



20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium

From ideas to action:

Advancing transformational care and
support in childhood-onset disability

Tuesday, November 25 and Wednesday, November 26, 2025



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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](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bloorview-research-institute)



Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Bloorview
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



The Hon. Robert Oliphant, P.C., M.P.

Don Valley West
Don Valley-Ouest



November 25, 2025

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
150 Kilgour Road
Toronto, ON
M4G 1R8

20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium – From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability

It is my distinct pleasure to offer greetings to Holland Bloorview on the occasion of the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) Symposium.

As Holland Bloorview is Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital, it serves over 9,000 children and youth every year. Indeed, Holland Bloorview is a world class, international leader in health care dedicated to children with disabilities and has contributed greatly to research in childhood-onset disability. I am very pleased that the theme of the 20th Annual BRI Symposium will highlight the groundbreaking advances in childhood-onset disability research and innovation taking place at Bloorview Research Institute.

I wish you a successful Symposium and look forward to working with Holland Bloorview in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Robert Oliphant P.C., M.P.
Don Valley West

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Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



November 25 – 26, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I'm pleased to extend my warm wishes to everyone attending the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) Symposium. Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.

This event brings together health professionals, leaders and advocates at Canada's largest hospital-based pediatric disability health research conference. It's a valuable opportunity to connect, share knowledge and collaborate on key issues such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, autism and brain and spinal cord injuries that affect children and youth.

Our government supports the theme of this year's symposium, "From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability." We continue to invest in hospitals across Ontario to ensure they can provide the care that people need and deserve.

I commend the dedicated team behind this event for hosting the symposium and for their commitment to supporting more than 9,000 children and youth with disabilities each year.

Best wishes for an engaging and productive symposium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ford".

Doug Ford
Premier

**Ministry of Colleges,
Universities, Research
Excellence and Security**

Office of the Minister

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November 25, 2025

**A message from the Honourable Nolan Quinn
Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence
and Security**



I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium.

This year's theme, *From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability*, perfectly reflects the spirit of this milestone event — transforming innovation into real-world impact for children and youth with disabilities.

As part of our plan to protect Ontario, our government is driving cutting-edge research that strengthens health care and builds a brighter future for all people in Ontario. Which is why since 2018, our government has invested over \$2 billion into Ontario-made research that is saving and changing lives.

On behalf of the Ontario government, I would like to thank the researchers and scientists at the Bloorview Research Institute and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital for your vital work in advancing research on childhood disabilities. We are proud to have supported your groundbreaking research in pediatric rehabilitation with nearly \$2.4 million over the past eight years and I look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come.

Thanks to your dedication to research excellence, we are building a future where all children and youth can live healthy and fulfilling lives. I wish you a successful symposium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nolan Quinn'.

The Honourable Nolan Quinn
Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security



Stephanie Bowman, MPP

Don Valley West



October 24, 2025

Greetings to the participants at the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Symposium,

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to everyone attending the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) Symposium, hosted by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

As Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital, Holland Bloorview continues to be a beacon of hope, innovation, and compassion for thousands of children, youth, and families each year. Your commitment to advancing research, care, and inclusion for children and youth with disabilities is inspiring.

This year's theme, *"From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability,"* highlights the importance of collaboration and innovation in improving lives and creating a more inclusive future. The dedication of researchers, clinicians, families, and community partners at Holland Bloorview demonstrates what can be achieved when science and compassion come together.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved in organizing this important event and to all who contributed to the remarkable work being done at Holland Bloorview.

Your efforts not only transform care but also help build a stronger, more inclusive Ontario where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Warm regards,

Stephanie Bowman, MPP
Don Valley West



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to welcome everyone participating in the 20th Annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium, hosted by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital.

This year's event themed, *From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability*, brings together researchers, clinicians, industry, trainees and families to share knowledge and strengthen collaborations in childhood disability research.

I am proud of organizations such as Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital who are supporting the well-being of children and improving the health of our communities.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a productive event

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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

It is my honour to welcome you to the 20th annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium.

This year's theme, *From Ideas to Action: Advancing Transformational Care and Support in Childhood-Onset Disability*, reflects the essence of our work at Holland Bloorview: transforming discoveries into meaningful impact for children, youth and families.

The Bloorview Research Institute has established itself as a global powerhouse in pediatric disability research. Its scientists, trainees, families and partners have generated knowledge and solutions that improve lives — from innovations in technology and rehabilitation to family-centred approaches that influence care and policy. This symposium is a showcase of that breadth of discovery and collaboration.

As I prepare to retire in December, this symposium holds special meaning for me. It has been the privilege of my career to serve as president and CEO of Holland Bloorview, Canada's hospital for children with disabilities. I am proud of the Bloorview Research Institute's growth and of the culture of co-design, inclusion and innovation that will continue to shape the future.

Our 2030 strategic plan, *Transformative Care, Inclusive World*, recognizes research and education as essential to transformation. It commits us to supporting a thriving team, advancing care that is agile and socially accountable, and ensuring discoveries from the Bloorview Research Institute drive lasting impact.

I invite you to be inspired by the conversations and connections of this symposium, envisage opportunities for collaboration to catalyze even greater impact and to imagine with us what is possible when bold ideas are turned into action.



Julia Hanigsberg
President and CEO

Welcome from the symposium co-hosts

Welcome to the 20th annual Bloorview Research Institute Symposium.

Over the past two decades, this symposium has grown into a vital forum for dialogue, collaboration and innovation. As we mark this milestone, the Bloorview Research Institute also begins its 21st year, guided by strategic priorities that will shape our work through 2030.

You will see these priorities reflected throughout the program. Our commitment to advancing research practices through an inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility and anti-racism lens is evident in the voices represented here. Our focus on fuelling precision health comes through in research that harnesses data and technology to create more personalized care. By creating a platform for knowledge exchange, we are empowering a thriving research community that supports scientists, trainees and families who bring passion and expertise to this work. And by enabling transformational impact, we ensure discoveries move beyond academic journals into care, policy and communities.

As co-hosts, we know that research only achieves its full potential when children, youth and families are at the centre. Families are not just participants but partners who shape the questions asked, the methods used and the solutions developed.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the conversations and connections of the next two days. Together, we can imagine and act on new possibilities that support children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences in achieving personalized versions of a good life.



Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou

Vice President, Research
and Director of Bloorview
Research Institute



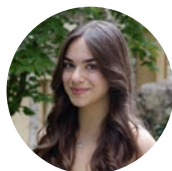
Liz Zur

Family Leader
Event Co-Host



Neil Chavda

Family Leader
Event Co-Host



Sydney Pacheco

Youth Advisor
Event Co-Host



Zachary Priest

Youth Facilitator
Event Co-Host

Tuesday, November 25

Mickey Milner International Professorship Lecture

**From the lab to the pediatrician's office: how
biomechanics research can change clinical practice**

Dr. Mark D. Geil, professor of biomechanics, MOVE Center for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering, Kennesaw State University, and research investigator, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta



Research has the power to transform lives, but in reality, it's often presented at a conference to a handful of people and published in a journal article that's cited a handful of times — and its brief impact fades away. In this presentation, Dr. Mark Geil will use examples from his 30-year career in locomotion biomechanics research to explore why some research is forgotten and other research finds its way from the lab to clinical practice and real change in people's lives.

Biography

Dr. Mark Geil is a professor of biomechanics in the Wellstar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State University. He also holds affiliate appointments in biological sciences at Georgia Tech and in physical therapy at Georgia State University.

Dr. Geil received a B.Sc. in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University and a PhD in biomedical engineering from Ohio State University. He helped create the world's first entry-level M.Sc. program in prosthetics and orthotics while at Georgia Tech and founded the Center for Pediatric Locomotion Sciences at Georgia State University.

Building the path for equity in genetics and genomics research and health care with Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Dr. Laura Arbour, Professor, Department of Medical Genetics,
Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia



There are broad concerns that those with the greatest needs will benefit the least from advances in genetics and genomics. Furthermore, Indigenous patients and communities may hesitate to become involved in research and genetic health care involving genetic and genomic sequencing because of concerns that resulting data will be misused.

However, Indigenous involvement and ongoing Indigenous governance of data have the potential to change this trajectory by improving access to diagnosis for Indigenous patients with genetic conditions.

Dr. Laura Arbour will discuss the concepts of the *continuous conversation*, *DNA on loan*, and the Global Indigenous Data Alliance CARE Principles, using examples from her 30-year career conducting genetic and genomic research with First Nations and Inuit communities and patients, including the Silent Genomes Project.

Biography

Dr. Laura Arbour is a professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia, situated at the Island Medical Program in Victoria, B.C. Trained as both a pediatrician and clinical geneticist (McGill University), she has been addressing the genetic determinants of health with Indigenous populations for nearly 30 years.

Through her UBC Community Genetics Research Program, she tackles rare, single-gene disorders and the genetics of more complex conditions affecting Indigenous people.

Her clinical practice in Victoria, B.C., and at various outreach sites across B.C. involves rare genetic disease diagnosis with a focus on cardiogenetics. Her partnership in research on Long QT syndrome with a First Nation in northern B.C. led to the concept and initiation of the B.C. Inherited Arrhythmia Program (BCIAP) for all British Columbians with inherited arrhythmias, ongoing since 2013.

She is also a project lead for the Silent Genomes Project, addressing inequity in genomic diagnosis for Indigenous patients in Canada. The project recently launched, under Indigenous governance, the Indigenous Background Variant Library — a unique variant-frequency database to improve diagnostic accuracy for Indigenous patients with genetic conditions.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session #1

Big data and artificial intelligence: opportunities and challenges

Breakout Session #2

Inter-institutional opportunities to advance family engagement in research

Breakout Session #3

Democratizing health care through technology

Breakout Session #4

Engaging community partners in developing research opportunities



#BRIResearch

BRI Research Talks

'Walking with my robot' and other steps along a technology-woven path: research partnership reflections of a pediatric physiotherapist scientist

Dr. Virginia Wright, senior scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

Integration of novel gait technologies into motor-learning-based physiotherapy has been an intervention cornerstone of Dr. Virginia Wright's pediatric rehabilitation research since the 1990s. This talk will focus on accumulated learnings with school-aged children with cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury from her clinical research team's use of:

- i) a novel pulley-based hands-free walker (the David Hart Walker, 1990s),
- ii) a robotic-assisted gait treadmill training device (the Lokomat, 2010s), and
- iii) an overground lower-limb exoskeleton-assisted walker (the Trexo Plus, 2023...).



The experiences and views of children, parents and physiotherapists/physiotherapist assistants using these increasingly sophisticated devices within a goal-based treatment block (pros, cons and clinical training support needed) will take centre stage, with brief reflections on next steps along this technology-woven path.

With the rise of personalized medicine and big data, being able to measure meaningful outcomes holds greater importance than ever before. In keeping with Dr. Wright's long-standing fascination with measurement, the final portion of her talk will provide a snapshot of the child/parent report measure, the Prosthetic Upper Limb Functional Index (PUFI), developed in partnership with clinicians, to illustrate the potential benefits that technology (through the new PUFI-2 app) can bring to what began in the 1990s as a paper-based measure.

Biography

Dr. Virginia Wright is a senior scientist at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital's Bloorview Research Institute and leads the [SPARK](#) (Supporting Physical Activity-based Rehabilitation Research for Kids) research lab. She is also a full professor (status) at the University of Toronto's Department of Physical Therapy and holds an appointment in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute.

Her research with physiotherapy, occupational therapy and kinesiology graduate students primarily focuses on developing and validating outcome measures for clinicians to assess functional and physical-activity-related outcomes in children with disabilities and developmental differences such as cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, orthopaedic conditions and autism.

Dr. Wright also works closely with graduate students and scientists from other BRI labs (PRISM, PROPEL and PEARL) to put these measures into practice through physiotherapy and occupational intervention studies that focus on motor-learning-

based use of robotic-assisted gait technologies or movement-tracking video games, and to integrate evaluation of the impact on the brain and muscle using advanced child-friendly assessment technologies (e.g., MRI/fMRI and mobile EEG, fNIRS and MMG).

Employment as a social determinant of health for young people with disabilities

Dr. Sally Lindsay, senior scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

In this presentation, Dr. Lindsay will share insights from more than a decade of research on employment among youth with disabilities. Drawing on perspectives from youth, employers, clinical service providers and decision-makers, she will highlight key trends and explore how youth with disabilities find and maintain employment across different contexts.



Dr. Lindsay will introduce several toolkits and resources developed by the TRAIL Lab to support youth in deciding whether, when and how to disclose their disability to employers. Finally, she will outline actionable next steps for youth, parents, service providers, employers and policy decision-makers.

Biography

Dr. Sally Lindsay is a senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and a professor in the Departments of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Toronto.

Her research draws on a social determinants of health framework to optimize the social inclusion and well-being of children, youth and young adults with disabilities, particularly as they transition to adulthood. She is an elected member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Lindsay recently held an Early Researcher Award from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation for her work on *Improving the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in the labour force*.

Family Engagement Session

Advancing family engagement in research at Holland Bloorview: consultation, recommendations and actions

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

Dr. Tim Ross, scientist, Bloorview Research Institute and scientist co-chair, Research Family Engagement Committee

Biography

Dr. Tim Ross is a scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning and the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute at the University of Toronto, and the scientist co-chair of the Research Family Engagement Committee.



Dr. Ross leads the Engagement & Planning for Inclusive Communities Lab, which explores experiences of disability and ways to advance more accessible, inclusive and diverse communities. His key research areas include education access, transportation and mobility, inclusive play and institutional ableism.

Questions about ableism and its normalization within the planning and design of built environments, services and systems are central to Dr. Ross's research.

Suzanne Jorisch, family leader co-chair, Research Family Engagement Committee

Biography

Suzanne Jorisch is a financial executive with more than 20 years of senior management experience. She is exceptionally motivated to seek, identify, develop and implement organizational improvements, with a focus on quality, profit opportunities and cost savings. Her areas of expertise include accounting and administrative management, human resources and payroll management, and financial planning, budgeting, reporting and analytics.

Jorisch has been an active member of the Holland Bloorview Family Leadership Program since 2013, serving on numerous committees including the Hospital Board of Directors, Business and Audit Committee, Research, Teaching and Learning Committee, Quality Committee, Family Advisory Committee and the Research Family Engagement Committee, among others.



Wednesday, November 26

Pursuit Award in Childhood Disability Competition

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

Design and development of a pediatric prosthetic knee joint for children in low-resource environments: a user-centred biomechanical approach

Dr. Caitlin Edgar, post-doctoral research associate, Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College London (PhD, Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College London)



This presentation will focus on describing key methodologies and results from a fully user-led design innovation pipeline.

The pipeline presents translational research in the field of pediatric prosthetic limb design for children with lower-limb absence in low-resource environments such as conflict and post-conflict zones, and low- and middle-income countries.

Children, their caregivers and clinicians are engaged through a novel, internationally applicable research toolkit that produced a hierarchy of user needs in Cambodia and the U.K. Engineering techniques are discussed and presented in relation to musculoskeletal modelling and its application in childhood disability research. Key considerations for positive impact are raised, including alterations to international standards to improve suitability for pediatric applications.

A novel knee design is presented alongside results from the first U.K. trial with children aged eight to 12. Overall, a mixed-methods approach is used to present critical results and open discussion for impactful future work.

Biography

Dr. Caitlin Edgar is a post-doctoral research associate at Imperial College London in the Department of Bioengineering. Her work focuses on a critical and current area of childhood disability: lower-limb loss in austere environments. She works in the Centre for Pediatric Blast Injury Research, supported by Save the Children U.K.

Her work is both timely and necessary, given the rapid increase in children with limb loss in conflict zones and humanitarian disasters globally. She recently completed her PhD in biomedical engineering focused on designing a novel, affordable prosthetic knee joint for children that supports growth, greater stability, faster walking speed and increased accessibility and repair.

Restricted and repetitive behaviours and interests of autism: functions and mapping

Dr. Stephanie Lung, psychologist (supervised practice), Boomerang Health powered by SickKids (PhD, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, McGill University)



Restricted and repetitive behaviours and interests (RRBIs) are common and integral to the everyday living of autistic persons. However, they are often perceived as negative behaviours to be subdued, and this framing can lead to masking, feelings of belittlement and reduced quality of life. To gain a better understanding of this distinct autistic way of being, it is helpful to adopt a balanced perspective to explore the emergence of RRBIs in autism — specifically by identifying their underlying functions and mapping processes.

A scoping review methodology is used to identify the functions of RRBIs. They are found to support autistic persons:

- i) regulate sensory experiences,
- ii) cope with feelings of anxiety,
- iii) introduce certainty into their environment, and
- iv) make sense of their world by fostering “flow.”

To explore mapping processes of RRBIs, autistic and neurotypical adolescents with a representative range of intellectual functioning were recruited and completed cognitive tasks assessing flexibility, while caregivers completed measures assessing sensory processes and RRBIs. Findings show that a joint sensory-cognitive approach helps characterize overall RRBIs, with emerging relationships observed between processes and RBI subtypes in the autistic group.

Overall, the identified functions support the regulatory and adaptive roles of RRBIs while challenging the view that perceives them as targets to be suppressed. These findings contribute to a growing body of research emphasizing a balanced approach to understanding neurodivergence. Given that current diagnostic tools provide relatively limited coverage of RRBIs compared to the social aspects of autism, the emergence of mapping processes to specific RRBIs also helps inform the characterization of RRBIs in the development of improved diagnostic measures.

Biography

Dr. Stephanie Lung is a recent PhD graduate of the School/Applied Child Psychology program in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at McGill University. She is currently a psychologist in supervised practice in Ontario, with declared competencies in both school and clinical psychology.

Dr. Lung's doctoral research focuses on better understanding the restricted and repetitive behaviours and interests (RRBIs) of autism. She is particularly interested in exploring the functions and mapping processes of RRBIs, with a noted focus on

the inclusion of autistic adolescents with below-average intellectual functioning. Through her research, she aims to examine the regulatory and constructive characteristics of RRBIs, support their characterization to inform the development of improved diagnostic measures, and advocate for a more nuanced and balanced framework for understanding RRBIs.

Dr. Lung's clinical interests are also aligned with her research, and all of her clinical training has focused on supporting children and youth with neurodevelopmental differences. She completed her pre-doctoral residency and advanced practicum at Surrey Place in Toronto, where she provided assessments, interventions and consultations for children and adolescents with developmental needs. She also received clinical training across a range of educational settings in Montreal, including the Lester B. Pearson School Board, Summit School of Montreal and the McGill Psychoeducational and Counselling Clinic.

Following the completion of her residency, Dr. Lung worked at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital as a psychometrist for two years, where she provided and co-facilitated autism assessments for young children and psychoeducational assessments for children with neuromotor concerns.

Overall, Dr. Lung is passionate about providing psychological services for children with developmental needs and hopes to continue collaborating with families to provide personalized care that honours each child's unique strengths and profile.

Navigating ableism and inaccessibility in school transportation for disabled students: family efforts, practitioner perspectives and systemic barriers to access

Élyse Comeau, PhD candidate, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

Accessible school transportation is essential for many disabled children's equitable access to education. Despite decades of research, policy initiatives and rights-based legislation, barriers persist for students and their families.



Élyse Comeau's doctoral research examines ableism in school transportation planning in Canada's Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), focusing on the work and barriers experienced by families and how education professionals plan and implement accessible school transportation.

The study includes three interrelated components: a scoping review identifying patterns of exclusion in school transportation research; an empirical study on the access work families undertake to navigate school transportation systems; and an investigation of education professionals' perspectives and practices.

Findings show that gaps in accessible school transportation affect students' access to education, social participation and independence, while families often shoulder significant "access work," including temporal work (e.g., long morning routines), emotional work (e.g., transport anxiety and isolation), as well as administrative and advocacy work (e.g., additional efforts to access services).

Education professionals' perspectives reveal how operational and institutional dynamics can both perpetuate and mitigate accessibility challenges. By centring the experiences of families and education professionals, the dissertation highlights opportunities to design student-centred school transportation systems that better support disabled students' inclusion and family well-being, with policy and practice implications for accessibility alignment and school transportation planning.

Biography

Élyse Comeau is a graduating PhD candidate in Planning at the University of Toronto and currently a research associate in the Engineering Health Lab within the KITE Research Institute, where she will carry out her postdoctoral fellowship. She has also been a research associate in the Engagement & Planning for Inclusive Communities Lab at the Bloorview Research Institute, contributing to interdisciplinary research on childhood disability and inclusive planning.

Her doctoral dissertation explores the intersection of transportation planning, accessibility and disability and has been supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) fellowship. Supervised by Drs. Timothy Ross and Ron Buliung, her dissertation investigates the inaccessibility of school transportation for disabled students in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, focusing on the experiences of families and education professionals.

With a professional background in urban planning, she brings interdisciplinary expertise in policy analysis, public engagement and transportation. Élyse has presented her work at international conferences, published numerous peer-reviewed articles and contributed to teaching and mentorship across planning and health disciplines.

Her long-term goal is to become a research scientist and professor whose work advances inclusive urban planning practice through public engagement, scholarship and knowledge mobilization activities that emphasize the voices of disabled people and promote the inclusive design of communities.

Implementation Science Keynote Presentation

Knowledge mobilization and implementation science: moving from theory to practice in children's health

Dr. Christine Cassidy, associate professor, School of Nursing, Dalhousie University, and clinician scientist, IWK Health



Implementation science offers a wide range of theories, models, frameworks and strategies designed to support the integration of evidence-based interventions into practice and policy. Despite its potential to enhance child and youth health, these methods are seldom applied to real-world health system challenges.

In this presentation, Dr. Cassidy will introduce implementation science and knowledge mobilization concepts and help make sense of their theories, models, frameworks and methods. Drawing on her national research program on knowledge translation in child and youth health, she will provide a practical example of how to apply implementation science methods to a health system priority.

Attendees will leave this session with new strategies on how to embed implementation science methods into their research to make meaningful impact in the health system for children and youth.

Biography

Dr. Christine Cassidy is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Dalhousie University and a clinician scientist at IWK Health. She completed a CIHR Health System Impact Postdoctoral Fellowship at IWK Health and the University of Ottawa with the Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) Research Network.

As co-director of the Strengthening Transitions in Care Lab and scientific lead of Maritime Child Health — a pediatric learning health system — at IWK Health, Dr. Cassidy's program of research uses an IKT approach to co-produce, implement and evaluate knowledge translation interventions in health systems.

She is working to bridge the implementation science-to-practice gap by building capacity in implementation science methods and advancing understanding of how to implement and sustain evidence in practice and policy.

BRI Research Talks

Partnering with community clinicians to optimize care for autistic children and their families across Canada

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

This talk will focus on Dr. Penner's work to build capacity for autism care in the community in Ontario and across Canada. She will review her work from systematically gathering community provider perspectives, evaluating their diagnostic accuracy, and translating this into the ECHO Autism training platform and community of practice. Dr. Penner will also describe efforts to spread and scale this work across Canada using implementation science approaches.



Biography

Dr. Melanie Penner is a developmental pediatrician and senior clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute. She holds the Bloorview Children's Hospital Foundation Chair in Developmental Pediatrics and is an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Penner is interested in service delivery for autistic children and their families, including evaluating the impact of new care models. She has done research and educational work to expand Ontario's diagnostic capacity for autism diagnoses in the community setting, decreasing wait times and facilitating earlier access to essential therapy programs.

AI, data and the learning health system: bridging discovery and care

Dr. Azadeh Kushki, associate chief of data science and senior scientist, Bloorview Research Institute

Artificial intelligence (AI) and data science are redefining the foundations of clinical research and health-care delivery. This talk will examine emerging approaches at the intersection of data science and personalized health, highlighting real-world applications and the opportunities and challenges of translating data into actionable, personalized care.



Biography

Dr. Azadeh Kushki is the Canada Research Chair in Neurodiversity and Personalized Health (Tier II), a senior scientist and associate chief of data science at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She is also an associate professor at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Kushki's research program bridges biomedical engineering, artificial intelligence and clinical science to advance personalized health for children with neurodevelopmental differences and disabilities.

Spotlight Presentations

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.

This year's spotlight presenters are:

- 1. Use of robotic-assisted gait training in an in-patient physiotherapy program for children with subacute acquired brain injury: insights from children and their parents**
Presenter: Jessie Strong
Authors: Jessie Strong, Gloria Lee, Jennifer L. Ryan, Virginia Wright
- 2. TeachABI-Caregiver: developing a return to school resource for caregivers of children with ABI**
Presenter: Hussain Syed
Authors: Hussain Syed, Alexa Irvin, Christine Provvidenza, Christine Muscat, Sara Marshall, Andrea Hickling, Shannon Scratch
- 3. Promoting participation in pre-school aged children with cerebral palsy through coaching parents using solution-focused coaching methods**
Presenter: Daniela Testani
Authors: Testani, D., Munce, S., King, G., Fehlings, D.
- 4. Examining caregiver motivation and engagement in Move&Connect-Caregivers: A multi-source exploration**
Presenter: Sophie Madge-Nyren
Authors: Sophie Madge-Nyren, Hiba Al-Hakeem, Shannon Scratch
- 5. Development of a music-based wearable biofeedback system to improve lower limb prosthesis user gait symmetry**
Presenter: Sebastian Silva
Authors: A. Sebastian Silva, Calvin C. Ngan, Jan Andrysek
- 6. Genome sequencing and mental health outcomes in autism spectrum disorder**
Presenter: Vedhika Jha
Authors: Vedika Jha, Danielle Baribeau
- 7. Traumatic experiences and major life stressors in children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders and their associations with mental health conditions**
Presenter: Sophia Lenz
Authors: Sophia Lenz, Jesiqua Rapley, Emma Canning, Sajeela Rana, Ajilan Sivaloganathan, Meng-Chuan Lai, Tyler S. Kaster, Azadeh Kushki, Danielle Baribeau
- 8. Expanding digital access through a personalizable access technology: SwitchApp**
Presenters: Sarah Irwin
Authors: Sarah Irwin, Fanny Hotzé, Tom Chau

Poster Sessions – Nov. 25 and 26

At the Bloorview Research Institute, scientists, researchers and trainees collaborate with clients and families to co-create transformative, equity-driven research that enables healthy futures for children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences in Canada and around the world.

We invite you to visit our presenters to learn more about their innovative research and the impact it's making.

- 1. Who accesses interdisciplinary concussion care? Exploring health outcomes and service utilization**
Authors: Kylie Mallory, Alexa Irvin, Andrea Hickling and Shannon Scratch
Presenter: Kylie Mallory
- 2. Youth engagement in action: Co-creation of a family-facing introduction video for a digital concussion assessment tool**
Authors: Danielle DuPlessis, Josh Shore, Brian Xiao, Andrew Lovell, Elaine Biddiss and Shannon Scratch
Presenter: Danielle DuPlessis
- 3. Leisure providers' perspectives on barriers and facilitators for leisure participation of racially minoritized youth with disabilities**
Authors: Narges Abdeahad, Janice Phonepraseuth, Gözde Öncil and Sally Lindsay
Presenter: Gözde Öncil
- 4. Use of single-case experimental designs (SCEDs) to evaluate neuromodulation treatment efficacy: a scoping review protocol**
Authors: Emillee York, Danielle Baribeau, Iain Lewis and Derek Beal
Presenter: Emillee York
- 5. Engaging people with developmental disabilities in community research: a scoping review of qualitative studies**
Authors: Amanda Chan, Avery Kemble, Emily Cox, Sally Lindsay and Tim Ross
Presenter: Amanda Chan
- 6. A scoping review on current practices for the recruitment and involvement of autistic individuals in participatory research projects**
Authors: Justin Rao, Stephanie H.W. Chuang, Andrea Katalifos, Gillian Ferguson, Iain Lewis and Melanie Penner
Presenters: Stephanie Chuang and Justin Rao
- 7. Development and evaluation of an active pediatric prosthetic knee using smart orthosis actuation technology**
Authors: Elijah Birley and Jan Andrysek
Presenter: Elijah Birley
- 8. "Proud to belong somewhere and have a job." Youth and family member experiences of a school-to-work transition program for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities**
Authors: Anna Oh, Laura Bowman, Carolyn McDougall, Amy Spear, Molly Michels, Allan Easton and Katia Palumbo
Presenter: Anna Oh
- 9. Countering clothing ableism: Understanding the lived experiences and identifying inclusive clothing design solutions for adolescents with mobility impairments**
Authors: Rushmita Alam, Alison C. Novak, Laura Avila and Sally Lindsay
Presenter: Rushmita Alam

Poster Sessions – Nov. 25 and 26

- 10. Exploring clinicians' suggestions for addressing discrimination toward children and youth with disabilities with multiple minoritized identities**
Authors: Sally Lindsay, Janice Phonepraseuth, Nicole Thomson, Jennifer Stinson and Sharon Smile
Presenter: Janice Phonepraseuth
- 11. Disability and rurality: a systematic review of qualitative studies of experiences with disability among families with children and youth with disabilities**
Authors: Sally Lindsay, Narges Abdeahad, Sarah Leo and Janice Phonepraseuth
Presenters: Sally Lindsay and Sarah Leo
- 12. 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 and Shannon Scratch
Presenter: Christine Muscat
- 13. Identifying neural markers of chronic pain in children with cerebral palsy using electroencephalography and machine learning**
Authors: Ariel Motsenyat and Tom Chau
Presenter: Ariel Motsenyat
- 14. Community pediatricians' barrier and facilitator beliefs about providing ongoing, integrated autism care**
Authors: Saebom Park, Gillian Ferguson, Andrew Ip, Lauren Kanigsberg, Alex Kubow, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum and Melanie Penner
Presenter: Saebom Park
- 15. Navigating inaccessibility: family access work in school transportation for disabled students**
Authors: Élyse Comeau, Ron Buliung and Timothy Ross
Presenter: Élyse Comeau
- 16. Evaluating the usability of the Let's Talk Disability & Sex online resource hub: perspectives from youth, clinicians and caregivers**
Authors: Emily Cox, Christine Provvidenza and Amy McPherson
Presenter: Emily Cox
- 17. Adapting a caregiver-mediated toddler intervention for use with infants aged 6–15 months with emerging autism**
Authors: Erin Dowds, Sarah MacWilliam, Abby Solish, Stelios Osten, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Isabel Smith and Jessica Brian
Presenter: Erin Dowds
- 18. From plaster to pixels: comparing traditionally and digitally made ankle-foot orthosis (AFO) scanning and design methods**
Authors: Emma Calovini, Crystal Ngan and Jan Andrysek
Presenter: Emma Calovini
- 19. Caregiver buy-in in the Social ABCs caregiver-mediated early intervention**
Authors: Kate Bernardi, Sara Daoud, Sarah MacWilliam, Kristen Jilderda, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, E. Dowds, A. Hoffman, A. Solish and Jessica Brian
Presenter: Kate Bernardi

Poster Sessions – Nov. 25 and 26

20. **TeachABI Community: a pragmatic randomized control trial of a professional development module about acquired brain injury**
Authors: Sara Marshall, Alexa Irvin, Christine Muscat, Andrea Hickling and Shannon Scratch
Presenter: Alexa Irvin
21. **Anxiety and depression shape distinct regional volume patterns across ADHD subtypes.**
Authors: Rafaela Goveia and Jacob Ellegood
Presenter: Rafaela Goveia
22. **The interaction of socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity in predicting whole-brain volumes among children ≤18 with neurodevelopmental disorders in the POND Network cohort**
Authors: Reem Saleh, Azadeh Kushki, Evdokia Anagnostou and Jacob Ellegood
Presenter: Reem Saleh
23. **Caregivers' experiences of Move&Connect–Caregivers and its influence on daily life during pediatric concussion recovery: a qualitative study**
Authors: Hiba Al-Hakeem, Sophie Madge-Nyren and Shannon Scratch
Presenter: Hiba Al-Hakeem
24. **Comparison of clinical profiles among children with and without rare genetic conditions followed in a tertiary pediatric rehabilitation program**
Authors: Jiya Tailor, Ghazal Rafeeh, Haochen Yu, Jesiqua Rapley, Anne Kawamura, Iskra Peltekova and Danielle Baribeau
Presenter: Jiya Tailor
25. **Transformer-based approach for natural sign language production**
Authors: Maryam Dehghani and Tom Chau
Presenter: Maryam Dehghani
26. **Utilization of emergency department services among children with neurodevelopmental diagnoses: a scoping review**
Authors: Humna Siddiqui, Alyssa Henderson, Iveta Lewis, Danielle Baribeau, Meng-Chuan Lai, Evdokia Anagnostou and Melanie Penner
Presenter: Humna Siddiqui
27. **Transforming behavioural assessment with computer vision: methodological insights from YOLO v11 in ADOS-2 evaluations**
Authors: Fatima Karim, Andre Telfer and Evdokia Anagnostou
Presenter: Fatima Karim
28. **Gamified assessment: extracting and characterizing reaching performance in children with cerebral palsy using data collected during Bootle Blast**
Authors: Sorsha Asady, Ajmal Khan and Elaine Biddiss
Presenter: Sorsha Asady
29. **Quantifying the rotational stiffness of 3D-printed AFOs**
Authors: Julia Takimoto and Jan Andrysek
Presenter: Julia Takimoto
30. **Parenting stress in response to the Social ABCs, a six-week caregiver-mediated intervention for toddlers with early autism signs**
Authors: Sara Daoud, Kate Bernardi, Sarah MacWilliam, Kristen Jilderda, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, A. Hoffman, E. Dowds, A. Solish and Jessica Brian
Presenter: Sara Daoud

Poster Sessions – Nov. 25 and 26

31. **R2Play-Rehab: co-designing a multidomain and integrative sport rehabilitation tool for youth athletes with concussion**
Authors: Josh Shore, Jenn Ryan, Stephanie McFarland, Andrew Lovell, Andrea Hickling, Nick Reed, Michael Hutchison, Kathryn Schneider and Elaine Biddiss
Presenter: Josh Shore
32. **Exploring experiences of disordered eating and exercise among neurodivergent, gender-diverse youth: a scoping review**
Authors: Van Slothouber, Janice Phonepraseuth and Sally Lindsay
Presenter: Van Slothouber
33. **Patient engagement models, theories and frameworks in youth and family health research: a scoping review**
Authors: Sarah Munce, Clementine Jarrett, Vjura Senthilnathan, Colin MacArthur, Dorothy Luong, Ramneek Sunner, Mohit Prashar, Brooke Allemang, Katherine Bailey, Elaine Biddiss, Maria T. Britto, Francine Buchanan, Christine Cassidy, Eva Cohen, Andrea Cross, Jessie Cunningham, Cedar Davidson, Gina Dimitropoulos, Scott E. Hadland, Monica Halsey, Monika Kastner, Tieghan Killackey, Julia Kowal, Dahlia Leibovich, Iveta Lewis, Pranshu Maini, Tharsiny Markandu, Samantha Micsinszki, Chavon Niles, Jeanna Pillainayagam, Jessica Z. Song, F. Virginia Wright, Adrienne Zarem and Alene Toulany
Presenter: Vjura Senthilnathan
34. **Physical activity and passive screen time for children with cerebral palsy**
Authors: Bisman Mangat, Lauren Switzer and Darcy Fehlings
Presenters: Bisman Mangat and Lauren Switzer
35. **Usability of home-based transcranial direct current stimulation for children with autism**
Authors: Norna Abbo, Tom Chau, Evdokia Anagnostou, Jed Meltzer and Deryk Beal
Presenter: Norna Abbo
36. **Robot-assisted asking for children with cerebral palsy: how much effort does it take?**
Authors: Marita Cafazzo and Tom Chau
Presenter: Marita Cafazzo
37. **Psychostimulant treatment for inattentive and hyperactive symptoms in genetic disorders of neurodevelopment: a systematic review**
Authors: Sophia Lenz, Ajilan Sivaloganathan, Haochen Yu, Navya Vyas, Lauren Chan, Jesiqua Rapley, Poojan Brahmabhatt, Nilani Nallathamby, Iveta Lewis, Danielle Baribeau
Presenter: Sophia Lenz

Awards and Announcements

Dr. John Whittaker Memorial Cerebral Palsy Award

The Dr. John Whittaker Memorial Cerebral Palsy Award rewards outstanding contributions to research, service, or product developments that improve the quality of life of children and youth with cerebral palsy or other developmental disabilities. The award was created by Dr. Whittaker's family and friends in recognition of his dedication to improving the quality of life of children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.

This year's Whittaker award is awarded to the **Motion Analysis Centre Team – Anthony Daniai, Donovan Cooper, Josh McGillivray, Puja Ahluwalia, Chun Kim and Leah Takechi**

Congratulations, Motion Analysis Centre Team!

Officer of the Order of Canada & Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

Dr. Tom Chau, distinguished senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering, has been recognized nationally for his pioneering contributions to pediatric rehabilitation engineering.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for his leadership in developing technologies that help children with disabilities communicate



and participate more fully in life, and inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in the Builder category for advancing access innovations that empower children and youth with severe physical impairments.

Congratulations, Dr. Tom Chau!

American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine – Mentorship Award

Dr. Darcy Fehlings, senior clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, has received the Mentorship Award from the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

The award recognizes Dr. Fehlings for her extraordinary mentorship and leadership in advancing research, clinical care and training in developmental pediatrics and cerebral palsy.

Congratulations, Dr. Darcy Fehlings!

Empowered Kids Ontario – Award of Excellence

Dr. Jessica Brian, psychologist and senior clinician scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital,



Awards and Announcements

has received the Award of Excellence from Empowered Kids Ontario.

She was recognized for her leadership in advancing early autism diagnosis and intervention and for research that bridges science with the lived experiences of children and families.

Congratulations, Dr. Jessica Brian!

University of Toronto – Promotion to Full Professor

Dr. Jan Andrysek, senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and lead of the PROPEL Lab, has been promoted to professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering.

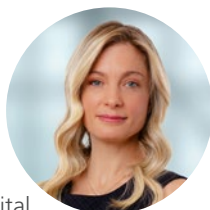


Internationally recognized for his contributions to rehabilitation engineering and assistive technologies, Dr. Andrysek develops innovative prosthetic and orthotic systems that enhance mobility and independence for individuals with limb differences and physical disabilities.

Congratulations, Dr. Jan Andrysek!

University of Toronto – Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. Sarah Munce, implementation scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital



has been promoted to associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. She is also an affiliated scientist at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute, where she serves as a graduate coordinator.

Dr. Munce leads national efforts to strengthen implementation science and youth and family engagement in health-care research. Her work advances inclusive, evidence-informed systems of care and empowers young people and families in the learning health-system model.

Congratulations, Dr. Sarah Munce!

Canadian Institute of Health Research – Implementation Science Chair

Dr. Sarah Munce, implementation scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, has been awarded a prestigious Implementation Science Chair by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The five-year, \$1-million Chair supports Dr. Munce's work to advance youth and family engagement within learning health systems, strengthening inclusion and co-creation in research and care.



Congratulations, Dr. Sarah Munce!

Awards and Announcements

Canada Research Chair in Neurodiversity and Personalized Health

Dr. Azadeh Kushki, senior scientist at the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and associate professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering, has been named Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Neurodiversity and Personalized Health.



The appointment recognizes Dr. Kushki's leadership in the application of data science and technology to shift the conceptualization of neurodiversity and support neurodivergent children in everyday settings.

Congratulations, Dr. Azadeh Kushki!

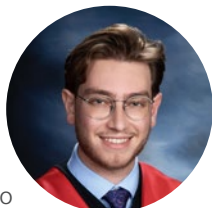


Graduate Student Awards

The BRI congratulates the 2025-26 Graduate Student Scholarship Award recipients:

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

Ariel Motsenyat,
Second year,
Master of Applied
Science, Institute
of Biomedical
Engineering,
University of Toronto



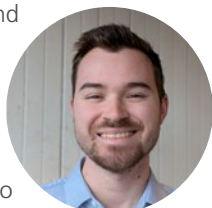
Project (under the supervision of Dr. Tom Chau): Identifying Neural Markers of Chronic Pain in Children with Cerebral Palsy Using Electroencephalography and Machine Learning

Charlie Lake, PhD
candidate, Institute
of Biomedical
Engineering,
University of
Toronto



Project (under the supervision of Dr. Tom Chau): Thermal Imaging for Early Identification of Skin Integrity Loss in Casted Children

Elijah Birley, Second
year, Master of
Applied Science,
Institute of
Biomedical
Engineering,
University of Toronto



Project (under the supervision of Dr. Jan Andrysek) : Development and Evaluation of an Active Pediatric Prosthetic Knee Using Smart Orthosis Actuation Technology

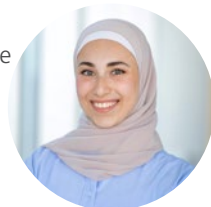
The **Kimel Family Graduate Student Scholarships in Pediatric Disability Research** winners are:

Faiz Uddin Qureshi,
PhD candidate,
Institute of
Biomedical
Engineering,
University of
Toronto



Project (under the supervision of Dr. Tom Chau): Multi-Modal Neural Monitor for Real-Time Emotional and Cognitive State Monitoring in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Yara Corky, PhD
candidate, Institute
of Biomedical
Engineering,
University of
Toronto



Project (under the supervision of Dr. Tom Chau): Neurophysiological Biomarkers and Effects of Robotic Gait Training in Children with Cerebral Palsy

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

Vishal Pendse, PhD
candidate, Institute
of Biomedical
Engineering,
University of
Toronto

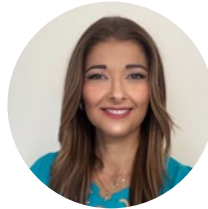


Project (under the supervision of Dr. Jan Andrysek) : PACT–Predictive Algorithm for Customized Transradial Socket Design

Family Engagement in Research Awards

Distinguished Service Awards for Family Engagement in Research

This award recognizes exceptional contributions to advancing meaningful family engagement in research at the Bloorview Research Institute. Family Leader Manuela Comito is recognized for her longstanding commitment to strengthening partnerships between families, researchers and care teams. Dr. Tom Chau is honoured for his leadership in championing collaborative, family-centred research practices.



Manuela Comito,
family leader



Dr. Tom Chau,
distinguished
senior scientist

BRI Legacy Award for Family Impact in Research

The BRI Legacy Award acknowledges extraordinary, lasting contributions by a family leader who has helped shape and advance the role of families in research. This year, the award is presented posthumously to Gideon Sheps, whose advocacy, insight and unwavering dedication deeply influenced family engagement at the Bloorview Research Institute and will continue to inspire our community for years to come.



Gideon Sheps,
family leader

New resources launching at the BRI Symposium

Holland Bloorview's Learning & Resource Portal

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is launching its new Learning & Resource Portal — a hub for professional development, family education, youth engagement and community learning.

Explore the portal at: hollandbloorview.learnworlds.com

The platform offers a wide range of courses, training materials, toolkits and outcome measures developed by Holland Bloorview's researchers and clinicians. Whether used by healthcare professionals, educators, youth with disabilities or family members, the portal provides evidence-informed resources designed to support inclusive care and learning.

Symposium attendees can access a 30% discount on courses to mark the launch of the Learning & Resource Portal. Use code BRISYMPOSIUM30 by March 31, 2026, to apply the discount.

Please note: This discount does not apply to live workshops or outcome measures.



Scan this QR code
to visit the portal

The Anti-discrimination Hub

The TRAIL Lab at the Bloorview Research Institute is launching its new Anti-Discrimination Resource Hub — an evidence-informed digital space designed to help youth with disabilities, families, educators and service providers understand, recognize and address discrimination and ableism. The hub features practical tools, videos, learning modules and lived-experience perspectives to support inclusion across school, community and care settings.

Developed in collaboration with youth and family leaders, the hub provides accessible, research-based resources that encourage dialogue, build awareness and strengthen allyship.



Scan this QR code
to visit the hub

Our sponsors

The Bloorview Research Institute gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our symposium sponsors. Their partnership helps advance cutting-edge research and innovation for children and youth with disabilities.

Gold sponsor



Acadia Pharmaceuticals is advancing breakthroughs in neuroscience and rare disease to improve quality of life. With more than 600 employees based in San Diego, CA, Princeton, NJ, and around the world, Acadia is dedicated to fighting diseases and helping brighter moments shine through for patients and their loved ones.

Silver sponsors



Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) is a Canada-wide network that invests in and supports the spread, scale, implementation and expansion of access to proven solutions for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. KBHN's vision is for all children to enjoy a good quality of life, participate in every aspect of society, and reach their full potential.



The Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) is a provincially funded, not-for-profit organization that accelerates brain health research and innovation to improve outcomes for the 1 in 3 Ontarians living with a brain disorder. Through an integrated 'team science' approach, OBI connects researchers, clinicians, industry, patients, and advocates to foster discovery and deliver innovative products and services that improve the lives of those living with brain disorders.

Bronze sponsor



PlaySpace is a digital therapeutic ecosystem that empowers mental health professionals to deliver more engaging and effective care. Its mission is to improve care for vulnerable and underserved populations by making providers more accessible and better equipped to connect with those who need them.

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.

- The Slight Family Foundation
- The Weston Family Foundation
- The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation
- The REMAD Foundation
- James & Mary Davie
- Janis Rotman
- Mark Johnson & Susan Marshall
- Gail MacNaughton
- Eileen Greene
- The Barrett Family
- Jason & Krista Rowe
- Jane Hogarth
- Prime Quadrant Foundation
- LiFT Family Fund
- David Goodman (Humour Me)
- NoahStrong Youth Stroke & Organ Donation Awareness & Support
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Raschkowan Foundation
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- Carol Cowan-Levine and Allan Kaplan
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- Jason Smith
- Three anonymous donors

Notes

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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.

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Bloorview
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A TEACHING HOSPITAL
FULLY AFFILIATED WITH



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for screen readers and other accessible technologies.