

OCTC Clinical Research Grants

The OCTC Research Grant was introduced in 2007 with the intent of creating a supportive research environment for clinical staff. The purpose of these grants is to:

1. Support OCTC staff in conducting clinical research, by providing funds for dedicated time, tools and/or materials required for specific research projects.
2. Demonstrate OCTC research capacity/success in order to secure additional and/or permanent funding for ongoing clinical research at OCTC.
3. Encourage applications to external granting agencies, to supplement the available internal funding and help ensure the sustainability of OCTC research.

All clinicians (staff members who provide direct service to clients) employed by OCTC are eligible to apply for a grant, either individually or as part of a group. Clinicians may apply for a grant to continue an existing research project or to begin a new project. The grant may be used for completing a single specific phase of a project or multiple phases.

As of 2012, applicants must include in their proposal a plan for applying to an external granting agency for additional funds. This requirement was added in an effort to achieve greater sustainability for research at OCTC by encouraging clinicians to seek outside funds and not rely solely on the internal funds available.

To date, we have received a total of 14 proposals and have funded 6 projects, for a total of \$77,274. OCTC and the [OCTC Foundation](#) work together to enhance research funding

YEAR	PROPOSALS RECEIVED	PROPOSALS ACCEPTED	TOTAL FUNDING
2014-2015	0	0	0
2013-2014	0	0	0
2012	2	1	\$11,238
2011	2	1	\$10,000
2010	1	1	\$14,628
2009	0	0	0
2008	3	1	\$14,800
2007	6	2	\$26,608
Total	14	6	\$77,274

Below is a summary of the projects funded to date through this grant, their current status and outcomes:

2012: Marie Brien (Physiotherapist) & Keri Burgess (Physiotherapist) – “A Rehabilitation ‘Jump-Start’: Does an intensive clinic-based virtual reality (VR) experience enhance the

effectiveness of a home based VR therapy program in children with CP?” This project was just awarded funding in April 2013. It is a joint project with researchers at the University of Ottawa and it builds on previous OCTC research on the use of Virtual Reality as a treatment tool. The study is starting with the data acquisition in May 2014.

2011: Darquise Laflamme (Psychologist) & Philippe Adams (Psychologist) – “The Development of a Waitlist Management Tool for Diagnostic Services”. This project is in process. A prioritization tool has been developed following a comprehensive literature review and consultation with local experts. The research team is awaiting approval from the Research Ethics Board to implement and validate the tool.

2010: Marie Brien (Physiotherapist) - “Neuroplasticity and changes in functional balance and mobility following virtual exercise training in children and adolescents with cerebral palsy”. This was a follow-up to project #1 above, in collaboration with an international team of researchers from the University of Ottawa, CHEO, McGill University and Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre. The international team was not successful in receiving external funding and the project did not go forward as planned. The funds awarded by OCTC were returned, and used to fund internal grants in subsequent years.

2008: Jocelyn Barden-Underhill (Speech-Language Pathologist), Amita Furgoch (Occupational Therapist), Jean Ju (Psychologist), Pascal Lefebvre (University of Ottawa) and Leslie Walker (OCTC School principal) - “The Match Between Current Service Supply and Demand Regarding AAC and Literacy Intervention and the Needs of School Age Children with Severe Speech and Physical Impairments (SSPI): Descriptions From Initial Survey”. The first phase of this project is now complete. It was presented at the biennial conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (Pittsburgh, Aug 2012). A second phase of this project is currently underway and the research team will be applying for a grant through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

2007: Marie Brien (Physiotherapist) - “The Effect of an Intensive Virtual Reality Intervention Program on Balance and Functional Mobility of Children with Cerebral Palsy”. This project is now complete. It was profiled in the newsletter of the Ottawa Pediatric Rehabilitation Research Alliance (Spring 2011). Results have been presented at 4 annual conferences: American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (Washington DC, Sept 2010); American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Conference (Montreal, Oct 2010); Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec (Quebec City, May 2011); and CyberTherapy & CyberPsychology (Gatineau, June 2011). An article was published in the Fall 2011 issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Pediatric Physical Therapy*.

2007: Amita Furgoch (Occupational Therapist) & Tara Previl (Occupational Therapist) - “Predictors of Abandonment of Speech Recognition Technology in Children and Adolescents with Physical Disabilities”. This project is now complete. It was profiled in the newsletter of the Ottawa Pediatric Rehabilitation Research Alliance (Spring 2009). Results have been presented at 4 annual conferences: Ontario Association of Children’s Rehabilitation Services (Waterloo, Oct 2008); Assistive Technology Industry Association (Orlando, Florida, Jan 2010); and Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy (Halifax, May 2010; Victoria, May 2013). An article was published in the Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Journal online in January 2014.