate students?

Enable creativity while strengthening the research methods. It is important to convey openness and also a capacity for critical analysis

### Most Significant Publications:

- Book Chapters - Durand MJ, Coutu MF, Hong QN. (2014). (Invited Submission) The evaluation of implementation of rehabilitation interventions. In Corbière M, Larivière N. (Eds.), *Qualitative Methods in Context of Mental Health Rehabilitation*. Québec: Université du Québec Press.
- Article - Durand MJ, Berthelette D, Loisel P, Imbeau D. (2012). Validation of the program impact theory of a work rehabilitation program. *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment and Rehabilitation*, 42(4), 495-505.
- Book - Corbière M, Durand MJ. (Eds.) (2011). *From Mental Disorder to Inability to Work: A Transdisciplinary Perspective Aiming to Better Seize these Problematics and Offer Intervention Paths*. Québec: Université du Québec Press.

### What tips would you give for new investigators?

- Start a research program which starts with the prolonging, at least in part, one's previous works. You have to pursue that momentum instead of starting over on a new research topic.
- Seek out small grants at first to pursue pilot studies and create a base of preliminary data. This will let you confirm your ability to write an application and complete a short project. In addition, preliminary data are an asset for projects with a larger span.
- Avoid participating as a co-researcher in too many studies, as this will tend to spread you out too much and will take away time from developing your own research program.
- Choose your co-researchers carefully; this collaboration should be respectful and enriching.

**What about resources/supports/training programs for new investigators?** At this time, it seems important to me to do postdoctoral internships in at least two different universities. It is important to expose yourself to a variety of teams and functions. This study period is essential to broaden methodological approaches and acquire theories in a broader scope in our field of study.

# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

## Retirement Announcement for Donna O'Connor

Queen's University is announcing the retirement of Donna O'Connor, who has been a valued faculty member of the School of Rehabilitation Therapy for over 30 years.

Donna's professional journey began at Queen's, where she completed her diploma in Occupational Therapy in 1973 followed by her BSc in 1976, and M.Ed. in 1995. Donna joined the School of Rehabilitation Therapy as a casual instructor in 1982, receiving her initial full-time faculty appointment in 1999. She held numerous roles during her time on faculty, including fieldwork coordinator, course instructor, research mentor and admissions coordinator. To each of these roles she brought her unique blend of creativity and energy, seizing opportunities to extend on existing frameworks and challenging students to even higher levels of engagement and excellence.

In addition to teaching, Donna's love for innovation led her to engage in numerous funded research studies over the course of her academic career. Donna's research interests speak to her commitment to clinical education. Her projects included curriculum innovation to enhance the integration of fieldwork experiences with academic coursework, alternative models of fieldwork coaching and supervision, fieldwork performance evaluation, use of simulated patients to enhance development of clinical reasoning, and transfer of learning from classroom to practice settings.

During her time as a Fieldwork Coordinator at the School, Donna's positive and collaborative approach was the foundation for the strong relationships that she built with colleagues from other universities across the country. Always an active contributor to her profession and community, Donna was a long time member of ACOTUP's Committee on University Fieldwork Education. She also served on the Executive Committee of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists during the years of rotating administrations. In retirement, she will continue to channel her energies towards one of her favourite causes as a member of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmother-to-Grandmother Campaign.

As some may know, Donna's mother was also an occupational therapist. At her retirement reception, Donna spoke of the significance of the deeply ingrained, "OT Lens" through

which she views the world. Donna closed by expressing her gratitude to the many wonderful people she has encountered on her journey to date, and by saying that occupational therapy is not simply what she does but forms an important part of who she is. She expressed how lucky she felt to have taken on many challenging roles within the School while always being given the opportunity to sustain her deep commitment to teaching. The passion that Donna brought to the classroom is reflected in the outpouring of well wishes from former and current students on the news of her retirement, and is echoed in the following comment from a member of faculty: "You have inspired each of our teaching with your creativity, enthusiasm and profound dedication to student learning."

Please join us in wishing Donna the very best in the next stage of her journey.



Donna O'Connor

# The Robert L. Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Research and Rehabilitation

Angela Colantonio, PhD, OT, FACRM, Senior Scientist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, has been selected as the 2015 Recipient of the Robert L. Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Research and Rehabilitation.

The Moody Prize is given to recognize and honour individuals or groups whose efforts have made significant contributions in applied brain injury research and rehabilitation. This prestigious award aims to increase national and international awareness of the need to expand research and improve treatment for persons who have experienced traumatic brain injury, stroke, and related central nervous system insults, and to provide incentives for future initiatives in clinical research, rehabilitation and support. Dr. Colantonio is the first Canadian to have received this award.

This award celebrates the contributions of philanthropist Robert L. Moody to the field of brain injury rehabilitation and research and is administered through the University of Texas Medical Branch's School of Health Professions.

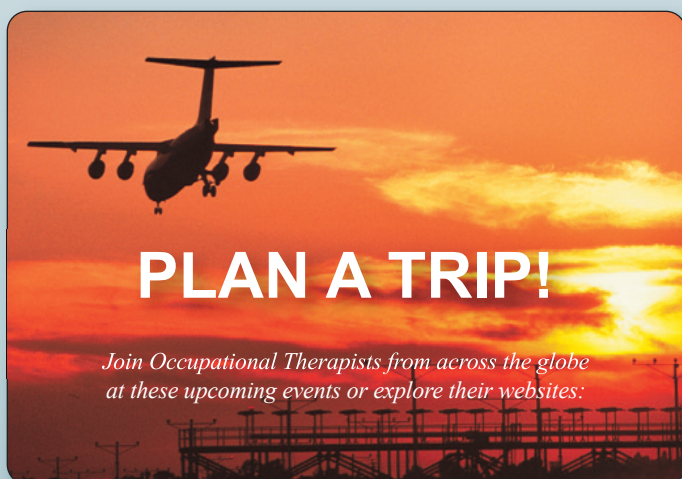
The Prize will be presented at the Moody Prize Dinner dur-

ing the 15th Annual Galveston Brain Injury Conference in Galveston, Texas, 6-8 May 2015.

Dr. Colantonio is a Professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Ther-



apy, where she holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Research Chair in Gender, Work and Health focusing on brain injury. She is also a Senior Scientist at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-UHN, where she held the inaugural Saunderson Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury Research. Dr. Colantonio leads a broad, internationally recognized program of research on acquired brain injury (ABI examining ABI in the population, targeting injury prevention and post-acute care with a special focus on how ABI impacts the lives of those most vulnerable to health service inequities. She proudly thanks her amazing team in the Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab [[www.abiresearch.utoronto.ca](http://www.abiresearch.utoronto.ca)], and all those that have provided support including funders, colleagues, Toronto Rehab-UHN, the University of Toronto and all persons who participated in the research.



**PLAN A TRIP!**

*Join Occupational Therapists from across the globe at these upcoming events or explore their websites:*

**Montréal, Québec**  
8th Annual Canadian Society of Hand Therapists Conference  
**CHALLENGING PAIN!** May 22-23, 2015 Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Register online at [www.csht.org](http://www.csht.org)

**South Africa**  
2nd World Congress on Healthy Ageing - July 30 to August 2, 2015  
For more information on the congress, including the scientific committee, international advisory panel and provisional programme visit the website – [www.wcha2015.com](http://www.wcha2015.com).

**Uganda**  
9th OTARG Congress - 7-11 September 2015  
Uganda Association of Occupational Therapists in collaboration with OTARG Hosts the 9th OTARG Congress under the theme "Transforming Health Care in Africa: A move towards Occupation" from 7-11 September 2015 at Hotel African Kampala  
<http://www.wfot.org/Portals/0/PDF/2014/9thOTARG%20Congress%202014a.pdf>