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

Team update

We welcome new team members:

Megan MacGillivray, PhD Student in Rehabilitation Sciences at UBC under Dr. Bonnie Sawatzky and Dr. Elizabeth Dean. She plans to study rehabilitation among aging individuals who acquire a spinal cord injury.



New RA for P5

Amira Tawashy will be starting with the P5 team in the summer of 2011. She is currently in the MOT program at Dalhousie.

[CanWheel Website](#)

Upcoming Events: A detailed schedule with the speakers and the events of the Think Tank and CanWheel Annual Meeting can be found [here](#).

P1 Updates

Over the past three months, P1 Vancouver has shifted focus to data analysis and preparation for several upcoming conferences. In particular, we will be involved in the following presentations:

1. Korotchenko, A. and Hurd Clarke, L. Power mobility users: Views on path planning and collision avoidance technologies. Paper to be presented at the Growing Older with a Disability Conference (Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology [FICCDAT]), Toronto, June 5-8, 2011.
2. Best, K., Mortenson, W., and Hurd Clarke, L. Collision avoidance and path planning technologies for older wheelchair users. Poster to be presented at the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA), FICCDAT, Toronto, June 5-8, 2011.
3. Korotchenko, A. and Hurd Clarke, L. "My machine, my legs": Older adults discuss the body, disability, and assistive technology. Paper to be presented at the British Society of Gerontology Conference, Plymouth, United Kingdom, July 5 to 7, 2011.

We're looking forward to seeing the whole CanWheel team in Toronto in June!

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P2 Updates

The P2 Project, *The Natural History and Measurement of Power Wheelchair Use*, has been progressing well. The Vancouver, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto, and Halifax data collection sites are up and running, while London is awaiting final ethics approval. Regular research assistant and team meetings are ongoing and have been important in identifying protocol issues and implementing minor protocol changes. Each active site is recruiting participants based on site specific recruitment strategies and we currently have 30 wheelchair users and 4 caregivers enrolled in the study – well done everyone! OpenClinica, our online data entry system, is ready for use.

Minor Publication from the P2 team:

Rushton, PW, Demers L. *The Natural History and Measurement of Power Wheelchair Use*. Proceedings of the REPAR/FRSQ Journée Scientifique, Quebec City, Québec, May 20, 2011.

P3 Updates

Pooja Viswanathan has conducted clinical trials with 6 older adults to test the collision avoidance and wayfinding system in a controlled environment (a maze). She will be conducting another study soon that will test the system in a more realistic environment to look at how different types of audio prompting can help seniors navigate from one location to another.

Two conference publications will be presented in June:

M. Oishi, P. Tagipour Bibalan, A. Cheng, and I. Mitchell, "Modeling and control of a powered wheelchair: Wall-following around a corner with infrared," in Proceedings of the Canadian Congress on Applied Mechanics, June 2011, to appear.

M. Oishi, , A. Cheng, P. Tagipour Bibalan, and I. Mitchell, "Building a smart wheelchair on a flexible software platform," in RESNA International Conference on Technology and Aging, June 2011, to appear.

P4 Updates

The science of data logging is evolving quickly. The P4 team will be convening during the June 2011 FICCDAT meeting to re-establish their objectives with a focus on capitalizing on the changes to technology to date.

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P5 Updates

The P5 Project *Effectiveness of a Wheelchair Skills Training Program for Power Mobility Users: A Randomized Controlled Trial* is gradually moving toward active status, with the intention of a rapid onset of data collection when full funding for the project becomes available April 2012.

We are still evolving the P5 research plan, on the basis of discussion, evolution in the literature and the lessons learned from the P2 Project.

We received a small amount of CanWheel funding that will allow us to hire a research assistant, Amira Tawashy. Amira will coordinate the finalization of forms, ethics applications and other infrastructure development.

At the RESNA portion of the FICCDAT Meeting in June, 2011, members of the P5 Team will be involved in 1 workshop and 4 poster presentations.

Other publications from the P5 team include 5 peer-reviewed papers and 11 minor publications.

CanWheel Think Tank & Team Meeting

Planning is nearing completion for the Think Tank in Toronto this June. We have an internationally known line up of scholars who have published in the area of power wheelchair use, training and design coming to speak and join us in discussion. In addition, other invited guests who will be at FICCDAT will be joining us in discussion. To see a draft of the Think Tank schedule please click [here](#).

In brief the Think Tank will be:

June 9th 8-4pm at the Sheraton Centre Hotel

June 10th 8-12pm at the University of Toronto, Rehab Sciences Building

Time has been set aside on June 9th from 4-5pm for project teams to meet and the CanWheel Team meeting will be held from 1-3pm on June 10th.

A team dinner will be held June 9th at 7pm at Bocca on Baldwin (26 Baldwin St). Visit [here](#) to view the menu.

If you have any questions about the Think Tank or Team meeting please contact [Elmira Chan](#).

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Upcoming Conferences

2012 CanWheel Annual Team Meeting

Next year's CanWheel Team Meeting will be held in May in Vancouver in conjunction with the Rick Hansen Interdependence Day Conference and Exposition from May 15-18, 2012. For more details please visit [here](#).

2012 International Seating Symposium

Abstracts for the 2012 International Seating Symposium are due at the end of May. Consider submitting your wheeled mobility abstracts to this conference which will be held in Vancouver March 6-9th, 2012. For more information click [here](#).

Kudos

Congratulations to Louise Demers who was recently promoted to full Professor.

Claudine Auger was successful in the CIHR Catalyst grant on Mobility in Aging. Led by Dr Robyn Tamblyn (McGill), this project entitled "A Novel Monitoring Intervention to Optimize Mobility for Older Wheelchair Users: the MOvIT project" will design an automated call system to systematically monitor wheelchair users who are at risk of poor outcome, and promote adherence to wheelchair servicing guidelines.

CanWheel Trainees have also been successful in the following awards:

Krista Best has been awarded the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships for her PhD studies.

Ed Giesbrecht has been awarded the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) PhD Fellowship.

Alex Korotchenko has been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Doctoral Fellowship!

Paula Rushton has awarded the CIHR Post-Doctoral fellowship.

Brodie Sakakibara has been awarded the CIHR Doctoral Scholarship.

Congratulations to Brodie Sakakibara who welcomed a healthy boy to his own family on May 17th!

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

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