



31st Annual Research Day **RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**



Call for Abstracts

Knowledge is Power: Creative and Collaborative Ways of Sharing Knowledge

Tuesday April 18th, 2023

Lamplighter Inn

London, Ontario

Deadline for Abstract Submissions:

January 20th, 2023

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The RSIG Research Day will be in-person 2023!

The RSIG committee is excited to announce that the Research Day will be in person this year. We are looking forward to highlighting all the outstanding research that has been done across the province by students, community researchers, and early career professionals. This year, our in-person event will be held in London, Ontario at the Lamplighter Inn on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023.

The objectives of the RSIG Research Day 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 are seeking poster and oral presentation contributions, and interactive workshops from professional and student researchers who are engaged in research relating to intellectual/developmental disabilities that span all disciplines. We encourage submissions that represent a wide range of research designs, including quantitative, qualitative, and single-subject designs. Contributions that are collaborative and/or participatory research with self-advocates are also highly encouraged. Due to time constraints, we will accept a limited number of interactive workshops and oral presentations, and we often cannot accommodate all presentations submitted. Alternatively, individuals submitting for an oral presentation may be invited to present a data blitz or a poster presentation instead.

COVID is still a reality. On April 18, if you are ill for whatever reason, test positive or are isolating due to concerns about exposure, please do not come to the event. If you are well and do attend the event, have fun and please remember to follow all safety precautions, masks are encouraged.

2023 Conference Theme:

Knowledge is Power: Creative and Collaborative Ways of Sharing Knowledge

We welcome submissions that demonstrate the various creative and collaborative ways that knowledge has been produced and shared to make changes to both policy and practice, in the developmental sector. We are especially interested in research highlighting promising practices surrounding stakeholder engagement in practice, service delivery, research, and knowledge translation with persons with developmental disabilities and their supports.

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

To submit a contribution (interactive workshop, research poster, oral presentation or data blitz) please submit your abstract **online by **January 20th, 2023****

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

If you have any questions about the conference, you can speak directly with RSIG co-chairs, Anna Przednowek (annap@nipissingu.ca) or Courtney Bishop (courtney.bishop@durhamcollege.ca). You can also email 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

2023 GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Please use this format for both poster/oral/data blitz presentation 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.

Data Blitz

You asked and we delivered. 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 Data Blitz presentations are strictly enforced, so be prepared to keep up and have some fun!

Interactive Workshop- **NEW!!**

We will consider a limited number of interactive workshops related to the conference theme. Workshops will be scheduled for 45 minutes. The interactive workshop abstract submission should include a description of how learners will be engaged in active learning, as well as a clear objective that outlines take-away skills, and/or knowledge or material that attendees will acquire through their participation.

RSIG COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWING ABSTRACTS

The following criteria is used to evaluate 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 20 points.

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., procedures, data analysis, and measures) described in sufficient detail? Does 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: Is 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 are anonymized (i.e., identifiers removed) by the conference committee before review to promote fairness. Please see below for an example of an abstract.

The review process will be completed by mid-February 2023 and authors will be notified immediately thereafter by email.

Example 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.

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RSIG AWARDS

1) Self Advocate Travel Award

The O.A.D.D. RSIG Travel Award is an award that will be offered to a self-advocate who will be traveling 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 one (1) travel awards will be given.**

This award is **open to all conference attendees who identify as a disabled self-advocate**. 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 in either attending or presenting at the conference.

Recognition of geographic distance to the conference as well as other expenses will be considered.

2) RSIG Poster Awards

The 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 that have been submitted for a poster presentation with a **student as the first author** will be considered for the poster award. Presenters who were not accepted for an oral presentation and who agreed to do a poster presentation will also be considered for a poster award. Posters considered for awards 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.**

If nominated for a poster, the student presenter will be asked to meet with members of the RSIG conference committee on the day of the conference. The RSIG conference committee will ask the finalists to briefly discuss their poster (maximum of 2 minutes) and will score the presentation of the poster including the visual presentation of the poster (i.e., How does the poster look? Is it clear, comprehensive, and readable? Has there been consideration for accessibility?).

We will also be awarding a **“people’s choice”** poster award. All poster presentations are eligible for this award. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to review and vote for their favourite poster. The winner will receive a \$100 prize that is awarded during the awards ceremony at the conference. Winners of the RSIG poster award cannot also win the “People’s Choice” poster award for the same poster.

2) 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 speak for **15 minutes at the conference**.

Students are encouraged to self-nominate and faculty members are also encouraged to nominate worthy candidates!

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

3) RSIG Student Travel Awards

The O.A.D.D. RSIG Student Travel Award is an award that will be offered to students who will be traveling 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.**

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 in 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.

4) 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** in the following categories: 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.

5) 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.

6) 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, care providers, 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.

To prevent any conflict of interest, individuals on the RSIG Committee are not eligible for any of these awards for the duration of their membership.