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Welcome to the CanWheel Quarterly!

A place to find out what is going on in the CanWheel world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elmira Chan will be going on a year maternity leave as of January 2013. Madeline Hannah-Leith, Sarah McCuaig, and Kate Keetch, will be available to support CanWheel.

TEAM UPDATE

We welcome new team members:



Koosha Khalvati is a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science at the University of British Columbia. He is a member of laboratory for computational intelligence (LCI) and his main research interest is decision making under uncertainty. Koosha received his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Tehran in 2010.



Kate Keetch is taking over research coordination responsibilities at the GF Strong Rehab Research Lab while Elmira Chan is on maternity leave. She obtained her Doctorate in Psychomotor Behaviour from McMaster University in 2009. Her main research focus was on effective practice scheduling in motor (re)learning in special populations examining such topics as self-regulation and goal-setting. She first started working in UBC's Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in 2011.




Beomjoon Kim is a Master's student at McGill under the supervision of Dr. Joelle Pineau. He holds a joint degree in Statistics and Computer Science from University of Waterloo. His current work focuses on autonomous navigation of the wheelchair robot using artificial intelligence. His other interest is application of machine learning in computer vision.

KUDOS

Congratulations to Dr. Ben Mortenson, who has been offered a faculty position at the University of British Columbia!

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Congratulations to Dr. Pooja Viswanathan for successfully defending her PhD thesis!

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

2013 CANWHEEL ANNUAL TEAM MEETING


Next year's CanWheel meeting will occur on June 20 (tentative date) in Vancouver. This will align with the RESNA/ICORR meeting on June 19-26 in Seattle. For those who are interested in attending, please conspire to submit some of your CanWheel findings.

PROJECT UPDATES

P1

P1 is still continuing to analyze data. Vancouver has completed all interviews with users and care providers. P1 has presented at RESNA, FICCDAT, UK Gerontology Conference, and CAG. Three publications are currently in press or in review.

P2




P2 currently has 123 wheelchair users and 33 caregivers enrolled in the study. Recruitment will end in December 2012. P2 is looking at completing data collection for power wheelchair users by 2014 or early 2015.

P3

P3 is currently scheduling regular meetings with the team members. Pooja Viswanathan is now the P3 project coordinator. P3 is looking into doing a Wizard of Oz study which allows testing of the user interface without robotics infrastructure (hidden researcher remotely controls the wheelchair to act according to proposed interface; other researchers stay with the participant to collect data (e.g. surveys, think-out-loud). P3 is also planning trials in Vancouver and is trying to establish connections with local long term care facilities. The team is also looking to collaborate with the P1 team on this study.

P4



Ian Dewancker, MSc student working with Dr. Ian Mitchell is currently working under this project. He will train smartphones on images of rooms in the home or office so that the smartphone can determine what room the wheelchair user is in. In the future, Ian may integrate data from magnetometer and/or wifi localization. The future outlook for this project is an indoor GPS combined with an outdoor GPS system to identify which building the user is in.

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P5

All sites have received ethics approval and funds have been distributed. RAs have been trained and data collection has begun. There will be a major uptake in recruitment to begin when P2 stops collecting in December 2012 due to recruitment from the same patient database.

CANWHEEL WEBSITE

A staff page has been added to the CanWheel website along with an updated team photo.

CANWHEEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Four individuals have been identified and agreed to be on the CAC until 2015: Robert Levy, the managing director in Criterion Health USA; Francois Michaud from the University of Sherbrooke; Ase Brandt from the Danish Centre for Assistive Technology R&D; and Andrew Frank from Northwick Park Hospital, UK.

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CONFERENCE CORNER

RESNA Deadlines

December 17, 2012: Instructional course and workshop proposals

January 14, 2013: Scientific and Student Scientific Papers

April 26, 2013: Student Design Competition

For more information, please visit [here](#).

ICORR Deadlines

January 25, 2013: Deadline for papers and workshops

March 15, 2013: Notification of acceptance

April 19, 2013: Early registration ends

For more information, please visit the ICORR website [here](#).

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

If you are interested in broader travel, please consider submitting a CanWheel poster-paper to the IAGG on June 23-27, 2013 in Seoul, Korea. Conference information available [here](#).

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Have a happy winter holiday!