

Rehabilitation Medicine

Transformative Commitment

# INCLUSIVITY, RECONCILIATION & REHABILITATION

REHAB IMPACT 2023



UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA



# THANK YOU!

This year, through gifts, grants, sponsorships, pledges and bequests, donors gave **\$2,780,091** to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Your generosity changes lives through education, research and rehabilitation!





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*This report highlights achievements from the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine's 2023 fiscal year: April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023*

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**DIRECTOR, REHABILITATION RESEARCH CENTRE (RRC):** Douglas Gross

## Did you know?

In an effort to reduce costs and minimize our environmental impact, most copies of *Rehab Impact* are distributed electronically. If you wish to receive the digital version, please email us at [frmcomms@ualberta.ca](mailto:frmcomms@ualberta.ca).

## Special thanks

to all faculty and staff for their contributions!

*Rehab Impact* is published annually by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. It is distributed worldwide to more than 9,400 alumni, universities, government bodies, organizations and friends of the faculty.

**The University of Alberta and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine are primarily located on the traditional territory of Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe nations; lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.**





# A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CHANGE

**It has been a year of growth here in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine – growth and change. We are indeed getting bigger, with expanded enrolment in all of our professional programs and the (re) establishment of our satellite programs at Augustana Campus in Camrose. We are also growing personally and professionally, so that we can do our very best to meet the shifting needs of the communities we serve.**

This year, we have focused on building upon our specific commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples as well as broader commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion in everything we do.

Our Intersections in Rehabilitation speaker series brought together speakers from across Canada and beyond to share both lived experience and academic research with the aim of furthering our understandings of racism, equity and social justice in the context of rehabilitation sciences. We were honoured to participate in an important guiding discussion with Andrea Menard, LL.B, LL.M, she/they/ᐃᓄᓄᓄ wiyawâw, around the importance of Indigenization and decolonization of rehabilitation science as a whole, and starting with our courses, programs and research. It was wonderful to see so many of you, including alumni and working professionals, in attendance for this particular learning opportunity, key to the future of our Faculty and the work we do.

These discussions are central to our ability to cultivate more inclusive, equitable and accessible learning and working spaces within and outside of our university context. We will continue to learn (and unlearn) as we engage in such discussions. Importantly, we must take our learning and move beyond talking to action. We are continuing to ask questions and make changes to all aspects of our work, and I am so proud of the faculty, staff and students who propose ideas that we can pursue together with our community partners. For example, last fall, we embarked on a collaboration with Treaty 8 First Nations, committing to invest in the design and implementation of educational activities related to rehabilitation medicine for

Alberta high school students in Treaty 8. I am full of hope that these steps might help us create pathways for Indigenous students into the fields of physical, occupational and speech therapy, where they are so needed.

Meanwhile, we are improving our physical spaces on campus to better reflect the diversity of our Rehab community, including a new gathering space in Corbett Hall, designed to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous Rehabilitation community members – students, staff and faculty – to reflect on Truth and Reconciliation. Please watch for an announcement for the opening of this space.

As we collaborate on these important initiatives, we are grateful for the ongoing support of our alumni and donors. Without the strong and collaborative relationship we are fortunate to share with you, many of our key goals would go unmet.

To continue to build on the strengths of our partnerships, I know how important it is that we keep the lines of communication open. And please know that I always want to hear from you! Please reach out anytime. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat, email me at [thopper@ualberta.ca](mailto:thopper@ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,

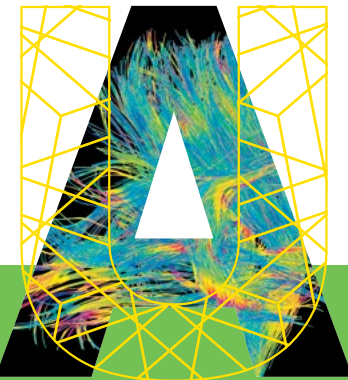
**Tammy Hopper, PhD, R-SLP  
Professor and Dean,  
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine**



# CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT

IN 2022-23

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



**Who are we?** The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is a diverse group of educators, researchers, students and clinicians who come together as a community time and time again to overcome barriers and create meaningful change in the world.

**1,006**  
graduate students

**5**  
research associates

**25**  
academic teaching staff

**6**  
clinicians

**29**  
administrative and support staff

**1**  
Endowed Chair

**37**  
faculty members

**1**  
Tier 1 Canada Research Chair

**11**  
postdoctoral fellows

**1**  
Tier 2 Canada Research Chair



## Pride Parade 2023

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine took part in the University of Alberta's Pride Week, helping kick off the festivities March 13 by joining the Pride Parade. Every day, we honour and celebrate the contributions of the 2SLGBTQ+ folks who are part of the U of A's vibrant community!



## Celebrating a commitment to new educational partnership

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine have partnered to develop educational activities for Alberta high school students in Treaty 8 and increase their access to physical, occupational and speech therapy programs, meeting a need for greater Indigenous representation in those professions.

## Jeff Vela – One of Edify's Top 40 Under 40

Growing up below the poverty line, physical therapy instructor Jeff Vela was unable as a youth to access therapy for his sport-related injuries. Now, he is one of Edify's Top 40 Under 40 for his dedication to providing physiotherapy to low-income families whenever he can.



## Announcing New Department Chairs



Dr. Esther Kim has been appointed as Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders effective June 1, 2023. Professor Kim served as Acting and Interim Chair of the Department for the past two years.



Dr. Doug Gross has been appointed as Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy effective July 1, 2023. Professor Gross is the director of the Rehabilitation Research Centre.



## Calgary Satellite Campus celebrates 10 years

Graduates, preceptors, students, faculty, staff and special guests of Rehabilitation Medicine's Calgary Satellite Campus celebrated its 10th anniversary in June. In September 2012, recognizing the shortage of trained physiotherapists and occupational therapists in southern Alberta, the faculty opened the satellite campus to train more students and fill those gaps.



## Adam Parker

PhD student Adam Parker's educational journey took a surprising turn when he had the opportunity to play guitar at the Junos using a robotic hand developed by Blinc Lab, through research funded by Amii (Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute).

**"When I started a PhD in rehabilitation science I did not have 'play guitar with a robot hand at the Juno awards' on my list of expectations. All in all, it was an incredible experience and I'm so glad to have been able to participate."**

*From left to right (Ahmed Shehata, a principal investigator in Blinc Lab, Adam Parker, PhD student and Patrick M. Pilarski, Parker's supervisor. Photo Credit: Chris Onciul/Amii)*

# The gift of a lifetime

## 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 game-changing research, or advancing innovation and state-of-the-art technology, the Faculty

of Rehabilitation Medicine has an area to which you can direct your support. Unlike a gift given now, a planned gift 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.**



To learn more about planned giving or to arrange a bequest, please contact John Voyer, Assistant Dean, Development.

**780-248-5781**  
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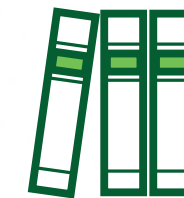
# RESEARCH IMPACT

Research in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine tackles the challenges of today and tomorrow in neuroscience and mental health, children's health and wellness, and chronic conditions — leading with purpose to improve people's quality of life. Here are some research highlights from 2022-23.



**\$7.1M**

total research revenue in the last year for the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine



**187**

peer-reviewed research publications

On the next few pages check out our research highlights from 2022-23



# FEATURE STORY

Cancer exercise study helps local broadcaster rebuild his body and his life after cancer surgery



After having a cancerous tumour removed from his neck, local sports broadcaster Dave Jamieson regained his strength and rebuilt his life with help from principal investigator and physical therapy professor Margie McNeely and the Alberta Cancer Exercise study.

## MEET THE RESEARCHERS

Get to know some of our faculty members



ADA LEUNG

Occupational therapy researcher's goal is to help people with cognitive deficits, particularly those with neurological conditions. Occupational therapy researcher Ada Leung is studying how neuroimaging might help OTs understand when and how their clients' brains are processing information and responding to interventions. **She sees great promise in the potential of this tool** to understand the fundamental neural mechanism of different rehabilitative treatments.



ERIC PARENT

Extensive training and research in physical therapy helps patients with scoliosis and low-back pain. Physical therapy researcher Eric Parent began his research career focused on the effects of exercise on children with scoliosis and currently is **working on programs for the adult segment of the population living with scoliosis**, who he says have never really been offered scoliosis-specific exercise treatment.



ANDREA MACLEOD

Researcher's curiosity about bilingualism and minority language maintenance leads to developing support for immigrant and refugee children. Andrea MacLeod uses participatory research, working alongside families and community agencies to determine the best approach to speech-pathology treatment for bilingual children. While designing appropriate therapeutic approaches is her main focus, she also **enjoys helping to build a sense of pride in children whose first language is not English.**



# RESEARCH NEWS

Discoveries that  
made headlines  
this year



## New national network brings together expertise and experience to tackle long COVID

Professor Doug Gross was co-principal applicant on a five-year, \$20-million Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant that will support a new national network of researchers and patients coming together to explore the best ways to diagnose, assess, manage and treat long COVID. Network participants also include professors Maxi Miciak, Geoffrey Bostick, Shu-Ping Chen, Marguerite Wieler and Mark Hall.



## Repairing relationships through forgiveness may help people recover from moral injury

A team of researchers from the Heroes in Mind, Advocacy and Research Consortium (HiMARC) have found that helping veterans and military service members to build their capacity for forgiveness can help them in their recovery from moral injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.



## U of A study sheds new light on how GABA affects nervous system

Rehabilitation researchers including Dave Bennett and Ana Lucas Osma made a major discovery that rather than inhibit the function of muscles as was long thought, gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) actually increases their function. This discovery could lead to better medications that don't have undesirable effects on nerve cells.



## Samuel Tsang's mentorship in robotics lab creating a positive culture for younger students

Student volunteer Samuel Tsang can be found most days helping his fellow students succeed in the Rehabilitation Robotics Lab under professor Martin Ferguson-Pell. He joined the lab in 2021 and ever since has been mentoring younger students.

Go online to read the full stories! [ualberta.ca/rehabilitation](https://ualberta.ca/rehabilitation)



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## IMPACT

Learners in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine have a bright future, thanks to our community of dedicated instructors. With career paths in speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and rehabilitation science, our students will go on to lead with purpose, building upon the strong foundation developed at our Edmonton and Calgary sites and with clinical educator partners throughout the province.



**Jessica Harasym**, a speech-language pathologist and PhD candidate, is studying the impacts of concussion on how young people communicate, and how challenges with communication have a broad impact on their quality of life. She hopes this research will increase awareness of the positive impact speech pathology can make in concussion treatment.



During her summer studentship, **Carina Siu** studied how brain-computer interfaces (BCI) could meet the access-to-play needs of children with physical impairments. Previous research in this area has focused on adults, so the hope is that this study might open possibilities for BCI use in children.

### Meet our Students



**TARYN KOKESCH**

“The difference physio has made in my athletic career is substantial. I wouldn’t have recovered from my injuries and played at the level I did without it. I want to help and do the same for other athletes and provide opportunities to promote personal health.

Whether you are teaching someone how to walk again, how to squat properly or providing hands on mobilizations, you are making a difference in peoples’ lives.”

Clinical educators volunteered **346,760 hours** of invaluable hands-on learning to our students. **THANK YOU!**



**MCKENZIE WILLIAMS-SELBY**

“Occupational therapy to me means approaching clients non-judgmentally and supporting people where they are at to achieve their goals and successes in all facets of life. My mom had some very serious health complications and the work OTs did with her was amazing and so inspiring. It really made me want to be that support for others.”



**MATEYA DIMNIK**

“OT is the promotion of health and wellness through engagement in meaningful activities. As a student, OT positively impacts my personal life on a daily basis. The education and experiences I have had to date have helped me to engage in my relationships, environments, and meaningful activities with more intention, understanding, and appreciation.”





**CATRINE DEMERS**

“Contributing to others’ well-being through communication is inspiring to me. I enjoy partnering with multilingual families and community organizations and working as a team in helping children with their communication needs.”

**Partnering with multilingual families and community organizations to help children is what Catrine Demers enjoys the most about her profession. She says few people realize a lot of interdisciplinary research and practice with other professionals is involved in this field.**



**SAHAM DAHIR**

“Communication is a part of our identity. This field allows me to help people regain and/or retain this part of their identity.”

**MScLP student Saham Dahir enjoys linguistics and health care. To her, a career in SLP is the perfect mix of both fields. Being such a broad field, there is so much to do and learn.**



**HEIDI MORRISON**

“The physiotherapy profession is well known for its role in musculoskeletal injuries and rehabilitation; however, physiotherapists are also involved in other areas of care such as acute hospital care, cardiopulmonary conditions, and trauma/wound care, to name a few.”

Physiotherapy to me means providing people with the right education, tools, and encouragement on their rehabilitation journey so that they may reach their goals and live a happy, healthy, and active life.”

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS

**In 2022-23 the faculty’s Continuing Professional Education (CPE) office continued its partnerships with Alberta Health Services (AHS), Canadian Lymphedema Framework (CLF) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to offer professional development programming. As part of a Government of Alberta grant, the CPE office also developed 10 new online micro-credential courses (short courses), which have attracted a national and international audience. The CPE office now offers three graduate-level credit certificate programs, one non-credit certificate, 17 micro-credential courses, and other offerings for health-care professionals. Several new micro-credential courses and other projects are planned for 2023-24.**

- ◆ Graduate Certificate in Pain Management
- ◆ Graduate Certificate in Francophone Practice for Speech-Language Pathologists
- ◆ Graduate Certificate in Sexual Health
- ◆ Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice
- ◆ Lymphedema and Chronic Edema Management: A Course for Health-care Professionals
- ◆ Introduction to Pelvic Health
- ◆ Allied Health Management of Chronic Conditions
- ◆ Wheelchair and Seated Mobility
- ◆ Vestibular & Concussion Management
- ◆ Diagnostic Imaging for MSK Disorders
- ◆ Neurorehabilitation
- ◆ Pediatric Rehabilitation
- ◆ And more



**2,613**

**people participated in a Continuing Professional Education course or program in 2022-23**

Non-credit course registrations **2,416**

Credit course registrations **197**

2022-23 total CPE registrations **2,613**

**For more information on our professional development programs, visit [uab.ca/pd](http://uab.ca/pd)**

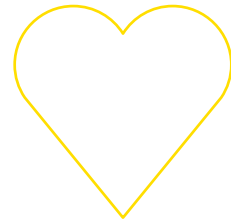






# THANK YOU!

Celebrating our Rehabilitation Medicine Alumni & Donors



The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is fortunate to be part of a large and very involved alumni community. We are proud to see the successes of all of our graduates as you help make life better and easier for so many Albertans and others around the world. Thank you all for your daily contributions to the future of rehabilitation medicine.

## U of A Days

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine was excited to host our alumni in the first in-person celebration since the pandemic.



9,446  
total alumni



3,557  
alumni live in Edmonton

1,718  
alumni live in Calgary

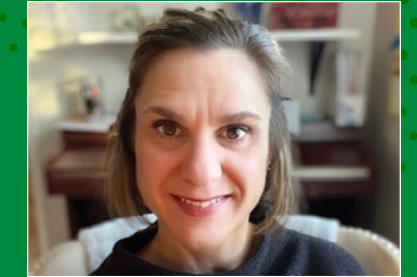


4,094  
live all over Canada and around the world, including the United States, U.K., Australia, China and more!

## We love our preceptors!

1,782  
preceptor-supervised student placements across Alberta and beyond

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:



### Welcoming Joanne Fodchuk

This year we welcomed a new representative to the University of Alberta's Alumni Council. Joanne Fodchuk, '01 BEd, '04 MSLP, has been a speech-language pathologist for more than 15 years and currently runs a Government of Alberta Early Childhood Services program and teen and adult programs for autistic individuals. She has also spent six years as a council member for the Alberta College of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology (ACSLPA), serving as president for four.

### Donor Highlight ISTAR

Soon after the Manoli family arrived in Edmonton from Moldova, they noticed changes in their eight-year-old daughter Magdalena. The normally outgoing girl was nervous about going out and was being bullied at school. With some funding from the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) and their supporters, Magda took part in programming that has seen her blossom into a more confident, outgoing child who is thriving socially and achieving better academic results at school.

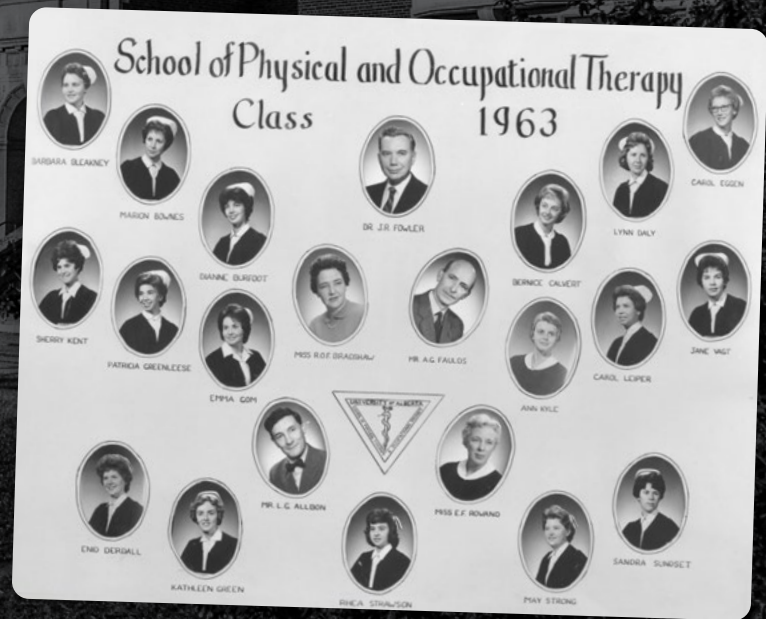
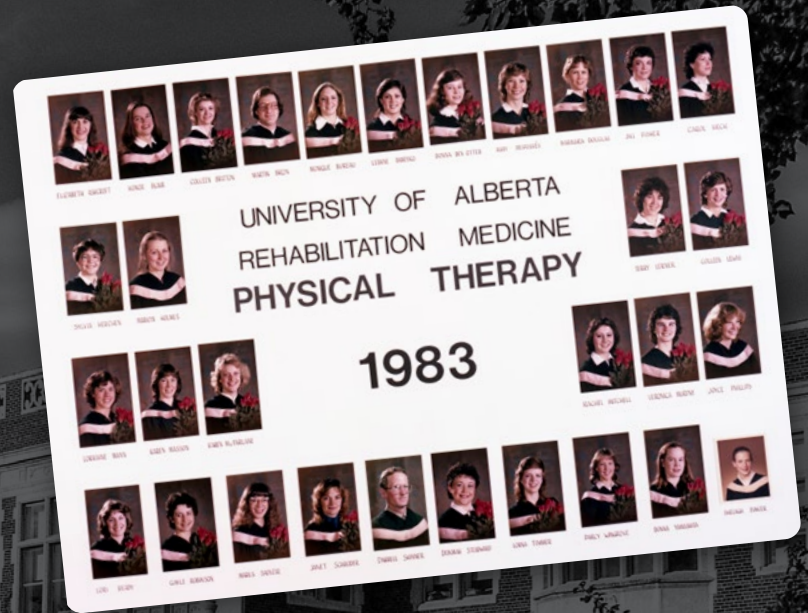
Go online to read the full stories!

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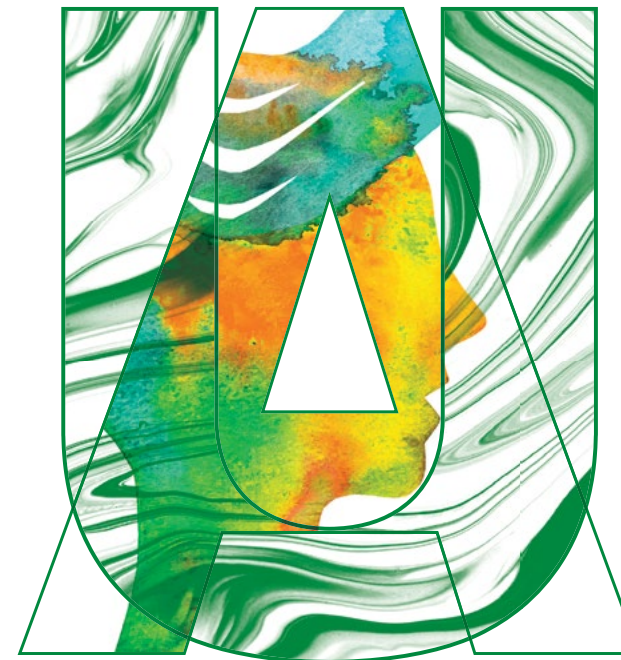
# IS YOUR CLASS CELEBRATING A BIG ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

If your Rehab Med class is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year (25th, 30th, 40th, 50th or 60th) we'd love to help you organize a reunion with your classmates! For more information on becoming a class organizer, please contact [org@ualberta.ca](mailto:org@ualberta.ca)



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