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

TEAM UPDATE

We welcome new team members:

Paul Oramasionwu is a Masters’ student at the Intelligent Assistive Technology and Systems Lab at the University of Toronto. Under the supervision of Dr. Alex Mihailidis, Paul’s research will focus applying computer vision techniques for obstacle classification on an anti-collision and navigation system for powered wheelchairs. Paul holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba.

Pouria TalebiFard, Masters' student in Laboratory for Computational Intelligence at the University of British Columbia, Department of Computer Science, working under the supervision of Dr. Ian Mitchell. Pouria holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of British Columbia. His research interests are in areas of machine learning and robotics.

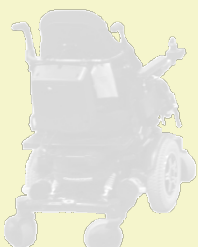
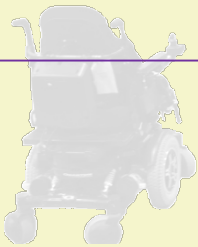
Two new research assistants (RA)s have joined the P2 team:

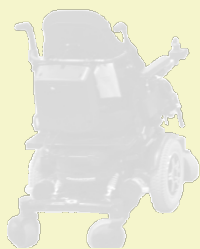
Marie-Pierre Johnson is an occupational therapist with 15 years of experience. She graduated from McGill University and has worked in a rehabilitation center in Quebec City for 10 years. Her work experience also includes two years at a wheelchair clinic where she assessed posture and the need for mobility aids. She is now working part-time in a multidisciplinary clinic with a multiple sclerosis clientele and has joined the CanWheel project recently as a RA, working with Dr. François Routhier.

Deborah Stewart will be joining the P2 Halifax site as a RA.

P5 has also hired a coordinator, Mark Burley who is also an occupational therapist (OT) at the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre in Halifax. He works in outpatient musculoskeletal rehab, with an emphasis on seating and mobility, and is a part of the outpatient Amputee Rehab Team. He received his OT degree from Dalhousie University in 1996.

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From left to right: Mark Burley, Marie-Pierre Johnson, Paul Oramasionwu and Pouria TalebiFard.

KUDOS

Congrats to Ben for winning the Age+ Prize from CIHR Institute of Aging!

Alexandra Korotchenko successfully defended her comprehensive exams in January 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

The branding statement for acknowledging the CanWheel group is "**CIHR CanWheel Emerging team in Wheeled Mobility for Older Adults (AMG-100925).**" The grant number is listed at the end of this statement. Please use this statement for future publications.

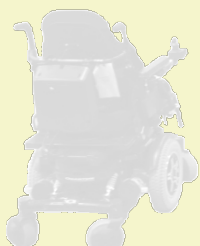
Mortenson, W.B., Hurd Clarke, L. Best, K. "Caught in the middle": Prescribers' attitudes towards and experiences with older adults as candidates for power mobility devices. Accepted in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, March, 2012.

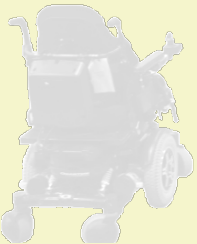
Chamberlain, A., Zonneveld, S., Mortenson, W.B., Miller, W.C., Rushton, P., Demers, L. Older adults' experiences of power mobility: A longitudinal mixed-methods study. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) National Conference, Quebec, PQ, June 2012.

Mortenson, W.B., Rushton, P., Demers, L., Miller, W.C. "There's lots of compromises": Experiences of Canadian power mobility users over time. Accepted as a podium presentation at the CAOT National Conference, Quebec, PQ, June 2012.

Routhier, F., Rushton P.W., Mortenson, W.B, Demers L., Miller W.C. Portrait de la mobilité des aînés qui utilisent un fauteuil roulant motorisé : résultats préliminaires. Journée Ressource de l'Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec. Quebec City, Canada. June 1, 2012.

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Rushton, P., Auger, C., Mortenson, W.B., Demers, L Miller, W. C. Occupational engagement among power wheelchair users. Accepted as a podium presentation at the CAOT National Conference, Quebec, PQ, June 2012.

Rushton, P.W., Demers, L. Reliability and Validity of the Wheelchair Use Confidence Scale (WheelCon-P). Accepted as podium presentation at the CAOT National Conference, Quebec, PQ, June 2012.

Rushton P.W., Demers L., Routhier F., and CanWheel Research Team. Mobility Among New and Experienced Older Adult Power Wheelchair Users. Carrefour des connaissances 2002-2012: Célébrez la qualité et la convergence des idées. Montreal, PQ, Canada. March 27, 2012.

Smith C., Rushton P.W., Kirby R.L. The natural history and measurement of power wheelchair use: a progress report. Proceedings Rehabilitation Research Day, Halifax, NS, Canada. October 25, 2011.

Rushton PW, Demers L, Mortenson, WB. The Impact of Older Adults' Use of Power Wheelchairs on Their Informal Caregivers. International Federation on Aging 11th Global Conference on Aging: Ageing Connects. Prague, Czech Republic. May 2012 (submitted).



Rushton PW, Demers L, Routhier F, and CanWheel Research Team. Changes that Occur Among New and Experienced Older Adult Power Wheelchair Users: A Three Month Follow Up. Annual RESNA Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, June/July 2012 (submitted).

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

ANNUAL MEETING

2012 CanWheel Trainee conference & Annual Team Meeting

The planning of the trainee conference is moving along smoothly thanks to the organizing committee: Debbie Field, Alex Korotchenko and Megan MacGillivray. The trainee conference is scheduled to occur before Canadian Association on Gerontology (Oct 17 & 18, 2012) and will be a 1.5 day event. Look for an update soon!

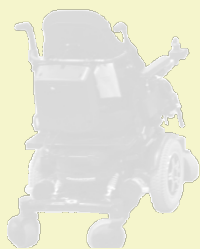
For more information on the CAG conference click [here](#).

PROJECT UPDATES

P1

Caregiver recruitment is now complete. Analysis of the qualitative data from the interviews with wheelchair users, wheelchair prescribers, and caregivers is continuing. Two manuscripts are about to be submitted for peer review.

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P2

The P2 Project is now collecting 1 year data! To date, we have 97 wheelchair users and 25 caregivers enrolled in the study. Our RAs have been working hard to recruit participants with new power wheelchair users and caregivers as the current focus. P2 has had staff change in the past couple of months. We say farewell to Valerie Lemay, Quebec City RA and Lori Kennedy, Halifax RA – thanks to you both for all of your hard work!

The P2 team has also been working hard to showcase our project and share our results locally, nationally, and internationally. We have had ten abstracts accepted and/or submitted see Kudos section for more info. P2 is also putting together a symposium for the upcoming Canadian Association on Gerontology Conference in Vancouver in October 2012! Stay tuned!

P3

P3 is currently still working on purchasing the powerchairs. Pooja Viswanathan has submitted her thesis. It is planned that a senior student of Dr. Alan Mackworth will work on the CanWheel projects after the summer.

P4

Dr. François Routhier is working on implementing the datalogger in Montreal and Halifax. He is also working on an analysis tool for the data logger and is trying to develop an algorithm for dealing with missing data.

P5

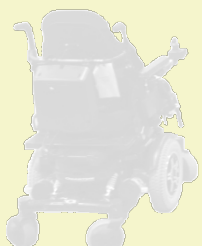
Halifax ethics is completed and they are currently finalizing the protocols. Training is scheduled to be March 29-30, 2012 in Halifax. The project will cover the expenses of 1 representative per site to undergo the training session.

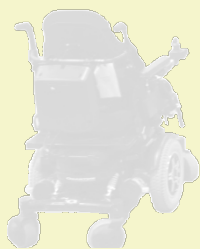
CANWHEEL WEBSITE

CanWheel logos will be available for download from our website [here](#). This folder has the CanWheel logos, CIHR and CanWheel logos as well as logos with our branding statement for the team to use.

For suggestions and feedback on the CanWheel website and Facebook page please email [Elmira](#).

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

RESNA 2012 Annual Conference

Next year's RESNA conference will be held in Baltimore, June 28-July 3, 2012. The deadline for scientific papers is January 16, 2012. Workshop and course proposals are due December 5, 2011. Information available [here](#).

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Annual Conference

The 2012 conference will focus on the progress in rehabilitation research. It will be held in Vancouver, October 9-13, 2012. Poster and paper submissions are due March 16, 2012. For more details please visit [here](#).

Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) conference

As previously mentioned the CAG conference will be October 18-20, 2012 in Vancouver. CanWheel will be aligning our team meeting with this conference. Team members are highly encouraged to submit abstracts (due April 2) to this conference. For more information please head [here](#).

Gerontological Society of America's 65th Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, California from November 14-18, 2012. Abstracts due March 15, 2012. Click [here](#) for more info.

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