



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

Great success for NFPS in 2007

NFPS has a bright future thanks to the record year for successful placements in 2007. Connie Roffey, NFPS coordinator, said she would like to thank all the fieldwork placement coordinators who went out of their way to help secure out-of-catchment placements. Due to the combined efforts of all involved, Roffey is proud to report the numbers are up! Over 70 per cent of students that applied from 11 universities across Canada received placements. That is a whopping 7.4 per cent increase from 2006. She credits the relationships established with the therapists over the year as a major contributor to the success of the NFPS program.

Already 2008 is looking promising with 53 applications received for the January /February session compared to 14 last year...and 52 of those applicants have received a placement. What a great way to start the New Year!

One step closer to educating OT's in Saskatchewan

The University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine, has contracted Dr. Catherine Backman to develop a proposal for an entry level occupational therapy program.

Occupational therapists in Saskatchewan have actively lobbied for a provincial educational program for over 40 years. The Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists (SSOT) attributes the shortage of the occupational therapists in the province in large part to the lack of an educational program. At present, the

provincial government funds a small number of students to attend the occupational therapy program at the University of Alberta and uses a bursary program as an incentive to retain these graduates to work in Saskatchewan. However, there is a great deal of interest in advancing the profession by developing a program based at the University of Saskatchewan.

A letter of intent (LOI), approved by the University in 2007, resulted in Dr. William Albritton, Dean of Medicine, directing funds

toward proposal development. The LOI was spearheaded by Dr. Liz Harrison, Associate Dean, College of Medicine and School of Physical Therapy, with an advisory committee including representatives from the university, SSOT, and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. A similar LOI was approved to develop a proposal for a program in speech language pathology.

Although this is an important milestone...
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Around the World

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

Vancouver, British Columbia

UBC 24th International Seating Symposium
March 5-8, 2008 | www.interprofessional.ubc.ca

Hamburg, Germany

8th Annual European Congress of Occupational Therapy
May 22-25, 2008 | www.wfot.org

Thunder Bay, Ontario

4th Annual Canadian Occupational Science Conference
May 15-17, 2008 | www.occupationalsciencecanada.dal.ca

St. Petersburg, Florida

Intern. Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence
February 20-23, 2008 | www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu

Student clinical practicum project

As part of the University of McMaster Occupational Therapy Program curriculum on Evidence Based Practice, a group of students are conducting a project to identify

the components that students feel are required to be successfully prepared for clinical practicum. This includes looking at both knowledge and skills. They will complete their

project in the summer of 2008.

The students are surveying the current classes along with the most recent graduates of the university OT program.



Steps: proposal being developed for new program

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...toward the goal of an occupational therapy education program in Saskatchewan, the actual implementation requires approval at a number of levels. The immediate objective is to gain a commitment from the university to

include an occupational therapy program in its integrated (strategic) plan and to seek financial support and new program approval from the provincial government. It is anticipated this stepped process will occur through 2008 and 2009 and a

successful proposal will result in opening the program to students in 2011. Regardless of the final timeline, the present support from the College of Medicine to develop an occupational therapy program proposal is a substantial move forward.

An administrative coordinator is expected to be hired early in 2008 and a contact will be established for information about the emerging program. Catherine Backman is happy to respond to queries at: catherine.backmana@ubc.ca.

CIHC provides solutions for Canada's health system

In 2006, the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC), was formed as a national hub for interprofessional education, collaboration in healthcare practice and patient-centred care. Funded by Health Canada, CIHC has been working towards building an extensive network for knowledge exchange, advancing curriculum development, supporting research initiatives and much more. In December, the CIHC further evolved by launching an interactive website to engage Canadians in working together to improve interprofessional collaboration across Canada. The new website at www.cihc.ca will offer Canadians an opportunity to learn about the principles of interprofessional collaboration

through detailed descriptions of CIHC's ongoing projects, as well as offering various resources for academic and health professionals.

"CIHC is providing a forum through which we can share interprofessional successes and challenges with like-minded individuals and colleagues all over the country," said Dr. Hassan Soubhi, University of Sherbrooke Professor, CIHC spokesperson, and Project Co-Lead for the University of Montreal's Interprofessional Project (in collaboration with the University of Sherbrooke). "As a family medicine researcher these are principles I can apply daily in my own work or with the residents I supervise."

To learn more, please visit the new site at www.cihc.ca.

University of Manitoba's inaugural interprofessional grand rounds

With the Canadian health care system moving towards change to meet the needs of Canadians, accrediting bodies are also moving toward including interprofessional education competencies within specific health care disciplines.

On October 2, 2007, the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba

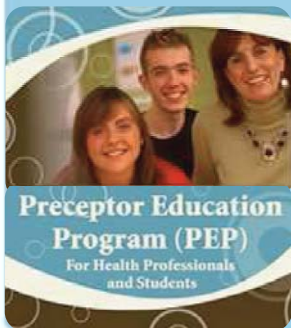
introduced the inaugural Interprofessional Grand Rounds meeting which brought students from the School of Medical Rehabilitation (Physical, Occupational and Respiratory Therapy) and students from Medicine I and II together to hear the about a patient's experience in health care.

The inaugural meeting was organized by

Dr. Mark Torchia, the Interprofessional Education for Geriatric Care (IEGC) Project's co-host for Manitoba Science Café meetings.

A second student meeting was held in November. Team members from both University of Manitoba Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centred Practice (IECPCP) projects were invited to contribute.

Free online program for health professionals and students



The University of Western Ontario Health Sciences is offering a Preceptor Education Program (PEP); a project funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

This free online program was officially launched on September 1, 2007 and contains

self-directed modules designed for both preceptors (clinical instructors) and students. Each module is approximately 30 minutes in length and includes quick tips, learning activities and downloads.

A learning log can be printed at the end of each module to record the education completed.

Examples of the modules include: Orientation—Welcoming the Student, Roles and Expectations, Developing (Really Useful) Learning Objectives, Fostering Reflective Practice, and Dealing with Conflict, among others.

You are invited to use the program at www.preceptor.ca.

Université Laval to launch new continuum program in September 2008

The new 2008 school year promises to be one of new and exciting happenings at the Université Laval.

The first year of the Bacc-Master's continuum program will begin in September 2008 at the university in Québec City.

The curriculum is made up of three years of first degree courses and 1.5 years of Master's degree courses, for a total of 144 credits.

It includes a research essay planned with the last fieldwork of 12 weeks. All academics, clinicians and students are very proud!