Bloorview Research Institute
Symposium

21st Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium

From ideas to action:

Advancing transformational care and support in childhood-onset disability

Thursday, Nov. 5 and Friday, Nov. 6, 2026



#BRIResearch

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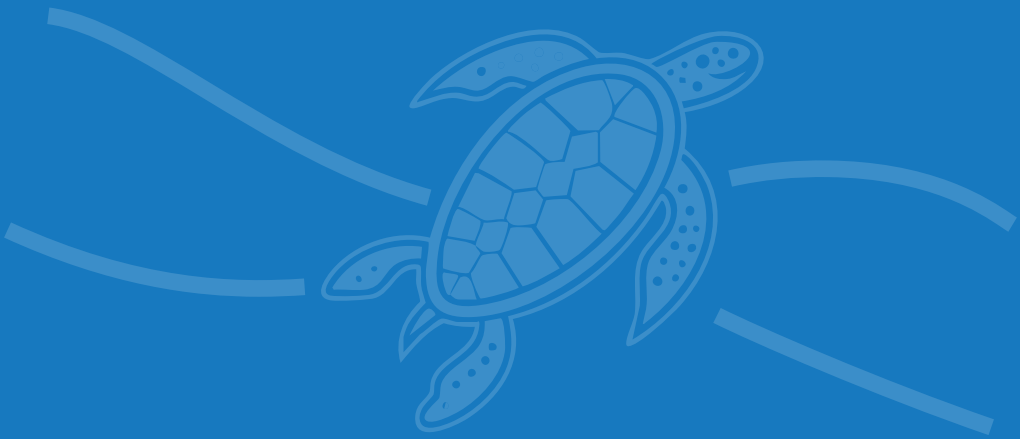
As we reflect on the past year, we affirm our commitment to truth and reconciliation. This commitment is grounded in trust, respect, continuous learning and unlearning, and honouring diverse ways of knowing, being and healing.

We are grateful to be in Tkaronto (Toronto), a Mohawk word meaning, "the place in the water where the trees are standing." We live, work and provide care on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee-speaking nations, including the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mohawk. For more than 15,000 years, this land has been a place of gathering.

On our journey toward truth and reconciliation, we continue to examine our responsibility to support decolonization in pediatric rehabilitation across the health-care system and to value all ways of healing. Over the past year, Holland Bloorview has continued to take meaningful action, including creating accessible smudging spaces to support inclusive, culturally and spiritually sensitive care for Indigenous clients and families.

We recognize this work is ongoing. Guided by the wisdom of the communities we serve, we remain committed to listening, learning and taking action across this territory known as Turtle Island (North America).

Chi Miigwetch, Nia:weh, Merci – Thank you.



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontar



November 5 – 6, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

To all the researchers, clinicians, students, families and community partners—welcome to the 21st annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium.

Paediatric disability can have a profound impact on children, families and communities. That's why it's vital that we work together to advance research and innovation in pediatric disability care. Doing so helps improve quality of life, strengthens households, supports community inclusion and ensures that more young Ontarians can reach their full potential.

Many thanks to the dedicated team at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital for gathering highly skilled experts and stakeholders in the spirit of this year's theme of advancing transformational care and support in childhood-onset disability. Events like this help strengthen Ontario's health care system and build a more accessible and inclusive province.

Thank you, everyone, for your dedication to improving the lives of children and families across Ontario and beyond. I wish you a successful and inspiring symposium.

Doug Ford
Premier

Ontario

Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
ministre des Services à l'enfance et des Services sociaux et communautaires

November 5, 2026



A MESSAGE FROM MINISTER MICHAEL PARSA

I am honoured to extend greetings to all participants attending Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital's 21st Annual Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) Symposium.

As Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital, Holland Bloorview serves more than 9,000 children and youth with disabilities each year. Its continued leadership in pediatric rehabilitation, research and care is helping advance countless opportunities for children, youth and families in our province.

For over two decades, the BRI Symposium has brought together researchers, clinicians, students, families and community partners to share knowledge, exchange ideas and strengthen collaboration. This year's theme, "From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability," reflects a shared commitment to improving health outcomes and quality of life for children and youth with disabilities.

I would like to thank the organizers, speakers, volunteers and partners whose efforts have made this event possible. These conversations and collaborations help lay the foundation for a stronger and more prosperous Ontario.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful symposium and for many more years of excellence, innovation and achievement.

Michael Parsa
Minister



A MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE RAYMOND CHO
MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

As Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, I am pleased to offer a warm welcome to everyone attending the 21st Annual Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) Symposium.

The work that Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital does each and everyday is beyond reproach.

You are Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital that cares for more than 9, 000 children and youth of all abilities every year.

The Bloor Research Institute's (BRI's) symposium is the largest hospital-based pediatric disability research conference in Canada.

You are bringing together the very best researchers, clinicians, families and students to share ideas, research and advance care in support of childhood on-set disability.

I wish all the participants involved in BRI's Symposium the very best of success and I look forward to learning more about the symposium's research and findings.

Sincerely,

Raymond Cho

Honourable Raymond Cho
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

Stephanie Bowman, MPP

Don Valley West



Message from MPP Stephanie Bowman

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone attending this year's symposium, with the theme "From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability."

I would like to congratulate Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and the Bloorview Research Institute for over two decades of bringing together researchers, clinicians, students, families, and community partners to advance pediatric rehabilitation and childhood disability research. Your commitment to innovation, collaboration, and evidence-based care continues to improve the lives of children and youth with disabilities across Ontario and beyond.

This symposium highlights the importance of turning groundbreaking research into meaningful action that strengthens services, expands opportunities, and improves outcomes for children, youth, and their families. By fostering collaboration across disciplines and lived experiences, you are helping shape a more inclusive and accessible future.

Thank you to the organizers, presenters, volunteers, sponsors, and participants whose dedication makes this important event possible. Your work is helping create lasting positive change for children and families throughout our communities.

I wish you a successful and inspiring symposium and every success in your continued efforts to advance transformational care and support for children and youth with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bowman

Stephanie Bowman
MPP, Don Valley West

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CITY OF TORONTO



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone participating in the 21st Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium, hosted by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

The symposium provides an opportunity for researchers, clinicians, industry partners, trainees and families to share knowledge, exchange ideas and support collaboration in childhood disability research.

The City of Toronto recognizes organizations that advance research, support the well-being of residents and contribute to more inclusive communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, best wishes for an informative and productive symposium.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
416-397-CITY (2489) mayor_chow@toronto.ca

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

A message from the president and CEO, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

The future of pediatric rehabilitation depends on our ability to challenge conventional thinking, embrace new ideas and translate research into better outcomes for children, youth and families.

Since joining Holland Bloorview earlier this year, I have been struck by the depth of expertise and innovation across our organization. What stands out most is the way researchers, clinicians, children, youth and families work together, bringing different perspectives and experiences to the shared goal of improving care.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to my first Bloorview Research Institute Symposium. This event is an important opportunity to exchange knowledge, explore emerging opportunities and challenges, and strengthen the partnerships that will shape the future of childhood disability research.

As we look toward 2030, our ambition is to reimagine what pediatric rehabilitation can look like. We want to build on our strengths while exploring new approaches to care that are more personalized, inclusive and responsive to the needs of children, youth and families. Achieving this requires us to think beyond traditional boundaries, harness emerging technologies and ensure that new knowledge informs how care is delivered. It also requires us to be even better at collaboration and partnership – between research, education and clinical operations, within and outside our organizations, and most importantly with kids and families.

The Bloorview Research Institute has a critical role to play in this journey. Its work helps bridge scientific discovery and real-world application, creating opportunities to influence clinical practice, strengthen health systems and advance new solutions that can make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Thank you to our speakers, participants, organizers and partners for your contributions to this year's symposium. I look forward to the ideas, discussions and connections that emerge over the next two days, and to the possibilities they create for the future of pediatric rehabilitation.



Bruce Squires
President and CEO, Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Bloorview
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Welcome from the symposium co-hosts

We are delighted to welcome you to the 21st annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium, bringing together researchers, clinicians, trainees, children, youth, families and partners to share knowledge, exchange perspectives and explore opportunities to advance childhood disability research.

Guided by the symposium's theme, *From ideas to action: Advancing transformational care and support*, we are reminded that meaningful progress requires more than generating new knowledge. It calls for thoughtful collaboration, a willingness to challenge established approaches and a commitment to ensuring that research responds to the needs and priorities of the people it seeks to benefit.

The program reflects the breadth and complexity of this work. From integrating research into clinical practice and exploring the potential of data and artificial intelligence to advancing precision therapies and addressing barriers to inclusion, the presentations highlight different ways research can inform care and improve everyday experiences. Discussions about misinformation, ethical research communication and meaningful engagement also invite us to consider how we build trust, share knowledge responsibly and ensure that diverse perspectives inform research and care.

As co-hosts bringing research, youth and family perspectives to this event, we value the opportunity to learn from one another. Each perspective contributes important insights into the questions we ask, the approaches we take and the outcomes we seek. Creating space for these conversations helps ensure that research remains relevant, inclusive and connected to what matters most to children, youth and families.

To everyone joining us, thank you for bringing your knowledge, experiences and perspectives to this gathering. We encourage you to ask questions, engage in open conversations and seek out perspectives different from your own. It is through these exchanges that we can deepen our understanding, challenge assumptions and find new ways to move forward together.



Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou
Vice President, Research and Director of Bloorview Research Institute
Symposium co-host



Janna Colwell
Parent advocate
Symposium co-host



Juliana Farias Contreras
Youth advisor
Symposium co-host



Mukti Reddy
Family advocate
Symposium co-host

Thursday, November 5

Mickey Milner International Professorship Lecture

Building care that learns: pediatric concussion research embedded in practice

Prof. Isabelle Gagnon, associate dean and director, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University; associate member, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Montreal Children's Hospital



Every year, thousands of children come to the emergency department after a concussion. Most are seen once, sent home with instructions and never heard from again. The few who reach specialized clinics or agree to join research studies end up shaping what we know about recovery. What if every visit could teach us something, and what we learned could flow straight back into care?

Drawing on more than two decades as a physiotherapist and researcher, Prof. Isabelle Gagnon will describe how her team has built research into everyday clinical work. Physiotherapists now see children at their first emergency visit. Followup calls reach every family of a young child, not only those who sign up for a study. And a simple breathing exercise has moved from a clinic trial into the emergency department. Together, these projects show what becomes possible when care and learning go hand in hand.

Biography

Prof. Isabelle Gagnon is associate dean and director of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy at McGill University. She is also an associate member of the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Montreal Children's Hospital. A physiotherapist by training, she earned an M.Sc. and a PhD in biomedical sciences (rehabilitation) at the Université de Montréal.

Her research focuses on the consequences of concussion in children and adolescents and on rehabilitation interventions to improve recovery. She co-founded one of the first child and adolescent concussion clinics in Canada and continues to practice clinically as a pediatric physiotherapist.

Trainee research talks

Each year, more than 100 graduate and doctoral students join the Bloorview Research Institute to train alongside internationally recognized scientists and contribute to cutting-edge research in childhood disability.

The annual BRI Symposium provides an opportunity for these trainees and research staff to showcase their work and connect with colleagues, collaborators and community partners.

The following research will be presented across both days of the symposium:

1. **How do youth think their parents were impacted by a concussion intervention? Using youth perspectives as an added lens**
   Presenter: Hiba Al-Hakeem
   Authors: Hiba Al-Hakeem, Sophie Madge-Nyren, Andrew Lovell, Kylie D. Mallory, Andrea Hickling, Carlin Miller, Shannon E. Scratch

2. **Examining the application of deep clustering for identifying brain-based subgroups across neurodevelopmental conditions**
   Presenter: Zeeshan Siddiqui
   Authors: Zeeshan Siddiqui, Antoine Beauchamp, Marlee Vandewouw, Margot Taylor, Jason P. Lerch, Evdokia Anagnostou, Azadeh Kushki

3. **Advancing schoolyard inclusion for autistic children and their families: preliminary findings from a qualitative stud**y
   Presenter: Amanda Chan
   Authors: Amanda Chan, Fiona Moola, Melanie Penner, Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Sally Lindsay, Timothy Ross

4. **Occupational therapy goal-setting in pediatric concussion rehabilitation: understanding priorities to inform care**
   Presenter: Ayeshah Syed
   Authors: Ayeshah Syed, Hussain Syed, Kylie D. Mallory, Andrea Hickling, Shannon E. Scratch

5. **Powered step forward: developing an active prosthetic knee for smaller users**
   Presenter: Elijah Birley
   Authors: Elijah Birley, Charles Haliburton, Clive Mullins, Gualtiero Guadagni, Jan Andrysek

6. **Advancing deep learning for accessible sign language translation for deaf children**
   Presenter: Maryam Dehghani
   Authors: Maryam Dehghani, Tom Chau

7. **How do youth with disabilities navigate online spaces for social connections and sexuality information? A mixed-methods pilot survey study**
   Presenter: Sama Hasan
   Authors: Sama Hasan, Emily Cox, Amina Aumeer (community consultant), Elaine Biddiss, De-Lawrence Lamptey, Sarah Munce, Gavi Shalva (youth), Amy C. McPherson

8. **Integrating digital technology into O&P clinical practice**
   Presenter: Samuel Barsky
   Authors: Samuel Barsky, Calvin Ngan, Jan Andrysek, Elaine Lorette, Sheila Kellner, Zinnia Batliwalla, John Kooy

Family engagement in research session

Strengthening family engagement in research: progress and priorities at Holland Bloorview

This session will highlight the notable accomplishments of Holland Bloorview's Research Family Engagement Committee (RFEC) and the work underway to boldly reimagine the role of the committee in advancing research for all children with disabilities.

Sharon Wong, director, research partnerships & impact, Bloorview Research Institute



Biography

Sharon Wong is the director of research partnerships and impact at Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview, where she leads portfolios spanning commercialization, research communications and family engagement to accelerate the real-world impact of pediatric rehabilitation research. She works closely with researchers, families, industry and health system partners to translate evidence into practice and market-ready solutions.

Emily Cooper, family leader co-chair, Research Family Engagement Committee



Biography

Emily Cooper is a family leader volunteer at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and co-chair of its Research Family Engagement Committee. As a parent of a child who receives care at Holland Bloorview, she has experienced firsthand the hospital's compassionate, family-centred approach. She is dedicated to ensuring that the experiences and perspectives of families help shape pediatric research.

Emily holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in environmental applied science and management, and is currently pursuing a degree in health sciences. She has over 10 years of professional experience in both the private and public sectors, including engineering, policy research and analysis.

Concurrent breakout sessions

Breakout session 1

From participants to partners: meaningful communication of research findings

Families contribute their time, experiences and trust to research. But too often, they are left wondering what was learned and how their contribution made a difference. How can research organizations communicate findings in ways that are timely, understandable, respectful and meaningful?

Bringing together family, researcher and ethics perspectives, this interactive session will explore how better communication can strengthen trust and move relationships from participation toward partnership. Join the conversation and help identify practical opportunities to make closing the loop a more consistent part of the research experience.

Moderator

Prof. Isabelle Gagnon, associate dean and director, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University; associate member, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Montreal Children's Hospital

Panelists

Dr. Danielle Baribeau, child psychiatrist and clinician scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

Dolly Menna-Dack, senior bioethicist; interim vice-chair, Research Ethics Board; manager, bioethics and spiritual care; manager, youth engagement strategy, Holland Bloorview

Emily Cooper, co-chair, Research Family Engagement Committee, Holland Bloorview

Amy Whittard, outreach committee chair, Ontario Rett Syndrome Association of Canada

Breakout session 2

Science and trust: confronting misinformation together

Health misinformation is increasingly shaping health-care decisions, public trust in science and participation in research. For children and families living with disability, misinformation can create confusion, fuel unrealistic expectations and undermine access to evidence-informed care and supports.

This panel will explore the role of research institutes, health-care organizations, scientists, clinicians, media and families in identifying, responding to and preventing misinformation. Through discussion and audience engagement, panelists will consider how research organizations can communicate evidence more effectively, build trust with communities and respond to misinformation without amplifying it.

The session will culminate in identifying practical actions that research institutes can take to strengthen public understanding of science and support informed decision-making.

Moderator
Avis Favaro, health journalist; host, Canadian Health Information Podcast; contributor, CTV National News

Panelists
Stewart Wong, vice-president, communications, strategy and sustainability, Holland Bloorview

Stephanie Telesca, family advocate, genetic counsellor, co-founder of The KCNC1 Foundation

Dr. Krishana Sankar, science advisor and community impact manager, Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASC)

Dr. Melanie Penner, developmental pediatrician and senior clinician scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

BRI research talks

Engaged and person-centred listening in rehabilitation and health-care conversations



Dr. Gillian King, distinguished senior scientist, Bloorview Research Institute; Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Optimal Care for Children with Disabilities

"The most common complaint from people who had experiences with health-care providers was that they were not listened to" (Kagan, 2008). Listening is an essential skill for clinicians, affecting clinical practice, the quality of health care and client outcomes. However, listening is overlooked and understudied in health-care practice and education. Being able to listen mindfully and with authentic intent enables clinicians to understand clients' priorities, concerns and hopes, establishing a common ground that assists clients in making informed decisions and moving forward.

Although listening may appear to be easy, listening well in complex and often emotional clinical situations is challenging and difficult. This presentation will consider (a) the nature of clinical listening, (b) why listening is critical in health-care conversations, (c) elements of health-care conversations that make listening complex and (d) the measurement of listening skills.

Lastly, the presentation will outline findings and lessons learned from our research examining interprofessional listening skill educational interventions for experienced practising clinicians and trainees/students.

Biography

Gillian King is a distinguished senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto and Canada Research Chair in Optimal Care for Children with Disabilities (Tier 1). She holds adjunct appointments in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western University and in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University.

Gillian has held over 110 peer-reviewed grants, authored over 260 peer-reviewed articles and developed and published 23 measures for use in pediatric rehabilitation. Her work focuses on psychosocial aspects of care, including client engagement, family-centred care, client and family resiliency, transition programming and service delivery. Her current research focuses on client engagement in service delivery, the development of an up-to-date measure of family-centred care, solution-focused coaching and the role of resiliency in rehabilitation service delivery.

A framework for transforming care in rare disease: lessons from Duchenne muscular dystrophy



Dr. Laura McAdam, clinician investigator; physician director, ambulatory care; pediatrician, Holland Bloorview

This presentation examines how advances in natural history research, clinical care and therapeutic innovation have transformed Duchenne muscular dystrophy. It highlights a framework for rare disease care that progresses from understanding disease and preventing complications to optimizing lifelong health, function and quality of life.

Biography

Dr. Laura McAdam is a pediatrician, clinician investigator and health-care leader at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and the University of Toronto. Her clinical and research work focuses on rare neuromuscular and genetic conditions, with an emphasis on advancing care, rehabilitation and outcomes for children and youth with rare diseases.

Evening reception with Brain Canada Foundation

Celebrating the WONDER platform: advancing precision health through research collaboration

Fondation Brain Canada Foundation

Join us for a special evening reception with Brain Canada Foundation as we celebrate its support for the WONDER platform, a national research initiative led by Dr. Azadeh Kushki at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Arnold at the University of Calgary and Dr. Clara Moreau at CHU Sainte-Justine.

The platform aims to securely connect genetic, brain imaging and behavioural research data from across Canada to advance our understanding of brain-based disabilities and support more personalized and equitable approaches to care for children and families.

The reception will also provide an opportunity to connect with researchers, clinicians, families and partners, and celebrate the collaborations helping move childhood disability research forward.

Friday, November 6

Pursuit Award in Childhood Disability Competition

The Pursuit Award in Childhood Disability Competition, proudly sponsored by the Ward Family, recognizes PhD students, recent doctoral graduates and postdoctoral trainees from around the world for their outstanding contributions to childhood disability research.

Intensive physical rehabilitation in children with acquired brain injury: Development and evaluation of the REHABILITY program



Dr. Christiaan Gmelig Meyling, pediatric physiotherapist and postdoctoral researcher, Center of Excellence for Rehabilitation Medicine, De Hoogstraat Rehabilitation and University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands

This presentation summarizes key findings from a PhD research program aimed at optimizing physical rehabilitation for children and adolescents with acquired brain injury (ABI). Drawing on a literature review, international expert consensus, perspectives of children and parents, and clinical feasibility research, the program addressed important gaps in the evidence and explored opportunities to improve rehabilitation intensity and delivery.

The presentation highlights the scientific rationale, development and initial evaluation of REHABILITY, a high-intensity physical rehabilitation program designed for the subacute phase following pediatric ABI. It also explores the implications of these findings for future research and clinical practice.

Biography

Christiaan Gmelig Meyling, PhD, is a pediatric physiotherapist and postdoctoral researcher specializing in physical rehabilitation for children and adolescents with acquired brain injury (ABI). He combines clinical practice at De Hoogstraat Rehabilitation with research at the Center of Excellence for Rehabilitation Medicine in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

His PhD research led to the development of REHABILITY, a high-intensity physical rehabilitation program for children with ABI. He currently leads REHABILITY-4-ALL, a nationwide implementation study, alongside several national and international research initiatives focused on assessing motor functioning in children with ABI and applying transcranial magnetic stimulation.

He is actively involved in national and international professional and scientific societies and serves on the board of directors of the International Pediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS).

Learning together to work better together in pediatric rehabilitation: The development and evaluation of an integrated program for service providers and parents of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities

Alice Soper, doctoral researcher, School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University



How can we better support collaboration between service providers and parents of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in pediatric rehabilitation?

This presentation shares findings from ENVISAGE-Integrated, a program that brings service providers and parents together to learn contemporary ideas in childhood disability with and from one another. Developed in partnership with parents and service providers, the program aims to enhance family-centred service and empower parents.

The presentation highlights the co-development, implementation and evaluation of ENVISAGE-Integrated at two children's treatment centres, along with preliminary evidence of its impact.

Biography

Alice Soper is a doctoral researcher in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University, under the supervision of Dr. Peter Rosenbaum. Her doctoral research focuses on supporting family-centred service through an educational program that enables parents of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and service providers to learn contemporary ideas in childhood disability with and from one another. She received a CIHR Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship in support of her doctoral work.

Alice is also a researcher at the CanChild Centre for Childhood-Onset Disability Research, where she focuses on the Family Engagement in Research Program. This initiative provides training to researchers and individuals with lived and living experience to support their engagement as equal partners in neurodevelopmental disability and child health research. Her work emphasizes meaningful involvement of people with lived and living experience in research intended to benefit their communities.

Alice is preparing to begin a postdoctoral fellowship at Université Laval in Quebec City, supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her research will focus on implementing an established neuroinclusive schools model across Canada and expanding it to secondary school settings. Working with multidisciplinary teams of occupational therapists, educators and other professionals, she aims to create school environments that enhance participation, well-being and belonging, particularly for neurodivergent students.

Ultimately, her work seeks to bridge the often-siloed education and health systems to strengthen participation and belonging among children and youth in Canada.

Clinical feasibility and functional, muscular and neural outcomes associated with exoskeleton-assisted physiotherapy for children with cerebral palsy

Dr. Stefanie Bradley, PhD graduate in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto



This talk will explore the clinical feasibility and body-wide effects of integrating a lower-limb robotic exoskeleton into physiotherapy for young children with cerebral palsy (CP). Drawing on a six-week intervention involving 10 children with CP (aged four to six years), findings highlight the safety and feasibility of exoskeleton-assisted physiotherapy in school and outpatient settings, alongside improvements in individualized functional goals, muscle activity and exercise engagement. The talk will also discuss findings related to the feasibility and tolerability of awake brain imaging in children with CP.

Biography

Stefanie completed her doctorate in biomedical engineering at the University of Toronto, conducting her research at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Tom Chau and in close collaboration with Dr. Virginia Wright. She led an interdisciplinary study evaluating the clinical feasibility of using a lower-limb exoskeleton in outpatient and school-based physiotherapy for children with cerebral palsy.

Stefanie's research has been featured by Canadian media outlets, including CP24, CBC News, CBC Radio One and The Globe and Mail. She has presented at international conferences, including those hosted by the European Academy of Childhood Disability and the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, and has been a concurrent session speaker at an Empowered Kids Ontario symposium.

During her PhD, Stefanie received significant funding from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation and numerous pediatric rehabilitation scholarships from the Bloorview Research Institute. She also received several awards from the University of Toronto, including a university-wide PhD Health Science Award and a Pediatric Neuroscience Award from the Faculty of Medicine.

Stefanie has co-authored a book chapter advocating for brain-computer interface research for children with disabilities and has published multiple papers examining the body-wide outcomes of robotic gait therapy for children with neuromotor disorders.

Artificial intelligence keynote presentation

Clinical AI in the real world: lessons from the trenches



Dr. Devin Singh, staff physician, lead for clinical artificial intelligence and machine learning (pediatric emergency medicine), The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids); co-founder and CEO, Hero AI

Drawing on real-world experience deploying AI in clinical care, this talk explores the lessons, challenges and opportunities that emerge when moving AI from promising models into everyday practice. It highlights what it takes to deploy clinical AI safely, effectively and at scale.

Biography

Dr. Devin Singh is one of Canada's first physicians to specialize in clinical artificial intelligence. He is an emergency physician at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and holds a master's degree in computer science from the University of Toronto. He is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto in both the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and the Division of Computer Science and is an emerging scholar helping to innovate the regulatory, privacy and ethical landscape for AI in Canada and beyond. He is also the co-founder and CEO of Hero AI, a health-care technology company dedicated to empowering patients and providers with AI.



#BRIResearch

BRI research talks

Clinical trial designs to evaluate precision therapies for ultra-rare genetic conditions



Dr. Danielle Baribeau, child psychiatrist and clinician scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

This presentation will focus on Dr. Baribeau's work to understand trends in precision and genetic medicines for rare and ultra-rare genetic conditions. It will explore the challenges of designing trials for small, heterogeneous populations and highlight innovative and emerging approaches using platform and N-of-1 trial designs.

Biography

Dr. Danielle Baribeau is a child and adolescent psychiatrist with a clinical focus on autism, rare genetic neurodevelopmental disorders and psychopharmacology. She completed her PhD in clinical epidemiology and health-care research at the University of Toronto in 2022, focusing on understanding anxiety in autism. She completed her clinical residency training in adult psychiatry, followed by child and adolescent psychiatry, at the University of Toronto in 2019. This was followed by a two-year fellowship at SickKids in consultation-liaison psychiatry, neurodevelopmental assessment and rare genetic conditions associated with psychiatric and neurodevelopmental outcomes. She has also worked clinically at Holland Bloorview since 2020.

As a clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, she leads a research program focused on translating genetic advances into improved mental health care for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. Baribeau also works as a child psychiatrist in Holland Bloorview's Child Development Program's Psychopharmacology Clinic and the Autism Communication, Learning and Behaviour program.

Translating research into real-world impact in childhood-onset disabilities



Dr. Sarah Munce, senior scientist and associate chief of implementation science, Bloorview Research Institute

This presentation will highlight Dr. Munce's research advancing meaningful youth and family engagement and the use of implementation science to translate evidence into practice in pediatric rehabilitation. She will share preliminary findings from UNITE, a framework to conceptualize and support meaningful youth and family engagement in research, alongside findings from a scoping review examining the use of implementation science models, theories and frameworks in pediatric rehabilitation.

The presentation will explore how meaningful engagement and implementation science can help move research beyond identifying barriers and facilitators toward developing and evaluating strategies that support the uptake of evidence into practice and improve care, services and outcomes for children and youth with childhood-onset disabilities and their families.

Biography

Dr. Sarah Munce, PhD, is a senior scientist and associate chief of implementation science at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She is also an associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and an affiliated scientist at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, where she also serves as a graduate coordinator. She is the former membership chair for the Mixed Methods International Research Association and current editor-in-chief for JMIR Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies.

Sarah is a former AMS Healthcare Fellow in Compassion and Artificial Intelligence and her research has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Kids Brain Health Network, Brain Canada Foundation, and the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation.

Dr. Munce is leading national efforts to improve how research evidence is translated into care, particularly for youth with disabilities and complex needs and their families. Her program focuses on developing, implementing, and evaluating transitional care interventions, such as peer navigation and self-management supports, in partnership with young people and their families. In 2025, she was awarded a $1-million Implementation Science Chair by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to advance youth and family engagement in learning health systems across Canada.

Poster sessions – Nov. 5 and 6

Explore the breadth of research taking place at the Bloorview Research Institute and beyond through poster presentations showcasing emerging findings, innovative approaches and new perspectives in childhood disability research.

We encourage you to connect with the presenters, learn more about their work and explore opportunities for discussion and collaboration.

1. **Experiences securing accessible housing among families of children and youth with disabilities**
   Authors: Sally Lindsay, Sarah Leo and Tim Ross
   Presenter: Sally Lindsay

2. **The impact of ableism on the health and well-being of children and youth with disabilities: a systematic review**
   Authors: Sally Lindsay, Janice Phonepraseuth, Sarah Leo and Narges Abdeahad
   Presenters: Sally Lindsay and Janice Phonepraseuth

3. **Teaching educators about acquired brain injury: TeachABI, an online brain injury professional development module for educators**
   Authors: Christine Muscat, Sara Marshall, Alexa Irvin, Andrea Hickling, Katherine Broad, Tijana Simic and Shannon Scratch
   Presenter: Christine Muscat

4. **Educator perspectives on TeachABI – facilitators and barriers to implementation in return-to-school planning following acquired brain injury**
   Authors: Maria Correa, Christine Muscat, Alexa Irvin, Andrea Hickling and Dr. Shannon Scratch
   Presenters: Maria Correa and Christine Muscat

5. **Exploring the lived experiences of autistic youth and young adults in acquiring and maintaining housing: a qualitative study protocol**
   Authors: Angelika Aziz, Sander L. Hitzig, Timothy Ross and Sally Lindsay
   Presenter: Angelika Aziz

6. **Countering clothing ableism: understanding the clothing-related lived experiences for adolescents with mobility disabilities**
   Authors: Rushmita Alam, Alison C Novak, Laura Avila and Sally Lindsay
   Presenter: Rushmita Alam

7. **Developing an accessible wearable system to measure gait in children with diverse mobility** impairments
   Authors: M. Elshafei, J. Ly, C. Ngan, M. Akhtar, Z. Arshad and J. Andrysek
   Presenter: Mohamed Elshafei

8. **Educators' Paediatric brain injury knowledge: a scoping review**
   Authors: Sara Marshall, Christine Muscat, Marnie Drake, Eve-Marie Quintin and Shannon E Scratch
   Presenter: Alexa Irvin

9. **Providing accessible housing for families of children and youth with disabilities: housing practitioners' experiences in the Greater Toronto Area**
   Authors: Meng Xu and Sally Lindsay
   Presenter: Meng Xu

Poster sessions – Nov. 5 and 6

10. **Sexuality education for youth with disabilities beyond the classroom: a scoping review**
    Authors: Amy McPherson, Madison Brown, Sarah Winemaker and Emily Cox
    Presenter: Emily Cox

11. **Exploring representations of disability and sexuality on TikTok: a content analysis**
    Authors: Katie O'Connor, Olivia McCracken, Emily Cox and Amy McPherson
    Presenter: Amy McPherson

12. **Addressing caregiver mental health: a pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of blending CC-ACT with the Social ABCs**
    Authors: Sara Daoud, Erin Dowds, Hadas Dahary, Lee Steel, Jonathan Leef, Melanie Penner, Cecilia Lee, Kenneth Fung, Yona Lunsky, Johanna Lake and Jessica Brian
    Presenter: Sara Daoud

13. **Measuring implementation fidelity of a technology-based concussion assessment tool in a multi-center trial**
    Authors: Millie Heller, Alessandra Khazraie, Danielle DuPlessis, Jenn Ryan, Andrew Lovell, Andrea Hickling, Elaine Biddiss, Shannon Scratch and Josh Shore
    Presenter: Millie Heller

14. **Engagement of patients, families/ caregivers, and other knowledge users in learning health systems: a scoping review of approaches and practices**
    Authors: Jun Davidson-Lau, Dorothy Luong, Persephone MacKinlay, Fatima Zeshan, Amir Ali Behnam Basir, Brayden Levillard, Iveta Lewis, Kerry Kuluski, Sharon Straus, Clementine Jarrett, Nadia Tanel, Lyndsay Tchegus-Veiga, Irene Andress, Shelley Vanderhout, Alyssa J. Gatto, Alene Toulany and Sarah Munce
    Presenter: Jun Davidson-Lau

15. **Learning – BCI: how do brain signals evolve as we use BCI?**
    Authors: Charlie Lake and Tom Chau
    Presenter: Charlie Lake

16. **The prevalence and impact of rare genetic conditions in a clinical cohort of children with physical neurodisabilities**
    Authors: Ghazal Rafeeh, Kalina Russell, Jiya Tailor, Haochen Yu, Jesiqua Rapley, Heather Pekeles, Iskra Peltekova, Anne Kawamura, Darcy Fehlings, Amber Makino and Danielle Baribeau
    Presenter: Ghazal Rafeeh

17. **Adapting a return to play assessment for youth with moderate to severe acquired brain injury: designing R2Play-ABI**
    Authors: Jennifer Ryan, Elaine Biddiss, Virginia Wright and Shannon Scratch
    Presenter: Jennifer Ryan

18. **How youth with disabilities explore their sexuality using online spaces: a scoping review**
    Authors: Krystalia Hatzinakos, Jenna Dimou, Emily Cox and Amy McPherson
    Presenter: Krystalia Hatzinakos

19. **Understanding intrapersonal factors influencing community healthcare providers conducting community-based autism diagnoses using an implementation science framework**
    Authors: G. Masri Ahmar, M. Dever, S. Eldon, G. Ferguson, A. Ip, L. Kanigsberg, M. Khilji, A. Kubow, J. Rapley, I. Smith, G. Wiebe, L. Zwaigenbaum and M. Penner
    Presenter: Gabriela Masri Ahmar

Poster sessions – Nov. 5 and 6

20. **A wearable NIRS headset for characterizing prefrontal bases of joint attention initiation in children with complex communication needs**
    Authors: Faiz Uddin Qureshi and Tom Chau
    Presenter: Faiz Uddin Qureshi

21. **Affective brain-music interfacing for emotional awareness and regulation in autistic adolescents with low support needs**
    Authors: Janset Gungor and Tom Chau
    Presenter: Janset Gungor

22. **Evaluating game-derived metrics of upper-limb movement in children with cerebral palsy**
    Authors: Xinchi Yan, Ajmal Khan, Sarit Tresser, Virginia Wright and Elaine Biddiss
    Presenter: Xinchi Yan

23. **Measuring what matters: establishing the pediatric rehabilitation intervention measure of engagement for children with developmental disabilities**
    Authors: Monika Novak Pavlic, Gillian King, Michelle Phoenix, Eric Smart, Shantel Mangroo, Steven Mills, Cynthia Lennon, Lisa Chiarello, Mathew McLarnon and Madhu Pinto
    Presenter: Monika Novak Pavlic

24. **Exploring experiences and access to healthcare services among youth with a concussion and neurodevelopmental disorder, their caregivers, and clinicians**
    Authors: Kylie Mallory, Christine Muscat, Alexa Irvin, Andie Hickling and Shannon Scratch
    Presenter: Kylie Mallory

25. **The impact of Move&Connect-Youth on occupational performance and satisfaction in youth with persisting symptoms after concussion**
    Authors: Sophie Madge-Nyren, Kylie D. Mallory, Andrew Lovell, Hiba Al-Hakeem, Andrea Hickling and Shannon E. Scratch
    Presenter: Sophie Madge-Nyren

26. **Zone-based characterization of rectification for ankle-foot orthoses**
    Authors: Sana Malik, Calvin Ngan and Jan Andrysek
    Presenter: Sana Malik

27. **Occupational therapy for youth with persisting post-concussion symptoms: service utilization and costs of virtual and in-person care**
    Authors: Hussain Syed, Kylie D. Mallory, Alexa Irvin, Ayeshah Syed, Andrea Hickling and Shannon E. Scratch
    Presenter: Hussain Syed

28. **Re-imagining R2Play: an inclusive and integrative return-to-play assessment tool for children**
    Authors: Danielle DuPlessis, Elaine Biddiss and Shannon Scratch
    Presenter: Danielle DuPlessis

29. **Concurrent validity of markerless motion capture (theia3d) for spatiotemporal gait analysis: a comparison with the Gaitrite Instrumented Walkway**
    Authors: Agnes Kung, Jenny Ly, Mohamed Elshafei, Calvin Ngan, Josh McGillivray, Mobeen Akhtar and Jan Andrysek
    Presenter: Jenny Ly

Poster sessions – Nov. 5 and 6

30. **Rethinking sensor placement for more adaptive prostheses**
    Authors: Muhammad Zeeshan Arshad, Mohamed Elshafei, Calvin Ngan and Jan Andrysek
    Presenter: Muhammad Zeeshan Arshad

31. **Learning individualized neurodevelopmental representations from structural MRI using self-supervised foundation models**
    Authors: Sara Alatrash and Azadeh Kushki
    Presenter: Sara Alatrash

32. **Quality assurance & data collection in community service programs – adaptations for the "not enough time" problem**
    Authors: K. Bernardi, S. MacWilliam, E. Dowds, S. Jilderda, S. Daoud and J. Brian
    Presenter: Kate Bernardi

33. **Service utilization among toddlers with emerging autism in Ontario**
    Authors: Monica Halsey, Erin Dowds, Anna Michelis, Sara Daoud, Kate Bernardi, Alex Hoffman and Jessica Brian
    Presenter: Monica Halsey

34. **Fixing the School, Not the Student: Understanding the Experiences of Post Secondary Students with ADHD**
    Authors: Samara Osten and Rosemary Condillac
    Presenter: Samara Osten

35. **Implanted brain-computer interfaces in children: a scoping review**
    Authors: Jason Leung and Tom Chau
    Presenter: Jason Leung

36. **Non-invasive magnetically actuated independently sliding finger-like dry EEG electrodes with thick and dense hair penetration for high-fidelity brain signal acquisition**
    Authors: Taeyoung Lee and Tom Chau
    Presenter: Taeyoung Lee

37. **Brain and muscle activity during robotic-assisted walking in children with cerebral palsy and neurotypical peers**
    Authors: Yara Corky, Tom Chau and Virginia Wright
    Presenter: Yara Corky

Awards and announcements

Dr. John Whittaker Memorial Award

The Dr. John Whittaker Memorial Award recognizes outstanding contributions to research, service or product development and adaptation that improve the quality of life of children and youth with disabilities. Established by Dr. Whittaker's family and friends, the award commemorates his dedication to improving the quality of life of children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.

This year's award is presented to two teams:

Autism Services Family Leaders Team – Giseli Bignardi, Monica Halsey, Alifa Khan, Gunjan Seth, Marissa Seymour, Peter Welsh and Adrienne Zarem

Humanistic Education and Training Team – Elaine Cook and Nikky Henderson

Congratulations to both teams on this well-deserved recognition!

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences – Fellowship



Dr. Darcy Fehlings, senior clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview, and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, has been elected a 2026 Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS).

One of Canada's highest honours in health sciences, the fellowship recognizes Dr. Fehlings' distinguished contributions to advancing research and care for children and youth with cerebral palsy and other childhood disabilities. Through her leadership of the CP Discovery Lab and the Childhood Cerebral Palsy Integrated Neuroscience Discovery Network (CP-NET), she has advanced research in neurorehabilitation, early intervention and more personalized approaches to care. Congratulations, Dr. Darcy Fehlings!

University of Toronto – Dr. Susan Tallett Award for Humanism, Compassion and Excellence in Medical Education



Dr. Anne Kawamura, developmental pediatrician and clinician investigator at Holland Bloorview and associate professor at the University of Toronto, has received the Dr. Susan Tallett Award for Humanism, Compassion and Excellence in Medical Education from the University of Toronto's Department of Pediatrics.

The award recognizes Dr. Kawamura's outstanding contributions to medical education, mentorship and compassionate care. Through more than two decades of teaching and leadership, she has helped shape developmental pediatrics training across Canada, including advancing educational approaches that incorporate family perspectives and prepare clinicians for meaningful conversations with children and families. Congratulations, Dr. Anne Kawamura!

Awards and announcements

University of Toronto – Sustained Excellence in Continuing Professional Education Award



Dr. Melanie Penner, senior clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview and developmental pediatrician, has received the Sustained Excellence in Continuing Professional Education Award from the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

The award recognizes Dr. Penner's leadership in advancing professional education and strengthening community-based autism care. Through initiatives such as ECHO Ontario Autism, she has helped equip hundreds of clinicians with the knowledge and skills to provide timely autism diagnoses and integrated support for children and families across Ontario. Congratulations, Dr. Melanie Penner!

Promotions



Dr. Elaine Biddiss, scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview and lead of the Possibility Engineering and Research Lab (PEARL), has been promoted to professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Biddiss develops innovative technologies that make pediatric rehabilitation more engaging, accessible and personalized. Her research brings together biomedical engineering, rehabilitation sciences and design to create interactive rehabilitation tools, including gamified therapies and technologies that support motor skills, social participation and well-being. Congratulations, Dr. Elaine Biddiss!



Dr. Azadeh Kushki, senior scientist and associate chief of data science at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview, has been promoted to professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering. She also holds the Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Neurodiversity and Personalized Health.

Dr. Kushki's research integrates data science, engineering and artificial intelligence to better understand individual differences among children with neurodevelopmental conditions and disabilities. Her work advances precision health through more personalized approaches to care, including her leadership of the national Whole-Child Open Neuroscience Data for Empowering Research (WONDER) platform. Congratulations, Dr. Azadeh Kushki!



Dr. Tim Ross has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto and to senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview.

Awards and announcements

As lead of the Engagement & Planning for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) Lab, Dr. Ross conducts interdisciplinary research examining how environments, services and systems shape the experiences of children and youth with disabilities and their families. His work focuses on transportation and mobility, inclusive play, education access and institutional ableism, with the goal of creating more accessible and inclusive communities. Congratulations, Dr. Tim Ross!

Bloorview Research Institute – First associate chief of implementation science



Dr. Sarah Munce, implementation scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and associate professor at the University of Toronto, has been appointed BRI's first associate chief of implementation science.

In this new leadership role, Dr. Munce will strengthen the integration of research, clinical care and data to support Holland Bloorview's development as a learning health system. Her work focuses on translating research evidence into practice, advancing meaningful youth and family engagement and supporting continuous improvements in care and outcomes for children and youth with disabilities. Congratulations, Dr. Sarah Munce!

New scientist appointments



Dr. Silvia Orlandi joined the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview, as a scientist in October 2026, marking her return to the institute where she previously completed a postdoctoral fellowship.

Dr. Orlandi's research focuses on developing personalized brain-computer interfaces for children and youth with neuromotor disabilities. Her research aims to advance technologies that support communication, mobility, participation and rehabilitation, with a focus on adapting solutions to each child's abilities, needs and goals. Welcome back to BRI, Dr. Silvia Orlandi!



Dr. Marlee Vandewouw joined the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview, as a scientist in August 2026. She is also an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering.

A former BRI trainee and research associate, Dr. Vandewouw returns to advance her research. Her research integrates neuroimaging, genetics, clinical information and artificial intelligence to better understand individual differences among neurodivergent children and youth and advance more personalized approaches to care. Welcome back to BRI, Dr. Marlee Vandewouw!

Graduate student awards

The BRI congratulates the 2026-27 Graduate Student Scholarship Award recipients:

The **Kimel Family Graduate Student Scholarships in Pediatric Rehabilitation** winners are:



Sophie Madge-Nyren, master of science student, Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, University of Toronto

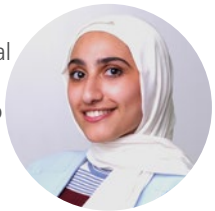
Project (supervised by Dr. Shannon Scratch): Co-creation and assessment of TeachABI-Caregiver: an advocacy resource for caregivers of youth with acquired brain injury



Xinchi Yan, master of applied science student in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto

Project (supervised by Dr. Elaine Biddiss): Optimizing movement-tracking therapy games for reliable kinematic measurement in pediatric rehabilitation monitoring

The **Kimel Family Graduate Student Scholarships in Pediatric Disability Research** winners are:



Sara Alatrash, PhD student in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto

Project (supervised by Dr. Azadeh Kushki): Foundation models for mapping neurodiversity and predicting individual outcomes using measures of brain structure



Jason Leung, PhD student in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto

Project (supervised by Dr. Tom Chau): Development and validation of wearable textile EEG sensors for pediatric rehabilitation



Sana Malik, master of applied science student in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto

Project (supervised by Dr. Jan Andrysek): Developing a hands-free digital workflow for ankle-foot orthoses fabrication

The **Whipper Watson Graduate Research Scholarship** winner is:



Faiz Uddin Qureshi, PhD student in biomedical engineering, University of Toronto

Project (supervised by Dr. Tom Chau): Mapping hemo-metabolic correlates of joint attention in children with CCN

Family engagement in research awards

Research Partnership Award



Dr. Melanie Penner, developmental pediatrician and senior clinician scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

The award recognizes Dr. Melanie Penner for her outstanding commitment to meaningful partnerships with autistic individuals and families. Through her research, education initiatives and innovative approaches to co-design, Dr. Penner has helped ensure that lived experience informs research priorities, clinical practice and knowledge sharing. Her leadership in establishing lived-experience advisory structures and fostering collaborative approaches demonstrates the transformative impact of authentic partnerships in research.

Youth & Lived Experience Award



Wesley Magee-Saxton, youth leader, Holland Bloorview

The award recognizes Wesley Magee-Saxton for outstanding leadership and advocacy in advancing meaningful engagement in research. Drawing on lived experience, Wesley has contributed to numerous research initiatives, knowledge translation activities and advocacy efforts across diverse communities. Wesley's commitment extends beyond sharing personal experiences to creating opportunities for others to contribute, helping ensure that research is informed by the voices, priorities and perspectives of those it seeks to benefit.

Family Leader Award



Tharsiny Markandu, family leader, Holland Bloorview

The award recognizes Tharsiny Markandu for her dedication to advancing meaningful family engagement in research. Through her involvement in research projects, advisory committees and knowledge-sharing initiatives, Tharsiny has championed the inclusion of family perspectives in research. Her contributions to improving the accessibility of research materials for Tamil-speaking families demonstrate her commitment to equity, inclusion and ensuring that diverse family voices are represented and valued.

Community Award



Josh Shore, research assistant, Bloorview Research Institute

The award recognizes Josh Shore for his exceptional commitment to meaningful youth and family engagement throughout his doctoral research. Through a sustained two-year co-design initiative, Josh has worked collaboratively with youth, families and clinicians to ensure that lived experiences meaningfully inform research. His dedication to equitable partnerships, recognizing partner contributions and creating opportunities for shared learning and professional development exemplifies the principles of authentic and reciprocal engagement in research.

Thank you for supporting the Bloorview Research Institute

The Bloorview Research Institute gratefully acknowledges the donors and partners whose generosity through the Holland Bloorview Foundation helps advance world-leading research in childhood disability. Your support enables discoveries that improve care, inclusion and quality of life for children, youth and families.

- Ali Ebrahim
- Arthur Family Foundation
- The Azrieli Foundation
- The Barrett Family
- Bruce Cooper
- Carol Cowan-Levine and Allan Kaplan
- The Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation
- Craig and Jennifer King
- Daniel McCarthy
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Kye is a growing specialty pharmaceutical company that identifies areas of significant clinical unmet need and seeks to provide innovative high-value medicines to improve or extend the lives of patients across Canada. To learn more, visit kyepharma.com

Silver sponsor

Kids Brain Health (KBH+) is a national platform with a mission to scale practical, evidence-based programs, products, and services—proven solutions that improve the lives of children, youth, and families living with neurodisabilities. To learn more, visit: kidsbrainhealth.ca

Bronze sponsor

The Autism Science Foundation (ASF) is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Its mission is to fund breakthrough research that will improve the lives of people with autism. To learn more about the Autism Science Foundation or to make a donation, visit autismsciencefoundation.org.

Empowered Kids Ontario represents organizations providing developmental healthcare to 200,000+ kids with disabilities and developmental needs every year.

EKO promotes smart investments, policies, and innovative approaches grounded in evidence and based on the best research and thought leadership from around the world, so kids with disabilities and developmental needs and their families live their best lives. To learn more, visit empoweredkidsontario.ca

The Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) is a provincially funded, not-for-profit organization that accelerates discovery and innovation, benefiting both patients and the economy. Since 2010, OBI has worked to position Ontario as a global leader in brain health. Learn more at braininstitute.ca



About Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital believes in creating a world where all youth and children belong. We are the only children's rehabilitation hospital in Canada focused on combining world-class care, transformational research, and academic leadership in the field of child and youth rehabilitation and disability. We are a top 40 Canadian research hospital that is fully affiliated with the University of Toronto. Providing both inpatient and outpatient services, Holland Bloorview is renowned for its expertise in co-creating with clients and families to provide exceptional care and is the only organization to ever achieve 100 per cent in three successive quality surveys by Accreditation Canada. Holland Bloorview is a founding member of Kids Health Alliance, a network of partners working to create a high quality, consistent and coordinated approach to pediatric health care that is centred around children, youth and their families. Together we dream big. Together we champion a world of possibility.

For more information or to donate, please visit hollandbloorview.ca or connect on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and the parent-blog BLOOM.



About Bloorview Research Institute

The Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) is embedded within Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital that is fully affiliated with the University of Toronto. It has ranked amongst Canada's top 40 research hospitals for more than a decade. The institute is the only university-affiliated research institute in Canada dedicated to pediatric disability and one of very few in the world.

The BRI brings together teams of top researchers and trainees from a wide array of disciplines including physicians, psychologists, allied health professionals, engineers, neuroscientists, sociologists and even urban planners. Together, they work collaboratively with the community to co-design and conduct transformative, clinically relevant research focused on childhood-onset disability, injury and developmental diversity.

The research institute is guided by its four key priorities as part of its strategic priorities: to advance research practices through an inclusive, diverse, equitable, anti-racist and accessible lens, to fuel precision health, to empower a thriving research community and to enable transformational impact. Learn more: www.hollandbloorview.ca/BRI

For latest updates on research, events and news from the Bloorview Research Institute, follow us on LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/bloorview-research-institute

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