Dear Clinical Educators:

The snow is flying and we are all bundling up for the winter. I trust you all had a warm and relaxing summer. We have been pretty busy in the Department as we prepare for a full academic year ahead of us and make preparations for our additional cohorts. We have a number of new staff both in our main office and at our satellite programs as we continue to grow our program.

Its going to be a busy year and we hope you will be able to participate in events related to the program in the coming months.

- Mark

Program updates

Camrose satellite: This year saw admission of our second cohort of students on the Augustana campus. Twelve first year students joined the 10 students already at Augustana for a total of 22 this year. Renovations are soon to be completed on a second lab and an additional storage area. All rooms are outfitted with HD video conferencing equipment connected to the super net to enable seamless program delivery. Additional staff have been hired in Augustana, Lisa Jasper PT, year 2 and satellite coordinator and Heather Tomlinson PTA, join Chris Zarski, PT year 1 coordinator in Camrose. Government funding for this pilot project has been committed for 2 additional cohorts through 2015.

Calgary satellite: As a result of the success of the Augustana satellite, the government has also given the green light for a satellite pilot project in Calgary. Starting in August 2012, 18 students will be admitted to the U of A Calgary satellite program to be housed downtown Calgary. Jacky Chow has been hired as the Calgary satellite coordinator, and Jon Gabbai has been hired 0.5 FTE as the Calgary and southern Alberta Clinical Education Coordinator. Jon will be providing mentorship and support for clinical sites and clinicians as we build clinical placement capacity to accommodate our increased enrollment. Total enrollment for 2012 will be 80 in Edm, 12 in Augustana and 18 in Calgary for a total of 110.

Admission interview: We reintroduced an MMI interview process this year where applicants are interviewed in eight 10-minute stations. This was very successful and gives prospective students the opportunity to see the teaching space and interact with current students. We will continue the same process for next year and clinicians will be invited to participate in the process to assist us in selection of the best candidates for our program. The MMI will take place on Sat. 21 April 2012. Requests for volunteers will come out in the next few weeks.

Program timing: To accommodate students from all three campuses for anatomy, as we did this year, the program will start in early August of 2012. All students from the three campuses will come to Edmonton for one month of intense anatomy course work. Once anatomy is over students will then split off to their respective campuses. This also gives students the opportunity to interact with each other as a full class and get to know each other before their departure. In addition, based on feedback from you we are working towards moving placements out of the summer time and keep them in the traditional term time, September to June. Due to university regulations this cannot happen overnight, small changes will occur over the next two years. For 2012 there will be no placements in the June-July period.

Alberta Rehabilitation Awards (formerly ARCC)

The ARA Annual awards dinner was held in Edmonton on 4 November. A number of PTs were nominated for this event. Nadia Robinson PT at the Rockyview won the Rehab Student Supervisor Award for the work that she does coordinating placements and supervising students at the Rockyview. Congratulations to Nadia and all those nominated.

Clinical Educator of the Year Award—PT

We instituted a new award this year to acknowledge therapists who go above and beyond to provide a meaningful learning experience for their students. This is a student driven award and will be awarded at the annual Rehabs Med Students Association Gala in January. This year 8 PTs were nominated for the award. Christine Mann—Grey Nuns Hospital, Kristen Lis—Beaumont PT, Jon Gabbai—Foothills Medical Centre, Blair Graham—UofA Kingsway, Fraser Dods Physiologist, Kendra Wilson—Dynamic PT, Jeff Begg CSA Physio, Charlotte Powell—University of Alberta Hospital, Jackie Kilgour and Lauren Park both from Foothills Medical Centre. This year’s winner is Jon Gabbai who was nominated by two separate students. Congratulations to Jon and all nominees and than you to all of you for your continued support of clinical education.

Upcoming 2012 placement dates:
- PTHR 521 19 Mar-27 Apr
- PTHR 522/518 30 Apr-8 Jun
- PTHR 523 4 Sep-12 Oct

SHINE clinic
- Physiotherapy students continue to offer services to at risk youth at the SHINE clinic, a student run, interprofessional health clinic in the inner city.
- Physiotherapists who may be interested in volunteering to supervise students, one Saturday afternoon every three months should please contact Mark Hall.