

NOW MORE THAN EVER

REHAB IMPACT 2021



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COVID-19 highlights the importance of rehabilitation and the need for it to be part of the global public health agenda. Many are living today with mid- and long-term consequences of COVID-19 and in need of rehabilitation to recover from the disease.

– World Health Organization 2020



Rehab Impact is published annually by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. It is distributed worldwide to more than 8,000 alumni, universities, government bodies, organizations and friends of the faculty. The University of Alberta and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 territory, and respect the histories, languages and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

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Special thanks to all faculty and staff for their contributions!



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THANK YOU!

This year generous donors gave **\$2,887,286** including gifts, grants, sponsorships, pledges and bequests to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. To support research, teaching and service, contact john.voyer@ualberta.ca or 780-248-5781.

Our work matters now more than ever



If ever a year demonstrated the impact of rehabilitation, 2020-21 was it. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, rehabilitation professionals have been on the frontline – supporting the long journey of recovery and helping people heal both physically and mentally.

But this past year was just the beginning. The World Health Organization estimates that 2.4 billion people globally are living with a health condition that benefits from rehabilitation. And with new guestions around long-haul COVID and the explosion of telehealth and remote assessment, rehabilitation professionals - including graduates of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine - will continue to be in great demand as health-care leaders in a post-pandemic world.

Now more than ever, our students and instructors have demonstrated strength and resilience. Our students stayed curious and engaged through isolation and online learning, exceeding all expectations. Our instructors have gone above and beyond to keep our community clinics open, giving students hands-on experiences and enhancing the lives of patients like Chris Paliwoda, who is learning to walk again after a stroke thanks to the Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic (see p. 16).

Across the globe, our alumni showed unwavering commitment to their clients through virtual care and ever-changing clinical restrictions. Despite COVID protocols and lab closures, our researchers achieved the faculty's highest-ever research revenue, and we celebrated a new Canada Research Chair focused on adult reading disorders (see p. 12). Most remarkably, amid a global pandemic, unprecedented budget cuts and organizational change, our dedicated faculty and staff continue to give their very best.

As I step down as Dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, I want to thank you for your support over the past nine years. It has been an honour and privilege to be part of the passion and determination with which this faculty strives to enhance lives through rehabilitation.



R.G. (Bob) Haennel, PhD, FACSM Professor and Dean, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 3 people around the world are estimated to be living with a health condition that benefits from rehabilitation. Source: World Health Organization



Rehab Med spinoff company True Angle named **Edmonton Startup of the Year** by the National Angel Capital Organization (NACO) for the launch of Mobili-T, a "mobile therapist" device and app that helps cancer patients regain their ability to swallow **34** faculty members

997 graduate students



total research revenue for the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the highest in our history!

Celebrating Rehab Impact

Here are some of our biggest achievements from the past year!

Communication Sciences and Disorders' Jacqueline Cummine appointed **Canada Research Chair** in the Neuroscience of Literacy (Read the story on page 12)



52 administrative and support staff

10 post-doctoral fellows

The Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) celebrates its **35th anniversary** in 2021



6 ualberta.ca/rehabilitation



\$714,000

Alberta provincial grant will help our Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) pilot a **Veteran-Friendly Campus** (Read more on page 19)

Three Rehab Med researchers were awarded a total of **\$1M in strategic** operating grants from the Arthritis Society of Canada to study solutions for people living with rheumatoid and osteoarthritis



Allyson Jones Physical Therapy



Lauren Beaupre Physical Therapy



Mary Forhan Occupational Therapy

Rehab Med and the COVID-19 pandemic: RESEARCH

Rehabilitation needs and physiotherapy intervention for Long COVID

Many people with COVID-19 have symptoms for months after the acute phase is over. This condition is called "Long COVID," which includes breathlessness, fatigue and exhaustion – symptoms that affect patients' normal daily functioning. Two related studies aim to better understand these patients' needs, their access to health services, and the effectiveness of rehabilitation, especially tailored physiotherapy intervention. The results will improve rehabilitation for Long COVID in Canada and inform international guidelines. Experts believe COVID-19's "fourth wave" will be rehabilitation. With an increased focus on rehabilitation to support patients recovering from the virus, researchers in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine are responding with innovative approaches and solutions. Here's a glimpse of some of their work in progress.

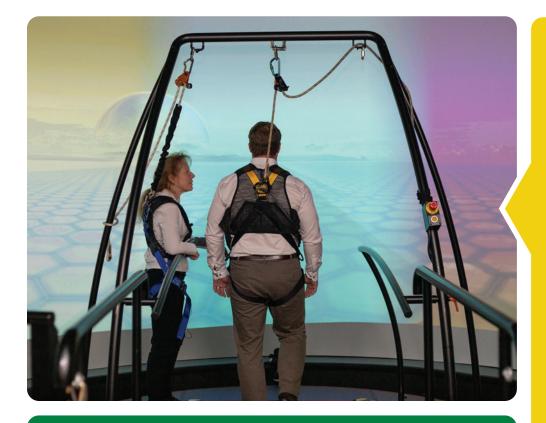


Impact of COVID-19 on Canadian OT Curricula

How have professional rehabilitation programs been impacted by changes forced by the COVID-19? This study investigates changes to academic curricula and fieldwork, instructional and assessment methods implemented by Canadian occupational therapy programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to understand the impact on student learning and outcomes.

Hearing loss during COVID-19

What is the impact of COVID-19 on adults with hearing loss? For individuals with disabilities, previously established routines to accommodate their condition may no longer be feasible. The team collected survey data from 120 people to quantify the extent of these challenges and how supports are used (for example, their ability to participate in online or remote meetings).



Open-access telehealth toolkit for speech-language pathologists

COVID-19 halted much speech-language pathology practice, followed by an uptake of telehealth. Practice via telehealth helped stop the spread of the virus, but this rapid change posed many challenges, including assessing communication disorders. The research team is now collecting data and plans for a telehealth assessment toolkit to be available to all practicing SLPs in 2022.

Mental health support for first responders affected by the pandemic

Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) received \$362,000 from the Alberta government's COVID-19 Mental Health and Addiction Action Plan for two programs that build resilience or rehabilitate those struggling with PTSD or moral injury. One of those programs aims to make HiMARC's motion-assisted, multi-modular memory desensitization and reconsolidation (3MDR) immersive virtual reality therapy available for public safety personnel, front-line health workers, military members and veterans who might have experienced trauma as a result of dealing with COVID-19.

Rehab Med and the COVID-19 pandemic: CLINICAL CARE



Since the pandemic began, rehabilitation professionals have been on the frontline helping patients infected with COVID-19 return to baseline function, activity and work. Post-pandemic, this role is only increasing. We are so proud of our faculty, alumni and community partners as they lead the way to new models of clinical care.

Telerehabilitation: Working with patients in a time of social distancing

How do you treat a patient when you can't see them in person? It's a question many rehabilitation professionals have asked themselves in the past year.

"Tele-care has been a growing service in all areas of health care," says Bernadette Martin, associate dean of professional programs and strategic initiatives in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. "COVID-19 has now led more people to try to figure out what can be done when you can't be in the same room as a patient, and it has increased the need to adopt this kind of care approach."

In some cases, the technology itself can offer new possibilities, such as offering appointments that allow observation of the patient by an occupational therapist in the home setting and educating a family member to assist the patient effectively.

The impacts of these new skills will last long after the COVID-19 response has passed, Martin says. "More therapists will feel comfortable using the technology, and we'll see telerehab integrated into care. This will mean much easier access for patients, especially those who live in remote areas."

Though we are distancing, many clients still need to keep their rehabilitation programs going. For example, a person with a language impairment can still meet with their speech-language pathologist remotely. Individuals experiencing mental health challenges can access their occupational therapist for care. And patients recovering from joint surgery can connect with their physiotherapist to ensure they are exercising properly to achieve the best possible outcome. Telerehabilitation allows rehabilitation professionals to continue to provide the care Albertans and Canadians so desperately still need during this unprecedented time.



COVID-19 One-year later: Tips from the pros

Many of us have been working from home for more than a year. Hunched over on kitchen stools, working around the clock, constantly distracted. How are we feeling? How are we sleeping? What have we done to our bodies? And what do rehabilitation professionals have to say about it?

MORE ONLINE: Find advice about staying well during the pandemic ualberta.ca/rehabilitation

- How to create a healthy workspace
- How to save your voice while social distancing
 Tips to combat pandemic insomnia
- Getting back to exercise

ISTAR offers virtual appointments during COVID-19

The Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) has long used telehealth to reach clients in rural and remote communities. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the clinic transitioned entirely to virtual appointments. ISTAR therapists continue to see clients remotely and eventually in person at Corbett Hall, where the clinic relocated in the fall of 2020.

Lezlie Naka and her 12-year-old son Kaden live in Saskatchewan. Naka says Kayden benefited from remote therapy: "If we had to wait for the COVID-19 restrictions to be lifted for in-person appointments, it would have delayed his therapy process."

4,101 clients received a total of **4,107** hours of remote therapy at ISTAR in 2020-21

• How to control your pandemic drinking



Rehab Med and the COVID-19 pandemic: TEACHING & LEARNING

In March 2020, all classes at the University of Alberta were moved online as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Students in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine learned remotely for the 2020-21 school year, with the exception of a few lab-based courses. It hasn't been any easy year, but we are so proud of our students' resilience and commitment to learning.



Moving the 2020-21 fall and spring graduation festivities celebration online meant that students and faculty had to embrace a new way of sharing their congratulations and farewells. But a virtual convocation made it possible for family and friends to join in from around the world – approximately 25% of viewers watched from outside Canada!







What has been the hardest part of being an FRM student during the COVID-19 pandemic?

"It's been challenging moving to a new city and living alone and not having the chance to make social connections."

"Without a doubt, the Zoom fatigue was truly real."

What has been a highlight of your life as a student over the past year?

"I've really enjoyed the effort people have made to remain connected despite all of us being at home. Online game nights and group exercise have been a good way to have fun on study breaks!"

Are there any advantages to learning online?

"I haven't had to deal with the LRT breaking down or waiting outside in the cold for the bus. A blessing in disguise!"

"Being able to re-watch recordings gives me the opportunity to clarify information on my own time and really absorb the information."











Has anything you've learned as an FRM student helped build your resilience to get you through the past year?

"I've had the opportunity to see how much of a community FRM is and seeking support from friends and colleagues has helped me build resilience."

"As an FRM student, I've learned lots about the importance of physical activity. It has been so beneficial to my mental health, but also my sleep schedule, appetite and focus during long Zoom classes!"



Communication sciences and disorders professor Jacqueline Cummine holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC), which awards \$500,000 over five years to researchers acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

Turning a page: New Canada Research Chair investigates the neuroscience of literacy

Between 25 and 40% of adult Albertans have difficulties reading and writing. Most of us don't stop to think about it, but literacy skills have a profound impact on our well-being and social life, especially in today's digital society. Rehab Med's Jacqueline Cummine is diving deep into the study of adult literacy challenges as the faculty's newest Canada Research Chair. Her work with neurodevelopmental reading disorders such as dyslexia inspired her to examine everyday obstacles faced by Canadians with low literacy, including academic challenges, employment barriers, and physical and mental health concerns.

For some, the thought of composing an email or writing a paper for a class causes overwhelming anxiety and social withdrawal.

What is the problem you've identified?

I often ask people to consider the article they are reading right now. What goes into your ability to decode and derive meaning from the words on this page? How much effort does it take you to read each sentence? Now imagine the last email you sent. How did you go about taking a thought and encoding it into letters and words for a colleague or friend to read?

For some adults, these skills are relatively automatic and their self-efficacy – the belief in our abilities to complete these tasks – is high. For others, the thought of composing an email or writing a paper for a class causes overwhelming anxiety, social withdrawal and low self-efficacy. These individuals have avoided the act of reading and interacting with written stimuli their entire lives, because it's uncomfortable and there's often a lot of associated stigma.

What is the 'neuroscience of literacy'?

We're applying brain-behaviour based science to look at literacy via spelling, writing and reading to better understand the profiles of individuals with and without reading impairments. What are the consequences of reading impairment on everyday functioning? We use a variety of approaches to probe these questions, including brain imaging techniques (e.g. fMRI, DTI, rsMRI, tDCS) and behavioural performances (e.g. response times, accuracy, error types).

How will your research in this area help adults with literacy impairments?

The dyslexia diagnosis rate in adults can be as low as 5%, because adults with a reading disability are often reluctant to seek assistance or have their reading tested. It feels uncomfortable, understandably. One of our main focuses is on rehabilitation through skill-based and confidence-based training. But as researchers we can only rely on those individuals who are willing to self-report. We're working with individuals and community organizations to allow more self-reporting paths to be available.

What are the results of your work so far?

We're collaborating with community organizations, including Project Adult Literacy Society (PALS), to develop research questions, training programs and ways to share our findings about adult literacy challenges. We've also been working with several individuals with reading disabilities to generate new research questions and assessments. Holding the Canada Research Chair will provide more opportunities to collaborate with community partners, individuals and families directly impacted by reading challenges.

Rehab Research Impact: NOW MORE THAN EVER

Researchers in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine continue to lead discoveries in neuroscience and mental health, children's health and wellness, and prevention and management of chronic conditions. Here are some research highlights from 2020-21.

Go online to read the full stories **ualberta.ca/rehabilitation**







How robots could help injured workers recover

Physical therapy research shows how training robots to guide people through simulated tasks could improve return-to-work evaluations and treatment for patients.



Losing weight before knee surgery may not benefit people with arthritis

Occupational therapy study encourages practitioners to rethink using body mass index (BMI) as a determinant of patient outcomes for orthopedic surgery.



Language challenges can mask decision-making skills in people with aphasia

Aphasia is the loss of ability to understand or express speech as a result of brain damage, which can happen after a stroke. Researchers found that patients with aphasia might also struggle with decisions involving language and need more communication support.

Digital mental health treatment just as effective as in-person therapy

Occupational therapy researchers found that clients who participated in therapy from home experienced less stress and stigma, saved on travel time and transportation costs, and had fewer missed-work costs.





Using ultrasound to treat pain after chemotherapy

Cancer study participants had improvements in pain and sensory disturbance symptoms after two weeks of treatment with therapeutic ultrasound.



Helping transgender clients take pride in their voices

Study aims to understand how communication cues are perceived through a gendered lens, in order to support communication training with transgender and non-binary clients and help them achieve the voices they want.



After a massive stroke, Chris Paliwoda benefited from ongoing rehabilitation at the Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic.

"My beacon of hope": The impact of Rehab Med's community clinics

In April 2019, newly discharged from a brain injury unit where he'd spent a year recovering after a massive stroke, Chris Paliwoda was finally able to go home. But it was a bittersweet return: the rehabilitation he needed to continue his recovery would soon be out of reach.

My unfortunate fall and stroke devastated my life. My only recreation and hope to walk again is the clinic.

He was referred to the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital for six additional weeks of rehabilitation, followed by private therapy, which was beyond his budget.

Still, he had to find a way to continue treatment. "For stroke patients, physical therapy is a lifetime commitment, or we very quickly regress," says Paliwoda, a former service manager and sales representative for Finning Canada.

His lifesaver came in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine's Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic, which offers community members affordable individual and group rehabilitation services by students supervised by licensed physical therapists.

The PT clinic not only creates a novel hands-on learning environment, but also fills a critical gap that leaves many Albertans unable to access rehabilitation because of barriers like cost.

"[The clinic] has allowed me the opportunity to have therapy I would not normally be able to afford on a weekly basis," says Paliwoda. "My unfortunate fall and stroke devastated my life. My only recreation and hope to walk again is the clinic."

Paliwoda isn't alone. Many of the clinic's clients have chronic neurological conditions and limited resources to access rehabilitation, while others live in assisted living homes with few opportunities to walk or exercise, says Geoff Bostick, an associate teaching professor involved with clinic programming. "Without the student clinic, many of our clients would not be able to continue to push toward improving their function and quality of life."

Abby Menzies, a second-year physical therapy student who completed a placement at the clinic in early 2021, says it was rewarding to make a difference in the lives of those who experience barriers. "My clients made me want to continue to learn, grow and become a better physio," she says. "This placement will continue to impact my treatment strategies throughout my career."

Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic

26 student placements hosted **1,957** in-person appointments

Two years into his time at the clinic, Paliwoda continues to make progress toward his recovery. "The supervisors and students made me feel welcome and comfortable from the very first day. They continue to be my beacon of hope."

Across the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, programs, clinics and student placements provide a combination of rehabilitation expertise and support that impacts countless individuals in the community.

Rehab Community Impact: NOW MORE THAN EVER

Our student clinics provide rehabilitation services to patients from the surrounding community and beyond, giving students robust hands-on clinical experience. Across our clinics, programs and research, we work to support communities facing barriers to access, including veterans, rural residents, Indigenous peoples and Edmonton's underserved populations.

8 clinics and camps serving the community

Corbett Hall Speech-Language Clinic (Corbett Clinic)

Corbett Hall Early Education Program (CHEEP)

> Corbett Hall Student Physical Therapy Clinic

Cancer Rehabilitation Clinic / Alberta Cancer Exercise Program

Alberta Aphasia Camp

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Camp

Corbett Aphasia Rehabilitation and Education (CARE)

Parkinson: Ability, Communication, Education (PACE)

38 students have completed the Indigenous Focus in occupational therapy since the program began in 2018

1,372 Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine student clinical placements

New administrative home for Glen Sather **Sports Medicine Clinic**

The Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic joined the U of A's Campus Services unit in April 2021. The change is an exciting opportunity for the clinic to collaborate with other service teams and to share ideas and resources. The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is proud of the pioneering work of the Sather, and this administrative transfer will not impact the mandate of the clinic. The Glen Sather continues to be located in the Kaye Edmonton Clinic and welcomes patients for in-person and telerehab visits.

community members benefited from our clinics and camps

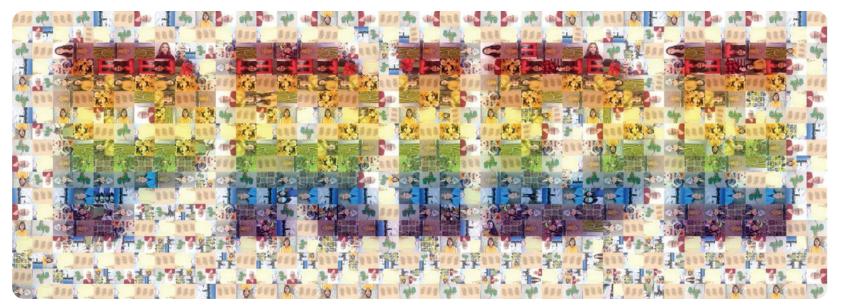


Tele-Rehab 2.0 is bridging the gap between rural Alberta physiotherapy patients and their road to recovery. The high-tech project uses wearable sensors, cameras and custom motion-capture software to collect data from patients in remote communities, which is then sent to specialists for accurate assessments. A patient in Grande Prairie with shoulder pain, for example, can see a physical therapist in Edmonton and have shoulder rotator cuff measurements sent to the therapist in real time. "We're working to address the inequality rural patients face when accessing specialized health care, while also supporting rural clinicians who often feel professionally isolated," said principal investigator Martin Ferguson-Pell, who leads the Rehabilitation Robotics Lab. "We want to show that specialists can have confidence in remote assessments, and we want our existing health-care services to adopt these practices to better serve our rural communities."

U of A pilots a veteran-friendly campus

Our Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) is piloting a Veteran-Friendly Campus at the U of A, thanks to a \$714,000 Alberta provincial government grant. Veterans will find services tailored to improve their post-secondary transition, including mental health resources and specialized advising. The U of A's tradition of making education available to veterans goes all the way back to the Khaki University created by our first president, Henry Marshall Tory, in the First World War. "Veterans are shaped by teamwork and collaboration that is foundational to their military careers," said HiMARC director Suzette Brémault-Phillips. "They bring their values, their leadership skills and their unique life experiences with them. The Veteran-Friendly Campus initiative will help them leverage and build upon their skills and knowledge, and enable them to continue helping build strong communities in Alberta and beyond."





With this year's Pride march cancelled due to COVID-19, our occupational therapy students and staff contributed their photos to create this mosaic in honour of Pride Week, March 2021

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Here are some of the ways we're demonstrating our commitment to accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion:

- Honouring our Grandmothers Indigenous Graduate Award in Rehabilitation Medicine recognizes student involvement in community building and wellness initiatives in the Indigenous and/or broader community
- Teaching position in Indigenous Occupational Therapy and Practice will help build capacity to diversify the profession and lead us in decolonizing the curriculum
- Faculty EDI Advisory Committee to coordinate EDI initiatives and have a stronger and broader impact
- Changes to admissions requirements, including language proficiency, that reduce barriers and improve diversity

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Continuing Professional Education for Health-Care Providers

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine offers a range of continuing professional education (CPE) opportunities for working clinicians, including non-credit online courses and learning modules, full-day workshops, and 100% online graduate-level certificate programs.

- Graduate Certificate in Pain Management
- Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation •
- Graduate Certificate in Sexual Health
- Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical **Therapy Practice**
- Graduate Certificate in Francophone Practice for Speech-Language Pathologists
- Lymphedema and Chronic Edema Management: A Course for Healthcare Professionals

people participated in a **Continuing Professional** Education course or program in 2020-21

- Introduction to Telerehabilitation for Clinicians
- Introduction to Pelvic Health
- Foundations of Musculoskeletal Anatomy for Human Movement
- Wheelchair and Seated Mobility
- Physiotherapy Practice in the Canadian Healthcare System

For more information on our professional development programs, visit: uab.ca/pd



Celebrating our Rehab Med alumni and donors

It's been a year of challenge and uncertainty, and we've missed connecting with you in person. We look forward to seeing you when it's safe to do so, but in the meantime, tell us what you're up to! Send us an email at frmcomms@ualberta.ca or submit a class note at ualberta.ca/rehabilitation/alumni

Alumni Week(end)

Save the Date | Sept. 27 - Oct. 2, 2021

3,327 alumni live in Edmonton | 1,528 live in Calgary 3,811 live all over Canada and around the world, including the USA, UK, Australia, China and more!





For more information, contact frmcomms@ualberta.ca

Thank you to our wonderful donors who continue to change lives through education, research and rehabilitation! Here are just a few of the ways you're making a difference:

Leading Edge Physiotherapy Graduate Scholarship in Innovative Physical Therapy

E. William Kuder Mental Health Graduate Award in Occupational Therapy

Honouring our Grandmothers Indigenous **Graduate Award in Rehabilitation Medicine**

Janice Leung Memorial Graduate Award in Rehabilitation Medicine

Every year, the Rehabilitation Medicine Students Association hosts a winter gala for faculty, staff and students to gather and say thank you to those who have put time, effort and care into their roles as teachers, mentors and future health-care professionals. With the gala tradition put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year students decided to mark the occasion by donating the cost of their tickets to the award the student group created in 2020, in memory of their classmate Janice Leung.



The gift of a lifetime

you want to see for future generations

Now more than ever, rehabilitation is essential to enhancing lives.

When you name the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine in your estate plans, you make world-changing research and the education of future generations of rehabilitation professionals possible.

Whether your legacy will be helping students succeed, being part of To learn more about planned giving or to arrange a beguest, please game-changing research, or advancing innovation and state-of-the-art contact John Voyer, Assistant Dean, Development technology, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine has an area to which 780-248-5781 | john.voyer@ualberta.ca you can direct your support. Unlike a gift given now, a planned gift

Making a legacy gift allows you to build the world

allows you to invest in an area that matters to you without affecting your current financial resources. A legacy gift can even allow you to make a much larger gift and help minimize taxes for your estate.

Choose your passion area to make the greatest impact. Your generosity will ensure a lasting legacy.

Become a class organizer and bring everyone together!

Celebrate at this year's virtual Alumni Week(end) or hold your reunion whenever you'd like. We're here to help! For more information or if you are interested in volunteering as a Class Organizer, please contact frmcomms@ualberta.ca.

CAROLLE PATTERSO

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Graduates

UNIVERSITY

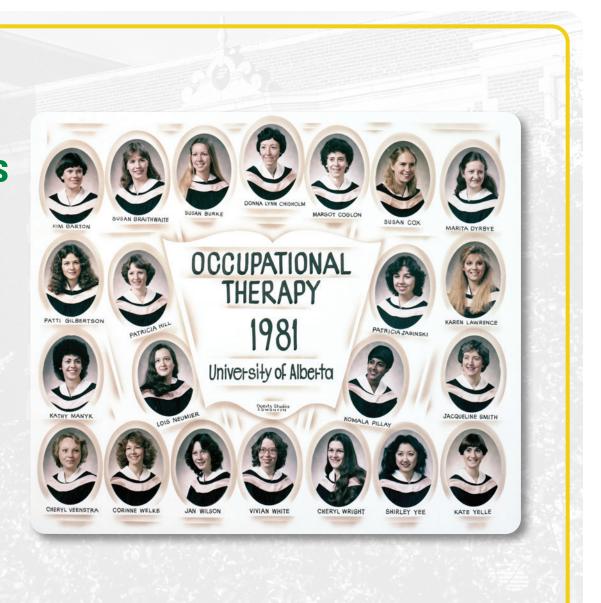
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6.

Class Organizers are the essential ingredient in developing lasting friendships with your fellow Rehab Med alumni. If your class is celebrating a big anniversary this year - 60th, 50th, 40th, 30th or 25th - we'd love to help you organize a reunion with your classmates!

Is your class celebrating a big anniversary this year?



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