

Vision: Partners in
Research

Mission: To create and
maintain a supportive
paediatric rehabilitation
research culture in
Eastern Ontario, through
advocacy, information
sharing and
collaborative research
activity.

March 2008

Thank you, Welcome and Congratulations!

A Tribute to Andrée Durieux-Smith

After receiving her Ph.D. from McGill University in Human Communication Disorders, Andrée arrived in Ottawa in 1974 to serve as head of the Audiology Department at the newly-opened Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. It was her vision to create a clinic where Audiology, Aural Habilitation and Otolaryngology would be located side by side. This excellent model of service delivery still exists today and is unique in Canada.

In 1993 Andrée was asked by the University of Ottawa to spearhead the creation of the Programme in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. She left the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario after 19 years, but has maintained professional and personal contact with many of her previous colleagues. She served as a full professor in the Audiology/Speech Pathology Program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa until 1997 when she was named Director, School of Rehabilitation Sciences. In 1998-1999 she was employed not only as Director but also as Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences. From 2003 –2008, Andrée held the post of Vice-Dean (Professorial Affairs), Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa.

Andrée's achievements have been recognized with numerous honours including: the Award for Outstanding Paper by the American Auditory Society in 1986; Honours of the Canadian Association of Speech/Language Pathologists and Audiologists for Outstanding Scholarly Contribution in 1987; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in 2005. She was made a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2005 and in 2006 she spent one month in Bellagio, Italy as a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar in Residence.

Andrée, you have been a mentor to many professionals who are now employed across Canada and the United States. You have made a difference in the lives of thousands of children with hearing loss and their families. You have made significant contributions to the Audiology Profession in Canada and internationally and for that we thank you! Now that you have scaled down your research time to two days per week, you'll have more time for your family: Roger, Dominic and Michel, as well as for your other interests: skiing, golfing, horseback riding and Spanish. Congratulations, Andrée!

The OPRRA committee welcomes new members Joel Barnes and Elizabeth Fitzpatrick.

Joel Barnes joined CHEO in October 2008 as a research coordinator for several projects in the Rehabilitation Patient Service Unit. He also coordinates a prospective research study with the Autism Intervention Program for Eastern Ontario. Joel was born and raised in Hampton, New Brunswick and completed a Bachelor's of Science



in Kinesiology at the University of New Brunswick in 2001. He completed a Master's of Science in Pediatric Exercise Science in 2003 at the University of Saskatchewan and has since published several articles comparing the health-related physical fitness and activity levels of Old Order Amish, Old Order Mennonite, and contemporary-living children. In his spare time, Joel enjoys reading and web programming as well as a variety of physical activities, the newest being mountain unicycling.

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick has a long history at CHEO, having worked in the audiology program as an auditory-verbal therapist from 1982 to 1989 and as Manager and Professional Practice Leader from 1994 to 2002. She also worked for several years as a Research Associate at the CHEO Research Institute while completing her doctoral studies in Population Health at the University of Ottawa. She joined the Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology Program (School of Rehabilitation Sciences) at the University of Ottawa in 2007 as an assistant professor and is working to establish a new graduate Certificate in Auditory-Verbal Studies. Elizabeth's doctoral thesis involved a study of outcomes of newborn hearing screening and an exploration of parents' needs following identification of their child's hearing loss. Current research projects build on this foundation, examining clinical practices for children with mild bilateral and unilateral hearing loss as well as outcomes in children with cochlear implants. Elizabeth is a member of the Ottawa Health Research Institute and collaborates with the cochlear implant team to investigate clinical questions related to adults with cochlear implants, some of which are directly applicable to her work in pediatric cochlear implantation. Elizabeth is pleased to join the OPRRA team and views it as a unique opportunity to interact with a multi-disciplinary group of researchers with a common interest in improving pediatric care.

CHEO Researcher Award

Congratulations to Robin Gaines for receiving CHEO Researcher Award

Canadian Network for Child and Youth Rehabilitation (CNCYR) News

CNCYR is a member of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centers (CAPHC). It is a national advocacy and information exchange organization focused on the needs of children, youth, families, clinicians and researchers in the field of pediatric rehabilitation. CNCYR reorganized itself this past spring with a new committee structure. Committees are now formed around the key goals of the organization: Knowledge Transfer & Research, Outcomes & Benchmarking, Communications & Networking, and Operations. The new committees are now establishing their terms of reference and setting their goals and objectives for the coming year. Please note that the committees are always looking for new members. In particular CNCYR is looking for members for its Knowledge Transfer and Research Committee. This is an opportunity for you to become involved in this dynamic organization!

As part of the CAPHC Conference in Edmonton (October 19-22), CNCYR hosted a symposium on October 19 entitled: Trends and Changes in Pediatric Rehabilitation: Impact on Children and Families. Details of the symposium can be found at: <http://caphc.org/documents_partnerships/cncy/2008_conference/2008_program_at_a_glance.pdf>

In conjunction with the symposium, CNCYR hosted its first National Advisory Committee (NAC) meeting on October 18 in Edmonton. The purpose of the NAC is

to allow greater participation from clinicians, researchers and administrators in CNCYR's future directions.

For more information about CNCYR, or to inquire about involvement in the organization, please contact Doug Maynard, Associate Director, CAPHC at 613-738-4164 ext 201 or dmaynard@caphc.org

How to Contact Us

OPRRA is a partnership that currently includes the following organizations: OCTC, CHEO, CHEO RI, and the University of Ottawa. Committee members are:

Lloyd Cowin (OPRRA Chair), Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (613) 523-6300 ext 604
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Elizabeth Vilé, Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre (613) 831-5119
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Dr. Rose Martini, University of Ottawa (613) 562-5800 ext 8028
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Dr. Rhonda Correll, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute (613) 738-3591
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Career Development Opportunities With the CCHCSP

The Canadian Child Health Clinician-Scientist Program (CCHCSP) is a transdisciplinary training program for the next generation of clinician-scientists in child and youth health research in Canada. First, this program offers awards for clinicians or students who would like to pursue a scientific career in child and youth health. The application guidelines and forms are available on the CCHCSP website: www.cchcsp.ca. Second, the CCHCSP organizes provides interactive educational sessions in order to train clinicians and students on various research oriented topics such as:

- Research Ethics and Integrity
- Research Design and Analytic Methods
- Intellectual Property, Commercialization, Contracts and Conflicts of Interest
- Mentoring and Supervising Research Trainees
- Tools of Science Research
- Oral and Written Communication Skills
- Management of People, Time and Resources
- Clinical Research in Children and Child Health Policy Development
- Knowledge Translation

Core knowledge on these topics is available to the participants through web-based modules and a handbook. The interactive educational sessions take place in many training centers across Canada and will be offered in the Ottawa in 2009. All clinician and students interested in improving knowledge and skills in youth and child health research can participate in these sessions. These sessions are free of charge. To participate in these educational sessions in Ottawa or to know more about them, we invite you to meet Mario Capelli, Center leader at CHEO for the CCHCSP, and Norman D. Rosenblum, Principal Investigator of the CCHCSP, for an information session, February the 6th 2009, at noon, at the CHEO Research Institute, room R154. You may also get in touch by e-mail with Pascal Lefebvre, ex-trainee in the CCHCSP and professor at the University of Ottawa (pascal.lefebvre@uottawa.ca).

Research News in our Community

OPRRA profiles exciting research initiatives taking place

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute

On February 25th CRU launched the all new Research in Progress Rounds. The purpose of these rounds is to allow investigators an opportunity to present a research idea in an informal setting to our community of CHEO clinical researchers and CRU staff who will provide feedback and guidance to help with the development of the project. The Research in Progress Rounds format allows for a 10-15 min. presentation by the investigator. (A slide template is provided to the speaker to complete in order to ease the presentation). The remaining 45 minutes are used to provide feedback to the

investigator. The CRU welcomes anyone who wishes to present at Research in Progress Rounds to contact us at cru@cheo.on.ca. If you do not wish to present, the rounds are also open to anyone who wishes simply to attend in order to observe and learn. Notice of upcoming presenters are available on the CRU website <http://www.cheori.org/clinicalresearch> and are posted on our information boards in both the RI and CHEO.

[A CHEO/Faculty of Health Sciences \(University of Ottawa\) Partnership Grant](#)

BACKGROUND

At age 12 months, children with severe to profound hearing loss are eligible to receive a cochlear implant. Auditory-verbal therapy is one of several methods for developing communication in babies with hearing loss. This approach develops children's spoken language through the hearing that they access when fit with hearing aids and/or a cochlear implant. In Ontario, the majority of parents opt for auditory-verbal therapy.

Parents of very young children (1 to 3 years of age) who have received a cochlear implant are often anxious to know whether their children are "on track", that is, whether they are developing as expected. The purpose of this study is to develop a reliable checklist of early treatment goals in listening, speech and language for use with children aged 1 to 3 years. The ultimate aim is to use this checklist in a nation-wide study to determine the time-frame when early speech, language and listening skills can be expected to appear, that is to identify benchmarks.

METHOD

A CHEO/Faculty of Health Sciences (University of Ottawa) Partnership Grant was offered to Deirdre Neuss and Andrée Durieux-Smith, principal investigators. During the first phase of the study a survey was distributed to 275 certified auditory-verbal therapists world-wide. Responses were received from 117 therapists (42.5% return rate). Through this means, the most frequently used checklists were identified.

During the second phase, the items from the four most frequently used checklists were examined by a pilot group comprised of certified auditory-verbal therapists from the Ottawa and Toronto areas. In addition, the items were reviewed for grammatical redundancy by two certified therapists. The next step will involve another survey followed by the Delphi technique in order to formulate the final version of the composite checklist.

Phase 3 will involve the establishment of intra-rater and inter-rater reliability via observation of therapy sessions and videotapes.

[At the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre...](#)

OPRRA profiles: Clinician-Researcher at OCTC

Jean Ju is a clinical psychologist who has worked at the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre for many years. She specializes in working with children who have physical disabilities and associated developmental challenges. She has participated in the supervision of 4th year students in the Occupational Therapy program at the University of Ottawa. Her research interest has been around developmental challenges of these children. She has made many poster presentations at Ontario Association of Children Rehabilitation Services (OACRS) and International Conference of Cerebral Palsy. Some examples of her research are as follows: learning and memory abilities in children with spina bifida, error analysis of mathematic skills in children with spina

bifida, program evaluation of siblings groups, play skills in children with physical disabilities, and exploration of playfulness in children with physical disabilities.

Publication, Presentations and Awarded Grants

Publications:

Fitzpatrick, E., Angus, D., Durieux-Smith, A., Graham, I., & Coyle, D. Parents needs following identification of childhood hearing loss. *American Journal of Audiology*, 2008;17:1-12.

Fitzpatrick, E., & Brewster, L. Pediatric cochlear implantation in Canada: Results of a survey. *Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*, 2008;32(1):29-35.

Durieux-Smith, A., Fitzpatrick, E., & Whittingham J. Universal newborn hearing screening: A question of evidence. *International Journal of Audiology*, 2008; 47(1):1-10.

Gaines, R., Collins, D., Boycott, K., Missiuna, C., DeLaat, D., and Soucie, H. (2008). *Paediatrics and Child Health*, 13, 9, 763-768.

Gaines, R., Missiuna, C., Egan, M., & McLean, J. (2008). Interprofessional care in the management of a chronic childhood condition: Developmental Coordination Disorder. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*. 22 (5).1-4.

Presentations:

Fitzpatrick, E. (2008, November). Supporting children with mild bilateral and unilateral hearing loss. Presented at Voice for Hearing-Impaired Children Workshop. Hamilton, ON. (Invited).

Fitzpatrick, E. (2008, October). Clinical practices in the management of mild/unilateral hearing loss in children. Oticon Seminar. Montreal, PQ. (Invited)

Fitzpatrick, E., Durieux-Smith, A., & Whittingham, J. (2008, June). Management of children with mild and unilateral hearing loss. Paper presented at Newborn Hearing Screening 2008 Conference, Cernobbio.

McLean, J., Olds, J., Schramm, D. Fitzpatrick, E., Steacie, P. (2008, May). Outcome after cochlear implantation in children with complex disabilities. Paper to be presented at the Pediatric Academic Society meetings, Honolulu.

Fitzpatrick, E., Séguin, C., Chénier, J., Armstrong, S, Schramm, D. (2008, April). Benefits of remote microphone technology. Poster presented at the 10th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies. San Diego, CA.

Olds, J., Fitzpatrick, E., Glennie, E., Gaines, R., Rabjohn, K., Durieux-Smith, A., & Schramm, D. (2008, April). Working memory and its relationship to language and literacy after cochlear implantation. Poster presented at the 10th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies. San Diego, CA.

Colin MacArthur, Director of the Bloorview Research Institute visits Ottawa

On June 19, 2008 OPRRA sponsored a noon hour presentation by Colin MacArthur, Director of the Bloorview Research Institute (BRI). The purpose of this presentation

was to provide us with an overview of the development of The Bloorview Research Institute (BRI). The BRI is embedded within Bloorview Kid's Rehab, and this proximity of scientific staff with clinical staff encourages the integration of research and clinical activities. At a glance, research at the Bloorview Research Institute can be divided into three main theme areas: 1. Evaluation of Care, 2. Innovation and Development, and 3. Participation. Research related to the Evaluation of Care focuses on the development of outcome measures and the evaluation of specific approaches to intervention. Research under the sphere of Innovation and Development includes product development. For example, a simple low cost highly functional prosthetic knee is currently being trialed and holds great potential for amputees in developing countries. An spirometer, "virtual music", and Flip2sit (an adaptable and supportive booster seat with back support that can be used for table top activities and floor play) are other examples of products under development within the Innovation and Development theme. Research within the Participation Theme Area focuses on the social, physical, and policy barriers to the inclusion of children with disabilities. Transitional, environmental, ethical and resiliency issues are addressed by this research team. There are 20 (11.2 FTE) scientists employed by the BRI. The BRI is funded by multiple sources (e.g. federal/provincial government, royalties, funding agencies, donations...), but close to 50% of funds in the past year have come through research grants. OPRRA congratulates the Bloorview Research Institute for their success and commitment to enhance the quality of life of children with disabilities and their families.

Funding Opportunities

This column provides links to samples of websites with research funding opportunities.

University of Ottawa: Research Services

<http://web9.uottawa.ca/services/rgessrd/rges/funding/index.asp#>

University of Ottawa: Faculty of Medicine

<http://www.medicine.uottawa.ca/research/eng/fund.html>

Community of Science (COS) is the leading global resource for hard-to-find information critical to scientific research and other projects across all disciplines. We aggregate valuable information so you spend less precious time and money searching for the information you need, leaving more time and money for your projects. <http://www.cos.com/>

Subscribe for a funding notification list with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation by completing the on-line form at: <http://www.onf.org/research/SubscriberForm.aspx>

CIHR: IHDCYH latest Research Update is now available on the Institute's website. Please visit the link: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28170.html> for information about new funding opportunities and news related to reproductive and child health research
