

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

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**Recruiting for a Clinical Fellow in the
Psychiatry of Developmental Disabilities.**

The Developmental Disabilities Program in the Department of Psychiatry at Western University in London, Ontario, offers a one-year clinical fellowship in Developmental Disabilities for psychiatrists who have completed their residency. This position is partially funded and, with opportunities for clinical billing, it is expected that the income of fellows during their fellowship will be comparable to a PGY-6.

The prevalence of Developmental Disabilities (Intellectual Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder) is almost 3% of the Canadian population. In addition to higher rates of all medical problems, people with Developmental Disabilities have increased rates of psychiatric disorders, with some studies suggesting rates up to eight times higher than the general population. Unfortunately, due to a lack of training and services, people with Developmental Disabilities tend to have lower rates of diagnosis and treatment of their mental health problems, leading to significant health care disparities and inequities. The Psychiatry of Developmental Disabilities is a fascinating, intellectually stimulating, and highly rewarding field. The interplay of mental health, physical health, behaviour, and development is central to the field and necessitates the inclusion of elements of developmental pediatrics, neurology, psychiatry, and rehabilitation medicine.

The fellowship provides fellows with extensive clinical opportunities in psychiatry and related disciplines, allowing fellows to enhance their skills in this underserved area and prepares them for independent practice in the Psychiatry of Developmental Disabilities. Fellows will participate in Psychiatry, Genetics, Developmental Pediatrics, Neurology, and Rehabilitation Medicine Clinics. Rather than using a traditional approach with trainees learning in blocks of time within each specialty, this fellowship uses a novel, longitudinal approach in which fellows will work in the same child psychiatry and adult psychiatry clinics with the same supervisor over the course of the year. This approach, in which trainees see the same patients multiple times over the year, provides the

opportunity to develop expertise in the ongoing management of mental health problems in people with Developmental Disabilities.

For more information about the Psychiatry of Developmental Disabilities Fellowship, please feel free to contact my office by email at sarah.oflanagan@lhsc.on.ca. I look forward to your inquiries and a chance to discuss our exciting fellowship program with you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Nicolson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Nicolson, MD, FRCP(C),
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
Chair, Developmental Disabilities Program,
Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Western University.

20th Annual Developmental Disabilities Spring CPD

The Developmental Disabilities Program will host our 20th annual Spring CPD on Wednesday March 30, 2022. This event will be held online using zoom, and will run from 1:00pm until 4:30pm.

This year we are pleased to welcome the following speakers:

Mr. Charles Walters.

Mr. Charles Walters is a Lawyer in London Ontario. He is Legal Counsel for the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee for the province of Ontario.

Mr. Walters will be giving a talk alongside a PGT treatment decisions maker about legal issues around consent and capacity for people with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Olaf Plotzke

Dr. Plotzke is a Paediatric Dentist. He is also the Dental Director of the Cleft Lip and Palate and Craniofacial Anomaly Team, and the President of the Canadian Society for Disability and Oral Health.

Dr. Plotzke will present around common dental issues for people with developmental disabilities.

Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN).

We will welcome from the Community Services Coordination Network:

Judy Wright- Children's Services Manager- Coordinated Service Planning/FASD Service Coordination/Wraparound

Sandi Evans- Children's Services Manager- Local Resolution/Service Systems/Transitional Aged Youth/Integrated Transition Planning

Pat Weir- DSO Manager

Liane Cormier-Passport Manager

This team will present about what kinds of services CSCN offers for people with developmental disabilities, and how primary care providers can help their patients access and navigate these services.

To register in advance for this event, or to join the event on March 30 at 1pm, please click here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pOIJropNQFmGyM94GB2zuA

7th Annual Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Developmental Disabilities Research Day.

The Developmental Disabilities Program is thrilled to announce the Call for Abstracts for the 7th Annual Dr. Benjamin Goldberg Developmental Disabilities Research Day.

This event will be held on Thursday June 9, 2022. The format for this event is yet to be determined. We are hoping to present this research day as a hybrid in-person and online event.

This event will feature a keynote speaker, as well as talks by trainees and faculty members. The Maria Z. Gitta award will be presented for the best presentation by a student or trainee for 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 "7th 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 Developmental Disabilities Clinical and Research Rounds are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 4pm online.

These rounds are accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Canadian Psychological Association.

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

The speakers for the rest of the current academic year are:

Wednesday February 9, 2022. Dr. Jennifer McLean.

Dr. McLean is a Developmental Paediatrician and Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.

Wednesday March 9, 2022. Ms. Richa Mehta.

Ms. Mehta is a Master’s Student at Western University, studying under Dr. Jesse Wilson. Her research focuses on the transition to adulthood for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability.

Wednesday April 13, 2022. Dr. Clare Mitchell.

Dr. Mitchell is an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. 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.

Wednesday May 11, 2022. Dr. Maryam Nouri.

Dr. Maryam Nabavi-Nouri joined the Department of Paediatrics and Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University as an Assistant Professor in October 2018.

She received her medical degree from Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran in 2009. She completed her Paediatric Neurology residency at the Hospital for Sick Children/University of Toronto in 2016. She finished her neurophysiology/Paediatric Epilepsy Fellowship at the University of British Columbia.

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. 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

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

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Sarah O'Flanagan at

sarah.oflanagan@lhsc.on.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.

Participate in Research

Whether you are an investigator looking for study participants, or you are looking to participate in a research study, visit our website here:

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

You will find ongoing studies recruiting participants, and a place for you to advertise your own study.

If you have a study you would like to be included on our website, please email Sarah O'Flanagan at sarah.oflanagan@lhsc.on.ca.

Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities Conference

February 9 and 10, 2022.

The Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities Conference is an interprofessional conference where health care providers and community partners connect to share educational and informative updates and practical, innovative, promising and effective practices that improve the health and wellbeing of people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

The conference strives to achieve equity, diversity, and inclusion through recognition of intersectionality – the inter-connected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to people with developmental disabilities, creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Learning Outcomes:

After participating in this conference, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss innovative, promising, and effective practices that contribute to positive physical and mental health outcomes, interprofessional collaboration, and strategic leadership.
2. Identify possible solutions for core issues and challenges faced by the people being supported, their families, and community partners
3. Explore evidence-based clinical best practices relating to physical and mental health
4. Discuss the role of community healthcare in maintaining and improving quality of life
5. Develop, maintain, and expand interprofessional partnership in order to provide more effective supports

For more information, and to register, visit the conference website:

<https://www.healthandwellbeingindd.ca>

Editor: Sarah O'Flanagan, Coordinator. Developmental Disabilities Program,
Department of Psychiatry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.
Parkwood Institute, Mental Health Care Building.
550 Wellington Road, London ON. N6C 0A7.
www.ddp.uwo.ca
sarah.oflanagan@lhsc.on.ca

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