

BRI SYMPOSIUM EVENT AGENDA

November 25, 2025

From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability

8:00 – 8:30 AM **Registration and Networking Breakfast**

8:30 – 8:40 AM **Meeting Opening**

Co-Hosts:

Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou, Vice President, Research and Director, Bloorview Research Institute

Neil Chavda, Family Leader, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
Sydney Pacheco, Youth Advisor, Bloorview Research Institute

8:40 – 9:00 AM **Welcoming Remarks**

Presented by: **Julia Hanigberg**, President and CEO, Holland Bloorview

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Keynote Presentation: Mickey Milner International Professorship Lecture**

From the lab to the pediatrician's office: How biomechanics research can change clinical practice

Presented by: **Dr. Mark D. Geil**, Professor of Biomechanics, MOVE Center for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering, Kennesaw State University, and Research Investigator, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

10:00 – 10:20 AM **Refreshment and Networking Break**

10:20 – 11:10 AM **Welcome Remarks and Introduction to Spotlight Presentations**

Introduced by: **Dr. Yana Yunusova**, Professor, Department, Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, Temerty Faculty of Medicine University of Toronto

Spotlight Presentations

Use of robotic-assisted gait training in an in-patient physiotherapy program for children with subacute acquired brain injury: insights from children and their parents

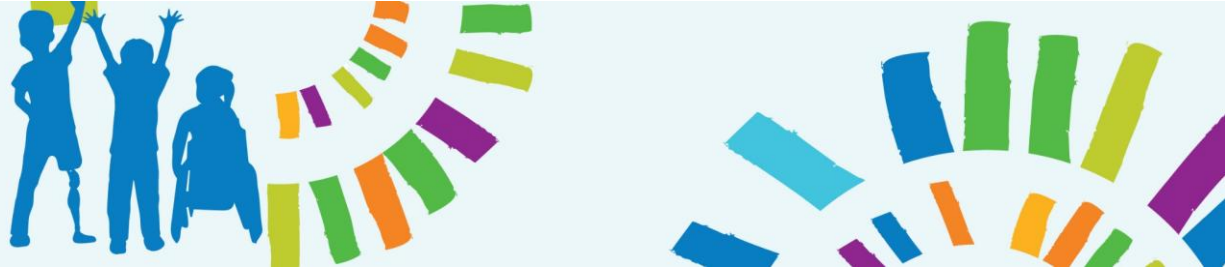
Presented by: **Jessie Strong**

TeachABI-Caregiver: developing a return to school resource for caregivers of children with ABI

Presented by: **Hussain Syed**

Promoting participation in pre-school aged children with cerebral palsy through coaching parents using solution-focused coaching methods

Presented by: **Daniela Testani**



Examining caregiver motivation and engagement in Move&Connect-Caregivers: A multi-source exploration

Presented by: **Sophie Madge-Nyren**

11:10 AM – 12:00 PM **Research Poster Presentations and Exhibits**

12:00 – 1:15 PM **Lunch, Networking and Exhibits**

1:15 – 2:15 PM **Keynote Presentation**

Building the Path for Equity for Genetics/Genomics research and health care with Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Presented by: **Dr. Laura Arbour**, Academic Clinician, Professor, UBC Department of Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Victoria

2:15 – 3:15 PM

Breakout Sessions

Session 1: Big data and artificial intelligence: opportunities and challenges

Session 2: Inter-institutional opportunities to advance family engagement in research

Session 3: Democratizing health care through technology

Session 4: Engaging community partners on developing research opportunities

3:15 – 3:45 PM

Networking and Exhibits

3:45 – 4:45 PM

BRI Research Talks

Walking with my robot' and other steps along a technology-woven path: Research partnership reflections of a pediatric physiotherapist scientist

Presented by: **Dr. Virginia Wright**, Senior Scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

Employment as a social determinant of health for young people with disabilities

Presented by: **Dr. Sally Lindsay**, Senior Scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

4:45 – 5:10 PM

Advancing Family Engagement in Research at Holland Bloorview: Consultation, Recommendations, and Actions

Presented by: **Dr. Tim Ross**, Scientist, Bloorview Research Institute, Co-Chair, Research Family Engagement Committee and **Suzanne Jorisch**, Family Leader Co-Chair, Research Family Engagement Committee

Presentation of Research Family Engagement Committee Awards

- Distinguished Service Award for Family Engagement in Research
- BRI Legacy Award for Family Impact in Research

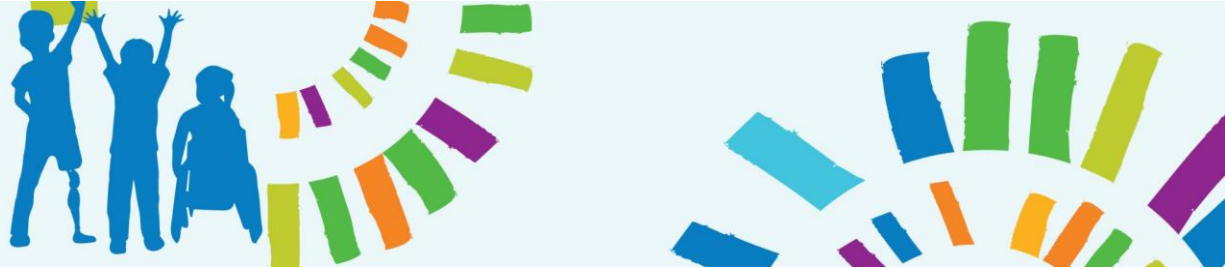
5:10 – 5:15 PM

Closing Remarks

Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou, Vice President, Research and Director, Bloorview Research Institute

5:15 – 6:15 PM

Evening Reception



November 26, 2025

From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability

8:30 – 9:00 AM **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:15 AM **Welcoming remarks**

Co-Hosts:

Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou, Vice President, Research and Director, Bloorview Research Institute

Liz Zur, Family Leader

Zachary Priest, Youth Facilitator

9:15 – 10:45 AM **Welcome remarks**

Presented by: **Dayna Bleeman**, Foundation Senior Vice President, Philanthropy, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

Pursuit Awards Presentations

Design and development of a paediatric prosthetic knee joint for children in low-resource environments: a user-centred biomechanical approach

Presented by: **Dr. Caitlin Edgar**, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College London

Restricted and repetitive behaviours and interests of autism: Functions and mapping

Presented by: **Dr. Stephanie Lung**, Psychologist in supervised practice, Boomerang Health powered by SickKids

Navigating ableism and inaccessibility in school transportation for disabled students: family efforts, practitioner perspectives, and systemic barriers to access

Presented by: **Élyse Comeau**, PhD Candidate, Planning, University of Toronto

10:45 – 11:00 AM **Refreshment and Networking Break**

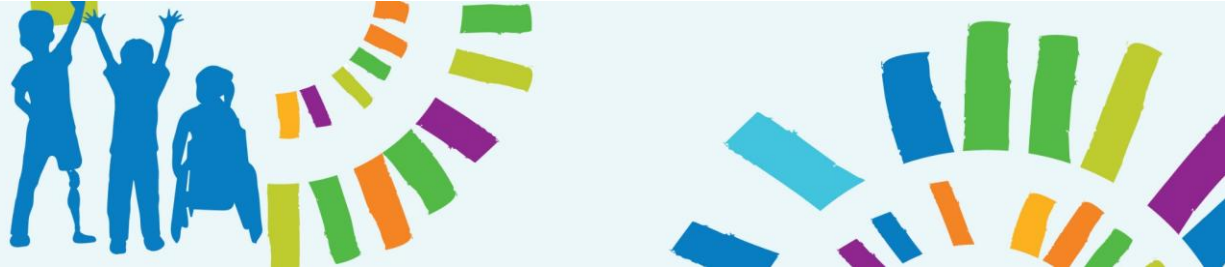
11:00 – 11:45 AM **Welcome Remarks and Introduction to Spotlight Presentations**

Introduced by: **Milos Popovic**, Institute Director, KITE, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network, Institute of Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto

Spotlight Presentations

Development of a music-based wearable biofeedback system to improve lower limb prosthesis user gait symmetry

Presented by: **Sebastian Silva**



Genome sequencing and mental health outcomes in autism spectrum disorder

Presented by: Vedhika Jha

Traumatic experiences and major life stressors in children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders and their associations with mental health conditions

Presented by: Sophia Lenz

Expanding digital access through a personalizable access technology: SwitchApp

Presented by: Sarah Irwin

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM **Research Poster Presentations and Exhibits**

12:15 – 1:30 PM **Lunch, Networking and Exhibits**

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Keynote presentation**

Knowledge Mobilization and Implementation Science: Moving from Theory to Practice in Children's Health

Presented by: **Dr. Christine Cassidy**, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Dalhousie University & Clinician Scientist, IWK Health

2:30 – 3:30 PM **BRI Research Talks**

Partnering with community clinicians to optimize care for autistic children and their families across Canada

Presented by: **Dr. Melanie Penner**, Senior Clinician Scientist, Developmental Pediatrician, Bloorview Research Institute

AI, Data, and the learning health system: bridging discovery and care

Presented by: **Dr. Azadeh Kushki**, Associate Chief of Data Science, Senior Scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

3:30 – 3:45 PM **Refreshment and Networking Break**

3:45 – 4:15 PM **Awards Ceremony**

4:15 – 4:20 PM **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou, Vice President, Research and Director, Bloorview Research Institute