

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

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TEAM UPDATE

Farewell!

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many wonderful contributions of Elmira Chan – who has been the CanWheel Research Coordinator since 2009. Elmira has accepted a new position at UBC in the Ethics office. We wish her all the best and appreciate everything she did for us over the years. Kate Keetch, Elmira’s maternity leave replacement last year, has agreed to stay on as our Research Coordinator. She has done a great job and we are happy she is remaining on the team!

2014 CANWHEEL ANNUAL TEAM MEETING

This year’s CanWheel Annual Team Meeting is fast approaching! It has been scheduled for Thursday, June 12th, 2014 as part of the RESNA 2014 pre-conference. Kate will keep people updated as details are finalized!

PROJECT UPDATES

P1-P3

The Wizard of Oz (WoO) study was conducted in Vancouver during the fall of 2013 and was a great success! The purpose of this study was to help us understand how powered wheelchairs can be designed to better help older adults with memory and other impairments drive around in their long-term care homes. We were able to collect quantitative driving and qualitative interview data from 10 participants who reside at various long-term care facilities across the city (Banfield, Langara, George Pearson). Thank you to Pooja Viswanathan, Bikram Adhikari, Paula Rushton, Ben Mortenson and all the research assistants who gave their dedication, time and effort to the project. Thank you, as well, to all the staff and clinicians who assisted us at the sites – your support and enthusiasm for the project was greatly appreciated! The team has started data analysis and is currently planning a number of publications and presentations based on the results. Further extension studies are also being planned for thesis projects by Bikram Adhikari (MSc) and Emma Smith (PhD) based off of this study. Stay tuned!

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**P2**

We are nearing the finish line! Data collection is coming to a close at all six sites across Canada for time-points spanning one year. Vancouver, which is testing over two years, will be finished in fall 2014. We have collected data from 129 wheelchair users and 34 caregivers in this longitudinal study. Recently, a RESNA workshop looking at the application of a Power Mobility Outcome Toolkit has been accepted, and the team is currently working on several publications.

P4

Team members are hard at work on finishing a scoping review examining the most commonly used "dataloggers" in manual and power wheelchair research. A datalogger is a collection of sensors and storage system, which can be attached to a wheelchair and can record a variety of aspects of wheelchair behavior (e.g., how fast or far the wheelchair goes over the course of several days). Two or three manuscripts from the scoping review are currently being planned. Data from this scoping review will also inform the creation of a survey which will examine the perspectives of users, researchers and clinicians on impact and practical use of data-logger technology on wheelchairs.

P5

Our team sites across Canada are making great progress on data collection! Our recruitment target is 104 participants and we currently have 98 enrolled. Recruitment may be wrapped up as early as spring 2014. Our caregiver and satisfaction survey extension studies are also progressing nicely.

**CANWHEEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)**

Our last meeting was held in October 2013. The CAC are currently investigating international collaboration opportunities and venues for future CanWheel planning, continue to provide valuable input on projects, and forward relevant papers and presentations to the CanWheel Team. Original member, Robert Levy, the managing director in Criterion Health USA, has moved to Ecuador. Thus, we are presently considering individuals to fill the vacancy. Our next meeting is being planned for the early spring.

CANWHEEL TRAINEE JOURNAL CLUB

A Journal Club was implemented in January 2013. Over the past year a different trainee from our diverse disciplines have summarized and posted an interesting or relevant article for the group on Wikispace. We are currently examining how to expand the journal club to include more resources and use of a different interface. If you would like to have access to our current Wikispace, or have any suggestions on how to make the journal club optimal for you, please contact Kate at kate.keetch@vch.ca.

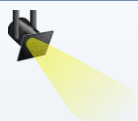
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CANWHEEL FACEBOOK PAGE



CanWheel is getting social! Please "Like" our Facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/canwheel>

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT



Emma Smith (PhD Student, Rehabilitation Sciences, UBC)



Tell me a bit about the research you will be working on.

I'm currently working on methods and new technologies in power mobility training for individuals with cognitive impairments. We are looking at using a collaborative technology to allow therapists to have shared control of the wheelchair in the driving training process, and allow a better experiential learning process to occur.

What would you say are the implications of this research?

This research may help individuals with cognitive impairments learn the skills necessary to drive a power wheelchair, in a safe and controlled way. If they are successful, safe, and deemed to have learned the necessary skill, it has the potential to enhance independence and participation in day to day life.

What got you into this line of research?

I've been working as a clinical Occupational Therapist for five and a half years, and found great joy in working in the fields of seating, mobility and assistive technology. With all the advances in recent years, I found it frustrating that there seemed to be so much potential, but limited research about the uses of new technologies to improve independence for individuals. I'm excited to be working on something that will capitalize on the potential of some of that tech!

Tell me a "fun fact" about you!

I'm heading to Haiti on February 14th for a week with a team that will be providing new wheelchairs to 100 children with a variety of disabilities, and training for local staff.

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CONFERENCES



[RESNA 2014 Annual Conference](#)

June 11-15, 2014
JW Marriot
Indianapolis, Indiana

- The CanWheel AGM is being planned as a pre-conference open audience session on June 12.
- One workshop has been accepted for P2
 - *Rushton PW, Kirby L, Smith C, Auger C, Demers L Application of a Power Wheelchair Outcomes Toolkit*
- Several team members have submitted papers for presentation



[The 9th World Conference of Gerontechnology \(ISG 2014\)](#)

June 18-21, 2014
TICC & TWTC
Taipei, Taiwan



[International Seating Symposium 2014](#)

March 4-7, 2014
The Westin Bayshore
Vancouver, BC



**Happy New Year from
the CanWheel Research Team!**



Please contact Kate Keetch (kate.keetch@vch.ca) with comments, questions or Kudos for the next newsletter.

**For more news and updates, please be sure to check out our website at
<http://www.canwheel.ca>**

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