

Canadian Stroke Congress 2014

VCoP Memberships

401

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A Message from the VCoP Administrators

Happy New Year VCoP Members! We hope you had a safe and joyous holiday season! This fall/winter issue of the VCoP Voice celebrates our progress as a stroke community. With over 400 members, we are seeing the value you place in this resource.

Since our last issue, VCoP posters have been presented at the Canadian Stroke Congress, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Toronto Stroke Collaborative. These posters showcased the positive impact the VCoP is having on best practice implementation and interprofessional collaboration. We thank you for your ongoing participation.

Please take this opportunity to learn about new initiatives such as the Peer Mentorship Program, see what our colleagues have been up to, and learn about a new function now possible on the VCoP.

We have much to look forward to accomplishing together in 2015!

Functional Improvements to the VCoP

In early 2014, we conducted an evaluation of the VCoP. This study resulted in a number of themes being extracted from 15 individual interviews and 3 focus groups. We used this information and your suggestions to prioritize functional changes to the VCoP.

This year, we improved the VCoP by:

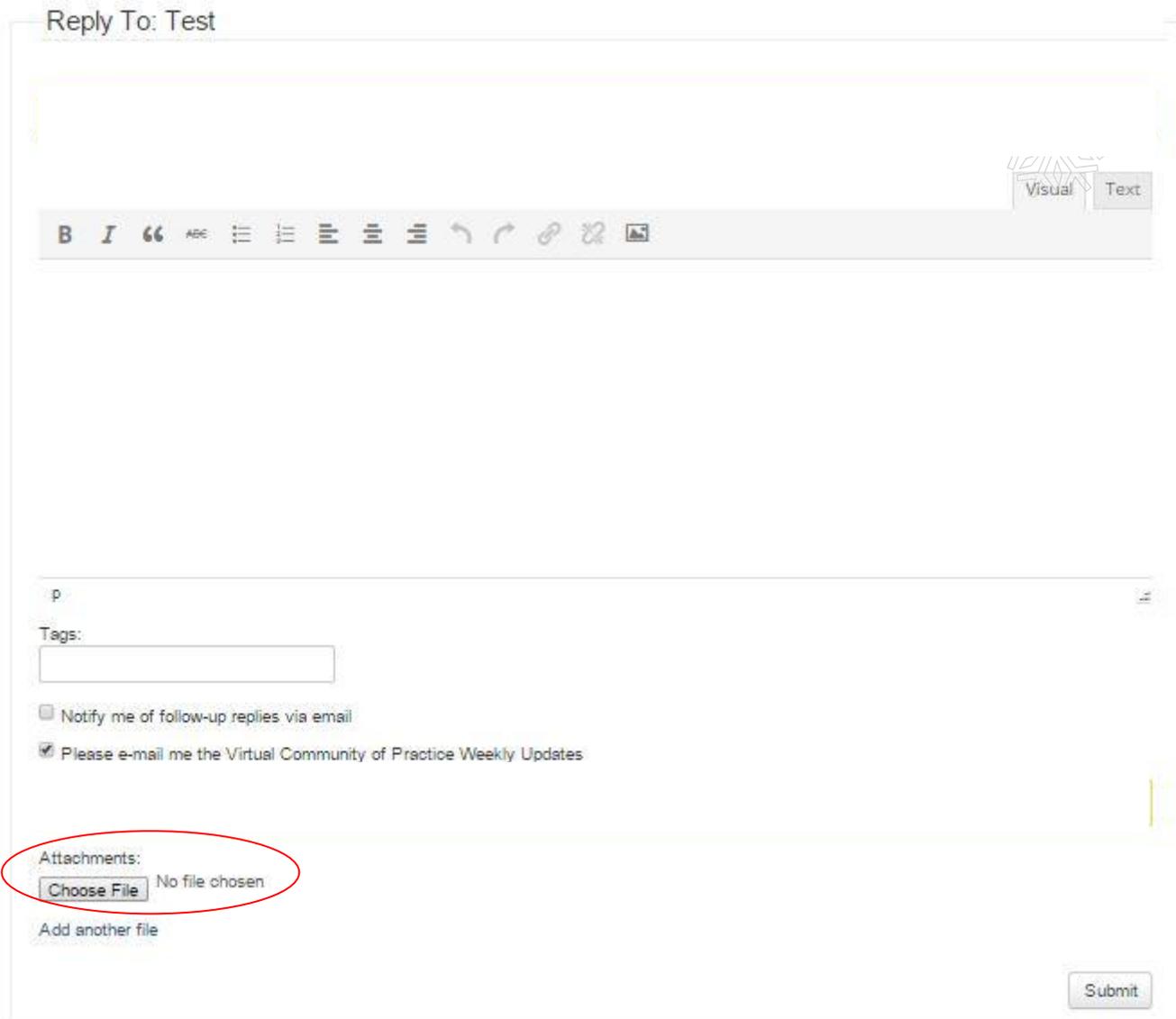
- Improving Search Capabilities - you can now search by member (first name, last name, organization, profession, or job title). You can search the discussion forums by keywords, and you can also search the entire site by entering search terms
- Adding the ability to attach a document within a discussion forum and this is being frequently used for information sharing

VCoP User Tips

Posts – How to Add an Attachment

Do you want to share a document with your peers? Is there something you would like feedback on?

Attachments can include: documents and pictures. To add an attachment to your post, follow these steps:



The screenshot shows a web form for replying to a post. At the top, it says "Reply To: Test". Below this is a large text area for the reply. A rich text editor toolbar is visible, containing icons for bold (B), italic (I), quote, bulleted list, numbered list, link, unlink, and image. To the right of the toolbar are "Visual" and "Text" tabs. Below the text area is a "Tags:" field, a checkbox for "Notify me of follow-up replies via email", and a checked checkbox for "Please e-mail me the Virtual Community of Practice Weekly Updates". At the bottom left, the "Attachments:" section is circled in red. It contains a "Choose File" button, the text "No file chosen", and a link "Add another file". A "Submit" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

1. Below the reply box is a section titled Attachments. Click the “Choose File” button.
2. In the window that pops up, choose your file and click “Open”.
3. If you want to add another attachment click the *Add another file* link under the “Choose File” button.
4. After you have created your reply click “Submit” and your reply along with attachments will be posted.

Meet the Peer Mentors!



From the left: M. Alves, S. Lyeo, T. Sahota, S. Darling, M Cashman, K. Cohen, G. Avinoam (project lead)

Melissa Alves

Physiotherapist,
St. Michael's Hospital
Mentorship Area: Mobility

Melissa is a member of the Stroke Team at St. Michael's Hospital. She has developed and facilitated education on transfer, handling, and mobilization techniques for medical residents, nurses and clinical assistants. As part of an interdisciplinary team she is continuously learning and exchanging knowledge with other disciplines and focusing on holistic practice.

Sandy Lyeo

Physiotherapist,
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Mentorship Area: Mobility

In addition to clinical work Sandy provides ongoing staff education on positioning and transferring of stroke patients. She participated in the Stroke Quality Based Procedures Working Group and the Stroke Current State Process Mapping Working Group, developing an acute care stroke map and implementing an interprofessional staff education program.

Tina Sahota

Physiotherapist,
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Mentorship Area: Mobility

Tina treats acute stroke patients and works towards facilitating recovery mobility and goal achievement. She provides staff education on positioning and transfer. She was involved in the design and implementation of Stroke Foundations 1 - station on transfers of patients with hemiparesis.

Sherry Darling

Speech Language Pathologist,
Toronto Western Hospital - UHN
Mentorship Area: Dysphagia

Sherry works with stroke patients providing dysphagia/communication assessment & management. Certified trainer for TOR-BSST© and Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia; & delegated in the act of endoscopy for Fiber Endoscopic Evaluation of the Swallow. She develops & delivers training on feeding, swallowing, and communication.

Marci Cashman

Speech Language Pathologist,
Humber River Hospital
Mentorship Area: Dysphagia

As the SLP on the Stroke Unit Marci, assesses, manages and treats patients with acute stroke diagnoses. She has trained nursing staff on the use of the TOR-BSST© and facilitated implementation of this swallowing screening tool at Humber River Hospital. Currently she is participating in the design and implementation of a stroke pathway with the QBP committee.

Kathy Cohen

Clinical Dietician,
Toronto Western Hospital - UHN
Mentorship Area: Oral care

Kathy is a Registered Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Educator; and also a Registered Dental Hygienist. She has developed education sessions for nursing staff for oral care best practices with stroke patients. Kathy works with the SLP in the Swallowing Clinic at TWH and is an active member of the Stroke Outreach Team.

New Standard of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Acute Stroke Care

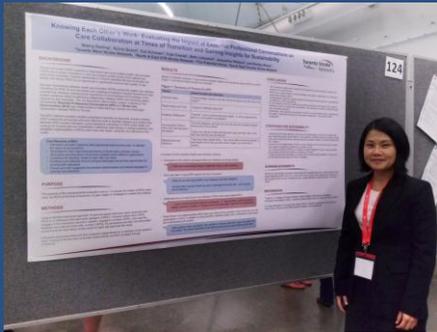


The Toronto/GTA OT Stroke Best Practice Group has been working diligently over the past few months to create an education roll out plan for the “Best Practice Considerations for Occupational Therapy in Acute Stroke Care” and “Follow-up Plan” as related to initial assessment. These tools were developed collaboratively by Occupational Therapists (OTs) working in acute stroke care at the participating sites to create an efficient, easily accessible, discipline specific summary of the Canadian Stroke Best Practice Recommendations.

The first document highlights the potential role of OT in assessment with respect to best practices related to occupational performance in stroke care. The Follow-up Plan is then used to help guide treatment decisions also guided by best practice. The goal of these tools is to help standardize patient care and decrease the gap between best practice and current practice amongst OTs in acute stroke care.

Members of the group will be sharing this tool with their OT colleagues starting November to pilot the tool, with the goal of this becoming standard practice for any OT working with stroke patients by March 2015. The OT champions at each site will also be collaborating with their interprofessional team members on the follow up plan to provide education and seek feedback on how best to use these findings for interprofessional collaboration.

Look for these tools in your patient’s charts in the upcoming months and please do not hesitate to speak with your OT colleague about your thoughts on these tools!



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