Points of Interest:
- Peds Rehab Center Opening
- Service Excellence
- Philanthropy
- Rehab Engineering
- Milestones’ Pediatric Rehabilitation
- Speech Language Pathology

Spread the Word....

The newly opened Pediatric Rehabilitation Center (PRC) held an Open House on February 20th. Providers, internal staff, and pediatric clinicians from the community, toured the facility to see the services offered. Clinicians also presented information on many of the specialty programs offered by the outpatient pediatric therapies. If you would like to tour the facility or would like more information about one of the specialty programs, please phone the clinic at (734) 763-2554.

PRC offers pediatric families multi-disciplinary outpatient services in one convenient location. These services include: Physician Clinics, Physical and Occupation Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Rehab and Neuropsychology, Rehab Engineering, and Orthotics & Prosthetics.

Specialty programs and services offered at PRC include:
- Orthopedic, Sport and Spine Services
- Club Foot Program
- NMES for Dysphagia Program (VitalStim)
- Michigan Functional Intensive Therapy (MiFit)
- Gait Training via WalkAide NMES System
- Breast Feeding Support Program
- Autism Treatment Program
- Early Childhood Assessment
- Childhood Apraxia Program
- Language Enrichment Groups
- Late Talkers Parent Ed Program
- Social Skills Groups
Presentations

- Dr. Allen Heinemann, Professor for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University and Director of the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes and colleagues from Michigan State University and Wayne State University as well as past fellows met to discuss the importance of post-doctoral training in rehabilitation research and advise Program Co-Directors, Drs. Denise Tate and Anna Kratz on programmatic areas of strengths and improvements.

- Dr. Heinemann who also lectured on “improving the measurement properties of depressive symptom instruments using Rasch analysis, serves as an independent evaluator for the ARRTP program. Current post-doctoral fellows, Elham Mahmoudi and Andrea Nevedal, will complete their second year of training in 2014. Dr. Mahmoudi will join the Department of Surgery while Dr. Nevedal has accepted a position at the Palo Alto VA. This program has done extremely well training excellent professionals across a number of disciplines over the years. The UM ARRTP program which has been funded since 1993 by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, has trained a total of 25 PhD fellows and 21 MDs across the years. MDs are eligible for research stipends which funds pilot research projects to be completed during their fellowship or residency programs.


- On September 21, 2013, approximately 75 people attended the Performing Arts Athlete Symposium at Palmer Commons. This conference was a multi-departmental and multi-disciplinary effort including The University of Michigan PM&R’s M-Perform staff, Orthopedics Med Sport staff, and The School of Music, Theatre and Dance faculty.

PM&R M-Perform staff presenting at the Symposium include: Ann Laidlaw, MD. Performing Arts Medicine, “Hypermobility: A Double-Edged Sword?”, Cindy Munday, PT, MPT, Spine Program, “Marathon Musicians”, and Mary Theisen-Goodvich, PhD, “Performance Anxiety”.

Publications, Grants, Awards


- Haig AJ. Disability Policy Must Espouse Medical as Well as Social Rehabilitation: Social Inclusion. Accepted December 21, 2013.


Publications, Grants, Awards


- **Kathy Konosky, OT, and Ron Sayre, PT**, will be featured in an upcoming article in UM Cancer Center’s winter edition of Thrive Magazine. The title of the article is “Getting Back to Your Life as Usual—How Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy During and After Cancer Treatment Can Help Recovery”.

  Here is a link to the article: [http://www.mcancer.org/living-with-cancer/mind-body-and-side-effects/getting-back-your-lifeusual](http://www.mcancer.org/living-with-cancer/mind-body-and-side-effects/getting-back-your-lifeusual)


- Congratulations to two therapists on the Cardiovascular Acute Care Team: **Natalia Fernandez MS, PT, CCS and Kim Ford, MSPT** who’s article “Early Progressive Mobilization and Physical therapy Management in a Patient with a Total Artificial Heart Device” was published in this month’s issue of the APTA’s Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy Journal. Congratulations ladies and thanks for all of the hard work that went into this!

- Great news for our department with more fuel to our research engine. Congratulations to **Dr. Anna Kratz and Co-Investigator Claire Kalpakjian** with recent notice of award from the Craig H Nielsen Foundation! The title of the grant is: The Dynamics of Pain Acceptance, Well-Being, and Functioning in SCI. This is a 2-year $300K award that uses ecological momentary assessments and daily diaries to study the role of pain acceptance (a type of pain coping) in functional outcomes (e.g., physical activity, social participation) and well-being (e.g. positive mood) in persons with chronic pain and spinal cord injury.

- Congratulations to **Dr. Michelle Meade, Seth Warschausky, PhD, ABRP, Charles Merbitz, PhD, Edmund Durfee, Ph.D., Mark W. Newman, Ph.D. and Mark Ackerman, Ph.D., and Karen B. Farris, Ph.D.** on their multidisciplinary grant award. The Technology Increasing Knowledge: Technology Optimizing Choice Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center (TIKTOC RERC) is an interdisciplinary collaboration of clinicians and researchers from the School of Medicine, the College of Engineering, the College of Pharmacy, and the School of Information within the University of Michigan. The fund, initially seeded by a NSF ADVANCE grant, supports a range of activities necessary for scholarly work in science and engineering fields. Since its beginning in 2002, the UM ADVANCE Program has administered 10 rounds of Elizabeth C. Crosby award competions and has provided support for 88 UM faculty members in science and engineering.

- Congratulations to **Dr. Michelle Meade** received grant funding from Elizabeth Caroline Crosby for travel and childcare related expenses tied to her RERC grant. The Elizabeth C. Crosby Research Awards were created to help meet career-relevant needs of individual instructional track faculty that, if met, would increase the participation and advancement of women faculty in science and engineering at the University of Michigan. The fund, initially seeded by a NSF ADVANCE grant, supports a range of activities necessary for scholarly work in science and engineering fields. Since its beginning in 2002, the UM ADVANCE Program has administered 10 rounds of Elizabeth C. Crosby award competitions and has provided support for 88 UM faculty members in science and engineering.

There are also several proposals open and brewing including potential funding for robotics, musculoskeletal outcomes research, and autism. Stay tuned!
Publications, Grants, Awards

- We are excited to announce that funding has been awarded by the National MS Society for the study, “Life after MS diagnosis: a bio psychosocial assessment of symptom trajectory” (4 years, $794,769.40 total costs). The purpose of the study is to conduct frequent assessments of individuals newly-diagnosed with MS to identify the trajectory (or trajectories) of quality of life experienced in the first year after diagnosis. In addition to quality of life, the researchers will track a number of symptoms across the bio psychosocial spectrum to understand the relationship of these symptoms to an individual’s quality of life trajectory. The long-term goal of this study is to obtain better information about the experience of individuals newly-diagnosed with MS to guide the future development of psychosocial interventions targeting this important period of time post-diagnosis.

The research team includes: Kevin Alscheruler, Ph.D. (Principal investigator, University of Washington), Chuck Bombardier, Ph.D. (Co-investigator, University of Washington), Dawn Ehde, Ph.D. (Co-investigator, University of Washington), Anna Kratz, Ph.D. (Co-investigator, University of Michigan), Annette Wundes, MD (Co-investigator, University of Washington), Kevin Gertz (Research Coordinator, University of Washington)

This is another example of a strong collaboration with the University of Washington. We just completed a multi-site drug trial of Venlafaxine XR to treat major depression disorder after SCI with UW. Congratulations to Dr. Kratz for another recent grant award.

- Featured in an article about concussions and testing head impact sensors of the University Record, Dr. Eckner and post doc Vivek Pejaver test collision impact using a crash test dummy. Their research is in collaboration with the Biomechanics Research Lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

- Congratulations to Drs. Tony Chiodo and Denise Tate, and to Marty Forchheimer and the SCI Model Systems program on a new publication on pain in Spinal Cord Injury Screening for neuropathic pain after spinal cord injury with the Spinal Cord Injury Pain In-

Kudos

- Congratulations to Rachel Lott, OTRL, CHT. In November, Rachel passed THE test and became a Certified Hand Therapist which is the highest award a hand therapist can achieve. Rachel has been working as a hand therapist at MedRehab Briarwood for the past 3 years. There are now 10 certified hand therapists out of a total of 19 hand therapists working at 5 different sites within the University of Michigan Health System. WAY TO GO RACHEL!!! We are all extremely proud of you and your accomplishment!

- Congratulations to Andrea Aagesen, Joe Hornyak, Tony Chiodo, and Jun Pangilinan, who have been accepted as inaugural members of the Academy of Medical Education at the University of Michigan.

- Our Department was quite prominent in the recent very well received American Psychological Association Rehabilitation Psychology conference in San Antonio, TX. Conference attendance was the highest ever.

  Michelle Meade was the Program Chair, and gave a half day workshop on Self-management.

  Nancy Merbitz was the Preconference Program Chair (Rehab Psychology in Critical Care Settings).

Service Excellence

- The Med Rehab Canton front end staff are the latest recipients of the Stanley Cup of Service Excellence. This recognition program was developed by Doria Chege. Administrative Managers of Operations, who was on hand to present the cup. Pictured here are Lori Czarnecki (left) and Varnita Owagbemi (right). Members of the Canton clerical team that are not pictured here are Chrissey Kizlarczyk and Kathy Sequin.

Congratulations and thank you all for continuing to demonstrate outstanding patient service!
Chris Savoie was recently featured on the website for fitting kids into wheelchairs for U-M’s Wheelchair Seating Services since 1999, and he says he sees the work differently than most. Chris started his career as a rehab engineer after leaving college early because the loans got to be too much. He moved to Lansing, and took a job at Cole Rehab. “They were looking for a delivery boy,” he recalls.

Mrs. Cole, the company owner, liked Chris a lot. She liked his open spirit and passion for life. In 1993, she hired him, and Chris soon became almost a part of the Cole family, sharing an apartment with their son. The Coles mentored him, and Chris learned all about the business of orthotics and prosthetics. Six years later, he accepted a job at U-M’s Wheelchair Seating Service.

His U-M job, transitioning and fitting people into wheelchairs, took him all over Michigan, and eventually, the world. On one mission, through a program called Wheels for Humanity, Chris and a colleague took 167 wheelchairs to Vietnam, where he fitted those in need, and taught local therapists how to repair and maintain them. He did this on vacation time, on his own dime.

If his patient lives on a farm, he says, he will try to fit him/her for an all-terrain chair. A customer who lives a city life might be fitted with one that glides more easily in and out of vehicles and over pavement and floors.

Ever since his first year with Wheelchair Seating Services, Chris has volunteered at U-M’s camp for ventilator-dependent children, Trail’s Edge Camp. “The first year I went [there] to take and repair wheelchairs. After that, they had me hook, line and sinker. I’ve gone up and volunteered ever since,” he says.

U-M recognized his tireless efforts in 2003, when Chris received the James T. Neubacher Award for his significantly contributions to the needs of the disabled. It was a perfect tribute to a man who quietly does more for the children and families of those who have endured near-death injury or illness than any of us can perhaps imagine. He says, “I just love what I do. I love to work with the kids, help out the kids, and try and get them whatever they want and need.”

Chris’ patients are mostly children, he says, but after 14 years at U-M, some of them are now adults. (People grow, and need new wheelchairs and fittings.) Still, the first time Chris sees a patient is usually in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, where he meets and greets them with a chair.

“We’re getting them up out of bed for the first time since they’ve been injured,” he says. He also says, poignantly, he could tell what season it is in Michigan just by the kids’ injuries: football injuries in fall, snowmobile accidents in winter, diving accidents in summer. Sadly, automobile accidents happen all throughout the year. He also tends to children who were born with cerebral palsy, when it is time for them to transition to a chair.
PM&R Quarterly Newsletter

We are pleased to announce the success of three PMR led teams for the 2013 PORT cohort! As you know, the PORT program trains clinicians with no experience in research to design and if funded, carry out, a small research project. They receive mentorship from other faculty as well as Susan Murphy, Anna Kratz, and Claire Kalpakjian for the duration of their projects. We held our peer review (for which Jackie Kaufman and Seth Warschausky generously gave their time as reviewers) in November and decisions were made in early December.

Here are the awardees and their projects:

- **Margy Fox**, “Is R FLACC scale a valid measure of pain in people with spasticity and cerebral palsy?” (Ginny Nelson is her clinical mentor)
- **Katelin Rudolph**, “Testing a multi-faceted knowledge translation intervention for acute care occupational therapies”
- **Alyssa Trotsky, Sara Houlihan**, and **Chris Magnant**, “Developing a nurse driven mobility program for hospitalized general medicine patients” (Mouli is their research mentor). Note that this project is an important first step to a larger program that they want to develop hospital-wide. Another excellent way to leverage resources to prepare them for a much larger pitch to UMHS down the road.

Of note, **Mark Peterson** also mentored a trainee who is a clinical faculty member (Palak Choksi) in Internal Medicine/Endocrinology on her project, “Longitudinal analysis of the impact of very low energy diets on bone mineral density”, which received very high scores. This would not have been possible with Mark’s dedication.

MICHR PORT Awards to PM&R Clinicians

Since its inception, PMR has been a strong supporter of PORT and each year we have at least one team from PMR participate. This year PMR was unable to cost share on any project, however, thanks to MICHR, we were able to provide very small funds to each of the PMR projects. It is our sincere hope that next year and beyond that we will be able to resume PMR support of trainees (a shameless plug that I have no shame making!). We feel very strongly that training clinicians in research to be active and full members of teams is essential to maximize our potential in PMR.

PORT is also an ideal vehicle to bring together our clinical and research mission. In fact, Susan and I are providing a “PORT-lite” 4-session workshop to PMR clinicians in MedRehab (Ned Kirsch and Paula Kartje reached out to us) in Jan/Feb to enhance their capacity to conduct research on the large volume of clinical data they have at their disposal.

Susan, Anna and Claire are also exporting the PORT program to other CTSA institutions and piloting “PORT IN A BOX” to USC this spring before a formal roll out. In MICHR’s latest site visit from NIH, the Project Officer noted that PORT was “very exciting”. There also have been a number of opportunities for us to be at the table in MICHR meetings not only promoting PORT, but also the dedication of PMR to the UM research enterprise. In fact, at a retreat in the fall, Steve Kunkel was present and learned of our program and our passion to reach out to clinicians. Basically, we make PMR look good!

Please take time to extend congratulations to our 2013 PORT PMR awardees who worked very hard this year and are ready to launch their projects! We will begin cohort #7 in April 2014 and will be touching base soon about support for trainees.

PM&R Stars—What to Expect Stroke Patient/Family Video

“What to Expect,” produced by the Stroke Program in response to a grateful patient’s request for an informational video to ease the stress and anxiety about having an acute medical condition. After getting lots of feedback from several patients and families, we produced the video very economically, and included humor and not only knowledge but the fundamental respect and care we provide our patients. We have pilot tested it with several patients and families and they have all enthusiastically said that it conveys our deep compassion and plan of care at U of M for stroke. We think that this video could be a model for a variety of acute medical conditions (MI, trauma, asthma, etc) where patients face a hospitalization with anxiety that can be lessened with an explanation of what is planned. The link will be housed on our website and publically available for family that cannot come to the hospital. Patients and families can view the video in the ED via a tablet that our residents will provide for them. We are grateful to the many departments and individuals who helped make the video. Here is the link:


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Health-related Quality of Life Research Moving Forward with MedSAU Funding

Dr. Noelle Carlozzi and Dr. Lynda Yang are co-leading a project to examine health-related quality of life in individuals with neonatal brachial plexus palsy (NBPP). This project is a collaborative effort among the center for Clinical Outcomes Development and Application (CODA), the UM Brachial Plexus Program, and Spring Arbor University. NBPP is a debilitating condition occurring during the perinatal period that results in paralysis and loss of sensation in the affected arm. The incidence of this condition is 1-4 of every 1,000 babies born in the United States, similar to that of cerebral palsy. However, unlike cerebral palsy, NBPP is largely unknown, and its effects on the lives of affected children and their families are under-reported.

PM&R Retirements

Alice Cheesman, Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Inpatient Admitting Supervisor is retiring after 33.5 years. Alice Cheesman first joined the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the early 1980’s. She came to the Department from the Department of Biochemistry to be Dr. Leonard’s secretary. Dr. Leonard was the residency program director at the time. Her role was to assist him with both his clinical and his academic responsibilities as well as his oversight and administration of the residency program. Her office was in the Orthotics and Prosthetics area of the Department in the old Main Hospital. At the time she joined the Department there was no such position as residency coordinator. This was a position she grew into, helped define and became the first Residency Program Director for our Department – a role she filled admirably. During Dr. Leonard’s tenure as Residency Program Director, Ms. Cheesman assisted with 3 successful RRC accreditation and site reviews all achieving maximal 5 year accreditations. She continued as Residency Program Coordinator with Dr. Spires who became Residency Program Director in 1996 when Dr. Leonard became Chairman. She assisted with several more successful residency accreditation reviews before moving to her current position of Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Inpatient Admitting Supervisor.

A retirement party is scheduled on March 27th in the Second Floor Conference Room, Burlington Building from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Please stop by and wish Alice a fond farewell.

On behalf of the O&P Admin Team, we would like to formally announce that MaryEllen Bulson has officially submitted her plan to retire May 15, 2014. MaryEllen’s connection with UMHS started in high school when she volunteered in various capacities at “Old Main” hospital. She began employment in 1973 until 1985 when she took 7 years off and returned in 1992. MaryEllen worked in Admitting, Anesthesia, Pediatric GI, General Pediatrics, Surgery, Clinical Resource Team, PM&R Faculty clinics and then PM&R UMOPC. Her experience spanned secretarial, patient rep, billing and authorizations. Please join the ACU Leadership Team at a potluck “Loaded Potato Bar” on May 7, 2014 at noon in Conference Room A/B. Mark your calendars now-details to follow!!

Please join Dr. Kelly, Jeff, Anita L-L and the Admin Team in congratulating MaryEllen in this major milestone in her life!!
Excellent JACHO Survey results for Ventricular Assistive Device

This past month the Joint Commission (TJC) surveyors visited the University of Michigan for certification of the Ventricular Assistive Device program. The goal is to help the patient and their families to discharge home safely and to be competent with the LVAD (left ventricular assist device). Our comprehensive program follows a set protocol which includes OT/PT/TR standardized assessments pre-operatively (timed 15 feet walk test, and a 6MWT) as well as complete functional assessment to note strength and IADL/BADL, initiation of precautions and how it impacts mobility and self-care. Once the LVAD surgery is complete, treatment begins post-op day #1 to address airway clearance, LVAD management/education, functional mobility, BADL, strength and endurance.

Prior to discharge the patient and families must participate in a supervised community outing and an unsupervised outing. The supervised community outing includes the OT and TR accompanying the patient and their trained family member(s) to a local establishment of their choice that may include the mall, a restaurant, park, etc. During this outing the patient and families are expected to be able to problem solve any LVAD issues which may arise and be able to take care of the patient and manage LVAD equipment. In order to assess readiness for discharge (which usually occurs by post op day 21) the patient and families are quizzed regarding alarms, emergency situations, and safety procedures. Patient and families have the opportunity to practice making a phone call to reach the VAD coordinators in case of emergency situation. If successful with supervised community outing, patient and families can proceed with unsupervised outing which occurs the next day, and then discharged.

If the patient requires inpatient acute rehab, our Rehab Hospital OT/PT/TR inpatient rehabilitation team will take over the training/care until discharge is complete.

In order to remain competent, each of our staff completes annual, biannual in-services during which we practice emergency procedures with demo equipment. The competency also includes a device specific competency with a clinical specialist check-off to insure knowledge of the alarms, emergency procedures and device specific information.

Philanthropy

GREAT WORK! Here is some recent philanthropy support and activity for PM&R:

- **Dr. Seth Warschausky** received an award from the Swanson Foundation for $20,000 dollars to support work in the Adaptive Cognitive Assessment Laboratory in conjunction with Dr. Jane Huggins and her Direct Brain Interface project.

- **Dr. JR Richardson** received $10,000 dollars from the Newman Family Foundation to support his work on gait, balance, peripheral neuropathy and falls. This is the second contribution that Dr. Richardson has received from the Newman Foundation.

- The Pediatric Rehabilitation Center (PRC) received a $1000 dollar gift from the Martin Family Foundation which will support a creative, entertaining structure for the lobby of the new facility.

- There are also several proposals open and brewing including potential funding for robotics, musculoskeletal outcomes research, and autism. Stay tuned!

- Kudos to **Ellen Abramson** and **Dina Kutinsky** of Development who have been working hard to open opportunities for PM&R. Please keep them in mind if you think you have met a potential donor, or would like to talk to them about donor possibilities for your work.
Rehab Engineering

Things have been very busy at the Rehabilitation Engineering Program (REP). We recently have been awarded two clinically-related grants. The “Mounting Assistive Technology for Successful Lifelong Participation” project has been awarded for one year from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. This project will enable REP with different mounting systems to explore with our patients and the PM&R team to improve function. Among the many applications for this include positioning cell phone, tablets, laptops, communication devices, and cameras accessibly and safely to wheelchairs, beds, walkers, and more. We want to learn what works best for a wide variety of patient conditions we see as well as educate families on choices. If you have an application you wish to discuss, please contact us. Thanks to Patty McTigue whose efforts have made this possible. REP has also been awarded a FIGS grant for the “iCan” project. This project’s mission is to provide our patients with a variety of tablet experiences with an aim on understanding accessibility better. It not only includes tablets, but special assistive technologies that help our patients access them. We hope these two projects help launch future related projects that empower and educate our patients through experiential learning before accommodation recommendations. Thanks to Jamie Mayo for her efforts on making this happen.

With the launching of the new pediatric outpatient facility at Commonwealth, we are pleased to announce that REP will be at this site monthly to provide services and coordinate efforts with this team. This is a pilot effort that we aim to make permanent as we examine needs and benefits. As we examine this, please be patient as we still have UH, Mott, and our community to serve.

Where are the BCI folks? They are now at Burlington. Dr. Jane Huggins and her research team have moved to the Burlington Building. What is BCI? You should see this. Please visit http://www.umich.edu/~umdbi/. Want to see more? Email Jane. She is doing really exciting work.

Finally, we want to congratulate Ramses Alcaide (Neuroscience Ph.D.), Xiaoya Ma (Kinesiology Ph.D.), David Brown (Computer Science Undergrad), and Abdulrahman Aref (Biomedical Engineering Ph.D.) from the BCI research team who have taken our new Google Glass and wrote code to make it applicable to their BCI studies. What is Google Glass? Simply, it’s a pair of glasses with a screen built in that responds to head motions, voice control, and rim tapping. It also detects where you are and how fast you are moving. You can pair it to your cell phone, tablet, computer, or right to Wi-Fi. You can wake up the phone by tilting your head, then use your voice to make phone calls, get directions, send/receive email and texts, as well as taking video or pictures and post to Facebook. Although not designed as an assistive technology device, it certainly has excellent accommodation potential for our patients. It will do a lot more soon after it’s released since Google provides the greater program-ming community with the ability to write apps like our research team did. This will have a major impact for our patients. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention, this team took their project to the annual MHacks. A summary of this effort is provided by Ramses Alcaide:

Brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) offer the hope of communication and technology control without physical movement. Instead, voluntary brain activity is interpreted as commands to control technology. For this reason BCIs may soon help people with degenerative movement disorders, like Lou Gehrig’s disease. For these individuals, the simple act of telling their spouse, “I love you” or saying, “thank you” to their caregiver has indescribable value, and seeing these people experience a human connection again is truly moving. One of the hurdles for practical everyday BCI use is the large, cumbersome display, which interferes with sight lines and presents challenges to portability. Further, such a display requires adjustment every time the user is repositioned. Google Glass can form the basis for a new generation of portable BCIs offering a high degree of portability and customization. During the winter MHacks event we integrated a Google Glass as a BCI display. In addition, we used Google Glass’s connectivity to Android-based Smartphone’s to create context-specific BCI control options. For example, using the GPS libraries of the Android Smartphone, we were able to provide location dependent commands. We also integrated an Arduino to allow us to use the Glass to control external devices such as a home automation systems. During MHacks we were awarded the Innovation and Impact Award for our work with Google Glass.

Congratulations to this team and we look forward to their future contributions to the advancement of clinical applications in our field.
Milestones’ Pediatric Rehabilitation

- **Shannon Scott-Miller MA ATR-BC**, Art Therapist, organized a gallery showing art work generated by children and teens involved in rehabilitation therapies and the Pediatric NeuroRehabilitation Program at Milestones. Titled “Recognizing the Artist Within”, the gallery show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council has been viewed by over 500 art patrons.

- **Ms. Scott-Miller and Rebecca McVey CTRS**, Recreation Therapist, have developed an Oncology TR/Art therapy group at Milestones, involving children who are undergoing chemo and radiation therapies. The group focuses on developing activities that facilitate creative expression as a means of coping with cancer treatment and its sequelae.

Speech Language Pathology

What’s New: February, 2014

- Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists are participating in 2 new feeding and swallowing clinics: Lynn Driver, Clinical Supervisor, Pediatric Speech-Language Pathology, is participating in the Aerodigestive Feeding Clinic, led by Dr. David Brown, Department of Otolaryngology. Laura Sayers, Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist, is participating in the Pediatric Behavioral Swallowing Clinic, led by Dr. Amy Drayton in Pediatric Psychology. Ms. Sayers will be presenting a lecture on feeding and swallowing intervention at the February meeting of the Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan.

- **Elaine Ledwon-Robinson** has been asked by the American Speech Language Hearing Association to serve as alternate for ASHA’s inaugural seat on the Joint Commission’s Professional Technical Advisory Committee for Hospital Accreditation.

- **Deborah McMechan**, Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist, received the UMHS Silver Award in recognition of receiving 4 or more Making a Difference Awards this fiscal year.

- **Phil Menard**, Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist, designed an innovative program for treatment of children with autism, ages 2.8 to 5.11: the STEPS program. He has received a generous pilot funding grant through Dance Marathon to initiate this program.

- **Margaret Tiner** is a co-investigator with Drs. Ward and Curtis in Oral Surgery on a study examining swallowing quality of life and speech intelligibility in patients with T2 tumors of the tongue, with and without free flap reconstructions.

- New Program: Speech-Language Pathologist Jen Gostlin has initiated, the Lee Silverman Voice Training Program (LSVT), in conjunction with the “Think Big” program led by colleagues in Physical and Occupational Therapy. LSVT is an evidence-based program for individuals who have been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, with the goal of improving and preserving functional speech and voice production.

- Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists **Deborah McMechan, Maria McElmeel, Phil Menard, Erica Osborn, Lindsay Reilly and Liza Rohn**, Laura Sayers and Megan Schmuckel developed and presented a video showcasing children using speech-generating devices and accessories for communication, presented at the Unified Cerebral Palsy of Michigan/ Mott Children’s Hospital/ Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation-sponsored October fair for children and families. Deborah McMechan continues to lead the innovative “Talk Around Town” program, a Dance-Marathon sponsored group that promotes a child’s use of an augmentative communication device in community activities.
Welcome New Therapists & Rehab Techs

Jeannie Kunz, OT
Milestones
Supervisor, Beth Riske

Jillian Hart, Rehab Tech
Acute Care
Supervisor, Kim Dosch

Julia Scott, Rehab Tech
Acute Care
Supervisor, Kim Dosch

Dan Schultz, Rehab Tech
Pediatric Rehab Center
Supervisor, Beth Riske

Nicole Coleman, PT
BRL
Supervisor, Beth Wiggert

Heather Archer, OT
BRL
Supervisor, Beth Wiggert

Allegra Adams, PT
UH Outpatient Clinic
Supervisor, Ron Sayre

Roopi Sandhu, Rehab Tech
PT CVC Acute Care
Supervisor, Kim Dosch

Movement of Orthopedic Therapist from Med Rehab to Burlington
PT/OT at Burlington and MedRehab continue to expand. Orthopedic and Spine services are being centralized at Burlington.

- Pat Moulis, PT has transferred from MedRehab to Burlington
- Michele Hahn, PT has transferred from MedRehab to Burlington
Welcome New PM&R Staff Employees

- **Amy McKeighan**
  Executive Assistant to
  Dr. Edward Hurvitz, MD

- **Andrea Viitala**
  PPS Coordinator
  Manager, Darin Pittman

- **Gina Jay**
  Research Technician
  Supervisor, Marty Forchheimer

Welcome New 6A Employees

- **Sharyn Perrone, RN**
  Supervisor, Michelle Fernamberg

- **Lori Barrett, RN**
  Supervisor, Michelle Fernamberg

- **Beth Heldmeyer, RN**
  Supervisor, Michelle Fernamberg

- **Andrew Overholt, RN**
  Supervisor, Michelle Fernamberg

No Photo—Elizabeth Eby RN joined us on January 20, 2014. She has an extensive inpatient rehabilitation background as well as previous CRRN status. She graduated from a Diploma program at Hurley Medical Center School of Nursing and obtained her BSN from Spring Arbor University. She is very passionate about rehabilitation nursing and is looking forward to joining our team.
Welcome New Speech, Language and Pathology Staff Employees

Rebecca Ankeney, MA, CCC
Speech-Language Pathology Manager, Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Laura Donoghue, MA, CCC
Speech-Language Pathology Manager, Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Sheila Harkaway, MS, CCC
Speech-Language Pathology Manager, Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Sarah Russell, MS, CCC
Speech-Language Pathology Manager, Elaine Ledwon-Robinson

Natalie Wombacher MS, CCC
Speech-Language Pathology Manager, Elaine Ledwon-Robinson