



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

## Whitehorse awaits us

Attention all ACOTUP members - don't forget to mark your calendars with the upcoming UFCC and ACOTUP meetings that will be held during the CAOT conference this summer in Whitehorse, Yukon. The dates will be as follows:

- UFCC: Tuesday, June 10 at the MacBride Museum, Taylor Room
- Curriculum Chairs: Tuesday, June 10 at the Edgewater Hotel, Windsor Room
- ACOTUP: Wednesday, June 11 at the MacBride Museum, Drury Room

This year the Leadership Forum has been postponed until November 2008. Watch for updates in the fall issue of the newsletter.

## Electronic Student Portfolio launched at University of Ottawa

Over the last three years at the University of Ottawa Occupational Therapy program, an electronic student professional portfolio (e-SPP) was piloted.

The portfolio is based on a reflection by faculty members on two stand points: to encourage self-directed learning among students and to better prepare students for the use of the provincial college professional portfolio.

An action research methodology was used throughout the project to develop the format and

content of the portfolio, to study its implementation with students and to assess its use in an electronic format. Results from this research showed simplicity of use (low tech, well designed organization of content) and technical support from a peer were key elements to the success of implementing a useful and efficient self-directed learning portfolio.

Developers of the e-SPP noticed a portfolio can be a useful learning tool that easily fits with a competency based program; however, to be

fully utilized without being perceived as extra work, the e-SPP has to be fully integrated to the day-to day-student learning activities.

A majority of students were enthused about the impact of reflecting activities of professional growth because it brought a more conscious integration of knowledge, abilities, attitudes and behaviours to previous experiences.

The portfolio allowed students to gather useful information they thought helpful in bridging training years with entry to practice.

## Around the World

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

### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Fifth World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation  
September 24 to 27, 2008 | [www.sarah.br/wfnr-rio2008/](http://www.sarah.br/wfnr-rio2008/)

### Melbourne, Australia

2008 International Symposium  
July 26 to 29, 2008 | <http://symposium.portphilip.vic.edu.au>

### Lausanne, Switzerland

13th Eurohand FESSH Conference 2008  
June 19 to 21, 2008 | [www.eurohand2008.com](http://www.eurohand2008.com)

### Quebec City, Quebec

21st World Congress Rehabilitation International (RI)  
August 25 to 28, 2008 | [www.riquebec2008.org](http://www.riquebec2008.org)

## e-Tips for Practice Education

Announcing *e-Tips for Practice Education*, an engaging and innovative web-based preceptor course for busy health care professionals. *e-Tips* is a series of eight interactive educational modules: Setting the Stage for Clinical Teaching; The Role Learning Plays in the Practice Education Experience;

Enhancing Your Teaching Skills; Fostering Clinical Reasoning; Giving Feedback; The Evaluation Process in Practice Education; Supporting the Student in Difficulty and Strategies for Resolving Conflicts.

*e-Tips* was developed by an inter-professional team of health care pro-

fessionals educators, based on feedback from over 400 health care professionals and practitioners.

Each module takes between 10-25 minutes to complete. The course is free and users can access the modules at any time. For more information, visit [www.practiceeducation.ca](http://www.practiceeducation.ca).



## Clinical Reasoning in Simulated Practice

With placements becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, another way is needed for occupational therapy students to practice the skills needed to become successful health professionals. Through the use of multimedia, artificial intelligence and virtual reality systems, technology

enables OT students to experience and explore the dynamic world of occupational therapy like never before.

Clinical Reasoning in Simulated Practice (CRISP)™ is the future in interactive instructional models. OT Inc. is a serious virtual reality game designed specifically for occupational

therapy. OT Inc. is a virtual organization offering community-based health services to clients of all ages.

The simulation is case-based and uses actual clients in its delivery.

Students receive ongoing feedback from their virtual boss concerning their performance throughout the

simulation.

Instructors may review students' progress at any time during the simulation. For more information, please contact Debra Greig at ShirWin Knowledge & Learning Systems by phone at: (780) 432 – 5779 or by e-mail at [debra@shirwin.com](mailto:debra@shirwin.com).

## Canadian OT student's experience on overseas placement

Doing my placement in Scotland was an adventure because I haven't travelled a lot.

I found there to be a lot of parallels between the role of occupational therapy in Scotland and Canada. It was great to see similar assessments and theories used as sometimes you begin to question if occupational therapists elsewhere in the world practice

the same as we do in Canada.

Working with the Older People's Team in Barrhead was an extremely positive experience as the entire team made me feel welcome. I had the opportunity to spend time with community OTs working for other agencies, which was enriching. Doing my placement in Scotland helped me to improve my communication and in-

terviewing skills. I am even "fluent" in the Scottish accent! I have refined my clinical reasoning skills, which will continue to develop as I head into practice in the fall.

I've grown as a person and have gained a great deal of confidence in my ability to step outside of my comfort zone. I owe a lot of thanks to Moyra Muir at Glasgow Caledonian

University, Bernadette Gibson from the accommodation office at the University of Paisley, the entire Older People's Team (particularly my practice educator, Iain Barclay) and all of the wonderful professionals I met on my journey. Scotland welcomed me with open arms and I have nothing but great memories to take home with me.  
*-Terri Malchow*

## Supervising a Canadian OT student during placement

Taking a Canadian student did seem a bit daunting for a couple of reasons, the first being the reputation Canadian OT's have with regard to very high academic standards.

I did have a worry that I would be asked some awkward questions that I wouldn't be able to answer

(something I think most fieldwork educators dread). The big worry for having a Canadian student was what to do if there was a problem on the placement, which I've always found is best solved with actual meetings with academic staff. I have to say though that the experience for me was very posi-

tive. Maybe I was lucky but Terri Malchow, my student, was excellent. She settled into the team really well.

Overall, I had a great experience with a Canadian student and wouldn't hesitate to be involved again in a placement.

I found that you can learn a lot

both professionally and culturally.

Terri is certainly remembered very fondly and even now I still have clients asking after her. I would certainly recommend the experience to any fieldwork educator and student.  
*Iain Barclay*  
*Older People's Team, Levern Valley*

## International assessment of motor and process skills symposium

Dalhousie University and AMPS Project International are pleased to announce the 2008 International AMPS Symposium.

The 2008 Symposium will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia and will offer a contingency of speakers, presenters and delegates. The Symposium is open to

occupational therapists who are interested in measuring, planning, and implementing occupation-based programs.

It may also be of interest to other health-care providers, health administrators and/or researchers who are interested in learning more about outcome

measures related to participation in daily life.

The symposium will offer delegates the opportunity to critically explore areas of practice related to implementing and documenting occupation-based programs, client-centered practice, occupational therapy within

the school system and occupational justice. Once the scientific program has been finalized, we will post a complete schedule at the websites for Dalhousie University at [www.occupationaltherapy.dal.ca](http://www.occupationaltherapy.dal.ca) and AMPS Project International at [www.AMPSintl.com](http://www.AMPSintl.com).

## MScOT program at U of T gets top rating from OCGS

The Ontario Council on Graduate Studies has now completed its review and has officially approved the recommendation of the Appraisal Committee that the MScOT program in Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto be approved to continue; thus the MScOT program was renewed for a duration of 7 years until the next OCGS periodic appraisal (2014). The program was deemed

to be of good quality, the highest rating to be given by the Appraisal Committee. The Committee's recommendation was based on its consideration of the University's written submission of three volumes of briefs (July 2006), the consultants' reports (July 17, 2007) from their Departmental site visit on June 7-8, 2007, and the University's response (September 10, 2007).