

## M. Louis Trudel retires / prend sa retraite

Monsieur Louis Trudel, professeur à l'Université Laval, a pris une retraite bien méritée en septembre dernier. Il a été un des piliers de la formation en ergothérapie à l'Université Laval de même que de l'évolution de cette profession au Québec au cours des 35 dernières années. Il a travaillé à promouvoir le rayonnement de sa profession, et ce en s'appuyant toujours sur des visées fort humanistes.

In September 2010, Dr. Louis Trudel, professor at Laval University, began his well-deserved retirement. During the past 35 years, he has been one of the pillars of the occupational therapy program, and in fact of the general evolution of this profession in Quebec. Louis' work to promote the advancement of the profession has always been underpinned by his profoundly human vision.

Il a été directeur du programme d'ergothérapie à 5 reprises entre 1980 et 2010 et directeur de l'ex département d'ergothérapie entre 1992 et 1995. Il a aussi été responsable des liens du programme avec les associations et universités québécoises et canadiennes pendant de nombreuses années. Il a terminé sa carrière en étant activement impliqué dans l'élaboration

et l'implantation du nouveau Continuum de formation en ergothérapie qui a débuté en septembre 2008. À l'extérieur de nos murs, il a été, tout au long de sa carrière, un collaborateur important pour l'Ordre des Ergothérapeutes du Québec qui lui a d'ailleurs remis en 2005 le prix Nicole Ébacher pour souligner sa contribution exceptionnelle au développement de la profession d'ergothérapeute. Il a aussi été le Récipiendaire d'un Award of Merit de l'Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes.

Between 1980 and 2010, Louis was the director of the Occupational Therapy programme on five different occasions; between 1992 and 1995, he was director of the previously-existing Department of Occupational Therapy. He has also been responsible, over a number of years, for developing and maintaining links between the programme and various Quebec and Canadian associations and universities. During the latter years of his career, Louis played a major role in the development and implementation of the new occupational therapy bachelors-masters continuum programme that began in September 2008. Beyond the university walls, Louis was, during his entire career, an important collaborator with the Ordre des

ergothérapeutes du Québec, which honoured him in 2005 with the *Nicole Ebacher Prize* to highlight his exceptional contribution in the development of the occupational therapy profession. He also was the recipient of an Award of Merit from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists.

L'équipe du département de réadaptation le remercie sincèrement pour son investissement de tous les instants à l'évolution de nos programmes et de la profession. Nous lui souhaitons le plus grand des bonheurs pour cette seconde carrière qui s'amorce.

We in the Occupational Therapy Programme and in the Department of Rehabilitation wish to sincerely thank Louis for his remarkable contribution over so many years to the programme and to the profession. Although we are very sorry to see him depart, we are very happy for him as he moves on to the next stage in his life. We wish him all the very best.

*Audette Bédard, Coordonnatrice à l'enseignement clinique et au développement Programme d'ergothérapie; Andrew Freeman, Directeur du programme, Programme d'ergothérapie; Claude H. Côté, Directeur du département de réadaptation; Faculté de médecine, Université Laval.*

## An on-line interactive guide

With financial support from the School of Medical Rehabilitation Endowment Fund at the University of Manitoba, and hosted by the McMaster University website, faculty from the University of Manitoba (Jacquie Ripat and Leanne Leclair) and McMaster University (Mary Law, Lori Letts and Brenda Vrkljan) have created an interactive on-line presentation entitled *Occupational Performance Process Model (OPPM) and the Canadian Practice Process Framework (CPPF): An Interactive Guide to Clinical Decision Making*.

University of Manitoba and McMaster University faculty have been using the on-line presentation with students and practitioners to: 1) provide an overview of the

OPPM and CPPF; 2) advance understanding of the differences and similarities between the process models; and 3) demonstrate the application of these models to practice through the use of a video case study.

Based on a presentation offered at the 2009 Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists National Conference, the interactive presentation is available at [www.srs-mcmaster.ca/Programs/MScOT/ProfessionalFramework/ProcessFrameworks/tabid/3541/Default.aspx](http://www.srs-mcmaster.ca/Programs/MScOT/ProfessionalFramework/ProcessFrameworks/tabid/3541/Default.aspx) for all to access. An on-line survey is also available on the same website to provide feedback to the authors on the presentation.

# ACOTUP

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2011

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

## OT at U of O

By Dr. Paulette Guitard O.T. Reg. (Ont.) O.T.(c),  
director, Occupational Therapy Program

Once again things are busy and exciting in the OT Program as we are in the middle of the admission review process. Last spring, we received funding from Faculty of Health Science's *Mission satisfaction* program to create a promotional video for the program. The video was conceived by a professional firm geared to a 13-34 year-old age group. It has been recognized as one of the top 25 productions in the industry in 2010. You can watch the video on our website at [www.sante.uottawa.ca/esr/ergo/index.htm](http://www.sante.uottawa.ca/esr/ergo/index.htm) or on YouTube (where there are two shorter versions) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTIM\\_ZN5OTo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTIM_ZN5OTo) or visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n-TmqjTaKA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n-TmqjTaKA).

In the OT Program, we are always trying to maximize collaboration with our clinical partners. For example, on January 11, 2011, Professor Dr. Michèle Hébert and second year student Danijela Subara gave a French workshop on the MoCA (Montreal Cognitive Assessment) to 38 participants (34 were occupational therapists) in collaboration with the Regional Stroke Network.

As part of their master's degree, all students must complete a research project either in a group or individually (mémoire). Many of these projects occur in collaboration with our clinical partners. For this new cohort, four projects will be conducted in clinical settings, namely at the Centre régional de réadaptation LaRessourSe, the Centre Hospitalier Pierre Janet, the Ottawa Hospital and the Mental Health Commission of Canada. Both students and settings really appreciate and benefit from these experiences.



## Video game playing and visual attention skills in the elderly

A new study conducted by Patrícia Belchior, a new faculty member in the Occupational Therapy Department at McGill University and her colleague, Michael Marsiske at the University of Florida, examines the effects of an action video game on the visual attention performance of a group of community-dwelling older adults.

While there has been a growing body of studies examining the positive effects of video games, the current study, called the REVIVA study, is innovative both because of its focus on the mental benefits of games in seniors and because it investigates if visual attention gains would transfer to instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). The study focuses on IADLs that are known to be related to visual attention, such as driving, reacting to traffic signs and finding products on a grocery shelf, all skills which are critically important issues for occupational therapists when working with older adults.

"This study is based on pilot work we have conducted, as well as the work of others, that has shown that playing action video games, even for as little as 10 hours, can significantly improve visual attention," says Belchior.

Colleague Marsiske says that this work represents one "next step" in work designed to find ways to maintain and improve mental function in later life.

"There have now been several decades of positive findings regarding cognitive training in later life," he says. "Our laboratory-based training studies have shown large improvement effects for older adults, with positive effects lasting as long as five years. However, we have often been at a loss to answer seniors' questions about what they can do at home, on their own."

With this study, Belchior and team hope to evaluate whether playing action video games might be one mental exercise strategy that can promote visual attention in older adults and consequently help to maintain their independence on IADL's performance in later years.

The study has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Pioneer Portfolio, Games for Health Project.

## Celebrating achievements at McMaster

A number of faculty members at McMaster have had recent achievements, including the successful defense of three PhDs!

On September 3, 2010 Sandra Moll successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled: "Mental Health Issues and Work: Institutional Practices of Silence in a Mental Healthcare Organization."

On September 20, 2011, Bonny Jung successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Western Ontario, School of Graduate and Postgraduate Education. The title of her dissertation is: "The Professional Master's Occupational Therapist: Developing an Emerging Professional Identity".

On November 29, 2010 Rebecca Gewurtz successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled: "Instituting Market-based Principles within Social Services for People Living with Mental Illness: The Case of the Revised ODSP Employment Supports Policy."

All three of our new PhD's are now in tenure track positions with us.

Best wishes to Sue Baptiste in her role as the president of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists for 2010-2012.

Welcome to Dr. Jocelyn Harris who joined the SRS at McMaster effective January 1, 2011. Jocelyn is a graduate of the OT Program here at McMaster, graduating in 1995. She holds an MSc. and PhD from the University of British Columbia where she worked with Dr. Janice Eng.

McMaster also had strong representation in receiving grants and awards in the most recent competitions of the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation:

- Rebecca Gewurtz along with Sandra Moll, Terry Krupa and Mary Law received a COTF research grant for a project titled: The Canadian Guide to Occupation, Health and Well-being: Consulting with Stakeholders;
- Susan Strong, a PhD student supervised by Seanne Wilkins, received a research grant with Seanne Wilkins and Lori Letts for a project titled: "Enabling the health literacy of clients during specialty mental health services: Clinicians' experiences and perspectives";
- Carri Hand, PhD candidate, supervised by Mary Law, is leading a research grant with Seanne Wilkins, Lori Letts and Mary Law, focused on the influence of Senior Centres on participation in life activities;
- Nicole Francis, MSc(OT), was the McMaster University recipient of the Future Scholar Award; and
- Heather Colquhoun, PhD candidate, supervised by Lori Letts, was the recipient of the Thelma Cardwell Scholarship.

Sandra Moll and Rev. Kristine O'Brien were honoured by the Canadian Church Press for their knowledge translation article entitled "Breaking the Silence: the mental health of our clergy." Their 2009 article in the Presbyterian Record took first place in both Features and Service Journalism categories and the prestigious A.C. Forrest Memorial Award for excellence in socially conscious religious journalism. If you haven't read this article about clergy and mental health, visit [www.presbyterianrecord.ca/2009/02/01/braking-the-silence](http://www.presbyterianrecord.ca/2009/02/01/braking-the-silence)



## 50 years of OT excellence

The Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Alberta is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We are calling all occupational therapy alumni and staff to come together for a reunion to celebrate our profession and our program. After 50 years of excellence at the University of Alberta, we celebrate the numerous contributions of our alumni and staff to the profession of occupational therapy locally, nationally and internationally. Join your occupational therapy colleagues on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for an afternoon tea and reception at the Lister Centre on the University of Alberta Campus. Guests will be treated to a special time walking down memory lane, as there will be a story teller, photo booth, student postcards, and OT memorabilia from the archives, old friends, classmates, and professors, not to mention other surprises. Together, alumni, families and colleagues will celebrate the history of occupational therapy and recognize our past achievements, our present endeavours and the future possibilities in occupational therapy.

If you are a University of Alberta OT alumnus and would like to join the celebration, please contact Jessica Papineau at 780-493-2499 or visit us at [www.rehabmed.ualberta.ca/OT50thCelebration](http://www.rehabmed.ualberta.ca/OT50thCelebration) for more details.

If you cannot attend our party, be sure to visit us at our booth at the CAOT conference this June in Saskatoon. Let us know you are alumnus and be recognized.

## Upcoming meeting dates

Attention all ACOTUP Members – don't forget to mark your calendars with the upcoming Curriculum, CUFÉ and ACOTUP meetings that will be held during the CAOT conference this summer in Saskatoon.

The meeting times have yet to be set, but the dates will be Monday, June 13, 2011 for the Curriculum meeting and Tuesday, June 14, 2011

for the CUFÉ and ACOTUP meeting. As soon as the times are set, members will be notified.

As well the Leadership Forum will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at the conference and ACOTUP will have five representatives attending. In addition, a meeting will be held on June 15, 2011 as a follow-up from the CUFÉ retreat earlier this year.

## 2011 Canadian Fieldwork Retreat

### Liisa Holsti awarded Canada Research Chair



The UBC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is pleased to announce that Dr. Liisa Holsti, assistant professor and clinician scientist for the Child and Family Research Institute, was awarded a prestigious Tier II Canada Research Chair in Neonatal Health and Development. This accomplishment is the culmination of years of exemplary research in the area of pain and stress management for preterm infants for which she has already been awarded a Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Career Development Award in 2005-2009. Now, Liisa continues her work leading the Developmental Care Program which aims to increase knowledge of the impact of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) environment and to advance care to optimize development of infants born preterm and critically ill.

As a Tier II Chair, Dr. Holsti's five-year program of research will identify important mechanistic links between the pain and stress associated with routine NICU procedures and the development of inflammation which places these infants at high risk for long-term morbidities. Dr. Holsti will also develop novel ways to assess and to treat painful and stressful procedures; strategies aimed specifically at protecting the brain and thereby reduce the ongoing risk for adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in these extremely high risk infants. Dr. Holsti's work is being conducted directly in the clinical setting, the results of which can be applied to neonates cared for in Canada and beyond.

The UBC Department of OS&OT recognizes Dr. Holsti's significant contributions to research in this much-needed area of inquiry, and congratulates her on becoming the first occupational therapist in B.C. to hold a Canada Research Chair.

### CUFÉ Retreat Participants:

(Back row from left) Ann Bossers, Western University; Jutta Hinrichs, University of Alberta; Donna Drynan, University of British Columbia; Jennifer Saunders, Dalhousie University; Audette Bedard, Université de Laval; Rachel Stack, University of Toronto; Mary Lou Boudreau, Queen's University; Lori Shimell, McMaster University; Carmen Moliner, Université de Sherbrooke; Jean-Pascal Beaudoin, Université d'Ottawa; and Catherine Donnelly, Queen's University. (Front row from left): Cori Schmitz, University of Alberta; Caroline Storr (co-chair), McGill University; Margaret Anne Campbell-Rempel (co-chair), University of Manitoba; Susanne Mak, McGill University; and Donna Barker, University of Toronto. Missing: Marie-Josée St-Pierre, UQTR, and Sylvie Scurti, Université du Montréal.



An ACOTUP Canadian Fieldwork Retreat was hosted by the University of Toronto January 20-21, 2011. Twelve of 14 university programs were represented by faculty responsible for fieldwork portfolios. The two day event sponsored by ACOTUP and supported by member universities focused on two main areas; building fieldwork capacity across Canada and a review and renewal of the *Canadian Guidelines for Fieldwork Education in Occupational Therapy* (CGFE-OT).

As individual university programs have grown to meet the health needs of Canadians so has the demand for clinical teaching within our occupational therapy profession. This retreat offered the opportunity for collaborative brainstorming and innovative strategy development intended to build capacity to meet the demands for current and future Canadian quality practice learning opportunities. The action plans developed target both university catchments and fieldwork facilitated by the national fieldwork placement service (NFPS) operated by Megram Consulting Services Ltd. National competency documents also support practicing therapists in mentoring the next generation of practitioners.

A number of strategies identified in this retreat will support Canadian occupational therapists as they continue to educate our future colleagues. Quality improvements have been made to the Canadian Guidelines for Fieldwork Education in Occupational Therapy and these will be adopted by each Canadian university program. Additional information can be acquired from the academic coordinator of clinical education at each university.

Participants left the retreat inspired and strongly believing positive initiatives in practice education are underway and that in the future, clinical educators will be well-recognized by their peers. Participants were confident that by 2015, all practitioners will welcome students into diverse practice areas and it will be clinicians on waiting lists for students rather than the other way around!