



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Continuing Education in
Rehabilitation Science

SCHOOL OF REHABILITATION SCIENCE
REHABSCIENCE.USASK.CA/CERS



BEYOND BOUNDARIES: TELEREHABILITATION AND THE VIRTUAL CARE REVOLUTION

ABSTRACT BOOKLET

2026

A 3 Day Virtual National Conference

April 20, May 4 & May 8, 2026



[Conference Website](#)





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About Us

This event is proudly provided by CERS



Beyond Boundaries: Telerehabilitation and the Virtual Care Revolution is hosted by Continuing Education in Rehabilitation Science (CERS), within the School of Rehabilitation Science, College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

CERS provides evidence-informed continuing professional development for rehabilitation and health professionals across disciplines, and supports knowledge translation through educational programming and event delivery.

CERS mission is to advance excellence in post-graduate education that promotes evidence-based practice, health care delivery, and research scholarship. Its vision is to be a responsive and collaborative program that supports lifelong learning and meets the evolving needs of professionals, clients, and communities.

<https://rehabscience.usask.ca/cers/>



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Land Acknowledgment



The land is acknowledged as our Mother, the Earth. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to honor and support the *Indigenous peoples, Indigenous cultures, Indigenous values, and Indigenous languages that belong to the land of Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to working towards mending colonized lands and protecting the land in a way that demonstrates honour, respect, and love. The University of Saskatchewan extends this commitment to the lands and Treaty territories (Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10) that constitute kisiskâciwan ([Saskatchewan], "the swift current", Cree/Saulteaux), and all Indigenous people that call kisiskâciwan home. We are born to the land and the land claims us.

-The Office of the Vice-Provost,
 Indigenous Engagement

[Office of the Vice-Provost Indigenous Engagement](#)





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Event Information

Beyond Boundaries: Telerehabilitation and the Virtual Care Revolution is a three-day, fully virtual conference focused on the evolving landscape of telerehabilitation and virtual care. The program features contributions from rehabilitation professionals, researchers, clinicians, technologists, and patient partners across Canada who are advancing innovative approaches to care delivery.

This fully bilingual conference was developed in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan School of Rehabilitation Science, the University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the University of Manitoba College of Rehabilitation Sciences, the University of Manitoba Price Faculty of Engineering, and the École de réadaptation, Faculté de médecine et sciences de la santé, Université de Sherbrooke.

The conference is intended for clinicians, researchers, health-care providers, patients, families, and others interested in virtual care, with the goal of supporting knowledge exchange and enhancing capacity to deliver and access high-quality telerehabilitation services.





Planning Committee



Dr. Mirella Veras, PT, Ph.D.

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Research Affiliate

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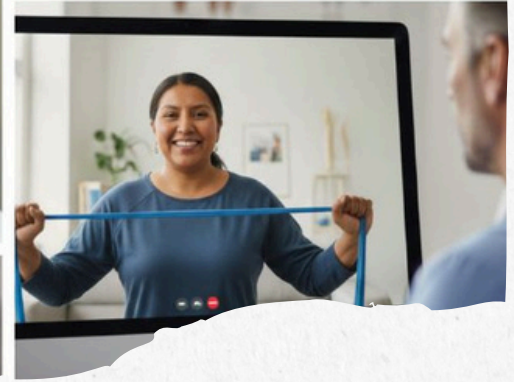
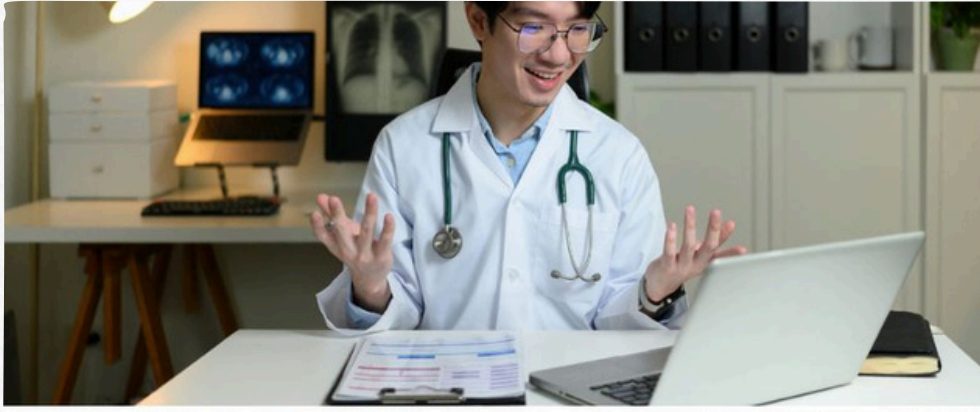
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 VIRTUAL
HEALTH
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IEEE Robotics, Control, Instrumentation & Measurement Chapter
Winnipeg Section

 RobConIM

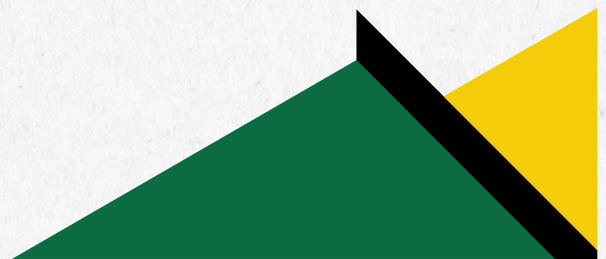




Quick Bytes **April 20 & May 4**

This section features selected submissions from the call for five-minute presentations for Beyond Boundaries: Telerehabilitation and the Virtual Care Revolution. Contributions were invited from across Canada and include research presentations, case studies, clinical vignettes, and technology showcases highlighting diverse approaches to virtual care.

These abstracts reflect a range of perspectives—from low-tech solutions to advanced innovations—demonstrating the breadth of telerehabilitation practice and its application across clinical and community settings.





April 20, 2026

Quick Bytes #01

Stronger together: The Canadian Telerehab Community of Practice

McKyla McIntyre¹, Meiqi Guo¹

¹ UHN-Toronto Rehab, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Abstract

This presentation will discuss the formation of the Canadian Telerehab Community of Practice, established in 2023. We will review the geographical and practice scope of our community members, recap format and content of sessions held to date, and share feedback from members on lessons learned. Future directions and ways to become involved will also be discussed.

Quick Bytes #02

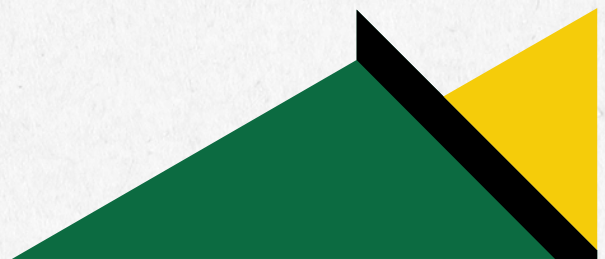
Increased connection following TIPS study

Michelle Harder², Hannah Brown², Heather Martin-Brown²

² Rehab Centre for Children, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Abstract

Two clinicians provide a vignette outlining success and connection in a northern Manitoba community using virtual therapy. Virtual co-therapy appointments increased patient contact and reduced the need for family travel, supporting family-centred care.





Quick Bytes #03

Co-Designing the Virtual Delivery of Pressure Injury Care

Kathryn Arnold³

³ W21C Research and Innovation Centre; Health Everywhere Hub,
Calgary, AB, Canada

Quick Bytes #04

Info-Réadapt: Telephonic Rehabilitation Consultation for Musculoskeletal Pain

Kadija Perreault⁴

⁴ Université Laval; Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en
réadaptation et intégration sociale, Quebec City, QC, Canada

Abstract

Info-Réadapt is a public telephonic consultation service aimed at improving equitable access to rehabilitation for individuals with musculoskeletal pain in Quebec. Developed collaboratively with clinicians, managers, and experts with lived experience, it provides rapid self-management support and education. Ongoing evaluation assesses its implementation and preliminary outcomes to guide future scaling.





Quick Bytes #05

Virtual Care for Expert Wound Care Assessment of Unhoused People

Martin Ferguson-Pell⁹

⁹ Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Abstract

Homelessness is a growing public health challenge in Canada, with an estimated 11.2% of Canadians reporting they have experienced homelessness at some point (Government of Canada, 2025). People experiencing homelessness (PEH) face disproportionately high rates of chronic illness, preventable injuries, and premature mortality. Their life expectancy is significantly shorter than the housed population, often due to unmanaged chronic disease, environmental exposure, and poor access to preventive care (Fleury et al., 2021). Chronic wounds, musculoskeletal pain, and mobility impairments are common, yet rehabilitation services are fragmented, siloed, and frequently inaccessible without stable housing or a primary care provider (Dawes et al., 2017).

Current systems default to emergency departments (EDs) as the main point of care. This leads to repeat visits, delayed discharges, and higher system costs, while failing to address underlying needs (Richard et al., 2024). PEH frequently report stigma, discrimination, and unmet health needs when interacting with healthcare systems, resulting in mistrust and disengagement from care. Barriers include challenges in navigating specialist appointments, competing survival priorities, and lack of continuity across providers (Nadicksbernd et al., 2023). Working with Jasper Place Wellness Centre (JPWC) in Edmonton, we are undertaking a 12-month pilot virtual wound assessment program using a telehealth platform (TeleVU) to link expert wound specialists to the JPWC team to generate personalized treatment plans for their clients.



May 4, 2026

Quick Bytes #06

Bridging Healthcare Gaps: Wound Management in Remote Northern Saskatchewan

Taron Topham⁵

⁵ University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Abstract

Saskatchewan faces gaps in diabetic-related wound care despite provincial improvements in lower extremity amputation rates. This research adopts a community-led approach to identify barriers in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, aiming to inform equitable and sustainable interventions.

Quick Bytes #07

Therapist-Controlled Telerehabilitation for Upper-Limb Recovery via Robotic Manipulation

Muhammad Hussain Ahmad⁷

⁷ University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Abstract

This research proposes a therapist-controlled telerehabilitation system integrating robotic manipulation for upper-limb recovery. The system allows remote supervision with safety constraints and supports integration across diverse robotic platforms, improving access to rehabilitation despite geographic and resource limitations.





Quick Bytes #08

Therapist-Controlled Telerehabilitation for Upper-Limb Recovery via Robotic Manipulation

Rebecca Sawatsky⁶

⁶ University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Abstract

This study co-developed a virtual pre-surgical education program for hip and knee replacement patients in Saskatchewan with First Nation and Métis communities. Iterative feedback shaped culturally responsive content and enhanced patient understanding, improving equitable access for rural and remote populations.

Quick Bytes #09

An Indigenous Community-Engaged Approach to Identifying Virtual Care Needs

Briana Bowes⁶, Elder Shirley Wolfe-Keller⁶, Eloise Fineday⁶

Abstract

This study co-developed a community-directed needs assessment with First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. Using Indigenous research principles, including OCAP® and wahkohtowin, it informs equitable virtual care planning and policy, ensuring data sovereignty and culturally responsive service delivery.

⁶ University of Saskatchewan / Virtual Health Hub, Saskatoon, SK, Canada





Quick Bytes #10

First Nations Led Priorities for Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Digital Health

Joel Genyk⁷ (with multiple co-authors)

⁷ University of Manitoba – Department of Physiotherapy, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Abstract

This study co-defined priorities for ethical AI in health with First Nations people with disabilities in Manitoba. Findings highlight the need for accessible AI literacy, community governance, and culturally responsive applications while addressing risks of privacy breaches and inequities.





Bonus Recorded Online Content

Quick Bytes #11

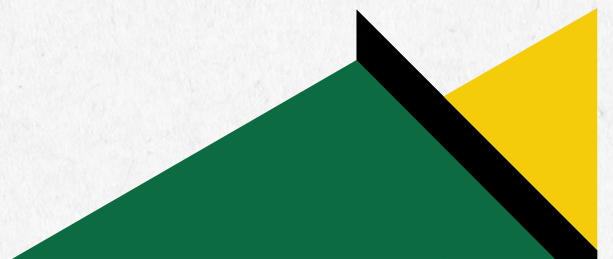
Online Learning for Caregivers of Children and Youth with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: A Scoping Review

Tatiana Ogourtsova⁸

⁸ McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Abstract

This scoping review explored key components of online learning programs for caregivers of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Of 1,701 citations, 36 studies were included, showing significant improvements in parental knowledge and highlighting gaps in program integration, transition support, and flexible delivery. Online learning shows strong potential to enhance caregiver outcomes, but broader populations and structured integration are needed.





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Work With Us

CERS at the University of Saskatchewan partners with clinicians, researchers, and communities to advance rehabilitation. We offer:

- Post-professional education and training
- Knowledge translation services, including event support and resource development
- Collaboration on research and innovation projects

Whether you want to co-develop programs, share insights, or launch new initiatives, we're ready to work with you.



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