



Cover Story

World Occupational Therapy Day

Occupational Therapy Student Ambassador

The first Occupational Therapy Day at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) took place on 27 February 2015. The event was organized by the Occupational Therapy Student Ambassador, with support from the Occupational Therapy Association (OTSA) and the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (RS) of PolyU. OTSA considers this successful event to have been a first step in promoting the OT profession to students and staff in the university with diverse specialties. We took this chance to introduce the principles, concerns, and treatments

of occupational therapy. Booth games and exhibits were prepared to give participants a real-life opportunity to find out more about our profession.

In geriatrics, participants joined in with an occupational therapy treatment session for elderly people with various medical conditions, such as total hip replacement and dementia. Special strategies to cope with disabilities, as taught by occupational therapists in clinical settings, were introduced to visitors.



In the work rehabilitation display, splints serving diverse purposes were showcased. Participants were given information about prevalent and cumulative traumatic disorders and took quizzes to remind themselves of hints and tips for injury prevention. Visitors were also able to try out tools used in work rehabilitation settings



In the psychiatric exhibition, participants were given the chance to simulate symptoms and experience their effect on the functional performance of people with mental illness. They also took on the role of an occupational therapist to plan a recovery journey. The domain of concern and treatment goals of occupational therapy in the psychiatric field were emphasized



The construction of a barrier-free environment was also highlighted. Participants could try to navigate a simulated home environment using a wheelchair and give suggestions for modification, just like an occupational therapist

The pediatrics section gave participants the chance to simulate and experience the symptoms of children with special needs. The limitations of such children's performance were also illustrated by video clips, with student helpers providing additional explanation.

Thanks to all those who offered their support, including the concerted efforts of our student helpers, the event was a real success. Participants were genuinely interested in the content of our displays and demonstrations, and delighted to receive small souvenirs such as card holders and water bottles. Last but not least, our occupational therapy students worked together to organize a meaningful professional development event, benefiting from the opportunity to apply their knowledge and develop a sense of cohesion as a group.



Student's Activities

Giving up is NOT an option

Chan Wai-tung, Alex
Year 1 student, BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy

Never will I forget winning the junior half-marathon championship in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2015, and I have no regrets at all about taking part. Before the event, I had carelessly damaged the soles of my feet after taking part in a study. I went back to my room and discovered I had blisters filled with blood, about the size of a tennis ball, on each foot. It was the first time in my history of distance

running that I asked myself, "Should I still run?" Although I could barely walk on Saturday, the day before race day, I decided to step onto the starting line as I did not want to miss my last chance of competing in the junior category. I jogged a few steps at the starting point and decided to keep going. The pain increased when I stepped on some fine gravel on the highway and at that point, I did not know if I could finish. But



A hard-earned award together with a great lesson (SCMP)



Last 400m with pain forgotten

I had finished, but I think that was a price worth paying. Not only have I learnt the importance of perseverance in battling difficulties, but I have also learnt to better protect myself and others as a responsible sportsman. I would like to thank PolyU for giving me the precious opportunity to study with a group of fantastic classmates in Physiotherapy Team of RS through the sportsmen scheme, as well as providing me with a shared room in a hostel which has made it possible for me to train more frequently.

in the last three kilometers, I told myself I must "get it done" no matter what. After all, this was my last shot in the junior category, and I had spared no efforts in my pre-race preparation. At last, I claimed the championship with a finishing time of 1 hour, 17 minutes and 16 seconds. There was plenty of sweat and even some blood after

A GREAT experience with the BEST memories – my visit to PolyU

Kitchana Kaewkaen
MSc student in the Physical Therapy program,
Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand

The objective of this visit was to see how physical therapy students learn in different countries, because I am interested in how foreign students learn about the profession. During the visit, we joined classes, laboratories and the Rehabilitation Clinic. I found some things were different from my own university. In the lectures, for example, I was a little surprised that the students did not need to wear a uniform in class, as we do in Thailand. Also, the PolyU students could bring tablets or computers into class, but in KKU we are not allowed to do so. We can only bring handouts or books when we attend classes. From my observations, the PolyU students used their tablets or computers for studying, not for games or social networking during lessons. They were good students.



Clinic which is a clinic run by the university. It provides a one-stop service and is equipped with modern technology. On the laboratory side of things, I visited many places including the ergo-motor, gait, balance, and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) laboratories. It was the first time I had tried the TMS and I was fascinated with it because it gave me more insight into cortical physiology and voluntary control. I am very interested in motor control and learning.



My stay in Hong Kong was short but I think it is one of the best memories in my life so far. I managed to fit in a lot of experiences within the limited time. All the staff and students I met were very friendly and helpful. I and my friend would like to thank them and say how much we appreciated their kindness. I hope that someday I will return to Hong Kong and I look forward to meeting you all again in the future.

Staff Activities

Congratulations to our NEWLY promoted Assistant Professor, Dr Sharon Tsang

Dr Sharon Tsang has been promoted from Senior Clinical Associate to Assistant Professor

Dr Sharon Tsang - Assistant Professor

Dr Tsang joined RS as a Clinical Instructor in 2005. She held a Senior Clinical Associate position before her appointment as Assistant Professor.

Dr Tsang has solid clinical and teaching experience in Physiotherapy. She obtained her postgraduate qualifications in Hong Kong, Australia and the UK. She has also been a Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Physiotherapy (Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy) since 2013. Her PhD study examined the dynamic interplay of the cervical

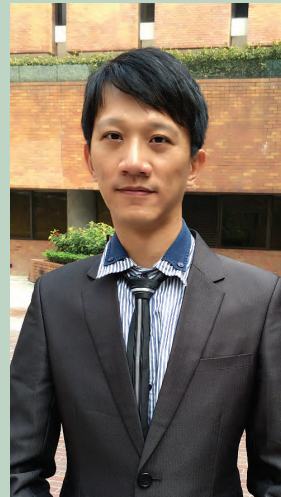
and thoracic spine in people suffering from chronic mechanical neck disorder. Her findings have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Her research interest is in the biomechanics of the human spine with a focus on analysis of movement and motor control of the spine for people with different spinal dysfunctions. She is also keen to develop the classification system for neck dysfunction which would have a great impact on clinical practice in terms of managing the problems associated with neck pain.

Dr Tsang enjoys interacting with her students through various forms of teaching and learning activities. She adopts an integrated approach to facilitate students' learning and help them to apply their knowledge to their clinical reasoning and practice.



WELCOME to our NEW Faculty Members

Dr Will Chien - Assistant Professor



Dr Chien has been an occupational therapist since graduating from National Taiwan University with a Bachelor's degree in 2003. Before he joined PolyU, he obtained a PhD from Monash University in 2010 and completed a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship at The University of Queensland, Australia. During these periods, he worked extensively with children with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities and their families.

Dr Chien has strong research interests in developing children's hand skill-related measures and validating the psychometric properties of existing rehabilitation-related measures through modern test theory (e.g., the Rasch Measurement Model). He also hosts a Children's Hand Skills Assessment Hub which includes three contemporary assessments he has developed. These are the Assessment of Children's Hand Skills (ACHS), the Children's Hand-Skill ability Questionnaire (CHSQ) and the Children's Assessment of Participation with Hands (CAP-Hand).

Dr Chien's recent work addresses the social and community participation of children with disabilities by investigating a range of supporting or restricting factors (e.g., including body functions, activity, performance, environments, and personal characteristics) and by promoting participation-focused assessment and intervention.

Ms Carol Chan - Clinical Associate



Ms Chan graduated with a diploma in Occupational Therapy from Singapore's Nanyang Polytechnic. She then obtained an MSc in Occupational Therapy from PolyU in 2008. She worked in an acute hospital in Singapore and developed a broad range of clinical skills and experience from working with clients with different conditions, including orthopedic, geriatric, hand and weight management issues. Ms Chan has a keen interest in the prevention of falls and management of injuries, and has provided consultative services to government agencies in the development of guidelines for a nationwide home modification programme. She also has a strong interest in professional development, and is active in the clinical supervision and assessment of students and conditionally registered occupational therapists.

Dr Veronika Schoeb - Assistant Professor



Dr Schoeb's expertise in physiotherapy and sociology allows her to teach and conduct interdisciplinary research in issues of healthcare practice, health communication, and interprofessional collaboration. Holding a degree in physiotherapy from Switzerland, she has specialized as a musculoskeletal and manipulative physiotherapist, receiving a postgraduate diploma (IFOMPT recognized) in 2001. In the same year, she obtained her Masters in Healthcare Administration from Simmons College in Boston, USA. In 2014, she graduated with a PhD in Sociology from the University of Nottingham, UK. Dr Schoeb has extensive clinical experience in musculoskeletal physiotherapy and women's health and has worked in various countries, including Switzerland, the USA, and Hong Kong. Since 2002, she has worked at the University of Applied Sciences, Western Switzerland, in the Department of Physiotherapy. Her research addresses sociological issues in healthcare settings, investigating patient participation within physiotherapy consultations and communication practices in interdisciplinary meetings. She has expertise in qualitative and mixed methods research, and as a physiotherapist and sociologist is able to bridge the two domains.

Dr Arnold Wong - Assistant Professor



Dr Arnold Wong is a clinician-scientist. He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Biology from The University of Hong Kong, and BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy (first class honor) from PolyU. After practicing as a physiotherapist in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for several years, he was determined to pursue a career in academia. To achieve this goal, Dr Wong obtained his MPhil in Orthopedics and Traumatology from The University of Hong Kong, and completed his PhD at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Dr Wong's research interests focus on identifying the mechanisms that lead to and maintain spinal disorders. Since the causes of spinal disorders are multifactorial, Dr Wong adopts multiple strategies (e.g. magnetic resonance and ultrasound imaging) to quantify the relative contributions of these factors in causing and prolonging spinal pain. His findings can help both researchers and clinicians to better understand and treat spinal disorders.

Dr Wong has received numerous academic accolades from various agencies in Hong Kong, Canada and the USA (e.g. Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Golden Key International Honors Society, and International Association for the Study of Pain). He has also published several articles in peer-reviewed international journals.

Long Service AWARD Ceremony

Editorial Team

The PolyU presented Long Service Awards on 30 January 2015 to more than 300 staff in appreciation of their loyal service to the institution over the years. The ceremony was officiated by PolyU President Professor Timothy Tong. Eight of the award recipients came from our department and their names are listed below:

25 years:

- Professor Cecilia Li
- Professor David Man

20 years:

- Professor Ella Yeung
- Dr Amy Fu
- Ms Michelle Leung
- Mr Wilson Lam

15 years:

- Dr Mason Leung
- Miss Rosita Tam

President Tong expressed his gratitude to all the long-serving staff for their contributions. He highly commended their devotion and recognized the excellent services they have rendered. Please join us to congratulate them and thank them for their contributions to RS and PolyU!

The Long Service Award scheme was introduced in 1990 to foster a sense of belonging among staff members. The award presentation ceremony is also an enjoyable occasion for staff and an opportunity for PolyU to publicly acknowledge their years of dedicated service.



WELCOME to Our NEW Office Staff

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Technical Assistant

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Visitors

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

5 Jan 2015



南方医科大学康复医学院

8 Jan 2015



Pui Ching Middle School

14 Jan 2015



Kwok Tak Seng Catholic Secondary School

28 Jan 2015



True Light Middle School

4 Feb 2015



Pope Paul VI College

3 Mar 2015

