



**Ontario Association on
Developmental Disabilities**

28TH ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



Call for Abstracts

**From Deinstitutionalization to Citizenship:
Where Are We Now?**

*Thursday, April 9th, 2020
Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn
& Conference Centre
London, Ontario*

Deadline for submissions:

January 23rd, 2020

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 9th** at the *Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre* in London, Ontario.

The objectives of the RSIG meeting are:

- To provide an update regarding the research being conducted to advance the field of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- To provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration for researchers, students, professionals, and self-advocates with an interest in research in the field of developmental disabilities.
- To facilitate interest and support for research regarding developmental disabilities at the level of institutions (i.e., universities, colleges, community, and government).

We welcome posters and presentations from professional and student researchers from diverse disciplines who are engaged in research relating to intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. We encourage submissions that represent a wide range of quantitative and qualitative designs. Collaborative and/or participatory research with self-advocates are also highly encouraged. 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.

**2020 Conference Theme:
From Deinstitutionalization to Citizenship:
Where Are We Now?**

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

**To submit an oral presentation or poster, please submit your abstract
online by January 23rd, 2020
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, Lisa Whittingham (lw99ai@brocku.ca) or Anna Przednowek (annap@nipissingu.ca). You can also e-mail oadd.rsig@gmail.com

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

2020 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 Lisa Whittingham at lw99ai@brocku.ca for further details.

Data Blitz – Back by popular demand!

Perfect for first time presenters or works 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 23rd, 2020 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>Purpose Is the purpose or objective of the study clearly stated? Is the <i>rationale</i> for the project made clear?</p>
<p>Methodology 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>Results 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>Conclusions Is the conclusion clear and understandable? Have potential limitations of the methodology been addressed?</p>
<p>Clinical/Research Implications & Novelty 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 2020 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 Weiss¹, Adrienne Perry¹, Ami Tint¹, Alvin Loh²
¹York University, ²Surrey 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 and **will be asked if they would like to speak for a few minutes about their research (this is optional and not required).** 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.**

For posters nominated for an award, members of 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?) on the day of the conference.

We will also be awarding a **“people’s choice”** poster award. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite poster. The winner will receive a \$100 prize, to be awarded during the awards ceremony of the conference. Winners of the RSIG poster award cannot also win the “People’s Choice” poster award.

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 the field of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities:** medical/graduate, undergraduate, and college students.

Please note that this award is adjudicated by OADD Board Members and 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.

OADD-NADD Ontario Scholarship – Student Research Scholarship

One award of \$1000 is available to a college or university student completing a research study or writing a thesis focused on intellectual and developmental disabilities co-occurring with mental health needs.

Please note that this award is adjudicated by OADD Board Members and presented at the OADD conference, not the RSIG Research Day.

Please go to <https://oadd.org/scholarships-awards/awards-scholarships-overview/oadd-nadd-ontario-scholarships/> for more information.

Dr. Bruce McCreary Memorial Scholarship

One award of \$5000 is available to students enrolled full-time in an accredited clinical program of study with an emphasis on working with individuals with developmental disabilities, their caregivers and families.

Please note that this award is adjudicated by OADD Board Members and presented at the OADD conference, not the RSIG Research Day.

Please go to <https://oadd.org/dr-bruce-mccreary-memorial-scholarship/> for more information.

RSIG Travel Awards

The OADD RSIG Travel Award is an award that will be offered to students and self-advocates 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 four (4) travel awards will be given for student presenters and one (1) travel award will be given for self-advocate presenters. If there are no eligible self-advocate presenters, five (5) travel awards will be given to student presenters.

This award is **open to full-time students and self-advocates** 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
Please also express your interest on the abstract submission form.**