



**Ontario Association on
Developmental Disabilities**

RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP 20TH ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY



Call for Abstracts

April 19th, 2012

Ambassador Conference Resort

1550 Princess Street Kingston, Ontario K7M 9E3

<http://www.ambassadorhotel.com>

We accept both quantitative and qualitative research

Deadline for submissions *has been extended to:*

December 9th, 2011

Dear Colleague:

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 19th, 2012 at the Ambassador Conference Resort in Kingston, 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.

For more information about OADD and RSIG, please visit: www.oadd.org

We would like posters and presentations from professional and student researchers from diverse disciplines who are interested in intellectual/developmental disabilities. We accept both quantitative and qualitative research contributions.

To submit a presentation or poster, please submit the submission form (see attached) and your abstract electronically to rsigsubmission@oadd.org by **December 9th, 2011.**

If you have any questions, you can speak directly with Carly McMorris at (416) 650 8495

2011 GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

- Abstracts should be no more than 500 words in length (word count does not include Title, Authors' names, nor Correspondence section)
- 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 statistics 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.
- Leave a line before beginning the abstract. Underneath the abstract, leave 5 lines and type in **bold**, non-capitals, non-centered **Correspondence:** list contact name, affiliation and email address of at least one author.

Please send an electronic copy of your abstract and the completed submission form below by **December 9th, 2011** to rsigsubmission@oadd.org. Abstracts will be reviewed anonymously (i.e., identifiers removed) by the conference committee using the guidelines presented on the next page. The review process will be completed by mid January 2011 and authors will be notified immediately thereafter by email. Note that any abstract that does not meet these standards will not be accepted.

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?</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>

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.

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RSIG POSTER AWARDS

This year RSIG will be providing two student poster awards. Recipients of the poster awards will be presented with a certificate as well as a \$50 prize at the end of the conference day. All abstracts submitted for a poster presentation by a student will be considered for the poster awards. Posters will be evaluated anonymously (i.e., identifiers removed) using the abstract review guidelines to select the top 10 student posters. This short-list of best posters will be evaluated a second time at the conference. On the day of the conference, the RSIG conference committee will ask the finalists to discuss their poster (maximum of 5 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?).