

**The Clinical Bulletin
of the
Developmental Disabilities Program**

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19th Annual Developmental Disabilities Spring CPD

The Developmental Disabilities Program will host our 19th annual Spring CPD on Thursday April 1, 2021. This event will be held online using zoom, and will run from 1:00pm until 4:30pm.

To join this event via zoom, please use the link here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LKgTc_fJQCawaD9iK34Nhg

This year we are pleased to welcome the following speakers:

Dr. Pam Frid, MD.

Dr. Frid completed her MD degree at Queen's University in 1982. She then undertook paediatric residency training at the Children's Hospital within the McMaster system, completing residency training in paediatrics in 1986. Commencing in 1986, she undertook fellowship training in developmental paediatrics, remaining within the McMaster system. In 1988, Dr. Frid was appointed to the Department of Paediatrics within Queen's University at the rank of Lecturer at Queen's University in Kingston. Two years later she was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor.

Dr. Frid took on a new position as Professional Discipline leader at the Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) in London. Upon her arrival, Dr. Frid assumed the role of Coordinator of the department's paediatric residency rotation at CPRI.

Dr. Frid's talk is entitled: Assessment of the Child With Suspected Developmental Delay.

Dr. Clare Mitchell

Dr. Clare Mitchell is an Associate Professor at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University in London, Ontario. She is the Head of the Division of Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrics. Her main clinical duties are at the Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI). At CPRI she does consultation and assessments of children and adolescents with developmental delays and/or mental health problems as part of a multidisciplinary team. She has a particular interest in Tourette Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, assessment of children with social deficits and global health. Dr. Mitchell was part of the London Region Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic Clinic since its inception in 2012.

Dr. Mitchell is actively involved in medical education at both the Undergraduate and Postgraduate level at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University. She is the Director of Undergraduate Education within the Department of Paediatrics, has completed a term as Associate Program Director of the Paediatric Residency Training Program and Interim Curriculum Committee Chair. Dr. Mitchell is the Medical Director of Canada Guyana Outreach (CanGO) She has joined this interdisciplinary team on medical missions to Guyana annually since September 2014.

Dr. Mitchell's talk is entitled: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Beyond a diagnosis.

Dr. Ana Suller-Marti

Dr. Ana Suller Marti earned her medical degree at the 'Universidad de Valencia' in Spain in 2010. Subsequently, Dr. Suller Marti completed her neurology residency at 'Hospital Lozano Blesa' in Spain. She then completed a one-year fellowship specializing in headaches at 'Hospital Clínico de Valencia' in Spain. Dr. Suller Marti acquired her Master's degree in Medical Research at the 'Universidad de Zaragoza' and continued to complete a PhD program.

Dr. Suller Marti has been at Western University since 2018 when she completed a two-year clinical fellowship and a one-year research fellowship specializing in Epilepsy. She is a member of the newly developed Transition Epilepsy Clinic team that helps to better organize the transition of the pediatric epileptic population to the adult world. Dr. Suller Marti is a member of the London and District Academy of Medicine, the Clinical Teachers Association, the Canadian League Against Epilepsy, Young Epilepsy Society-International League Against Epilepsy, American Epilepsy Society, Spanish Group of Epilepsy (Spanish Neurological Society) and American Academy of Neurology.

Dr. Suller Marti's talk is entitled: "Epilepsy: More than a comorbidity for patients with intellectual disability.

More information about this event is available on our website. Information will be updated there as we approach the date of the event.

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ddp/education/continuing_professional_development.html

6th Annual Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Developmental Disabilities Research Day.

The Developmental Disabilities Program is thrilled to announce the Call for Abstracts for the 6th Annual Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Developmental Disabilities Research Day.

This event will be held on Thursday June 3, 2021 online using zoom.

This event will feature a keynote speaker, as well as talks by trainees and faculty members.

The Maria Z. Gitta award will be presented to the best presentation by a student or trainee in the amount of \$500.

Trainees and junior faculty members will be given priority for presentations.

Abstracts should be double spaced using a minimum of 12-point font, preferably created using Microsoft Word. The maximum word count is 250. Abstracts should be submitted electronically at our website:

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ddp/research/dr_benjamin_goldberg_developmental_disabilities_research_day/index.html

Click on the text that reads “6th Annual Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Developmental Disabilities Research Day” and scroll down to the abstract submission form.

Abstracts should clearly summarize the study using the following headings: Study Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions. We will consider submissions for studies currently in progress, although preference will be given to completed projects. Please acknowledge sources of funding, as appropriate.

Registration For this event will open soon. Check our website (link above) for registration information.

Developmental Disabilities Clinical and Research Rounds

Our Clinical and Research rounds are back in full swing.

These rounds are accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and run from 4pm to 5pm on the second Wednesday of each month during the academic year.

As a result of COVID-19 precautions, these rounds are running fully online as webinars. The link for each webinar is sent out via email before each talk, and they are available on our website here:

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ddp/education/continuing_professional_development.html

If you have any questions about our Clinical and Research rounds, please be in touch with Sarah O'Flanagan at sarah.oflanagan@lhsc.on.ca

Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Research Grant Competition

Competition Description

The Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Research Grant is meant to facilitate research specific to **Intellectual Disabilities** (as defined by DSM 5). Proposals may involve investigations of causes, diagnosis, and/or treatment of Intellectual Disabilities. Proposals may also involve conditions that are comorbid with Intellectual Disability (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder or Epilepsy), but the project must ultimately be directly about Intellectual Disability. That is, for example, a proposal about Autism Spectrum Disorder will only be accepted if it is about Autism Spectrum Disorder in people with Intellectual Disability. Relevance statements and project descriptions **must** clearly outline how the proposed research relates to this population. Relevance to the field of Intellectual Disabilities is one of the most important criteria in reviewing proposals. The review committee looks to applicants to help us understand why their particular project warrants support when resources are limited. Although the relevance may seem obvious to the applicant, the review committee still looks for an explicit statement about relevance – it is up to the candidate to convince the reviewers of the project’s relevance.

Eligibility requirements

This competition is open to any student (undergraduate or graduate) registered at the Western University Community. Applications are also invited from students registered at other Universities or Colleges in southwestern Ontario.

In all cases, a member of the Western University faculty (who is eligible to hold research funds) must be listed as a Supervisor. Applications from all academic departments will be accepted, without preference to any department, school, or faculty. Value of an award may range up to \$3,000, with the actual value of each award being determined by the number of funded proposals and the quality of each proposal. The awards are not limited in scope – rather they are for any and all research projects which are of relevance to the understanding of the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of intellectual disabilities.

The following rating criteria will be used to evaluate each submission:

1. Applicant (marked out of 5, includes experience, ability to complete the project, resources, supervision, etc.)
2. Project and Methodology (marked out of 5 points)
3. Relevance to Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (marked out of 5 points)

Proposals must be received by March 31 of each year. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and whose work is judged to be relevant to the mission of the DDP will be considered for funding support. Recipients will be notified after the review process, and projects will be

funded in the same academic year, beginning in January, or sooner if possible. Project completion dates will depend on the project description.

Research grant recipients will be required to provide proof of publication of their findings in a peer-reviewed journal, OR to submit a summary of their research for publication in the *Clinical Bulletin of the Developmental Disabilities Program*. They will also be encouraged to present their research at the annual Developmental Disabilities Research Day.

Interested applicants can fill out the application form

here: https://uwo.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4TqhBY6ey29MNAp

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Sarah O'Flanagan at ddp@uwo.ca.

Student Awards

The Annual Dr. Greta T. Swart Essay Competition

An annual essay award will be available to an undergraduate medical student at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. The essay should describe an experience managing a patient at any stage in the lifespan with a developmental disability. This includes management of physical health, mental health or both, either in the hospital system or in the community, including family medicine.

The essay should be 1,500 to 2,000 words in length and typed double spaced with the total word count placed at the top right hand corner of the first page. Entries beyond 2,000 words will not be considered.

The amount of the award is \$1,000. All essays submitted will be published in the *Clinical Bulletin of the Developmental Disabilities Program*.

Visit our website to see the full call for submissions with all the eligibility requirements:

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/ddp/research/research_grants.html

The application deadline for this award is **March 31** of each year.

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Submissions welcome. Articles published or abstracted in this Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Western University or the Developmental Disabilities Program.