

# UPDATE

Newsletter of The College of Physical Therapists of B.C.

## ACUPUNCTURE

If you are a physical therapist practising acupuncture in British Columbia, read on. The Acupuncture Credentialing Sub-Committee is recommending changes to the College's acupuncture policy effective April 2002 and seeks your comments.

Therapists who are enrolled in Level 1 of the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute, the University of Alberta's Certificate Program in Medical Acupuncture, or the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Pain (ISTOP) but have not yet completed one of these courses may now practice acupuncture or intramuscular stimulation respectively to their level of competence. Physical therapists who are trained elsewhere must apply to the College to have the Board assess their training and practical work experience.

The Sub-Committee has proposed that therapists now practicing acupuncture or intramuscular stimulation who are enrolled in but have not yet completed either the AFCl, U of A program, or ISTOP programs may *not* practice until successful completion of either program's examinations. Physical therapists who are presently practising acupuncture, but who would not be qualified to do so under the proposed amendments to the policy, would be

### ENCLOSURES:

- 1) Policy 10.1
- 2) PNE Examiner Application

given one year in which to upgrade their education and experience, challenge the examinations offered by the approved programs, wind up treatment with their patients, or refer their patients to a physiotherapist or other health care provider who is qualified to practise acupuncture. A copy of the proposed policy is enclosed with this *Update*.

Please forward your comments by letter, fax or email to the office to the attention of the Acupuncture Credentialing Sub-Committee.

## ALLIANCE UPDATE ON CREDENTIALLING

Over the past 6 months, with the revision of the procedures for the credentialling program, the time for processing the credential evaluations has continued to decrease.

Credentialling is the process used to evaluate the education of non-Canadian educated physiotherapists to determine if their education is substantially equivalent to that of a Canadian-educated physiotherapist.

Education of physiotherapists internationally is not very uniform from 2 years training at a high school level to doctoral entry level education. Yet, the title of physiotherapist is used for all these workers. Some physiotherapists have education that is very similar to Canada, while others have little or no education in such areas as assessment, diagnosis, kinesiology, and evidence-based practice.

The evaluation of education credentials to determine substantial equivalence is complex for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it is time consuming for applicants to gather and submit the documents (e.g., transcripts, course outlines, detailed syllabus/course of study, translation of documents to English or French). As well, each applicant's education needs to be individually evaluated as many students from the same educational program, in the same year, have taken different courses and electives. Additionally, many courses have titles (e.g. Physical Therapy 104) that provide no information about what might have been included in the course of study.

The key steps to determine the educational equivalence of an applicant to the minimal standards for the Canadian-educated physiotherapist include:

- Authentication of the documents, the school and the program
- Establishing that the education was for a physiotherapist (e.g., not a physician, physiotherapy technician, kinesiologist)
- Establishing that the education was from an accredited university and at the level of a minimum of a bachelor's degree
- Establishing that the length of the physiotherapy education was at a minimum of 3 year full-time study or 22 months full time study in a problem based curriculum
- Establishing that the coursework studied matches the minimal hours of study and content areas of the Canadian educated physiotherapist such as biological sciences, social sciences, applied & clinical sciences, scientific inquiry, professional issues, and supervised clinical practice
- Ensuring language fluency in English or

#### French

Applicants whose education is found to be substantially equivalent are eligible to apply for the Physiotherapy Competency Examination. Those applicants whose education is not found to be substantially equivalents, but only have relatively "small gaps" in their education are able to apply for Prior Learning Assessment and Remediation (PLAR). The PLAR program uses a variety of approaches including experience review, independent study and additional education for filling the "small gaps" in education to meet the Canadian minimal levels.

If the applicant's gaps in education are not small, the applicant is directed to consider applying to one of the 13 university physiotherapy programs in Canada. The sorts of gaps not considered small include: applicants whose education is not as a physiotherapist, applicants whose education is not at an accredited university degree level, applicants whose education is much shorter in length than the Canadian minimum, or applicants whose education has large course hours gaps compared to Canadian minimal levels.

A Credential Review Committee, that includes stakeholders and experts in credentialling, provides advice and direction on policy matters.

More details on credentialling and prior learning assessment are described in *Opening Doors to Physiotherapy Practice in Canada* available through The Alliance office or for general information see the Website [www.alliancept.org](http://www.alliancept.org) or contact Tabasom Eftekhari, Senior Credentialling Officer at The Alliance office.

*From Alliance Update January 2001*

## **EXPEDITING REGISTRATION OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERIM REGISTRATION**

This article will be of interest to those physiotherapists who act as employers in private practice or managers and directors in hospital settings. To expedite potential employees' interim registration applications, employers, directors and managers can do the following:

Refer foreign-trained graduates to the Alliance's website @ <http://www.alliancept.org> for information about credentialling and the Physiotherapy Competency Examination.

Advise foreign-trained graduates to remain in their home country while credentialling (so they do not undergo a period of unemployment in Canada while waiting for credentialling to be completed).

Advise foreign trained graduates that the College registers interim registrants for one year only.

Advise foreign trained graduates to apply to the College for registration once credentialling is almost complete or completed.

Once credentialling is complete and the applicant is eligible to write the PCE, encourage the applicant to register immediately for both components of the PCE, as registration in both components is a requirement for registration with the College.

Advise applicants the College's Registration Committee meets once per month, generally on the third Thursday, and the Committee reviews all applications for interim registration.

Encourage the applicant to complete the requirements for registration with the College as soon as possible since an applicant may start

work only once all requirements are complete and the Committee has approved the application.

Contact the College to confirm the applicant is registered before the applicant starts work – there have been a number of cases recently of individuals starting work before their applications were complete, which violates the College's governing legislation.

Employers may orient applicants to their new responsibilities without the applicant being registered with the College provided the applicant is not providing physiotherapy services to patients.

## **MEMBER ADVISORY**

### **Advertising**

Many registrants who have incorporated health profession corporations have asked where they use their corporate name. Section 62(8) of the College's Bylaws provides that a health profession corporation must disclose its corporate name on all letterhead and business cards, and in all other advertisements". The College interprets all other advertisements to mean brochures but not office signage, logos, newspaper or other advertisements or patient education materials. The College's Legislative Committee is reviewing section 62(8).

### **Trade names**

Registrants that choose to incorporate may retain their trade names. Thus, S. M. Adams Physiotherapist Corporation may carry on business as Strathcona Physiotherapy Clinic.

### **Charting**

When charting, always remember to put the client's name on every page.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The College's annual general meeting will be held on April 6, 2001 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Radisson President Hotel, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond. An issues forum and a wine and cheese reception will follow the meeting. Each registrant will receive a mailout about this meeting.

## SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2001

January 20, 2001  
 March 10, 2001  
 April 6, 2001  
 May 12, 2001  
 July 7, 2001  
 September 8, 2001  
 November 17, 2001



**Beth Christine Maloney**  
 Born May 3, 1955 Edmonton  
 Died December 3, 1999 Vancouver

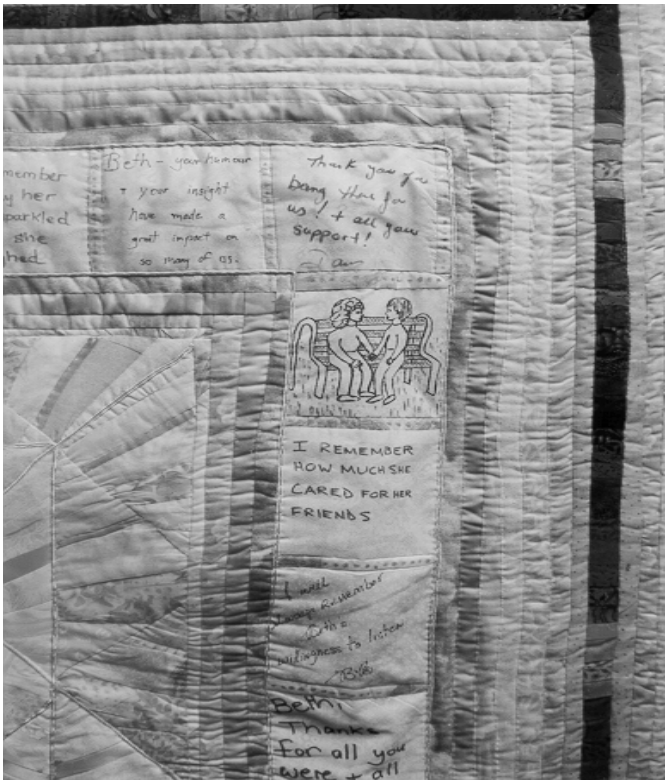
## MEMORIAL TO BETH MALONEY

In December 2000, an eight-foot square memorial quilt in honour of the College's former Registrar, Beth Maloney, was unveiled at GF Strong Rehab. Centre in Vancouver. Jan Bednarczyk, a former GF Strong Physical Therapist, created the quilt. Jan incorporated hand written memories about Beth from colleagues and friends into the design of this beautiful and meaningful creation. The quilt will be on display at various locations and at College's annual general meeting in April 2001.

"There are not words to describe Beth and how I feel about her life and her death... so I made a quilt. I want people who knew her to remember her, and I want people who did not know her to be enticed to learn more about her so I made a quilt," said Jan. I am sure Jan

spoke for many when she said, "In life, Beth was a friend, a coworker, a mentor, and a steady guiding light to me. In death, it feels like she still is. Thank you Beth."

Beth died on December 3, 1999 and leaves behind her two children and husband. At the request of her family, the Beth Maloney Memorial Fund was created at GF Strong. Plans for the use of this fund will be announced later this year. Donations may be made to the BC Rehab. Foundation, 4255 Laurel St., Vancouver, BC V5Z 2G9.



## FAREWELL TO DEPARTED BOARD MEMBERS

The College wishes to extend its warmest wishes to Linda Baldwin and Donald Hume for their outstanding service to the Board as Public Representatives for over six years. Linda served on the Registration and Quality Assur-

ance Committees, while Don Hume served on the Inquiry Committee. Each thoughtfully considered the issues and were vigilant to protect the public interest.

## WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Douglas Dorward and Mardy Scales have joined the Board as Public Representatives. Doug, a Vancouver lawyer working for the BC Teachers Federation has been appointed to the College's Inquiry Committee. Mardy, a retired school administrator from Terrace, has been appointed to the Quality Assurance Committee. Welcome!

## WCB UPDATE

In late December, the College expressed concern to WCB about a letter that it had sent to the 67 physical therapists who had not yet signed the WCB/PABC contract. The letter could have been misinterpreted to mean that WCB would raise the issue of failure to sign the contract as a disciplinary issue before the College. After discussion, the WCB recently issued a letter of clarification to the physical therapists involved.

The College and WCB continue to work on the development of an audit protocol under the PABC/WCB contract. A WCB/PABC Liaison Committee Update in *Directions* indicated that *all the issues have been resolved*. This should be interpreted to mean that the College and WCB have agreed to work together to develop a protocol for auditing physical therapists under the contract and the College has obtained WCB's commitment not to proceed with an audit until such a protocol has been developed.

## CONTINUING COMPETENCY UPDATE

Margaret Warcup will host a workshop on continuing competency for the Management Division on April 7, 2001 as part of the Physiotherapy Association of BC's annual meetings. There will also be a continuing competency workshop in the North Island in the summer at a date to be announced.

## PRACTICE HOURS UPDATE

During the renewals of registration for 2001, the Membership Coordinator received many questions about the 1200 practice hour requirement. The registration renewal form asks for registrants to report "clinical hours", which was understandably confusing to members in light of the continuing competency requirement to report practice hours. The registration form will be amended next year to allow members to report practice hours accrued in 2000 and 2001. The Board will be publishing a policy with the next *Update* about what constitutes a practice hour.



Many registrants have asked about the implications to accruing 1200 practice hours if they choose to take maternity or other leave over the next five years. Regardless of what leave a registrant takes, the registrant is obliged to accrue 1200 practice hours in a five year cycle; therefore registrants should plan accordingly.

## RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR SHEILA MANNELL FROM ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

May 30, 2001 7:30 - 11:00 PM  
Cecil Green, UBC  
Hors d'oeuvres and desserts  
Tickets \$50.00  
Call 806-8115 for tickets before April 15, 2000

## INQUIRY COMMITTEE DECISIONS/ACTIONS

Since the last newsletter, the College has reached decisions or closed files in three complaint regarding billing; three complaints dealing with competence; six regarding professional conduct; and one regarding use of auxiliary personnel.

**Competence** A patient alleged that a physical therapist caused her harm through the mismanagement of her back condition, which resulted in her hospitalization. The investigation showed that the treatment provided was appropriate for the management of the patient's condition and that there was no evidence to suggest that the treatment protocol exacerbated the patient's condition or caused the injury that required her hospitalization. The Committee decided to take no further action.

**Competence** A patient complained that a physical therapist had used healing touch against her wishes and did not exercise professional judgement. The investigation showed that there were communication problems around whether the patient had consented to the use of healing touch but insufficient evidence to suggest that the patient had not provided informed consent. However, the investigation also revealed no evidence that the physical therapist had followed Clinical Practice Statement No. 10 on Non-Traditional and Emerging Treatment Approaches or No. 1

on Clinical Records, which sets out the charting standards for physical therapists. The physical therapist agreed to have a competency assessment and chart audit.

**Professional conduct** Three registrants had not repaid the College an advance given to all UBC graduates in 1995 to enable them to enroll in the Physiotherapy Competency Examination when it was first required. The Committee directed the Registrar to deal with these three registrants directly on registration renewal to recover the money and closed its files.

**Professional conduct** The Billing Integrity Program of MSP advised the College that a physical therapist might be using an unqualified assistant. An investigation did not show any inappropriate delegation of treatment or that the assistant was engaging in any duties that should be performed only by a physical therapist. As a result, the Committee took no further action.

**Competence** A patient complained that a physical therapist provided him with inappropriate treatment for a neck injury, which was alleged to have aggravated his condition and increased his pain. The subsequent investigation showed conflicting evidence on a number of matters. The evidence did not substantiate the allegations therefore the Committee did not take any further action.

**Billing** A patient complained about a billing dispute with a physical therapist on a WCB claim and requested compensation. The Committee advised the complainant that the College acts in the public interest and thus, does not have the authority to offer compensation in billing disputes. However, the Committee followed up with Worker's Compensation Board, which, in the circumstances, decided to reimburse the patient. Under section 33(6) of the *Health Professions Act*, the Committee took no further action.

**Billing** The Billing Integrity Program of MSP referred a final audit report on a physical therapist to the College. The Inquiry Committee found that to address the concerns raised in the audit the registrant had already proceeded to make changes in his billing practice, initiated a semi-annual internal audit and implemented a computerized voice recognition system for charting. The Committee decided under section 33(6) of the *Health Professions Act* to take no further action.

**Billing** The Billing Integrity Program of MSP referred a final audit report on a physical therapist to the College. In reviewing the audit, the Inquiry Committee recognized a concern about the therapist's billing practice for acupuncture. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the Billing Integrity Program had made the registrant aware of the inappropriate billing and the registrant had made the required changes. No further action was taken.

**Use of Auxiliary Personnel** A physical therapist complained that a kinesiologist was falsely advertising that he had a physiotherapist on staff and was billing as a physiotherapist. The Committee requested the kinesiologist to cease and desist.

**Professional conduct** A colleague complained that a physical therapist poached one of his patients and assaulted him one and a half years ago. These allegations arose in the context of the breakdown of a multidisciplinary practice. The subsequent investigation did not substantiate these allegations and the Committee decided to take no further action.

**Professional conduct** WCB rejected a claim for services because a registrant had been inactive since January 1, 2000. The Committee directed the Registrar to address this matter directly with the registrant.

**Professional conduct** The registrant had failed the Physiotherapy National Exam for the second time. Under the College's Bylaws, registration automatically expires within seven days of the College being notified of the registrant's failure unless the Registration Committee agrees to extend it. Although the registrant applied for extension pending the results of her appeal to the Alliance about her failing mark, the Registration Committee did not hear the application until three days after the registrant was told the registration would expire. The registrant worked on two of the days alleging that she did not understand she was to stop work. When the matter was brought to her attention, she stopped work immediately. The Committee directed the Registrar to address this matter directly with the registrant.

**Professional conduct** A patient complained that a physical therapist used inappropriate language during the course of treatment. The therapist admitted and the evidence was clear that he had used unprofessional language with this patient. The Committee decided under section 36(1)(d) of the *Health Professions Act* to request the physical therapist to enter into a consent order to provide the patient with a written apology and refrain from using inappropriate language in the future.

## DISCIPLINE PANEL DECISION

**Stephen Parker** A Discipline Panel found Mr. Stephen Parker to have breached his undertaking to write a paper to the satisfaction of the Inquiry Committee that demonstrated he understood the appropriate use of ultrasound. As such, the Panel found him to be guilty of professional misconduct under section 53(1) of the College's Bylaws. By way of penalty, the Discipline Panel reprimanded Mr. Parker, assessed the costs of the hearing against him, and limited his practice, effective December 13, 2000, to prohibit him from using ultrasound until such time as he chooses to satisfy

the undertakings.



### Registrations Cancelled for Non-Payment of Fees as of February 1, 2001

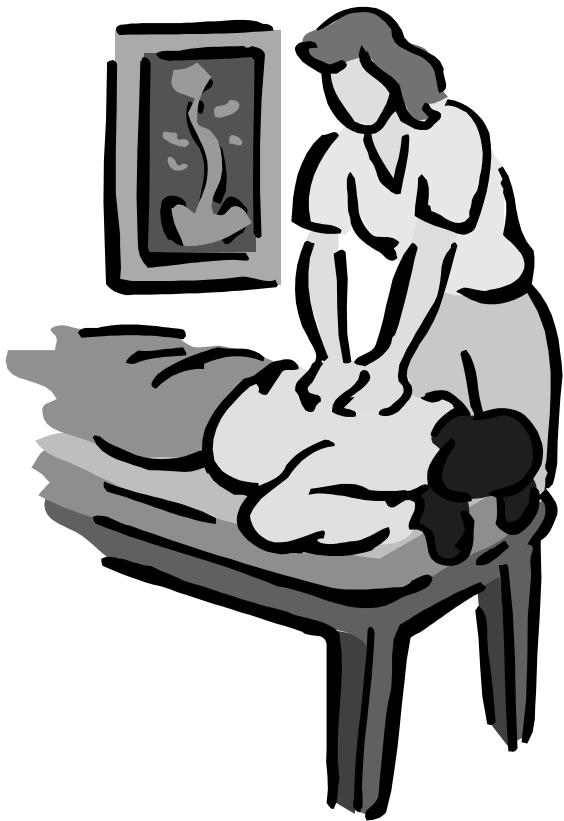
Begg, Michelle	Leung, Fay
Brackstone, Karen	Loadman, Pamela
Brovender, Samuel	McClintock,
Joanne	
Bruce, Beth	Mondor, Danielle
Butler, Joan	Morgan, Marion
Capewell, Janet	Pellizzi, Ivana
D'Souza, Vanessa	Perry, Cindy
Derzaph, Jodi	Pita-Goodis, Irene
Green, Deborah	Senser, Suzanne
Hoeven, Hank	Sew, Mary
Thompson, Suzanne	Tilbury, Ted
Vanstone, Ruth	Vojvodic, Djura
Walker, Greg	

### Registrants Reinstated to Full Registration Status after Non-Payment of Fees

Reinstatement Date	
Brovender, Samuel	Feb. 7, 2001
Greene, Deborah	Feb. 6, 2001
Pita-Goodis, Irene	Feb. 7, 2001

### Registrants Reinstated to Inactive Registration Status after Non-Payment of Fees

Reinstatement Date	
Thompson, Suzanne	Feb. 8, 2001



## Positions Available



The Okanagan Similkameen Health Region (OSHR) currently operates hospitals in Kelowna, Penticton, Oliver, Princeton and Summerland, as well as long-term care facilities in these communities and in Osoyoos & Keremeos. Public Health, Community Care and Mental Health services and programs are also offered Region-wide.

The Okanagan & Similkameen Valleys offer a unique lifestyle rich with recreational and family oriented activities, affordable housing and first class educational facilities. From lakeside to mountain, this semi arid year-round destination appeals to outdoor enthusiasts and wine lovers alike. The varied landscape and moderate climate help to create ideal opportunities for golfing, water sports, hiking, climbing, winter sports and, of course, an outstanding quality of life.

Come & join our team! Apply for permanent and casual vacancies to:

Human Resources Service Center  
c/o Penticton Regional Hospital  
550 Carmi Avenue  
Penticton, BC V2A 3G6

Phone: 250-492-9024  
Fax: 250-492-9025

Multidisciplinary office with three chiropractors, and two registered massage therapists, looking for a physiotherapist to share office space.

The office is located at the North end of Nanaimo, which is rapidly growing and expanding. The office is very tastefully and professionally decorated. The office has two fully trained office staff with years of experience. The office is highly motivated and is looking for someone to work in an inter-disciplinary setting.

Please call 390-2993.



Become part of a dynamic Health Care Centre on the Broadway Corridor at Cambie.

Feel comfortable in a 2000 sqft Facility that is PRAISED for its beautiful appearance, good access and excellent service.

Ideal for an established Physical Therapist to move practice, or a motivated Physical Therapist to develop a practice in a short period of time.

Overhead expense is guaranteed to be the most reasonable in Vancouver.

Please call Dr. Rivera 671-8058



## Vancouver/Richmond Health Board

*Working Together for Better Health*

### PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPIST

In School Support Program/Nursing Support Services

#### Regular full-time position available

The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board is currently recruiting for an enthusiastic physiotherapist to join our multi-disciplinary team working with special needs children in the Vancouver School District. You will provide consultative services to students, kindergarten to Grade 12, who are referred to our program.

Primary responsibilities include assessments, provision of recommendations to school personnel and families, training and monitoring of special education assistants, determination of equipment needs, assessment of safety and accessibility issues, development and provision of workshops and inservices and liaison with outside medical and educational agencies.

#### Qualifications:

- Graduation from university or approved school with a degree or diploma in Physiotherapy.
- Registration with the College of Physical Therapists of BC.
- Preferably two years paediatric experience.
- Own transportation required for which mileage is reimbursed.

#### Salary Range:

\$22.77 - \$28.38 per hour

Please send a detailed resume outlining qualifications and experience, quoting **Reference # U-P00.047** by **March 15, 2001** to:

Human Resources Department  
Vancouver/Richmond Health Board  
520 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4H5  
Fax: (604) 736-7389, Email: [abatt@vrhb.bc.ca](mailto:abatt@vrhb.bc.ca)

For further information regarding this and other opportunities with the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, please visit our site at [www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)

We wish to thank all applicants, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

*The Update* is a publication of the College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia and is intended to keep members informed about current professional issues. It is published three times a year – February, June and September. We welcome information of interest to the CPTBC membership. Please note: the editor retains the right to determine content.

**ADVERTISING RATES AND DEADLINES**

Advertisements for employment opportunities and educational/course announcements are suitable for publication.

**Deadlines:** January 15, May 15, and August 15

**Rates:** \$50 up to 3 ¼ " x 3 ¼ "  
 \$75 3 ¼" x 4 ½ "  
 \$100 3 ¼ " x 8 ½ "

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