REHAB IMPACT
2015-16 Year in Review

Alumna Julie Taylor ‘doing great things’ on Amazing Race Canada

Q & A with the team on page 28
Vision
A respected global leader advancing the art and science of rehabilitation for the public good.

Mission
Through research and education we develop rehabilitation approaches to enhance the quality of life for the people we serve. Together with our students, alumni, and community partners, we work across disciplines to discover and translate innovation that advances clinical practice and health outcomes.

Goals
Culture
Research
Education
Profile

Rehab Impact is published annually by the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. It is distributed worldwide to more than 7,500 alumni, universities, government bodies, organizations and friends of the Faculty.

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Special thanks to department and institute staff for their contributions!
Canada is turning 150 this year. Wow, time flies. I can recall as a youth how proud I was to be a Canadian back in 1967 during the country’s centennial celebrations. I remember how cool it was to walk through the Confederation Train that travelled across the country and provided a panorama of Canada from pre-historic times through to Confederation and up to 1967. I also remember going to Expo 67 in Montreal where Canada played host to the world. I was spellbound by the pavilions from nations across the globe.

Now here we are at the country’s 150th birthday. I am astonished at how our country has grown yet stayed true to the concept of a mosaic embracing people and their culture. As a country we embrace diversity, yet our hearts beat to the same drum: proudly Canadian. As I reflect on this past year and Canada’s upcoming 150th birthday, I realize how fortunate I am to work for the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. As the only free-standing faculty of rehabilitation medicine in Canada, we welcome students, faculty and staff worldwide and join together in pursuit of a common vision of making this faculty a respected global leader in advancing the art and science of rehabilitation for the public good.

As a faculty, we strive to work across disciplines to discover and translate innovation to enhance clinical practice and health outcomes for all Canadians. This mission can only be achieved with the support and engagement of our students, alumni and community partners. To that end, and in recognition of Canada’s 150th birthday, we would like to announce the creation of the Canada 150 Alumni Award in Rehabilitation. We invite everyone to join in the creation of a legacy award with a gift starting at $150 that will go towards an award for our students for the next 150 years and beyond. Visit uab.ca/rehab150 for details.

On behalf of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends – and Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!

R.G. (Bob) Haennel, PhD, FACSM
Professor & Interim Dean
Happy 150th Canada!

For almost as long as there’s been a Canada, there’s been a University of Alberta. In honour of Canada’s 150th anniversary, we’re proudly celebrating the people, achievements and ideas that contributed to the making of a confederation.

We are the only free-standing Faculty

The national polio epidemic peaked in Canada between 1949 and 1954. Because of the severity of the epidemic, it was decided that a rehabilitation training program should be established as quickly as possible. In 1954, the first cohort of 17 students enrolled in a two-year diploma in physiotherapy.

The first endowed research chair in physiotherapy in Canada was established at the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. It was named after one of our very own, who is known as one of the world’s foremost physical therapists and instructors: Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research.

Our Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice Program prepares people immigrating to Canada who have physical therapy backgrounds to practice in Canada.
Our MSc Speech-Language Pathology program is the largest training program in English for speech-language pathologists in Canada.

Karim Fouad was named Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Injury to study how rehabilitation training affects the brain.

Priscilla Ferrazzi’s work in the Arctic aims to improve research capacity, occupational justice and rehabilitation in Canada’s Indigenous communities.

Our MSc Physical Therapy program has the largest annual graduating class of entry-level physical therapists in Canada.

We are home to the first Chair in Canadian Military and Veterans’ Clinical Rehabilitation Research.

Our MSc Occupational Therapy program is the largest training program for occupational therapists and the first program with a satellite campus (Calgary) to be accredited in Canada.
A tale of three cities: YEG, YYC and Camrose
Our occupational therapy and physical therapy degree programs are offered in Edmonton and Calgary. Our PT program is also offered in Camrose. We are the first university in Canada with satellite programs using a distributed education model in OT and PT.

Dog Day at U of A
MSc Speech-Language Pathology students hosted the first Dog Day at U of A to showcase the benefits of animal-assisted therapy in rehabilitation. As part of their graduate capstone project, SLP students teamed up with occupational therapy and physical therapy students to welcome dogs Flynn, Jasper and Macy to Corbett Hall.

PT Student Clinic expands services
The clinic continued to provide novel and innovative placement opportunities for MSc PT students and facilitated community engagement, meeting the needs of the underserved in Alberta. The clinic’s services and programs expanded to include Older Adult Health Balance & Exercise, Better Bones & Balance and Young Hip Program.

Rehab Science Down Under
Rehabilitation Science PhD and occupational therapist Amber Savage received the prestigious Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship to do research in Australia. Her doctoral work and findings may be used to inform policies promoting the participation and well-being of children with disabilities and their families.

Meeting the needs of French Canadians
The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorder’s Certificate in Francophone Practice for Speech-Language Pathologists provides clinicians with an opportunity to acquire information about normal and disordered speech and language, and become familiar with assessment and intervention materials for Francophone children. The certificate is a joint initiative between the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and Campus Saint-Jean.
At a Glance

Academic Year 2015-16

684
Current students in MSc
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology

80
Current students in MSc and PhD Rehabilitation Science

1,529
Student clinical placements

3
Student Clinics: Corbett Hall Early Education Program, Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic and Corbett Hall Speech-Language Clinic

$1,677,347
In student awards

Amber Savage, MSc OT, PhD RS, received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship (top left). SLP students hosted the first Dog Day at U of A, teaming up with OT and PT students to showcase the benefits of animal-assisted therapy in rehabilitation (right).
Robots help UAlberta ‘double’ up on rehab training in Calgary

President David Turpin says new technology is integral to teaching more students across the province

By Laurie Wang

“Try moving your hand further down towards the ankle – how does that affect the force you can apply?” says Mark Hall, associate chair of physical therapy, who is programming the Double Robot from the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine in Edmonton.

Kevin You is a second-year University of Alberta physical therapy student who is completing his degree in Calgary, thanks to synchronized distance learning technology and Double Robotics, similar to the ones used by Sheldon on The Big Bang Theory.

“It’s great we can take advantage of technology and the accessibility it gives us. Calgary is home for me and I plan on staying in Southern Alberta as a physical therapist when I graduate,” says You.

Home to the only free-standing Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine in North America, the University of Alberta is training rehabilitation professionals to meet the needs of people across the province and beyond. Not commonly known to Calgarians, UAlberta currently offers MSc Occupational Therapy and MSc Physical Therapy programs in Calgary. The PT program is also offered in Camrose.

“The post-secondary landscape is evolving, and technology plays an increasingly important role. Accessibility is critical, and thanks to the robot and streaming technologies, our Rehabilitation Medicine students are now studying and working across Alberta,” says David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta. “Satellite programs like this one are about ensuring that students can receive high-quality education no matter where they are in their home province.”

Working with the University of Calgary to share space, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine’s Calgary satellite program is located in U of C’s downtown centre. Both MSc Physical Therapy (PT) and MSc Occupational Therapy (OT) offer classes in-person and online. Much of the instruction originates in Edmonton, but faculty may choose to broadcast from Calgary or Camrose over the course of the program.
The class sizes at the downtown centre are quite small, with two OT classes of 24 students and two PT classes of 18 students in the Calgary cohort. According to occupational therapy student Amrita Surdhar, this is one of the best aspects of being at the Calgary satellite.

"With smaller class sizes, it’s so much easier to connect with classmates. I often compare the Calgary cohort to a family, because we know one another so well," she says. "The technology allows us to stay closer to home and this also helps some classmates who can’t financially afford moving away and have other responsibilities at home.

It’s a great new way of getting the same education without having the distance barrier.”

"Our synchronized distance learning technology allows our students to train through lectures and labs in Calgary, Edmonton and Camrose. We also adopt teaching technology that has been proven to be effective, including simulation labs, e-learning and state-of-the-art clinical equipment,” says Bob Haennel, interim dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Expanding to rural and Southern Alberta enhances accessibility for students and patients. The satellite programs also allow the Faculty to engage health centres across the province and create more clinical placements for students—an integral part of training future physical therapists and occupational therapists. “Our students are completing more clinical placements in Camrose and we are exploring more opportunities for placements in Calgary to serve the rehabilitation needs of the communities there,” says Haennel. “With Alberta’s aging population, we need more rehab professionals to meet the rehabilitation needs of patients across the province.”

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine launched its first satellite site in 2010 at the U of A’s Augustana Campus in Camrose with an initial enrolment of 12 master’s students in physical therapy. The model was later adopted to launch the Calgary satellite program for physical therapy at the U of C’s Downtown Campus in 2011. The Calgary occupational therapy program was introduced in fall of 2012 (initially in leased office space) to meet occupational therapy needs in Southern Alberta and surrounding rural areas.

Permanent enrolment funding from the Government of Alberta in 2014 and an additional capital investment have allowed for ongoing operations in newly renovated space at the U of C’s Downtown Campus, where both programs now reside.

For You and Surdhar, both born and raised Calgarians who want to serve their communities when they graduate, the satellite programs and teaching technology couldn’t have come at a better time.

“We get access to some of the best professors and instructors in the country. The quality of education we receive is equal to being in Edmonton, if not better,” says You.  

"The value I hold for the promotion of equality is the most Canadian thing about me. That, and I love a good hockey game."

Amrita Surdhar, 2nd Year MSc OT student, Calgary cohort

Amroll Surdhar, 2nd Year MSc OT student, Calgary cohort
Experts in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation
Karim Fouad was named Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Injury. In addition, David Bennett and Karim Fouad were awarded an NIH grant of $1.75 million over five years for spinal cord injury research.

Science for Soldiers’ Sake
Ibolja Cernak, Chair in Canadian Military and Veterans’ Clinical Rehabilitation Research, was named to Alberta Venture’s 50 Most Influential People in Alberta and was an elected US representative for one of NATO’s Human Force and Medicine groups on blast-related injuries in the military.

PhDs and SLPs
We admitted our first Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology-PhD student in the new program in January 2016. The combined MSc/PhD program is research intensive and extremely rewarding for a student training to become an SLP who loves research and appreciates how it benefits patients and clients at the end of the day.

Research Chairs
- Associate Research Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation
- Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Injury (CRC)
- Chair in Military and Veterans’ Clinical Rehabilitation
- David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Clinical Research

Research Groups
- Bariatric Care and Rehabilitation Research Group
- Behavioural Supports Alberta
- Child and Adolescent Research Group
- Clinic for Ambulatory Rehabilitation Research and Education
- Collaborative for Scholarship in Clinical Education
- Collaborative Orthopaedic Research
- Common Spinal Disorders Research Group
- Decision Making Capacity Assessment Research Group
- Family and Disability Studies Initiative
- Rehabilitation Robotics
- Special Interest Group on Aging
At a Glance

Academic Year 2015-16

130
Academic staff

15
Post docs

477
Publications

458
Research presentations worldwide

$4,336,992
In new research grants

Rehabilitation Research Centre

The Rehabilitation Research Centre (RRC) supports and undertakes health-related research in the rehabilitation disciplines. The RRC consults broadly with graduate students, faculty and community members conducting research and evaluation projects.

RRC research associates are experts in their field who ensure the best methodological and analytical strategies are carried out on any given project. The RRC continues to support graduate student training and interdisciplinary grant applications. We also continue to develop research links with the clinical community.

(L-R) Karim Fouad, new Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Injury and Iboja Cernak, Chair in Canadian Military and Veterans’ Clinical Rehabilitation Research.
By Laurie Wang

Marty Enokson calls it the “spanx for larger people,” and thanks to a new University of Alberta study, these unique, custom-made garments for patients in treatment for obesity are now available in clinics across Alberta.

“After I lost weight, I felt like a flying squirrel because there’s so much loose skin flying about,” said Enokson, 49, who underwent bariatric surgery eight years ago. “The garments are like custom undies—they control the loose skin and keep things in place. You are flatter in the stomach and whole body.”

Mary Forhan, assistant professor of occupational therapy in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and her team launched six bariatric support garment clinics across Alberta in October.

Teaming up with bariatric clinics across the province, these specialized clinics are open to anyone who lives with excess skin due to weight loss in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat. Forhan is leading a one-year pilot program to study the impact of the custom garment on functional mobility and quality of life, as well as the durability and satisfaction with the custom garment.

“Results of the one-year pilot program will be presented to the Alberta government for consideration for inclusion of the garment in the provincial aids for daily living program,” she said.

Reports will also be presented to insurance companies for consideration in various benefits packages. The garments are intended to provide support and comfort for people living with excess tissue during and after significant weight loss who are waiting for reconstructive surgery or for whom surgery is not an option.
Our preliminary study last year showed that 93 per cent of patients found that wearing the garment increased their confidence and comfort to participate in everyday activities including exercise. Those patients now all wear their garments every day,” said Forhan.

The garments come from a company in France that has specially trained consultants to take measurements. Each piece is custom-made for the wearer and made of material that takes into account moisture control and heat control while wearing the garments.

Katelyn Teske, clinical bariatric consultant and occupational therapist in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, went to France in September to receive the specialized training to do fittings on bariatric patients.

"The garments are tailor-made; there really is no other garment in Canada like it,” said Teske. “We’ve already had a number of people sign up to be fitted, and it’s exciting to see so much support for this pilot program.”

Enokson actually attempted to make a garment of his own before he found out about the specialized bariatric garments from Forhan.

"These are definitely better,” he said. "The material is excellent and it hasn’t torn or changed after I’ve worn them for a year. They are tailored and they make sure it is going to fit you in every possible way—it’s very comfortable.”

A paralegal for the Crown Prosecutor’s Office, Enokson wears his garments every day. "Sitting on a bike or running on a treadmill, I’m tired of being that spectacle because of all the loose skin. I wear the garments and I feel like I’m treated like everyone else. It brings you confidence while you’re doing great things to make yourself live healthier.”

The long-term goal is that the garment fitting clinics in Alberta will be used as a training and education opportunity for other provinces in Canada interested in making the garments available to their patients.

This study is funded by the U of A Endowment Fund for the Future: Support for the Advancement of Scholarship (EFF-SAS) Research Fund.

For more information on the Bariatric Support Garment Clinics, contact Katelyn Teske at bsgc@ualberta.ca.
Rehab Med student clinics
The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine has three student clinics: Corbett Hall Early Education Program, Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic and Corbett Hall Speech-Language Clinic. These student clinics provide clinical placements for our students as well as serve the community by providing rehabilitation services to various clients, including those with aphasia, cancer, Parkinson’s disease, osteoarthritis and more.

LEGO, robots and rehab
Kim Adams continues to lead the Rehab Med FIRST LEGO® League teams, where Edmonton children, including home-schooled students and kids with special needs, get a hands-on opportunity to come up with solutions for real-world problems using LEGO and robotics. Meetings are hosted in Adams’ Rehab Robotics Lab, and the parents of children in the group have nominated her for a Community Connections Award this year!

#AphasiaCamp Is...
Our SLP students and faculty, alongside OT and PT students, hosted the annual Alberta Aphasia Camp again, a weekend-long camp that provides an opportunity for individuals who are living with aphasia, as well as one of their family members or friends, to enjoy a weekend retreat. Activities are both recreational and therapeutic in nature: yoga; drum circle; canoeing; high and low ropes; indoor and outdoor games; arts and crafts; nature walks; and fireside singing. The staff and volunteers are all educated about aphasia and support communication techniques.

AAC Camp
The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and March of Dimes hosted the inaugural camp for children who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC Camp). (Full story on page 16)

Wood Forum: Arthritis & You
Presented by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Wood Forum in Edmonton connects Albertans impacted by arthritis with top health experts in arthritis, precision medicine, health policy and pain management. Hosted by CBC Edmonton AM’s Mark Connolly, the Wood Forum is an initiative supported through the Wood Joint Research Fund at the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health. FRM’s Jackie Whittaker and Geoff Bostick were featured speakers at this event at the West Edmonton Mall stage.
186


2,933 likes
472,275 reach

2,294 followers
308,806 reach

The Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic provides rehabilitation services to clients from various Edmonton communities (left). Students in Camrose guide patients with Parkinson’s disease through an exercise therapy class (bottom right).
Ebony Arbeau describes her sister Melody-Anne as having a wrecking ball inside her head. “Kids with special needs are trapped inside their own bodies. Imagine all the words piling inside them. Wrecking balls inside their heads!” says the 11-year-old who attended the first annual Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Camp Alberta with her sister and parents this past summer.

Melody-Anne, 14, has cerebral palsy and uses an AAC device to communicate. She is non-verbal, tube-fed and in a wheelchair, but that doesn’t stop her from letting people know what she’s thinking and feeling.

“I feel excited/happy to meet new friends [at AAC Camp],” she says through her Accent augmentative communication device.

The University of Alberta’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, alongside March of Dimes Canada, was proud to host the first AAC Camp Alberta. Children who use AAC devices to replace speech or writing attended the three-day camp from August 26 to 28 at Easter Seals Camp Horizon in Bragg Creek and took part in various activities including arts and crafts, a treasure hunt, and even an Olympic torch relay. Parents and siblings, who play a big role in caregiving and support, also joined in on the fun with the campers.

“I think they are stronger than us mentally,” says sister Ebony. “This camp is a great way to reinforce their skills in expressing how they feel through their device.”

Each camper paired up with a graduate student in speech-language pathology (SLP), occupational therapy (OT), or physical therapy (PT) from the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. A team of volunteer professionals from across the province who specialize in AAC provided training to the students before camp and supervised them as they worked with the campers. Students have also been involved in planning activities for the camp.
“I am specifically planning a scavenger hunt, a relay race, and campfire songs. We are also conducting a research study on the camp, examining it as a learning experience for Rehab Med students,” says Allison Ames, who just completed her first year in the MSc SLP program at UAlberta at the time.

AAC is used by those with a wide range of speech and language impairments, including cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome. SLPs help people who need AAC devices learn how to use their device to effectively communicate.

“We use each client’s strengths and abilities to carefully choose a device that will work best for their needs and lifestyle,” says Britany Archer, UAlberta MSc SLP student.

Campers and their families will have the opportunity to hike, swim, do crafts, play games and sing around the campfire. Not only is the camp an opportunity for children with AAC devices to come together and meet new friends, it’s also an opportunity for families to meet and connect.

“We thank Valerie Arbeau and her family for bringing the vision of AAC Camp Alberta to life and inviting us to be a host,” says Karen Pollock, chair, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta. “Our students get to work with children and teens and be part of the community.”

Valerie and Scott Arbeau, Ebony and Melody-Anne’s parents, decided to bring the camp to Alberta after the family attended a similar AAC Camp in Idaho—they have attended every year since 2012.

“We get to network with other families, share our trials, tribulations and joys—it’s a win-win for everyone,” Valerie says. “We are so grateful for how the University of Alberta and March of Dimes Canada committed to partnering and hosting. We are also grateful for our sponsors, including the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Alberta Consortium of Rehabilitative & Assistive Technology, Enterprise, and Calgary & Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Without their generosity and support, this year’s camp would not have been possible.”

Valerie’s hope is to make the AAC Camp more affordable in the future so that it can be accessible to even more families.

If that could happen, it would be Melody-Anne’s favourite word: “Awesome!”

What do you love most about Canada?

“It is big—lots of space. I love to listen to ‘O Canada’

Melody-Anne Arbeau, 14, using her AAC device to communicate

"It is big—lots of space. I love to listen to ‘O Canada’"
Only in Canada
The University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine’s Continuing Professional Education program offers the only Professional Graduate Level Certificates in Francophone Practice for SLPs, Stroke Rehabilitation and Sexual Health in Canada.

Bridging program for international physiotherapists
The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physiotherapy Practice is designed for physical therapists educated outside of Canada whose physical therapy education and qualifications have previously been assessed by the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance). So far, we have had 57 physiotherapists graduate from the program.

Universidad Del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia
In partnership with Universidad Del Rosario, our Pain Certificate was officially offered in Spanish. Our first cohort has 22 participants, including physicians, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical students and physiology students.

More than 100%
Overall, we have seen a 107 per cent registration increase this past year in both credit and non-credit courses and online workshops, with the Pain Certificate being the most popular certificate program to date.
## At a Glance

### Academic Year 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Physicians, physical therapists and health-care professionals attended the Dr. David C. Reid Conference, a Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Physical therapists attended the Ron Mattison 5 Keys to Shoulder Rehabilitation Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Physical therapists and rehab professionals in Edmonton and Calgary attended the 7th Annual Karin Greaves Education Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>670</td>
<td>Registrations in certificate programs, workshops and courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Rehabilitation professionals/clinical preceptors in physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology attended the Collaborative for Scholarship in Clinical Education (CSCE) Workshop, Introduction to Student Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Rehabilitation professionals/clinical instructors in occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology attended the Collaborative for Scholarship in Clinical Education (CSCE) Workshop, Challenges in Clinical Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>People enrolled in a certificate program</td>
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Students from our Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physiotherapy Practice program come from various countries worldwide and complete a blend of online and in-person courses.
A shock to the system. That’s what William Tung felt when he stepped out of the warmth of the airport terminal into the frigid Edmonton night in November 1990. Not just figuratively, but also literally. At a brisk -16 degrees Celsius, the walk from the airport to the safety of his brother’s car seemed like a lifetime, and Tung began to wonder why he ever left the comfort of Hong Kong—why he ever left the beaming sunshine of Australia.

Fast-forward to 2017 and Tung can provide you with a plethora of reasons why he loves Canada. Equipped with a straight face, he can even tell you that he now wears shorts in sub-zero weather. The epitome of Canadian culture.

Rewind 34 years, back to 1983, and that’s where it all truly began for Tung.

As a member of the Hong Kong Contingent, Tung traveled to Kananaskis, Alberta, for the World Scout Jamboree. It was summer then, which meant he had not yet experienced a Canadian winter. Minus a freak hail storm, Tung was pleased with everything he had encountered during his first visit to Alberta—the scenic national parks, the hospitality of the Canadian people, and the warmth of the summer season.

Tung, a physiotherapist by trade, immigrated to Australia in November 1990 from his home country of Hong Kong. A week later, he decided to make the move to Edmonton to take his Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) exam and enroll in studies at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. He went from living somewhere extremely hot to somewhere extremely cold in the matter of seven days—but no matter the weather, Tung’s optimism stayed intact.

“When I came to Edmonton it was a different feeling, especially since we were just in Australia the week before,” Tung says. “Instead of enjoying the warm summer weather and lovely sandy beaches in Sydney, I had my first taste of the frigid side of Canadian weather.

But the next morning, I was greeted by a beautiful sunrise. It was very pretty outside with all of the fresh snow on the ground and on the trees, and I thought to myself, ‘this isn’t so bad’.”

Tung and his wife, who is also a physiotherapist,
completed their CPA exams and Tung enrolled in the Bachelor of Science Degree Completion Program in 1993.

“It was a one-year program that included courses that I did not complete during my initial training back in Hong Kong,” Tung explains. “When I finished in 1994, I came out with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy.”

Now, Tung spends his time giving back to the Faculty and the program that helped him achieve his goals. When he isn’t working hard in his role as Physiotherapy Professional Practice Leader at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, he’s staying active in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine’s Alberta Internationally Educated Physiotherapists Bridging Program, helping others who, like he was so many years ago, are trying to find their place in Canada.

“Being an internationally educated physiotherapist myself, I understand the feeling of starting over and recognize the potential barriers my fellow colleagues may face when they come to Canada,” Tung says. “I want to use my personal experience to help ease their transition and allow them to get a better understanding of the Canadian health-care system.”

But that’s not all: with a relatively full plate already, Tung is still finding other opportunities to help out. Particularly, assisting Associate Chair of Physical Therapy Mark Hall as a teaching assistant in his cardiorespiratory course—something he’s been doing for the past ten years.

“It’s very rewarding to teach our future generation of clinicians and see them grow, especially when we see them confidently complete a thorough cardiorespiratory assessment or intervention in the lab and during their clinical placements,” Tung smiles. “Plus, it’s very exciting to learn new things together with the students. It’s never too late to learn, right?”

A sentiment that Tung’s own experiences have proven to be true.

While the transition to Canadian culture (and weather) may not have been easy, Tung wouldn’t want to be living anywhere else. As he would now put it, he is ‘living his dream’.

“I am so lucky and proud to be a Canadian. I would like nothing more than to offer as much as I could to this country and my fellow Canadians as both a clinician and a loyal citizen.

Moving to Canada is one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. I actually can’t believe I’ve been living here longer than I have lived in Hong Kong,” he laughs.

“I love the people, the beautiful spaces and our right to freedom—especially the freedom to explore this beautiful place with my wife, son and daughter. We just love driving and travelling the country!”

And, now having lived in Canada for 27 years, Tung has officially settled into the culture of his new home.

“I’m definitely feeling at home here. I think I may say ‘sorry’ and ‘thank-you’ and bit too much, though.”

Spoken like a true Canadian, eh?
By Priscilla Popp

A week into her physical therapy clinical placement, Kimba Meagher didn’t expect to be helping to evacuate patients—including a resident cat and bird—from the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray.

But that is exactly what the University of Alberta student found herself doing that Tuesday afternoon, as a devastating fire roared through the city and forced a total evacuation of the community, including its only hospital.

“All the staff came together to evacuate the patients and we were able to keep everyone safe, including Cleo, the hospital cat,” said Meagher.

Originally from Fort McMurray, Meagher, an MSc Physical Therapy student from the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, is no stranger to fires—she previously worked for three summers as a forest firefighter.

“By lunchtime that day, we started to see billows of smoke,” she said.

With the fire approaching and growing in intensity,
hospital staff began moving patients to a common area, where they waited for buses to arrive.

The initial concern from staff was for patients with chronic respiratory disease that may have trouble breathing the thick air. Patients in surgery and maternity were also moved first.

All patients were loaded up on buses and evacuated to alternate locations north of the city. Critical cases were flown from the evacuee sites to Edmonton hospitals as soon as possible, and eventually all patients were flown to Edmonton for continued care.

Meagher said hospital staff had to work together to ensure that patients were safe and accounted for throughout the evacuation.

“I knew this summer was going to be really bad, but I didn’t consider it could occur in a community, let alone my own community,” she said.

After leaving the hospital, Meagher went to City Hall to join her brother and dad, who works as a city councillor. Shortly afterward, they met up with her mom and other brother.

“Thankfully everyone was safe,” said Meagher, who appreciates the time she did get to spend in Fort McMurray on her clinical placement.

“I loved my experience and the week and a half I got out of it. I wish I was able to finish my placement there,” she said.

Nicole Kother, another U of A physical therapy student who was on placement in Fort McMurray, is also safe in Edmonton.

“We are glad that our students were safe and we are tremendously proud of their efforts,” said Bob Haennel, interim dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. “We continue to keep the residents of Fort McMurray in our thoughts as they rebuild their community.”
Most children know what doctors or nurses do, but do they know what occupational therapists do? Rehab Med Family Fun Day, an alumni and community event, featured “rehab med booths” to raise awareness and show children what rehab professionals do.

In addition to bringing alumni and the community together, the event featured activities such as wheelchair assessments and races, grip strength tests and voice exercises, showcasing to children what physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and rehabilitation scientists do to help the community.

“Rehabilitation is about helping people pursue their best, whether it’s mobility through physical therapy, work and activities of daily living through occupational therapy or communication through speech-language pathology,” said Bob Haennel, interim dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. “Rehab Med Family Fun Day was just a, well, fun way we thought we could bring alumni and the community together, and teach kids a thing or two about rehabilitation.”

Willow Cleary, 14, especially enjoyed the “gripping experience” booth, where her and her family tested how hard they could squeeze.

“I liked comparing between each family member,” she said.

Family Fun Day also included face painting, balloon animals, and snacks such as cotton candy and popcorn.

The event served as a reunion for many alumni, some coming back to Corbett Hall with their kids, and even grandchildren, for the first time.

Amy Driga graduated from the Faculty’s occupational therapy program in 1999, and now works as an OT at the Cross Cancer Institute. She attended Family Fun Day with her two sons: Jeremy, 7, and Dominic, 5.

“I love having an opportunity to show the boys where I studied and spent so much of my time,” she said.

Everyone received a “Heroes of Rehabilitation Medicine” t-shirt, including the babies and toddlers.

Positively Princess’d volunteered their time at the photo
Being Canadian means you are willing to get your clothes dirty and try new things. Being Canadian means you’re always ready for a challenge and you have an open heart.

Willow Cleary, Family Fun Day attendee

booth to raise support for the assistive technology and rehab robotics lab at the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. They chose to support the FIRST LEGO League teams for children with and without disabilities, including autism.

“Thank you to all our student volunteers, to Guba and Patches, and to Snow White, Rapunzel and Tinkerbell,” said Haennel, as he called up the princesses to help with the draw prizes. “It’s great to have alumni and the community come together for a fun carnival-style event like this. We hope to see you again at Alumni Weekend!”

Alumni Weekend
September 22-25, 2017
To find out more about these events, visit rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/alumni

To host a reunion, contact frmcomms@ualberta.ca
[My favourite memories are] the stories of taking anatomy with the med students, but mostly, the get-togethers with classmates. I only worked until my daughter was to be born in 1959 and this was in North Battleford, SK.
Mary-Lynn Bowers (Houston)
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

[My favourite memory is] cinnamon rolls at the “Tuck Shop.” We made our mark on the campus because all 15 of us would be followed from building to building by our great dedicated teacher Nancy Rendall with her turban. [Since graduation, I worked in] general rehab, pediatrics, private practice and back to pediatrics. I ended my career opening a multidisciplinary Pediatric Program in Riyadh Saudi Arabia. Currently, I volunteer in various ways and enjoy travel.
Aline McMillan (Baril)
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

Both years we won the inter-faculty blood donor trophy—with 100% of the class donating. After raising a family and working as a PT for 30 years, I’m happily retired!
Elaine Roberts
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956
BSc Physical Therapy, Class of 1975

[My favourite memories are] classes in the Quonset Huts at the back of the U of A, and walking in mid-winter to anatomy classes. [Since graduation, I taught adaptive swimming and was an instructor for] Handicapped Riding.
Esther Macdonald
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

[My favorite memory is] my classmates—a fantastic group! [After graduation, I went on to complete] a Bachelor of Physical Therapy in Winnipeg in 1968 and an MSc at the University of Saskatchewan in 1972.
Sue Fife
Retired
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

[My favourite memory is] fun with classmates—Shirley Allin’s jokes! [Since graduation, I’ve worked] as a PT at the University of Alberta Hospital, overseas in Austria, Switzerland, at CARS Calgary, as sole charge PT in Ashcroft and district for the hospital and a community PT in Abbotsford. [I earned a] bachelor’s degree at UBC.
Margot Ann Landels
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

Too many favourite [memories] to pick—my favourite memory is my classmates—still my favourite people. I worked as a standardized patient, then as president of the College [of Physiotherapists]. Now, I am busy getting rehab from wonderful graduates!
Berniece Malone
Diploma Physiotherapy, Class of 1956

I really enjoyed my anatomy and neuroanatomy instructor Dr. Walji. He made ’colouring’ the body fun! I’ve worked 20+ years as a pediatric OT in schools and community rehab. I received my MScOT last year and now teach at MacEwan University and also consult as a wellness coach.
Sharon Chatenay
Sessional Instructor, MacEwan University
BSc Occupational Therapy, Class of 1991
MSc Occupational Therapy, Class of 2015
[My favourite memories were] camaraderie in our class, anatomy class and observing cadavers (and all the jokes and antics that went along with that!), and cinnamon buns at CAB!! I have had the opportunity to try my hand at many different things—worked in many clinical areas [mostly pediatrics], teaching, administration, private practice. Currently work as the Director of Professional Practice with our regulatory college and enjoying my two kids (one in high school and one in university), my husband and our two cats.

**Susan Rafaat**  
Director of Professional Practice, Alberta College of SLPs and Audiologists  
BSc Speech Pathology and Audiology, Class of 1985  
MSc Speech Pathology and Audiology, Class of 1991

[My favourite memories are] preparing for practical exams, working together to succeed, and anatomy class—still fascinated. I am working for a small ergonomics firm, EWI Works, conducting office and industrial ergo assessments. I injured my back which lead to a new opportunity in ergonomics.

**Sandra Thomsen (Wissenger)**  
Work Rehab Consultant, EWI Works  
BSc Physical Therapy, Class of 1981

I remember the learning in labs more than lectures, I remember lunches on the lawn and upstairs in the student lounge. I remember wondering why our gross anatomy lab was scheduled for after lunch. I remember the long trek from Corbett Hall up to the Pharmacy Dentistry building and I see there is now an overstreet pedway connecting the Heritage Medical Building to the Education building. I remember our class having weekend gatherings where we played pool and occasionally wore togas. I have lived and worked in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Calgary, Sudbury, a second time in Grande Prairie and most recently in Lloydminster. I have two cats, an aging standard transmission SUV and on Thanksgiving I’ll be getting married.

**Lisa Schaffrick**  
Physical Therapist  
BSc Physical Therapy, Class of 1996

On April 28, 2016, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and the University of Alberta lost a member of its faculty and alumni families. Benita Bradley Fifield [Mayers] was a leader, innovator, pioneer and educator for over thirty years and left a lasting impact here in the Faculty. Fifield held a diploma in occupational therapy (’70), a BScOT (’72) and an MSc in Family Studies (’81) from the U of A. She was an accomplished occupational therapist, certified sex educator and professor. She was active in many roles within the Faculty including teaching in the Department of Occupational Therapy from 1963 to 1990, head (’73–’76) and chair (’82–’83) of the Department of OT, and served as acting dean from 1979 to 1980 and again from 1984 to 1985.

Fifield also established a private practice and conducted many workshops and seminars on sexual counselling skills for professionals. Throughout her career she promoted positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities. She was predeceased by her husband Orville and had retired as professor emeritus to Qualicum Beach in 1999. Her passionate support of students and her alma mater did not wane in retirement, as she established and endowed the Benita Mayers and Orville Fifield Scholarship in Sexual Health.

Benita, and her lasting contributions to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, will be remembered fondly.

**Benita Benny as she was known, was a gentle person and someone whose actions spoke stronger than words in rezising patterns of daily living and promoting community living supports for persons with acquired disabilities. I met her in 1963 as my clinical supervisor. Her forward-thinking beliefs for change in rehabilitation services started with the attitudes of health professionals. Benny was a stabilizing influence during times of great disruption and growth in the Department, School and then the Faculty. We owe a great deal to her leadership during those times.**

— E Sharon Brintnell, Professor

I met Benita and her husband Orville in 1980–1981 during my first year as a nursing student at the Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing. Benita and Orville were teaching us about sexuality. When I took my BScN degree at the U of A, I took a human sexuality course taught by Benita and Orville. I attribute my attitudes and my comfort level surrounding sexuality to taking Benita and Orville’s course on human sexuality.

— Rhonda E. Harris, Retired Nurse  
Former Student/TA

Submit your class note!  
rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/alumni
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine alumni are out there ‘doing great things’ all the time, but this past year, alumna Julie (née Greidanus) Taylor (MSc SLP ’07) got the amazing chance of a lifetime to tackle astounding challenges and see the world with her husband Lowell before he permanently loses his vision due to a degenerative condition.

The couple competed on CTV’s television series *Amazing Race Canada* last season as the first team to ever include a person with a visual impairment in the history of The Amazing Race franchise. They were the fifth team eliminated, and credit their teamwork, preparation and a little bit of luck with making it that far.

We had the chance to sit down with the couple and asked Julie and Lowell what it was like to compete on *Amazing Race Canada*.

Can you tell me a little more about yourselves?

**Julie Taylor (JT):** I grew up in Lethbridge, where we now call home. I did my MSc Speech-Language Pathology degree at U of A in 2007. We have two boys, Fraser (five years old) and Stefan (three-and-a-half years old) who keep us on our toes! I work part-time as a speech-language pathologist for a rural preschool and kindergarten. We love spending time as a family—going for bike rides, learning how to ski, taking our dog for walks, swimming, reading stories and the boys’ favourite, playing “big mountain” with Lowell (which basically means they crawl all over him and try to stay on him as Lowell goes up and down and moves all around).

**Lowell Taylor (LT):** I grew up on a farm 45 minutes north of Calgary. I am a registered psychologist working for Alberta Health Services. I work as a behavioural health consultant in family medical clinics. It is an incredibly meaningful and satisfying job.

How did you get involved in *Amazing Race Canada*? What prompted you to apply?

**JT:** Friends have urged us for years, and when the Canadian version began four years ago, we watched with great interest. At the end of last season, we decided that our kids were old enough to go, my parents were young (and willing) enough to take them, and we felt we should try for the opportunity while Lowell still had a sliver of vision left! Lowell is an adventurous spirit by nature, so this opportunity was right up his alley, despite having barely any vision at all.

**LT:** I have retinitis pigmentosa. I see through a pin hole and have no night vision. I am visually impaired and live every day in a sighted world; it’s challenging on a daily...
basis. My grandfather went completely blind by age 40, and continued to farm into his 80s. He saw with his heart, so our motto for the race was to race with heart and not sight.

Julie, how did your speech-language pathology training at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine help you on the show?

JT: It helped me learn to cope in stressful situations and utilize my internal resources. I learned critical thinking skills, how to assess situations, and interact with different populations of people.

My time at the U of A stretched my brain and gave me the opportunity to meet all sorts people in different walks of life, both of which helped me on the race! Our brains had to be flexible as we were constantly faced with completely unfamiliar locations and challenges, and we were with people who were in constant race or stress mode, just as we were!

Each time I ripped open a clue, I could have easily panicked. But instead, I remained calm, read the clue over a few times, and figured out what needed to be done. Having completed a graduate degree definitely gave me more confidence to complete challenges on the race. Had you told me I could put together a scooter in Vietnam or fly a vintage warplane in Hamilton, Ontario, I would have thought you were crazy, but I remained calm, mustered up confidence in myself, and I did it!

What will you take with you from this experience going forward?

JT: We already knew that we made a good team, but the race affirmed how important our teamwork is. I also continued to be impressed and inspired by Lowell’s patience, perseverance, determination, and his ability to remain positive and turn obstacles into opportunities! I know that people noticed Lowell’s resilience and determination, and we also hope that they saw the theme of kindness. We believe it’s so important to be kind to yourself and kind to each other.

LT: I will take away what we had hoped to take away from the experience when we applied: seeing amazing places in Canada and overseas, doing some incredible tasks, and the honour to compete on Canada’s most watched reality TV show. It was an amazing experience that we will always cherish.

I also was glad that Julie had the opportunity to see that she can do more than she gives herself credit for. She is intelligent, talented, caring, and funny and people from all over Canada were able to see how cool a speech-language pathologist/mother/ wife to a blind guy can be! She is the best partner a guy could ask for, and this race solidified that in my mind even more than I already knew after our nearly 10 years of marriage. The race was also a poignant reminder that our relationship can get us through very stressful and challenging times and that we really like hanging out with each other—we were never away from each other (except for road blocks) for five weeks straight!
Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM)

The Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM) is an internationally recognized clinic and research institute focused on medical reconstructive sciences. Established in 1993, iRSM is a joint initiative of the University of Alberta, Covenant Health and Alberta Health Services, based at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is a significant partner and contributor to the institute’s success with iRSM’s Director of Research, Jana Rieger, representing the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

iRSM is an exceptional interdisciplinary institute, not only delivering excellence in the treatment of facial defects, trauma and cancer, but also advancing the frontiers of health care. Interdisciplinary teams of surgeons and medical specialists, engineers, rehabilitation professionals, designers and materials experts work together to develop highly-specialized, biomechanical research innovations recognized for advancing digital design of surgery and additive manufacturing (3D printing) of medical devices.

Key Highlights:

- The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine successfully secured $500,000 to fund a Research Scientist for iRSM who will grow the Advanced Technologies for Surgical Intervention Research pillar.
- iRSM organized a Digital Surgical Design and Simulation Workshop where we hosted surgical teams from Vancouver, Calgary and St. John’s.
- The iRSM Research Forum was spotlighted in the Edmonton Journal and attracted 140 participants, including patients, caregivers, students, researchers, administrator, and policy makers.

At a Glance

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By Laurie Wang

Steven Csorba thinks everyone who gets diagnosed with cancer should receive a superhero t-shirt.

“Rehab needs to start the day you’re diagnosed, even before surgery. Patients need to feel empowered. Someone needs to give them a Superman or Wonder Woman shirt and say, ‘You’re empowered! You can make your body stronger. You can do this!’” says Csorba, a local artist who was diagnosed with stage 3 throat and neck cancer in 2003 and in 2005 became one of the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine’s earliest jaw reconstruction patients.

After everything Csorba has gone through—multiple surgeries, radiation therapy, losing his job, losing his teeth, losing the ability to eat and speak—the father of three boys remains empowered, and lives to empower others.

“Helping charities, donating my time and art and just plain helping people has always been what I did. I always understood the importance in helping others,” says Csorba, who’s donated over $1 million worth of art to charities and continues to encourage fellow cancer survivors to work out, eat well and live a healthy lifestyle.

Csorba is also actively involved with research at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM), a joint initiative of Alberta Health Services, Covenant Health and the University of Alberta. iRSM specializes in osseointegration technologies—implant technology—to patients with head and neck defects resulting from cancer, trauma and congenital conditions.

After his initial 14-hour surgery to remove the tumours, Csorba spent numerous hours at iRSM working with a team of surgeons, maxillofacial prosthodontists, speech-language pathologists, dietitians, technicians and researchers.

“I had to learn how to cope with not having saliva. I would wake up every half hour to drink water,” explains Csorba. “I couldn’t eat properly or talk. I also spent the next eight years rebuilding my jaw.”

Csorba did gain the ability to speak again, thanks to speech-language pathologists at iRSM and his own will to communicate.

“90 per cent of speech is the desire to be understood. The doctors had to remove 90 per cent of the physical tools for speech, rebuilding my face with titanium, pins and screws, knowing I only need 10 per cent of those tools to speak again.”

Indeed he did learn to speak again. Today, Csorba travels to various cities to talk about his journey and the treatments and research at iRSM. He shared his story and art at the iRSM Research Forum on June 1 at 2:00 p.m. in 2-44 Corbett Hall at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. The Research Forum featured Mickleborough researchers Dr. Martin Osswald, maxillofacial prosthodontist at iRSM, and Dr. Hadi Seikaly, head and neck surgeon and Functional Outcomes Program co-director at iRSM.

“I still always wake up feeling like I have an eight-inch rubber band around my neck, but that doesn’t stop me from helping people and doing my art,” he says. “It’s important to get involved. I want to encourage fellow survivors to feel empowered to help the community and be a return on investment.”
Swallowing difficulties? There’s an app for that

Rehab Science PhD candidate named to ’Top 40 Under 40’ list for work with mobile cancer therapy device

By Amanda McCarthy

Gabriela Constantinescu’s feet were literally not on the ground when she learned of her nomination for Avenue Edmonton’s ’Top 40 Under 40’—and they still aren’t.

The University of Alberta, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine PhD student was travelling back to Edmonton from a conference she had attended in Seattle when she got the call some four months ago. Now, having officially made it on the list, she’s still on cloud nine.

“When I found out, I was mostly just shocked. I feel grateful that someone out there saw me in this light and went through the trouble of nominating me for the award,” Constantinescu says. “That in itself is really special.”

Constantinescu, who is completing her fifth year of her rehabilitation science PhD and working as a speech-language pathologist at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM), is collaborating with a team of researchers to develop and evaluate a mobile health device app for swallowing therapy. This work contributed to her win of a ’Top 40 Under 40’ recognition.

“We call our system Mobili-T, short for Mobile Therapy. The project is currently being headed by iRSM’s Research Director, Jana Rieger, and is funded by the Alberta Cancer Foundation,” Constantinescu explains. “Essentially, it is a system that uses customized hardware and software to guide patients in their swallowing therapy at home.”

Constantinescu calls the idea a ”spark from a genuine clinical problem fueled by iRSM biomedical engineer Dylan Scott’s passion for engineering and practical solutions.” Although, for cancer patients, and other individuals with swallowing difficulties, it can simply be explained as a new means of hope.

“Honestly, I was growing very frustrated with the existing hardware, which consists of multiple pieces of bulky equipment on a giant cart the size of a fridge. I had to wheel this thing around from floor to floor using the hospital’s very busy elevators,” Constantinescu explains. “I knew that I was walking around with a smartphone in my back pocket, so why not be able to...
And with swallowing difficulties being highly prevalent in head and neck cancer patients, with over 69 per cent of individuals affected, a portable, user-friendly device might be just what is needed.

Although the project was originally created with cancer patients in mind, and while they are still the main focus of the mobile system, Constantinescu says that further assessing its use with patients who demonstrate swallowing difficulties following a stroke is another area they’re exploring.

“Our head and neck cancer patients will be the first ones to go home with Mobili-T, as they were the ones who were involved in the hardware selection and the ones who we asked for feedback when we were designing the app,” she says. “But we are currently working with master’s student Kristina Kuffel who will be assessing the components of the device for stroke patients.”

But her work with this upcoming device isn’t the only reason the young researcher has been recognized as a top Edmontonian. Her work ethic, creative mind and caring personality are just some of the attributes that make Constantinescu, as her coworkers would say, a ‘dream’ to work with.

“When Gabriela told me about her win, I did a little happy dance,” Constantinescu’s PhD supervisor and colleague, Jana Rieger says. “She cares deeply about the well-being of her patients and it shows.

What more can I say than she is just a dream to work with. I couldn’t ask for more than a student who just ‘gets it.’”

And for her cancer patients, that means ‘getting’ what they are going through—advocating for and supporting them during their speech and swallowing difficulties.

“I know I don’t have a magic wand to turn back time and make someone sound like themselves again or give them the ability to do the same things that they used to and that’s really difficult for me,” Constantinescu says.

“But, on the flipside, there are so many positives [to working with cancer patients]. Hearing one of your patients talk about what has changed the most since their cancer treatment and expecting them to say ‘My speech is worse’ or ‘I can’t swallow’ only to hear ‘My outlook on life is more positive now and I am grateful for my doctors and loved ones’—that’s what makes it worth it.”

In the future, Constantinescu wants to continue to work with cancer patients and give back to her field. This means supporting those who are looking to follow the same path or a similar path as hers.

“It may sound cheesy, but if I can pass on some of the kindness, love of learning and perseverance that was cultivated in me by my awesome mentors and friends, then I will be one happy girl.”

Gabriela Constantinescu, speech-language pathologist, Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM) & Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine PhD candidate

To me, being Canadian means I am free: free to think critically, to question, and to challenge my own limits. The most “Canadian” things about me are probably my flannel shirt, my propensity for apologizing and my love for the mountains.
The Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research’s vision is to be the preeminent provider of evidence-informed treatment, professional training and scientific knowledge for stuttering and communication improvement.

With the mission to help prevent and remediate stuttering, and improve communication in people of all ages, ISTAR is a centre for the treatment, research and training for a spectrum of speech and communication disorders.

With clinics in Edmonton and Calgary, ISTAR doesn’t believe in boundaries and reaches out to communities beyond these two cities. Besides local, national and international clients, ISTAR provided necessary services to Indigenous communities in Northern Alberta and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories this year.

Key Highlights

• ISTAR clinicians continue to support the profession of stuttering via community involvement by participating on various committees and consortiums. Four media events highlighted both the generosity of our donors and our clinical work and research. A major donation from the Alberta Elks Foundation of $500,000 helped ISTAR change lives. Presentations were given to the Down Syndrome Society and at Royal Purple Lodges, Elks Lodges, the Provincial Elks Annual Convention, and at the Pecha Kucha talk organized by the City of Edmonton for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

• Our Calgary office offers refresher clinics, a children’s clinic and camp, as well as hosts clinical training for U of A students. Our Edmonton clinic continues to offer Communication Improvement Program workshops to help clients have effective communication including: accent reduction, public speaking, academic preparation and social communication workshops. This year ISTAR clinicians provided distance contract services to children at a First Nations school in Cold Lake, and children in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

• The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine established a position for a Research Chair in Fluency in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders to support ISTAR in their ongoing research needs and endeavours.

• ISTAR celebrated our 30th Anniversary this past year at an event emceed by a client and former stutterer, Pearse Schoenberger. In attendance were members of the Elks & Royal Purple along with ISTAR’s co-founder Deborah Kully, Julia Boberg, wife of the late Einer Boberg, co-founder of ISTAR, and many other friends, donors, former clients and staff.

• ISTAR welcomed a new Executive Director, Anwar Haq. Anwar brings years of experience in working in health care and a passion for helping others.
At a Glance
Academic Year 2015-16

518
Clients

3,660
Therapy sessions

10
Clinical placements hosted for speech-language pathology students

481
Full-day/intensive therapy sessions
It was that eureka moment that changed her understanding of how her daughter was suffering.

A light bulb went off for Michelle Bjarnason when her friend told her about the intensive stuttering program at the University of Alberta’s Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR).

Oh my God! Jaiden stutters!

After years of seeing her little girl avoid communication with anyone but her family, ISTAR was the hope Bjarnason needed for her 14-year-old daughter.

“Stuttering stole her childhood but it will not take her adolescence and adulthood,” said Bjarnason. “ISTAR has given that time back to Jaiden to be the best she can be.”

But Jaiden is only one of about 300 children each year who benefit from ISTAR programs like the three-week, intensive teen workshop. To help those clients, and to support the more than 3000 patients ISTAR has treated to date, the Alberta Elks Foundation is donating $500,000 to ISTAR. An organization dedicated to the benefit and welfare of others, the Elks have been supporting ISTAR for 30 years.

“We’ve helped a lot of children over the years through ISTAR, and ISTAR also helps adults, which is really nice to see,” said Roland Gagnon, director of the Alberta Elks Foundation.

ISTAR, an academic institute of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, offers specialized treatment to children, teens and adults who stutter. ISTAR also conducts research into stuttering, offers advanced professional training for speech-language pathology students and clinicians, and promotes public awareness of stuttering and its treatment.

“It is only through gifts like these that we are able to provide specialized, world-class treatment to children, teens and adults who stutter. We are very grateful to
the Elks for their gift to ISTAR,” said Holly Lomheim, then acting executive director, ISTAR.

The gift will be used to expand clinical service delivery in Calgary, support clinical services offered in Edmonton and help families in financial need.

“The Elks made a significant commitment to the work of ISTAR by becoming the founding donor in 1986,” said Bob Haennel, interim dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. “Since then, the Elks and Royal Purple have donated more than $3.76 million in support of ISTAR’s work with those who struggle with stuttering.”

“This important gift positively impacts hundreds of lives and demonstrates to these children and teens that ‘every voice matters,’” said Lomheim.

Bjarnason agrees. “Thank you to the Alberta Elks Foundation for giving to ISTAR, and giving Jaiden’s life back to her again,” said Bjarnason. “She is now your typical lively teenager. She loves the ISTAR family because they understand what she’s going through. She has found her home.”
The Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic serves the needs of active individuals through patient care, education and research. It is a social enterprise whose main purpose is to improve society and serve the community—profits from the clinic are reinvested to support community services, student training and research. It is one of the nation’s leading multidisciplinary clinics treating active people with musculoskeletal, sport and exercise-related concerns for more than 25 years. The team of experts at the clinic includes physiotherapists, massage therapists, orthotists, sport physicians, orthopedic surgeons and physiatrists.

Key Highlights

- The Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic offered free services to all Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo residents who required physiotherapy, massage therapy or have musculoskeletal injuries/issues after the fire. Our goal was to help Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo residents as best we could during this tragic time, while alleviating some of the pressure off of medical and walk-in clinics.

- Community initiatives this past year included: Community Concussion Educational Workshop; Brain Waves presentations at elementary schools; multiple sport first responder courses; the annual Dr. David C. Reid Sports Medicine Conference; and various courses on sport physical therapy, post-operative ACL (knee) rehabilitation, exercise prescription, acute concussion, shoulder rehabilitation and more.
GSSMC is set apart from other clinics as a leader in sport, exercise, and musculoskeletal care through innovation in the three pillars of clinical care, research, and education. It is able to promote and deliver comprehensive patient-centered sport, exercise, and musculoskeletal care through its interdisciplinary team.

The clinic has research strengths in active living and health outcomes post-surgery, musculoskeletal injury and chronic disorder prevention, and sport concussion. Ongoing research projects include studying: youth sport-related knee injuries; ACL injuries and their effect on the decision to return to sport; ACL injuries and squats; appropriate and efficient management of shoulder injuries; a clinical pathway for patients with rotator cuff disorders; the effect of body-checking policy changes on youth ice hockey players; and measuring chronic back pain.

GSSMC is committed to providing education for students from the Faculties of Rehabilitation Medicine, Medicine and Dentistry, and Physical Education and Recreation, including undergraduate & graduate students, residents, fellows, and specialists.

At a Glance

Academic Year 2015-16

- 4,077 Total student placement hours (2015)
- 44,184 Patient visits
- 5 Specialty multidisciplinary care clinics: Complex Concussion Clinic, Nonsurgical Specialty Clinics (Shoulder Clinic, Acute Knee Injury Clinic, Functional Knee Clinic), Surgical Specialty Clinics (Shoulder Clinic, Knee Clinic), Neuropsychology Care, Acute Concussion Care
- $13,000 In new research grants
Clinical Placements

Special thanks to our alumni and clinics for hosting clinical placements for our students!

Communication Sciences and Disorders
337 Student Clinical Placements at:

- Alberta Children’s Hospital - AHS Calgary
- ARBI - Alberta
- Autism Association - Australia
- Battleford Organization - Saskatchewan
- Calgary School District - Alberta
- Centennial Centre for Brain Injury - AHS Central
- Central Okanagan School District - British Columbia
- CHEEP - University of Alberta
- Child Development Centre - British Columbia
- Coast Mountain School District - British Columbia
- Community Health Services - AHS Calgary
- Community Health Services - AHS Edmonton
- Community Health Services - AHS North
- Community Health Services - AHS South
- Community Health Services - British Columbia
- Community Rehabilitation Interdisciplinary Services - AHS Edmonton
- Comox Valley Child Development Association - British Columbia
- Connect Society - Alberta
- Corbett Clinic - University of Alberta
- Cowichan School District - British Columbia
- Cross Cancer Institute - AHS Edmonton
- Dr. Vernon Fanning Centre - Carewest Alberta
- Dufferin School Division - Ontario
- Edmonton Catholic School District - Alberta
- Edmonton Public School Board - Alberta
- Elks Island Schools - Alberta
- Facility Living - AHS Edmonton
- Foothills Hospital - AHS Calgary
- Fraser Valley Child Development Centre - British Columbia
- Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital - AHS Edmonton
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools - Saskatchewan
- Greater Victoria School District 61 - British Columbia
- Grey Nuns Hospital - Alberta - Covenant Health
- Heartland Health Region - Saskatchewan
- ISFL - AHS Calgary
- ISTAR - University of Alberta
- Janeway Children’s Health Centre - Newfoundland
- Kelowna General Hospital - British Columbia
- Kootenay Valley Hospital - British Columbia
- Langley School District - British Columbia
- Lethbridge Hospital - AHS South
- Medicine Hat Hospital - AHS South
- Misericordia Hospital - Alberta Covenant Health
- Montrose Hospital - USA
- Peter Lougheed Centre - AHS Calgary
- Private/Independent - Alberta
- Providence Child Centre - Alberta
- Regina Public Schools - Saskatchewan
- Renfrew Education - Alberta
- Rocky View School District - Alberta
- Rockyview Hospital - AHS Calgary
- Royal Alexander Hospital - AHS Edmonton
- Royal Inland Hospital - British Columbia
- Royal University Hospital - Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Rivers School Division - Saskatchewan
- Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - AHS Calgary
- South Health Campus - AHS Calgary
- St. Albert School District - Alberta
- St. Michael’s Hospital - Alberta Covenant Health
- Terrace Child Development Centre - British Columbia
- Two Hills Health Centre - AHS Central
- University of Alberta Hospital - AHS Edmonton
- University of Ottawa - Ontario
- Villa Marie - Alberta - Covenant Health
- Westwind School District - Alberta
- Wataskiwin Health Centre - AHS Central
- Boyle Street Community Services - Edmonton
- Brentwood Care Centre - Intercare Calgary
- Burnaby Hospital - Fraser Health, Burnaby
- Calgary Public SD19 - Calgary
- Camp Horizon - Easter Seals Bragg Creek, Alberta
- Campbell River & District Hospital - Vancouver Island Health, Campbell River
- Canadian Forces - Wainwright
- Canadian Mental Health Association - Edmonton
- CBI Health Group - Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary
- CBI Health Group - Saskatchewan
- Centennial Centre - AHS Ponoka
- Centre for Autism - Edmonton
- Centre for Rehabilitation - Dhaka, Bangladesh
- CollegeSide Bethany Society - Red Deer
- Colonel Belcher Centre - Carewest Calgary
- Community Health Services - AHS Calgary
- Community Health Services - AHS Red Deer
- Community Health Services - AHS Edmonton
- Community Health Services - AHS Lethbridge
- Community MH Services - AHS Edmonton
- Community Services - Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatoon
- Cornerstone Therapies - Yorkton
- Corrections Canada - AHS Calgary
- Cottonwoods Extended Care - Interior Health, Kelowna
- Creative Options - Regina
- Cross Cancer Institute - AHS Edmonton
- Daysland Health Centre - AHS Daysland
- Dickensfield - Capital Care Edmonton
- Didsbury District Health Centre - AHS Didsbury
- Dryden Regional Health Centre - Dryden
- Eaux Claires - Extendicare Edmonton
- Edmonton General Hospital - Covenant Health Edmonton
- Edmonton Public SD07 - Edmonton
- EWI Works - Edmonton
- Father Lacome Care Centre - Calgary
- Foothills Hospital - AHS Calgary
- Fort St. John Hospital - Northern Health, Fort St. John
- George Boyack Centre - Carewest Calgary
- George Spady Centre - Edmonton
- Glenmore Park Centre - Carewest Calgary
- Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital - AHS Edmonton
- Grande Prairie SD2357 - Grande Prairie
- Grey Nuns Hospital - Covenant Health Edmonton

Occupational Therapy
520 Student Clinical Placements at:

- Alberta Children’s Hospital - AHS Calgary
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital - Fraser Health, Abbotsford
- Addictions and Community Mental Health - AHS Red Deer
- Addictions and MH - AHS Calgary
- Alberta Hospital - AHS Edmonton
- Beddington Towne Centre - Carewest Calgary
- Bethany Care Centre - Bethany Society Cochrane
- Bethany Sylvan Lake - Bethany Society Sylvan Lake
- Beverly Glenmore - AgeCare Calgary
- Bissell Centre - Edmonton
- Black Gold SD18 - Nisku
- Bonnyville Health Centre - Covenant Health Bonnyville
• Clearwater Physiotherapy - Vegreville
• Community Health Services - Calgary Fall Prevention Clinic
• Community Health Services - High River
• Community Health Services Camrose - Community Rehabilitation Program
• Community Health Services Camrose - Healthy Living Centre
• Community Health Services Healthy Living - Supervised Exercise Program
• Community Health Services - Red Deer
• Community Health Services - Sylvan Lake
• Community Health Services - Vegreville
• Community Health Services - Vermilion
• Community Health Services CRIS-West
• Community Health Services - Westlock
• Community Health Services - Lethbridge
• Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic - University of Alberta
• Corona Physio-Rehab Centre
• Coronation Physiotherapy
• Cross Cancer Institute
• Crowchild Twin Arena - LifeMark
• Crowfoot Physiotherapy
• CSA Physiotherapy
• Didsbury District Health Centre
• Diverse Sports Physical Therapy Clinic
• Dr. Vernon Fanning Centre
• Drumheller Health Centre
• Dynamic Physiotherapy
• Edmonton Musculoskeletal Centre
• Edmonton Public School Division
• Edson Healthcare Centre
• Elves Special Needs Society
• England - Royal Free London NHS Foundation
• Excel Physical Therapy
• Father Bauer Arena - LifeMark
• Fit Physiotherapy
• Foothills Medical Centre
• Fort McMurray - Northern Lights Regional Health Centre
• Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital
• Genesis Place - LifeMark
• Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic - University of Alberta
• Glenmore Park Physiotherapy
• Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
• Grande Prairie - Queen Elizabeth II Hospital
• Grande Prairie School District
• Grey Nuns Community Hospital & Health Centre
• GRIT Program
• Hanna Health Centre
• Heritage Hill - LifeMark
• High Level - Northwest Health Centre
• Hinton Healthcare Centre
• Home Care - Red Deer Home Care (Bremner)
• Home Care - Camrose Home Care
• Home Care Calgary Zone
• Home Living Program - Edmonton Zone
• I'm For Kids Team
• Imagine Health Centres Edmonton
• Innisfail Health Centre
• Jasper Physiotherapy & Health Centre
• Kinesis Physical Therapy Corp
• Kinsman Sports Centre
• Lake Beaumaris - LifeMark
• Leduc - LifeMark
• Leduc Community Hospital
• Lethbridge - Chinook Regional Hospital
• Lethbridge St. Michael's Health Centre
• LifeMark Health Institute in the Meadowlark Mall
• Lime Physiotherapy
• Max Bell Arena - LifeMark
• Mayor Magrath - LifeMark
• Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
• Millwoods - LifeMark
• Mira Health Centre - LifeMark
• Misericordia Community Health Centre
• Momentum Health - Creekside Clinic
• Momentum Health - Ogden Clinic
• Momentum Health - West Springs Clinic
• Nose Creek Sport Physical Therapy - Beddington
• Nose Creek Sport Physical Therapy - Thorncliffe
• Olds Hospital and Care Centre
• Parkland Rehabilitation Ltd.
• Peak Physical Therapy
• Peter Lougheed Centre
• Physiotherapy Alliance
• Pincher Creek Health Centre
• Pivotal Physiotherapy - Fort Saskatchewan
• Pivotal Physiotherapy - North Edmonton
• Primary Care Networks - North Zone
• Prince Rupert Regional Hospital
• PT Health - Advantage Health Aspen
• PT Health - Advantage Health Corporate Sport Physio
• PT Health - Belmead Physical Therapy
• PT Health - Maximum Potential Physiotherapy
• PT Health - Sherwood Park
• PT Health - Sturgeon Valley Physiotherapy
• Quarry Park - LifeMark Physiotherapy
• Rebound Health Centre
• Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
• Regina Sports & Physiotherapy Clinic
• Renfrew Educational Services
• Richmond Road Diagnostic & Treatment Centre
• Rocky Mountain House Health Centre
• Rocky Mountain Rehab & Sports Medicine Clinic
• Rockyview General Hospital
• Royal Alexandra Hospital
• Royal Columbian Hospital
• Seton - Jasper Healthcare Centre
• Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre
• Sherwood Park Sports Physiotherapy
• Silverado Sport Physiotherapy
• South Calgary Health Centre
• South Health Campus
• Southland Leisure Centre - LifeMark
• St. Joseph's Care Group
• St. Michael's Health Group
• Stanton Territorial Hospital
• Strathcona Community Hospital
• Strathcona Physiotherapy
• Strathmore Hospital
• Sturgeon Community Hospital
• Summerside Children’s Sport & Physiotherapy
• Sundre Hospital and Care Centre
• Sunpark Plaza - LifeMark
• Sunridge Way NE - LifeMark
• Supportive Living Program
• Surrey Memorial Hospital
• Tabor Health Centre
• Talisman Centre - LifeMark
• Tamarack Physical Therapy
• Tawa Physical Therapy
• The Netherlands - Hogeschool van Amsterdam
• Tom Baker Cancer Centre
• Two Hills Health Centre
• University of Alberta Hospital
• University of Ottawa
• Vermilion Health Centre
• Village Square Mall - LifeMark
• Wainwright Health Centre
• Wascana Health Centre
• Westlock Healthcare Centre
• Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre
• Willow Brook - LifeMark Physiotherapy
• Worker’s Compensation Board
Thank You!

$1,992,501
Total funds raised towards innovative teaching, student scholarships/bursaries, world-class research and clinical service in fiscal year 2015-16

• Ruth Newell Fund: new endowment created through a bequest which supports children and young teenagers who are unable to finance the expense of treatment at ISTAR
• Cadence Clements, our faculty’s youngest philanthropist to date, made a donation to support Jayne Yang’s research with her mom Sarah.
• Ongoing support of the Realtor’s Community Foundation, Malcolm Fraser Foundation, Bergeron-Gagnon Fund at La Fondation Franco Albertaine in support of ISTAR
• Ongoing support of the Gyro Club of Edmonton for scholarships in aging.
• Jackie Schoenberger’s planned gift in support of ISTAR
• Planned gift in support of fibromyalgia and myofascial chronic pain research
• Creation of the Dr. Einer Boberg Memorial Endowment Fund in support of ISTAR
• Dr. Pierre Desaulniers planned gift in support of ISTAR
• Creation of the Cheung Family Graduate Award in Rehabilitation Medicine
• Corbett Hall Early Education Program (CHEEP) donors
• Creation of Stephanie Chipeur Accessibility Research Fund - a research fund that supports accessibility, visitability and universal design study
• Creation of the Cheryl Harbottle & Norma Harbottle Graduate Bursary in Rehabilitation Medicine Fund
• Ongoing support from the Royal Canadian Legion, AB-NWT Command and many Legions throughout the province in support of Military and Veterans’ Health and Rehabilitation
• Continuing support from the Alberta Elks Foundation, Elks and Royal Purple Lodges and Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children in support of ISTAR
• Largest single donation in ISTAR’s history received from the Alberta Elks Foundation: $500,000

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, alumni, faculty, staff and students - and Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!
Celebrate Canada 150 with us!

Together, our alumni are celebrating Canada’s 150th birthday by creating the **Canada 150 Alumni Award in Rehabilitation** to advance the art and science of rehabilitation in our great nation.

Join the celebration.

[www.uab.ca/rehab150](http://www.uab.ca/rehab150)