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**Welcome to the CanWheel Quarterly!  
 A place to find out what is going on in the CanWheel world.**

**TEAM UPDATE**

Meeko Oishi has now relocated to New Mexico, USA but will still be involved with the team.

Pooja Viswanathan will be finishing her PhD shortly and a SSRHC grant has been submitted to keep her on as a post-doc.

**We welcome new team members:**

Dr. Joelle Pineau, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Head of the Reasoning and Learning Laboratory at McGill University has now officially joined the team. Her research focuses on developing new methodologies in artificial intelligence, statistical machine learning, and robotics.

Laura Titus OT Reg. (Ont), is a PhD candidate in Occupational Science at University of Western Ontario working with Dr. Jan Polgar. Laura's research study focuses on the barriers and facilitators to using power tilt for pressure management.

Elise Busilacchi has been the new P2 RA in Montreal since May. She has completed a Masters in Kinesiology in Quebec City. Her field of intervention is adapted physical activity.

Fabrizio Farronato completed his BA in Psychology at York University and has been the new P2 RA for Toronto since July.



From left to right: Dr Joelle Pineau, Laura Titus, Elise Busilacchi and Fabrizio Farronato

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### **KUDOS**

Congratulations to Francois Routhier for obtaining a faculty position in the Department of Rehabilitation at Université Laval.

Congratulations to Bill Miller who was recently promoted to full Professor.

Congratulations to Ed Giesbrecht who received the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation award for his WST Distance Education proposal.

Bonnie Sawatzky and Paula Rushton have an article that has been accepted:

Sawatzky B, Rushton P, Denison I, McDonald R. Wheelchair skills training programme for children: a pilot study. Australian Occupational Therapy Journal. (Oct, 2011).

Please contact [Elmira](#) with comments or Kudos for the next newsletter.

### **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

#### **2011 CANWHEEL THINK TANK & TEAM MEETING**

The 2011 CanWheel Think Tank & Team Meeting was very successful! Photos, meeting minutes, and presentation slides can be found on our website [here](#).

#### **2012 CANWHEEL ANNUAL TEAM MEETING**

Next year's CanWheel Team Meeting will be held in Vancouver in conjunction with the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) conference on October 18-20, 2012. We encourage team members to submit abstracts and protect October 16 & 17, 2012 for the CanWheel trainee conference and Annual Team Meeting. For more information on the CAG conference click [here](#).

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

#### **P1**

There have 5 caregivers enrolled in this study and data analysis is in progress. A paper has been submitted to Qualitative Health Research on data from the wheelchair users. Alex, Ian, and Bill have identified wheelchairs to purchase for the Vancouver site.

#### **P2**

There are currently 94 wheelchair users and 19 caregivers enrolled in our study – well done everyone! We are now getting 12 month data from a number of individuals. Four abstracts have been submitted to the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapist (CAOT) conference for June in Quebec City.

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**P3**

P3 is in the process of purchasing 2 power wheelchairs. P3 is also recruiting new trainees.

**P4**

There are 8 functional data loggers available for CanWheel now. Preparations are being made to install data loggers for P2. Francois Routhier is currently working on tools to analyze the data.

**P5**

Ethics has been obtained by the P5 Halifax site and data collection is projected to start in spring 2012. Training is anticipated to occur in Halifax in the Spring. The next meeting will be in February 2012.

**CANWHEEL WEBSITE**

The CanWheel website has undergone some layout changes. Most notably 2 icons appear on each page for "Participate in research" and the CanWheel facebook page. A new Facebook page has been created. Team members please "like" this [page](#).

For suggestions and feedback on the CanWheel website and Facebook page please email [Elmira](#).

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES****American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Conference**

The 2012 conference will be held in Denver, April 19-21, 2012. For more information please click [here](#).

**2012 International Seating Symposium**

The 2012 International Seating Symposium will be held in Vancouver, March 6-9, 2012. For more information please click [here](#).

**Rick Hansen Interdependence Day Conference and Exposition**

The i2012 will be in Vancouver from May 15-18, 2012. For more details please visit [here](#).

**International Federation on Aging**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Aging will be held in Prague, May 28-June 1, 2012. For conference information please click [here](#).

**IEEE International Conference on Biomedical Robotics and Biomechatronics**

This 2012 conference will be held in Roma, Italy, June 24-28, 2012. Deadline for submission of full papers and special sessions and workshop proposals is January 15, 2012. Please visit [here](#) for details.



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ISG\*ISARC 2012

ISG\*ISARC 2012 will be held in Eindhoven, June 26-29, 2012. Deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2012. For more details please click [here](#).

RESNA 2012 Annual Conference

Next year's RESNA conference will be held in Baltimore, June 28-July 3, 2012. The deadline for scientific papers is January 16, 2012. Workshop and course proposals are due December 5, 2011. Information available [here](#).

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

Next year's conference will be held in Quebec City, Quebec on June 6-9, 2012. Electric abstracts are due January 20, 2012. Click [here](#) for more information.

AAAI-12: Twenty-Sixth Conference on Artificial Intelligence

The AAAI-12 will be held in Toronto, July 22-26, 2012. For updates and information please visit [here](#).

International Conference on Disability, Virtual Reality and Associated Technologies

The 9<sup>th</sup> international conference will be held in Laval, France, September 10-12, 2012. Deadline for papers is February 29, 2012. For additional details please visit [here](#).

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference

The 2012 conference will focus on the progress in rehabilitation research. It will be held in Vancouver, October 9-13, 2012. Poster and paper submissions are due March 16, 2012. For more details please visit [here](#).

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Happy Holidays to everyone!