



**Ontario Association on  
Developmental Disabilities**

## **27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**



# **Call for Abstracts**

**Teaching, Research, and Practice:  
A Gateway to Student Interest in the Field of  
Developmental Disabilities**

***Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

***Marriott by the Falls***

***Niagara Falls, Ontario***

**Deadline for submissions:**

**January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

We are circulating our **Call for Abstracts** for the O.A.D.D. Research Special Interest Group Research Day, which will be held on **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>** at the *Marriott by the Falls* in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

**The objectives of the RSIG meeting are:**

- To update research advances in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities and exchange information regarding ongoing research activities.
- To provide opportunity for networking and collaboration for researchers and students with an interest in intellectual/developmental disabilities from across the province.
- To discuss ways to stimulate interest and support for research at the level of institutions, governments, and research funding bodies.

We would like posters and presentations from professional and student researchers from diverse disciplines who are interested in intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. We accept both quantitative and qualitative research contributions, plus strongly encourage community collaboration, as well as participation of self-advocates. Due to time constraints, only a limited number of oral presentations will be accepted and we often cannot accommodate all presentations submitted. Alternatively, some individuals may be asked to present a poster instead.

**Conference theme:**

**Teaching, Research, and Practice: A Gateway to Student Interest in the Field of Developmental Disabilities**

*Submissions related to this theme are encouraged, but not necessary.*

**To submit an oral presentation or poster, please submit your abstract online by January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
at  
<http://oadd.org/affiliate-organizations/rsig-call-for-abstracts/>**

If you have any questions about the conference, you can speak directly with RSIG co-chairs, Shelley Watson ([swatson@laurentian.ca](mailto:swatson@laurentian.ca)) or Lisa Whittingham ([lw99ai@brocku.ca](mailto:lw99ai@brocku.ca)). You can also e-mail [oadd.rsig@gmail.com](mailto:oadd.rsig@gmail.com).

**For more information about OADD and RSIG, please visit: [www.oadd.org](http://www.oadd.org) or “like” us at [www.facebook.com/rsig.oadd](https://www.facebook.com/rsig.oadd)**

## 2019 GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Abstracts should be no more than 500 words in length (word count does not include Title, Authors' names, nor Correspondence sections)

Abstracts should be typed with single spacing, using 11 point Arial font, and 1 inch margins

Authors are asked to divide their abstract into four sections:

- 1) **Objectives:** State the purpose of the research and/or any hypotheses tested.
- 2) **Method:** A brief description of the sample (number of participants; characteristics of participants such as age, diagnosis, severity of intellectual/developmental disability), measures, techniques, and methods of analysis used.
- 3) **Results:** A summary of the findings related to the objectives of the study. If you have pending results, remember to make note of that in your abstract.
- 4) **Discussion/Conclusions:** Statement addressing the relevance and/or implications of the findings (i.e., how findings apply to real-world issues and inform practice).

Centre the title and type it entirely in **CAPITALS and BOLD**.

Please skip a line and include author names, and institutional affiliations (in **bold**, non-capitals, centered). DO NOT list street addresses underneath the title.

**Correspondence:** list contact name, affiliation and email address of all authors.

### Symposium submission

We will be accepting a limited number of symposium submissions. A symposium should consist of a moderator plus 2-3 oral presentations on the same topic. Each symposium is scheduled for 45 minutes, and the moderator is responsible for keeping participants on schedule. *The conference committee may cluster submitted abstracts around a common theme into a symposium.*

***If you would like to be considered for a symposium, please contact Shelley Watson at [swatson@laurentian.ca](mailto:swatson@laurentian.ca) for further details.***

### Data Blitz – Back by popular demand!

Perfect for first time presenters or work in progress. Data Blitz talks are an unconventional and engaging method of sharing information; essentially presenters are providing a synopsis of their research. ***Each Data Blitz presentation is 3 minutes long, uses a maximum of 3 slides, and there are no questions.*** The timing of the presentations is strictly enforced, so be prepared to keep up and have some fun!

Please submit abstracts **online** by January 24th, 2019 at

**<http://oadd.org/affiliate-organizations/rsig-call-for-abstracts/>**

## RSIG COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWING ABSTRACTS

The following criteria will be used to score abstracts for poster and oral presentations. Each area is rated on a 4-point scale (0=Not acceptable, 1=Acceptable, 2=Good, and 3=Excellent) for a total score of 15.

AREAS RATED
<p><b>Purpose</b>            Is the purpose or objective of the study clearly stated?            Is the <i>rationale</i> for the project made clear?</p>
<p><b>Methodology</b>            Do the authors describe the demographics of the participant adequately?            Is the methodology (e.g., techniques, data, measures, and statistics) described in sufficient detail?            Do the experimental techniques (e.g., standardized measures, etc.) aid in addressing the key research questions and hypotheses.            Did the authors use standardized measures/measures with adequate psychometric properties?            For single-subject design: Are data collected on the reliability or inter-observer agreement (IOA) for each dependent variable?            If employing a qualitative approach, is it described in adequate detail and is the methodology of choice appropriate for the research questions?</p>
<p><b>Results</b>            Are the results presented in a clear, coherent fashion?            Do the results verify or contradict previous findings/theories?            If research is in progress, do the authors describe study progress to date or preliminary results?</p>
<p><b>Conclusions</b>            Is the conclusion clear and understandable?            Have potential limitations of the methodology been addressed?</p>
<p><b>Clinical/Research Implications &amp; Novelty</b>            Is the information clinically important, relevant and/or significant?            What are the practical implications of the information?            Is this research original?</p>

Abstracts will be reviewed anonymously (i.e., identifiers removed) by the conference committee, using the guidelines presented above.

***The review process will be completed by February 2019 and authors will be notified immediately thereafter by email. Poster award nominees will also be informed of their nomination at this time.***

Please see below for an example of an abstract

# BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL CORRELATES OF HEALTH IN CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Jonathan Weiss<sup>1</sup>, Adrienne Perry<sup>1</sup>, Ami Tint<sup>1</sup>, Alvin Loh<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>York University, <sup>2</sup>Surrey Place Centre

**Objectives:** There is a growing body of knowledge highlighting higher levels of physical and mental health problems in children with developmental disabilities (DD) compared to typically developing children, related partly to inequities in health care provision. While children with severe DD often struggle with known biological risk factors that contribute to physical and mental ill-health, less is known about how psychological or social factors, such as socioeconomic status, parent health, or service use, contributes to health. The current study examines the biopsychosocial correlates of health in children with severe DD across Canada.

**Methods:** Great Outcomes for Kids Impacted by Severe Developmental Disabilities (GO4KIDDS) is an ongoing research project examining the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of children with severe DD. The current study used information from GO4KIDDS' Basic Survey. Data collection is ongoing. Thus far, data has been collected on 83 children 5-19 years of age ( $M = 11.33$ ,  $SD = 3.81$ ).

**Results:** According to parents, 42% of children were rated as 'healthy' or 'very healthy' compared to other children of the same age. Parent rating of health was correlated with the average number of monthly medical appointments,  $r(83) = -.43$ ,  $p < .001$ , and the number of times children went to the emergency room in the last year,  $r(83) = -.33$ ,  $p = .002$ . Common health problems included seizures (28%), feeding or eating difficulties (gastro-intestinal problems, feeding tubes, major allergies and sensitivities, et.; 31%), and asthma (12%). Severity of parent mental health problems was correlated with frequency of child mental health problems,  $r(83) = .49$ ,  $p < .001$ , but not related to the child's physical health rating. Child happiness was related to specific medical conditions, such as the presence of seizures,  $p = .03$ .

**Discussion/Conclusion:** The poster will elaborate on these preliminary results using multiple regression, and will discuss how biological, psychological, and social factors work together to predict child physical and mental health.

## Correspondence:

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## RSIG AWARDS

### RSIG Poster awards

This year RSIG will be providing **3 student poster awards; one first place award, one second place award, and a “People’s Choice” award.**

The first place recipients of the poster award will be presented with a certificate, as well as a \$150 prize at the end of the conference day, and **will be asked if they would like to speak for a few minutes about their research.** The second place award winner will receive a \$100 award.

All abstracts submitted for a poster presentation (or not accepted for an oral presentation) by a **student** will be considered for the poster award. Posters will be evaluated anonymously (i.e., identifiers removed) using the abstract review guidelines to select the *top 5 student posters*. *Poster award finalists will be informed of their nomination in their acceptance letters.* No application required.

On the day of the conference, the RSIG conference committee will ask the finalists to discuss their poster (maximum of 2 minutes) and will rate the presentation of the posters including the visual presentation of the poster (e.g., How does the poster look? Is it a clear, comprehensive, readable poster?).

We will also be awarding a **“people’s choice”** poster award. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to vote on their favourite poster. The winner will receive a \$100 prize, to be awarded during the awards ceremony of the conference.

### OADD RSIG Student Award for Excellence in Research

This award is presented annually to one student who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of developmental disabilities through an innovative and novel piece of research. Winners of this award will receive **\$250**, plus will be invited to present a **15-minute talk at the conference.**

**Students are encouraged to self-nominate, but faculty members are also encouraged to nominate worthy candidates!**

Please go to <http://oadd.org/affiliate-organizations/rsig-awards/> for more information.

## Kay Sansom Scholarship

Three awards of \$1,000 each and a one-year membership in OADD are available to **Ontario students with interests in developmental disabilities:** medical/graduate, undergraduate, and college students.

*Please note that this award is presented at the OADD conference, not the RSIG Research Day.*

Please go to <http://oadd.org/scholarships-awards/awards-scholarships-overview/kay-sansom-scholarships/> for more information.

## RSIG Travel Awards

The O.A.D.D. RSIG Student Travel Award is an award that will be offered to students who will be travelling to attend the RSIG conference. The award recipients will receive a monetary value of **\$150.00** to assist with any expenses associated with attending the RSIG conference.

**A total of five (5) travel awards will be given.**

This award is **open to full-time students** who are either currently or within the previous calendar year were enrolled in a college or university from any discipline (e.g., Nursing, Education, Psychology, Behavioural Science, etc.).

Each applicant must complete the application form available at <http://oadd.org/affiliate-organizations/rsig-awards/> and must also submit the following supporting documentation:

- **A brief statement (maximum 1 page)** requesting receipt of the travel award. This statement should include a rationale for the request, as well as an explanation of your interest of either attending or presenting at the conference. Applications should also outline active participation in RSIG (if applicable).
- *Recognition of geographic distance to the conference as well as other expenses will be considered.*

**Please e-mail travel award statements to [oadd.rsig@gmail.com](mailto:oadd.rsig@gmail.com).  
Please also express your interest on the abstract submission form.**