

## Telerehabilitation and Resource Development at BMCC

Geb Verburg



## Pediatric Telepractice and Resource Development

- Videoconferencing
  - Justification
  - Provincial Networks
  - Issues and New Initiatives
- Resource Development
  - Justification
  - Issues in Resource Development

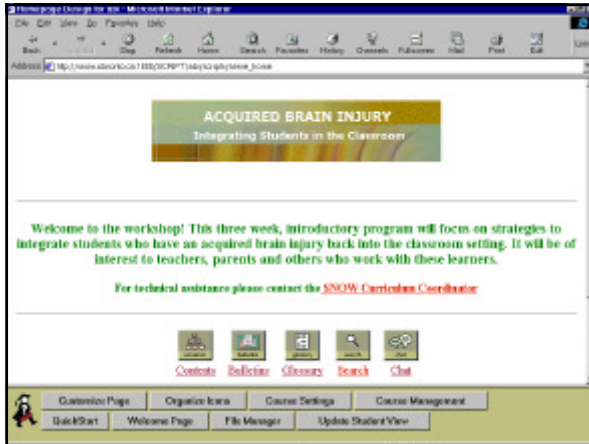


## Paediatric Telerehabilitation and Telepractice

### **Our applications are characterized by:**

- Multidisciplinary meetings between our two sites
- And with other facilities in Ontario (e.g. CHEO)
- With a strong focus on information & resource sharing





## Telerehabilitation

*...a definition*

The use of communication and information technologies to deliver rehabilitation services and exchange information over geographical distances

Adapted from Alberta Research Council's definition of Telehomecare as found on 10/11/03 at:  
<http://www.americantelemed.org/search/search.htm>

## Telepractice

*...a definition*

**Telepractice:** the application of telecommunication technology to deliver professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client; or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention and/or consultation

ASHA Draft Position Statement [Feb '04]  
<http://www.asha.org/peer-review/pr-SLPTelepractice.htm>

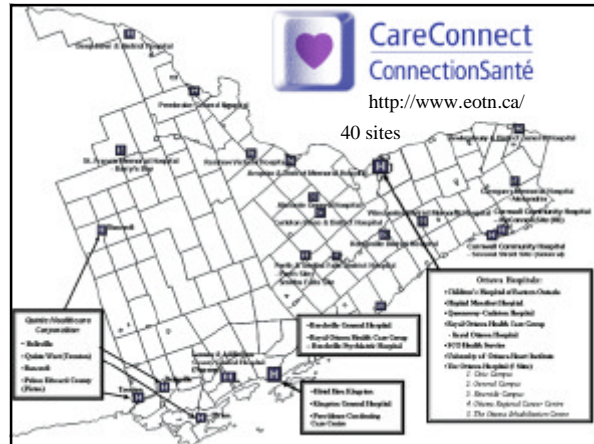
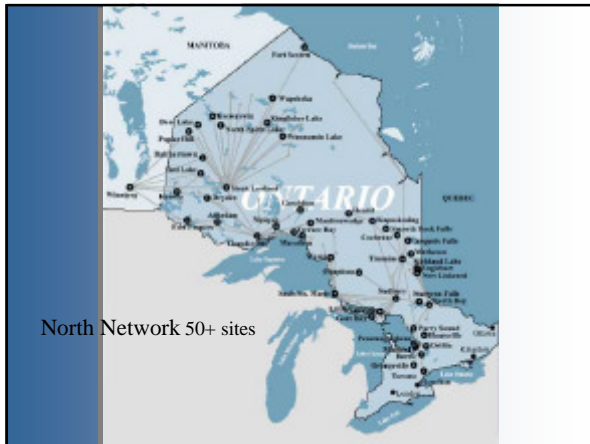
## What justifies our use of videoconferencing?

- Approximately 600 between-site meetings of staff per year (12/wk)
- About 100 educational sessions or rounds between sites and with HSC
- Vcon saves about \$60 to \$100K per year in staff travel time
- Our system pays for itself, allows our staff to learn and experiment with new applications

## Reasons for Videoconferencing

- BMCC is a pediatric rehabilitation centre with a provincial mandate
- Clients from GTA, Ontario and beyond
- Family centered approach requires that families have easy access to our staff and resources
- Information about pediatric rehabilitation is not readily available from traditional sources

## VIDEOCARE: Southwestern Ontario Telehealth Network 40 sites



## Smart Systems for Health Agency

### Once fully operational SSHA will:

- Connect more than 150,000 health care providers
- Link about 20,000 sites throughout Ontario
- [http://www.ontariofamilyhealthnetwork.gov.on.ca/english/tech/ssha\\_overview.pdf](http://www.ontariofamilyhealthnetwork.gov.on.ca/english/tech/ssha_overview.pdf)

## A National View

... Compliments of Dr. Ed Brown

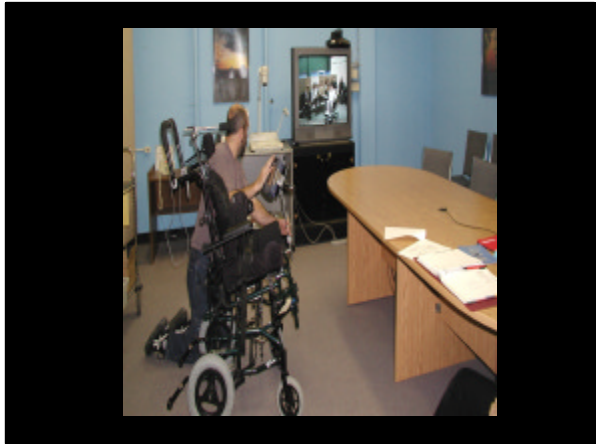


## Typical Clinical Videoconferencing Applications

- Assistive Technology consultation
  - Seating and Mobility
  - Prosthetic devices,
  - Walker adjustments
  - Brace fitting
- Parent Education
- Admission and discharge meetings with staff teams at other centres/hospitals

## Consultation about AT

- Mounting Assistive Technology Devices on wheelchairs is a typical task that requires support of
- Multidisciplinary staff with special knowledge and expertise





### Reasons for Online Resource Development

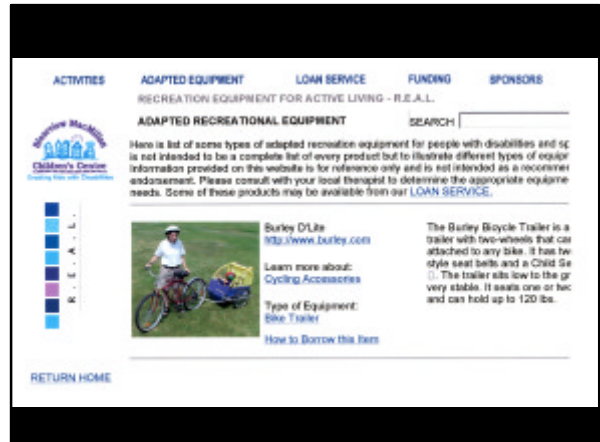
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## Developing Online Resources

- A key role of pediatric rehabilitation is the provision of information
- Telecommunications are opening up new and amazing opportunities in this respect
- Provide access to information for families / clients
- Allow for online collaboration of professionals
- Share research results through webcasts and online fora

## Online Resources

- Websites for clients
- Websites for parents e.g. Respite.com and R.E.A.L and Familynet websites
- Online Courses for teachers and Educational Assistants
- Online Q&A
- Listserv
- Online Collaboration





## Online Collaboration

- Working with special education teachers
  - Midi Mate music technology
- Recreation Equipment for Active Living
  - Adapted Recreation Equipment site
- Transition to Adulthood
  - Support website is under construction
- Developing new service options
  - SLP-Online: SLP Assessment and Service via videoconferencing





## What are the issues in videoconferencing?

- Ontario has an excellent infrastructure
- Networks are underused for rehab
- Not enough staff and families know about it
- Vcon applications are single case studies
- Can we build a body of evidence?
- Database of Videoconferencing Outcomes for Rehabilitation Application

## What are the issues in online resource development?

- Every hospital in the world is doing it
- Quality is only fair to good
- It takes more than a scanner to develop high quality online resource materials
- Learning Object Repositories (LORs) for Rehabilitation
- To build high quality effective resources that can be widely used and reused

## What are our immediate plans?

- Collaborate with Northern CRC's to develop a protocol for the assessment of speech and language in children
- Develop methods to deliver SLP therapy to communities in the north including First Nation Communities

## Other projects

- Use the online technology capabilities to develop useful resources for families and professionals
- Transition Ontario, a website and listserv with provincial transition resources and services
- Collaboration to develop a Adapted Recreation Equipment Loan Service in Thunder Bay

## Farther Future

- Our ultimate goal is for our staff to be able to consult with clients and families as well as with other professionals
- Using a number of means, such as on line via Internet or by videoconference
- Staff should be able to do so directly from their desktop or treatment rooms

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**Ontario**

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship--  
Volunteer@ction.online Program

## Resources

- Excellent site with many telehealth resource links:  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/telehealth/links.htm>
- If you have specific questions please email them to:  
[gverburg@bloorviewmacmillan.on.ca](mailto:gverburg@bloorviewmacmillan.on.ca)