



St. Michael's

Inspired Care. Inspiring Science.

**ADVANCED CLINICIAN PRACTITIONER IN ARTHRITIS
CARE (ACPAC) PROGRAM**

2010-2011

HealthForceOntario



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Executive Summary

The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) program is a unique post-licensure academic and clinical educational program that trains physical and occupational therapists experienced in the musculoskeletal and arthritis care fields to develop extended practice roles using advanced knowledge and skills in the diagnosis and management of patients with arthritis. An interprofessional patient-centred model for arthritis care in Ontario is rapidly evolving with the recognition of the need to improve access to care (shortened wait times) and efficiency of care. The ACPAC program provides the mechanism for training advanced practitioners to assume vital roles of *triage*, *education* and in select cases, *management* of patients with *osteoarthritis* and *inflammatory arthritis*.

It is our pleasure to announce that this program has completed its fifth year of operation as of June, 2011. There are now 37 ACPAC program trained extended role practitioners (also referred to as Advanced Practice Practitioners or APPs) in arthritis care as of June 2011, all of whom received a certificate from the University of Toronto upon their successful completion (>70% in each of the academic and clinical components) of the ACPAC program. The ACPAC program continues to be supported through a partnership between HealthForce Ontario, St. Michael's Hospital and its Foundation and by industry (Amgen/Wyeth; Abbott; Pfizer; Roche; and Merck pharmaceuticals) as well as moderate tuition fees. The program is endorsed by The Arthritis Society- Ontario Branch as well as the Canadian Rheumatology Association.

The ACPAC program is distinguished by its rigorous and extensive evaluation of both the trainees and program. Across 2009-2011 there has been intensive engagement in a Ministry of Health supported health services evaluation at the system level of the ACPAC program trained practitioners practising across Ontario with the intent that the results will guide continuous performance improvement of these clinicians with respect to their patient, organization and system level impact. There continues to be a strong expression of interest from community, academic and Arthritis Assessment centers in Ontario, and more recently from other regions in Canada, that requires ongoing leadership to both sustain and broaden the reach of this training program. We are pleased to announce that in 2011-2012 the ACPAC program will be undergoing a year of planning to prepare for the transformation of curricular delivery that will accomplish this broader reach and be vested at a national level, with the intent to have the program re-implemented by September, 2013.

The impact of this program is evident by the many invited presentations given locally, nationally and internationally, and through several influential publications relating to post-licensure education and professional development, measurement of educational outcome, interprofessional collaboration, and patient care. In 2007, the ACPAC program was awarded the prestigious Colin Woolf Award for Excellence in Course Development from the Department of Continuing Medical Education at the University of Toronto. In 2008, the ACPAC program was recognized for its excellence in the design and delivery of a formal, post-licensure healthcare education training program in Ontario (Ontario Hospital Association Ted Freedman Award). In November, 2009 the ACPAC program was selected as one of the top three innovations in human health resource initiatives in Ontario and won an award at the Celebrating Healthcare Expo/HealthAchieve Event sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Finally, it has been very exciting to witness the extensive growth in collaboration with multiple academic and community-based institutions in the Greater Toronto Area and across Ontario resulting in an extensive network of over 90 faculty members who have a committed academic/clinical engagement to the ACPAC program.

Program Documents and Curriculum Information

For further information about the ACPAC program:

- Website: www.stmichaelshospital.com/programs/mobility/acpac.php
- Program Synopsis 2010-2011 (candidate criteria, module content and evaluation methods): (download PDF file from above website)
- Brochure and Application Form (issued upon request from Sofia Vanconcelos, ACPAC Program Administrator; email: VasconceloSo@smh.ca)

ACPAC Program Overview

The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program is an innovative¹, clinical and academic training program hosted by St. Michael's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario. This program focuses on the assessment, diagnosis, triage and independent management of *select* musculoskeletal (MSK) and arthritis disorders. It is an adult-learner, competency-based interprofessional program delivered in episodic format one week/month across a ten-month period. The aim of the program is to prepare experienced physical and occupational therapists for extended practice roles and to develop innovative models of arthritis care across diverse clinical settings in Ontario, Canada.

Program Rationale

The ACPAC program was developed in 2005 in response to a well recognized

- need for an interdisciplinary approach to manage patients with RA (Rheumatoid Arthritis) and OA (Osteoarthritis) more efficiently
- progressive decline in the number of arthritis care specialists which is resulting in inappropriate wait times for care

A summary of the desired outcome of the ACPAC program is to:

1. develop *triage* skills for physical therapists and occupational therapists in the areas of *osteoarthritis and inflammatory arthritis* management. This will *impact wait lists* and ensure optimal, timely and appropriate delivery of health care to patients with arthritis in a variety of settings (rural or urban).
2. *optimize* and assure that the patient receives the *most appropriate health care resources/professional care* in the management of musculoskeletal conditions.
3. support and *retain physical therapists and occupational therapists* who are highly skilled in the area of arthritis management to ensure they are an *integral* part of the *Model of Primary Health Care in arthritis management*.

Partnerships

The ACPAC program is supported by St. Michael's Hospital and its Foundation, the Ontario Ministry of Health (Health Force Ontario), Industry (Amgen-Wyeth, Abbott, Roche, Pfizer and Merck), as well as through moderate tuition fees, and is endorsed by The Arthritis Society-Ontario Division and the Canadian Rheumatology Association.

Measuring Change

Graduates:

To date, 37 practitioners have successfully completed the ACPAC program from 2005-2011. These extended role practitioners practise in diverse clinical settings (urban-academic, community and rural- see Figure 1).

Program Evaluation and Outcomes assessed to date:

The ACPAC program is distinguished by its rigorous and extensive evaluation of both the trainees and program. For example, the measurement of change in skills and knowledge (competency) of the ACPAC program trainees involves a rigorous baseline and end-of-program examination of theoretical and practical skills. The framework for evaluating the ACPAC education program utilizes Dixon's levels² of evaluation criteria [levels 2 (competency) and 3 (clinical practice)] in health education outcome. Evaluation of participants' learning and competency (Dixon's Level 2) for the 2005-2008 cohorts (n=19) showed a significant change

from baseline-performance compared with follow-up (completion of ACPAC program examination) in both knowledge ($p<.001$) and skills ($p<.001$). Quantitative analysis of responses from surveys issued at baseline, mid-point, and completion of program (2005-2008 cohorts) has shown a significant increase in the frequency of performing selected advanced tasks and responsibilities across the training program. The frequency of performing these tasks and responsibilities within the extended practice roles is maintained at 12 months following completion of the program³.

Qualitative analysis of surveys issued at 6 and 12 months post-graduation identified new, institution-based models of arthritis care which have variably incorporated the ACPAC graduates' extended practitioner roles⁴. Five areas of emerging change in clinical role and responsibilities that were common to academic, community and remote community healthcare facilities at 12 months following graduation appear directly related to the practitioners ability to triage and thus make advanced clinical decisions in their extended practice role.

The areas of emerging change are as follows:

- Increased clinical responsibilities (red flags, investigations, interpretation)
- Increased efficiencies in practice settings often through process re-design
- Increased role as educational leader and mentor in MSK/arthritis care field
- Increased interprofessional patient-centred collaborative care⁵
- Increased access to care for patients with arthritis, particularly in Northern Ontario

System Level/ Health Services Evaluation

In 2009-2010 it was deemed critical and timely to defer intake of trainees for one year and to devote resource to fully evaluate the extent to which the ACPAC program graduates have developed and integrated new models of arthritis care in various clinical settings across Ontario, as well as their effectiveness at a system level. This two year evaluation process will provide ACPAC faculty, graduates, healthcare organizations, policy makers and other stakeholders with feedback about internal processes and external outcomes at the patient, organization and system levels. This is vital as program sustainability and growth are considered for the near future. In the province of Ontario, the Hospital Report: Rehabilitation Series⁶ has modeled four perspectives using the following nomenclature and by which categorical evaluation of the ACPAC Program is currently being extensively appraised across the next two years:

- I. Client Perspectives
- II. Clinical Utilization and Outcomes
- III. System Integration and Change
- IV. Financial Performance and Condition

It is expected that a full report on this health services research will be complete and presented to the Ministry of Health in Ontario by the end of November, 2011.

Grants obtained for ACPAC Program/Graduate Evaluation:

Title: Determining Collaborative Practice Behaviour Following the Introduction of an Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care Across Diverse Clinical Settings in Ontario. (\$49,898.00 2010-2011). London K., Shupak, R., Lineker, S., Schneider, R., Passalent, L., Sinclair, L., and Kennedy, C. Funding Source: CIORA: Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care.

Title: System Level Evaluation of the Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program Graduates in Ontario. (\$160,010.00 2009-2011). London, K., Shupak, R., Soever, L., Kennedy, C., Schneider, R., and Lineker, S. Funding Source: Ontario Ministry of Health.

Title: The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program: Impact on Community Practice. (\$5,000.00 2008-2010). Lineker, S., Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., Mackay, C. 2008 Funding Source: AHPA (Allied Health Professionals Association).

Title: Investigation of the Factors Associated with the Transition to a Graduated Clinical Role Following Extended Continuing Education: The Effect of Curricular Design on Knowledge Translation. (\$5,000.00 2006-2007). Herold-McIlroy, J., Lundon, K., Shupak, R. Funding Source: Department of Continuing Education and Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

References

1. Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Sunstrum-Mann, L., Galet, D., and Schneider, R. (2008). Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care through Development of an Interprofessional Academic Clinical Education Training Model. *Healthcare Quarterly* 11(3):62-68.
2. Dixon, J. (1978). Evaluation Criteria in Studies of Continuing Education in the Health Professions: A Critical Review and a Suggested Strategy. *Evaluation in the Health Professions* 1(2): 47-65.
3. Lundon, K., R. Shupak, R. Schneider and J. McIlroy. (2011). Development and Early Evaluation of an Inter-professional Post-licensure Education Programme for Extended Practice Roles in Arthritis Care. *Physiotherapy Canada* 63(1):94-103.
4. Lundon, K., R. Shupak, R. Schneider and J. McIlroy. 2010. Evolution of the ACPAC-trained Advanced Practice Practitioner Role Over a Two-Year Period: Evidence for Change in Models of Arthritis Care in Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Health Report, May, 2010.
5. Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Reeves, S., Schneider, R., and McIlroy, J. (2009). The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care Program: An Interprofessional Model for Transfer of Knowledge for Advanced Practice Practitioners. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*: January, 1-3.
6. Cott C, Jaglal S, McKillop I, Brown A, Blackstien-Hirsch P, Canizares M, Daniel I, Levinton C, MacKay C, McGillis Hall L, Pink G, Porcellato C, Soever L, Tyas J. Hospital Report 2005: Rehabilitation. Joint Initiative of the Ontario Hospital Association and the Government of Ontario. Toronto: Hospital Report Research Collaborative, University of Toronto, 2005.

Awards Received

Ontario Ministry of Health: Innovations in Human Health Resources Award 2009: This award was received at HealthCare Expo/HealthAchieve 2009.

Ted Freedman/Ontario Hospital Association Award 2008: Certificate of Excellence at HealthAchieve 2008 for innovation, effective use of technology and ability to positively impact change using education.

Colin Woolf Award 2007: Excellence in Course Design and Coordination, Department of Continuing Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

Health Policy /Improvement Practices Initiatives

- HealthCare Improvement Practice Registry
- Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo (2006-present)

Invited Presentations

The ACPAC program has been represented at the following regional, provincial, national and international venues:

Kennedy CA, Warmington K, Soever L, Passalent, Lineker S, Thomas, Lundon K, Shupak R, Schneider R. Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program-Trained Therapists in Ontario: Impact on System Integration and Change. June 20-23, 2011. Poster presentation at 16th International WCPT (World Congress for Physical Therapists) Congress, Amsterdam, Holland (*June, 2011*).

Warmington K, Kennedy CA, Lundon K, Rozmovits L, Lineker S, Shupak R, Schneider R. Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) program graduates: Perceptions of practitioner roles and role utilization within the healthcare system. Poster presentation at 16th International WCPT (World Congress for Physical Therapists) Congress, Amsterdam, Holland. (*June, 2011*).

Warmington K, Kennedy CA, Lineker S, Soever L, Passalent L, Lundon K, Shupak R, Schneider R. Patient satisfaction with care received from Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) program-trained therapists. Podium presentation at 16th International WCPT (World Congress for Physical Therapists) Congress, Amsterdam, Holland. (*June, 2011*).

Kennedy CA, Warmington K, Soever L, Passalent, Lineker S, Thomas, Lundon K, Shupak R, Schneider R. Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program-Trained Therapists in Ontario: Impact on System Integration and Change. Poster presentation 2nd Mexican-Canadian Congress of Rheumatology, Cancun, Mexico. (*February 2011*).

Warmington K, Kennedy CA, Lundon K, Rozmovits L, Lineker S, Shupak R, Schneider R. Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) program graduates: Perceptions of practitioner roles and role utilization within the healthcare system. Poster presentation 2nd Mexican-Canadian Congress of Rheumatology, Cancun, Mexico. (*February 2011*).

Lineker S, Lundon K, Shupak R, Schneider R, MacKay C, Varatharasan N. The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program: Impact on Community Practice (A Pilot Study). Canadian Physiotherapy Association annual conference, St. John's, July 2010.

Soever L, Warmington K, Passalent L, Kennedy C, Shupak R, Lineker S, Thomas R, Schneider R, Lundon K. *A System Level Evaluation of the ACPAC (Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care) Trained Practitioner: A Methodological Framework*. Canadian Physiotherapy Association Congress 2010, St. John's, NF. July 22 - 25, 2010 (podium).

Warmington, K., Passalent, L., Lineker, S., Schneider, R., Soever, L., Shupak, R., Kennedy, C., and Lundon, K. (April 28-30, 2010). System Level Evaluation of the ACPAC (Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care) Trained Practitioner in Ontario. CARE VI, Nancy, France.(poster).

Warmington K, Passalent L, Kennedy CA, Soever L, Shupak R, Lineker S, Thomas R, Schneider R, Lundon K. System Level Evaluation of the ACPAC (Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care) Trained Practitioner in Ontario. Poster presentation at GTA Best Practices Day: Rehabilitation Transforming Healthcare, Toronto, Canada. (*March 2010*).

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Sunstrum-Mann, L., Galet, D., Schneider, R. (March 28, 2010). Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care through Development of an Inter-professional Academic-Clinical Education Training Model in an Academic Healthcare Facility. Ontario Physiotherapy Association Meeting: Toronto, Canada. (podium).

Warmington, K., Passalent, L., Lineker, S., Schneider, R., Soever, L., Shupak, R., Kennedy, C., and Lundon, K. (February 4-7, 2010). System Level Evaluation of the ACPAC (Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care) Trained Practitioner in Ontario. Canadian Rheumatology Association, Quebec City, Canada. (poster).

Ambury P, Lineker S, Lundon K, Shupak R, Schneider R, MacKay C, Varatharasan N. The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program: Impact on Community Practice (A Pilot Study). Canadian Rheumatology Association/Arthritis Health Professions Association annual conference Canadian Rheumatology Association/Arthritis Health Professions Association annual conference, Quebec City, February 2010. Winner, *Barb Hanes Memorial Award*

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (October 22-25, 2009). Evolution of the ACPAC-trained Advanced Practice Practitioner Role Over a Two-Year Period: Evidence for Change in Models of Arthritis Care in Ontario. International Advanced Practice Summit, Washington DC (poster and working group)

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (May 28-31, 2009). Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care: Development of an Inter-professional Academic-Clinical Education Training Model. Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress, Calgary, AB, Canada (presentation).

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (May 28-31, 2009). Evolution of the ACPAC-trained Advanced Practice Practitioner Role Over a Two-Year Period: Evidence for Change in Models of Arthritis Care in Ontario. Canadian Physiotherapy Association National Congress, Calgary, AB, Canada (poster).

Shupak, R., Lundon, K., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (May 22-24, 2009). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care. CACHE, Toronto, ON, Canada (poster).

Shupak, R., Lundon, K., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (February 16-20, 2009). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care. Canadian Rheumatology Association, Kananaskis, AB, Canada (poster).

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Sunstrum-Mann, L., Galet, D., Schneider, R. (February 16-20, 2009). Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care through Development of an Inter-professional Academic-Clinical Education Training Model in an Academic Healthcare Facility. Canadian Rheumatology Association, Kananaskis, AB, Canada (poster).

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Sunstrum-Mann, L., Galet, D., Schneider, R. (October 26, 2008). Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care through Development of an Inter-professional Academic-Clinical Education Training Model in an Academic Healthcare Facility. American College of Rheumatology, San Francisco, USA (poster).

Shupak, R., Lundon, K., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (October 26, 2008). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care. American College of Rheumatology, San Francisco, USA (poster).

Lundon, K. (May 29-June 1, 2008) Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-Graduate Education Program in Arthritis Care. Canadian Physiotherapy Association Congress, Ottawa, Canada (podium)

Shupak, R. (May 17, 2008) An Update on the ACPAC Program. Ontario Rheumatology Association Meeting (ORA), Gravenhurst, Ontario (podium).

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (April 22-25, 2008). Evaluation and Outcome of the Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program. CARE V, Oslo, Norway (poster/podium).

Shupak, R. Lundon, K., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (March, 2008). Evaluation and Outcome of the Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program. CRA, Mont Tremblant, PQ (poster).

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., and Herold-McIlroy, J. (March, 2008). Evolution of the ACPAC-trained Advanced Practice Practitioner: Outcome and Evidence for Change in Models of Arthritis Care in Ontario CRA, Mont Tremblant, PQ (podium).

Shupak, R. Lundon, K., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R (October, 2007). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care for Experienced Physical and Occupational Therapists. CACHE, Quebec City, PQ (poster).

Lundon, K. (October 26, 2007). Development of an Educational Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Academic and Clinical Training Program for Experienced Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists in Arthritis Care. Evolving Practices to Streamline Total Joint Replacement Care in Ontario: Advanced Practice Physiotherapist Role. Hamilton Health Sciences Orthopaedic Program, McMaster University (podium).

Shupak, R. Lundon, K., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R. (March 23-24, 2007). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care for Experienced Physical and Occupational Therapists. Ontario Physiotherapy Association Conference 2007 (poster).

Shupak, R. Lundon, K., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R. (February 21, 2007). Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Program in Arthritis Care for Experienced Physical and Occupational Therapists. Canadian Rheumatology Association, Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. (poster).

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R. (November 30, 2006): Development of an Educational Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Academic and Clinical Training Program for Experienced Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists in Arthritis Care. Breakfast of our Champions, Mobility Program, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada. (Podium)

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R. (October 24, 2006) Rheumatology Intracity Rounds: "Development and Early Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Post-graduate Academic and Clinical Education Training Program in Arthritis Care for Experienced Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists". The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. (Podium)

Lundon, K. Shupak, R., Schneider, R. (October 20, 2006): Evolving Practice: Advanced Practice Models and the ACPAC Program. St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada. (Podium)

Shupak, R., Lundon, K., Schneider, R. (September, 2006). A Novel Pilot Project: Development of an Educational Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Academic and Clinical Training Program for Experienced Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists in Arthritis Care. CARE IV Arthritis Conference, Leeds, UK (Poster).

Shupak, R., Lundon, K., Schneider, R. (September, 2006). A Novel Pilot Project: Development of an Educational Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Academic and Clinical Training Program for Experienced Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists in Arthritis Care. CACHE: Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education, St. John's, NFLD, Canada (Poster).

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Herold-McIlroy, J., Schneider, R. Canadian Physiotherapy Association 2006 National Congress, Saint John, NB, Canada, June 29, 2006. The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care Program (ACPAC): An Advanced Clinical Musculoskeletal Practice Program for Physical and Occupational Therapists. (Podium).

Shupak, R. Advanced-practitioner: effect on arthritis care. Ontario Rheumatology Association Meeting (ORA) May 15, 2006.

Shupak, R. ACPAC Program: Role of Therapists. Sudbury Arthritis Society, April 27, 2006.

Publications:

Lundon, K., Kennedy, C., Rozmovits, L., Sinclair, L., Soever, L., Schneider, R., Brooks, S., Passalent, L., Warmington, K., Shupak, R. 2011. Determining Collaborative Practice Behaviour Following the Introduction of an ACPAC program-trained Extended Role Practitioner in Arthritis Care across Diverse Clinical Settings in Ontario. *Journal of Interprofessional Care: in preparation.*

Lineker, S., Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Schneider, R., MacKay, C, and Varatharasan, N. 2011. The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program: Impact on Community Practice (A Pilot Study). *Physiotherapy Canada (in press).*

Lundon, K., R. Shupak, R. Schneider and J. McIlroy. 2011. Development and Early Evaluation of an Inter-professional Post-licensure Education Programme for Extended Practice Roles in Arthritis Care. *Physiotherapy Canada* 63(1):94-103.

Lundon, K., R. Shupak, R. Schneider and J. McIlroy. 2010. Evolution of the ACPAC-trained Advanced Practice Practitioner Role Over a Two-Year Period: Evidence for Change in Models of Arthritis Care in Ontario. Report to the Ontario Ministry of Health, May, 2010.

Lundon, K., R. Shupak, R. Schneider, O.Oulanova, and J. McIlroy. 2010. Investigation of the Factors Associated with the Transition to a Graduated Clinical Role Following Extended Continuing Education: The Effect of Curricular Design on Knowledge Translation. *Manuscript in preparation*

Shupak, R., Schneider, R., Lundon, K. 2010. Advanced Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program: An Update. (November, 2010). *CRAJ*.

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., S. Reeves, R. Schneider, J. McIlroy. 2009. The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care (ACPAC) Program as A Model for Transfer of Knowledge and Skills and Attitudes: Moving From an Interprofessional Arthritis Education Program to Interprofessional Arthritis Care. *Journal of Interprofessional Care* 1-3.

Lundon, K., Shupak, R., Sunstrum-Mann, L., Galet, D., and Schneider, R. 2008. Leading Change in the Transformation of Arthritis Care through Development of an Interprofessional Academic Clinical Education Training Model in an Academic Healthcare Facility. *Healthcare Quarterly* 11(3):59-65.

Shupak, R., Lundon, K. 2007. St. Michael's Hospital: The Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care Program. *CRAJ* 17(4): 16-17.

Post-Graduate/Continuing Competency Initiatives

1. Annual General Meeting (October or November of each year in association with Arthritis Day, held at St. Michael's Hospital- alternating with ORA in May)

Alumnae of the ACPAC program are invited to attend this educational and informative annual general meeting hosted by St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada (November) and ORA (May). Current trends in practice, new clinical practice initiatives, clinical education opportunities and dissemination of research findings, as well as regulatory body issues are typical topics for presentation and discussion.

The goal of the annual general meeting for ACPAC program trained graduates is:

- a. To have ACPAC program trained graduates/current year trainees meet, communicate and discuss current practice issues relating to their ACPAC Program training and extended practice roles.
- b. To host select educational sessions relating to topics of interest for ACPAC program trained extended role practitioners including evaluation of practice in remote community and academic healthcare facilities, indicators for practice, as well as discuss issues relating to regulation/title/conditions of practice as an APP in Ontario.

(This forum represents 2-4 post-ACPAC program Education/Continuing competency hours)

2. Arthritis Day *(This forum represents 4-6 post-ACPAC program Education/Continuing competency hours)*

3. ORA: Ontario Rheumatology Association/AHPA Annual Meeting. A half-day forum where an AGM (alternating years) and clinical education workshops/sessions on advanced topics related to extended practice are offered.

(This forum represents 4-6 post-ACPAC program Education/Continuing competency hours)

4. ACPAC Program Portfolio: The portfolio is an ongoing collation of material relating to improved arthritis care for patients through practice, research, educational initiatives and leadership activities of the ACPAC program graduates following graduation.

5. ACPAC program trainees/graduates network site/chat room (hosted by TAS: protected site)

Testimonials

1. The advanced practitioner role is an important and vital component of managing children with rheumatic diseases especially in the setting of patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. The ACPAC program serves to unify skills related to clinical and rehabilitation medicine fostering the development of independent and qualified advanced care practitioners. With current limited health care resources, advanced practitioners are necessary and complement rheumatologists in ensuring all children with rheumatic diseases are receiving excellent and timely clinical care translating to better long-term outcomes.

Shirley Tse MD, FRCP (c)
Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
Program Director, Division of Rheumatology
The Hospital for Sick Children

2. I have had the pleasure to work with a graduate of the ACPAC programme and this has changed our practice in pediatric rheumatology in Ottawa significantly. The graduate is able to work as an independent member of the team and does add important aspects to the care we provide given her background in physiotherapy. I would also like to mention that I have come to Canada after finishing my training in pediatric rheumatology in Germany where no such programme exists. In retrospect I have to say that the German system would benefit significantly if such a programme would exist.

Johannes Roth, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Head Pediatric Rheumatology
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Ottawa, Ontario, K1M 1W3, Canada

3. I have been fortunate to have an ACPAC-trained therapist working in my rheumatology office in a collaborative manner for 2 years and this has greatly improved access to rheumatology care in Northern Ontario. Patients can be assessed and monitored in a more timely fashion and there is effective triage of their medical problems. Patients also receive much more comprehensive and thorough assessments and recommendations for treatment with this multidisciplinary approach. We are currently involved in training a second ACPAC therapist to expand work in the rheumatology office and also orthopedic surgery.

Patricia Ciaschini MD FRCP (c)
Group Health Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

4. I strongly support this program. It has allowed me to see more patients in the clinic and to better interact with those patients that I see. Caroline Jones (ACPAC graduate 2005-2006) sees patients at the level of a resident and is able to make solid management decisions. The clinic where Caroline sees my patients in early follow-up after total knee arthroplasty has proven beneficial to patient outcomes by allowing earlier identification of post-op issues.

Emil H. Schemitsch, M.D., FRCS(C)
Head, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery
St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto

5. I am pleased to write in support of the Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care program. The concept is unique and well-executed. We have the advantage at The Arthritis Program (TAP), at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, of the 'product' of this endeavour. Lorna Bain, is a graduate of the inaugural program. Not only was she able to use the acquired knowledge to assist in our historical programs of Patient Care, but also in the execution of our Change Foundation Grant, as well as the initiation of our Early Arthritis Clinic (EAC). She was identified as a 'Mentor' for the Team, and she has recently been appointed as Coordinator of TAP. We currently have another staff member enrolled with the ACPAC training program, and upon completion she will assume responsibilities in the expanded EAC clinic, as well as in support of our hospital's Advanced Arthroplasty Clinic.

The ACPAC program provides the experienced MSK therapist with an opportunity to build on, and expand their knowledge, skill set and confidence, and return to their Institution as a more valued member of the Arthritis/MSK Team. I emphatically endorse the process.

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6. Mary Ellen Marcon, PT, is an ACPAC graduate who works in my outreach rheumatology clinic in Sault Ste. Marie. She has been an invaluable help particularly in the Intervention Clinic that she runs evaluating my patients who have been started on DMARDs. My schedule in the Soo is too tight to allow timely reassessment and her reassessment helps me to make step-up decisions. Her assessment also helps to identify patients who need early intervention but who are otherwise wrongly prioritized by our office.

I should say that even before she had the further training from the ACPAC program, Mary Ellen has been a terrific help to me dating back nearly 25 years when I first started to visit the Soo. All the patients love her and she is particularly able in solving problems for them and me. I am very fortunate to have her on board.

Frances Leung, MD (visiting rheumatologist from Toronto)

7. The Ministry [of Health, Ontario] appreciates the opportunity to continue working with the ACPAC program as we share a commitment to bringing quality health care to Ontarians. We greatly appreciate your commitment to delivering a high quality and innovative program which contributes to optimizing and retaining highly skilled rehabilitation health professionals for the Ontario health system.

Jeff Goodyear, Director,
Health Human Resources Policy Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,
Toronto, ON, Canada

8. We have had the opportunity to send a Physical Therapist-APP (Tiffany Larsen) from the Headwaters Health Center (Orangeville) to the ACPAC programme. For the past 2 years, this allowed us to extend our Brampton Practices to a rural setting where there was no existing rheumatology coverage. The APP triages all the referrals to this site and one of us runs an EIA (Early Inflammatory Arthritis) clinic once per week. The therapist works together with the rheumatologist and can also work in parallel to see stable patients and report to the rheumatologist. The training programme has escalated the APP's level of expertise in evaluating rheumatologic conditions along with doing accurate joint counts. In addition, she has been the coordinator for ERA clinical trials run through the programme. This has been an excellent opportunity to deliver arthritis care for patients in their local setting, which would not otherwise have been possible. We are in the process of educating a 2nd Physical Therapist through the ACPAC programme, who will be an additional asset for orthopedics and rheumatology.

Vandana Ahluwalia MD, FRCPC
Raman Joshi MD, FRCPC
Sangeeta Bajaj MD, FRCPC
Rheumatologists
William Osler Health Centre
Brampton, Ontario

9. Leslie Soever (an ACPAC program trained APP-2008) has been a tremendous asset to the patients seen by the rheumatology group at Mt Sinai Hospital. She combines her ability to perform an exemplary history and physical examination with her advanced knowledge of rheumatologic disease, orthopaedic medicine and her initial training as a physiotherapist. This is done in a flawless manner and as such, she provides each patient with a multifaceted and detailed assessment. These assessments allow Leslie to evaluate and plan treatment and she does this effectively. When needed, Leslie is an outstanding advocate for her patients. She has been able to identify those individuals needing additional levels of care and facilitate their movement through the sometimes complex system in an expeditious manner. This has been particularly demonstrated with the linkages that Leslie has established with our orthopedic colleagues. Leslie is a trusted member of our group at the present time. Her contributions to the rheumatology division have allowed us to provide more timely care but perhaps more importantly, Leslie's input has helped to improve the level of care which we can provide to our patient by adding her skills and perspectives.

Heather McDonald-Blumer, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Program Director, Division of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
Program Director, Core Internal Medicine, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto.

10. Having Sue MacQueen, an ACPAC, in the Pediatric Rheumatology Clinic at London Health Sciences Center has been an incredibly positive experience for everyone involved. In short, I believe there have been three important benefits to this arrangement:

1. Wait times for patients are significantly shorter since there are two providers seeing patients in parallel (even though all patients are reviewed by the attending physician).
2. Patients (and myself!) have the added benefit of a physiotherapist present in the clinic, with added knowledge and expertise provided "on-the-spot".
3. Patients are very comfortable, and often prefer, discussing non-medical issues (e.g. school accommodations for a child with JIA) with a non-physician practitioner.

Additionally, many patients (and families) that Sue has seen have relayed positive feedback from the experience, and find her to be accessible, knowledgeable and caring.

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