Every Pain, Every Brain:

Implementing Neuroinclusive Pain Management for Kids

Meet our National Advisory Group!

Isra Amsdr

Isra Amsdr is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, disability activist, and health designer. Their interests lie in exploring how we can harness methodologies that resist the rigidity of health care to help guide how we can design healthcare systems that better meet the needs of young, complex patients. Their commitment to the Pediatric Pain Management for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities initiative is derived from their own experience as a patient where they strive to devote their time vocalizing their story and advocating for other young people, in an attempt to ensure that their story is not repeated.

Elizabeth Condliffe

Elizabeth is a physiatrist-scientist caring for teens and adults with pediatric onset neuromotor impairments and striving to improving interventions that promote neuroplasticity and reduce multisystem impacts of impairments across the lifespan for individuals with cerebral palsy and other long-term neurodisabilities. She is involved in this initiative because the need for it is frequently highlighted by her patients and research participants.

Emily Crosby

Emily is in her last year of her Bachelor of Science at Mount Allison University where she is completing her Honours in Psychology with a minor in Biology. Her Honours project focuses on exploring the coping strategies of former paediatric chronic pain patients to help further the understanding of how adolescents with chronic pain are able to persevere in the face of persistent adversity. As someone with chronic pain herself, she believes that all paediatric patients deserve access to proper and effective pain management, whether it's for acute or chronic conditions.

Marie-Joëlle Doré-Bergeron

Since the beginning of her career as a paediatrician, Marie-Jöelle has been deeply involved in the care of children living with brain-based developmental disabilities. She trained in pediatric chronic pain and currently works in the multidisciplinary chronic pain clinic at CHU Sainte-Justine. This project brings together two issues that are very close to her heart, as pain in children living with brain-based developmental disabilities is often underestimated, difficult to recognize, and sometimes challenging to manage. In this context, she feels very fortunate to be able to take part in this extremely important project.

CHU Sainte-Justine
Le centre hospitalier universitaire mère-enfant
Université de Montréal

Joanne Dorn

Joanne joined the CPAA in 2007 as the Director of Development after a brief volunteer period with the organization. She has succeeded in various roles, overseeing the fund development of the organization and the social enterprise operations to the marketing and communications departments and was appointed Executive Director in 2020. She has proven to be a strong leader and advocate for the CPAA's clients and members and she has a track record of getting things done and ensuring that the highest level of service is delivered. Joanne's experience, knowledge of the organization, and her motivation are helping build a more inclusive community.

Cerebral Palsy CANADA NETWORK
Powered by Cerebral Palsy Alberta

Stacey Espinet

Stacey Espinet, PhD, is the Education Manager at CADDRA - Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance - a national organization dedicated to supporting clinicians through evidence-based ADHD education and clinical resources. Strengthening CADDRA's understanding of the role of pain in neurodevelopment will further enhance its ability to equip healthcare professionals with informed, effective care strategies that improve outcomes for individuals with ADHD and their families.

CADDRA
CANADIAN ADHD RESOURCE ALLIANCE

Justine Fehr

In both her roles of guardian to her sibling with complex medical needs, and a caregiver to medically fragile children, Justine supports those with neurodevelopmental disabilities every day. As an individual with complex pain, she understands the challenges that come with experiencing complex pain and painful procedures. She hopes to reduce the barriers faced by the neurodevelopmental disability community as they navigate the medical world.

Sydney Austin

Sydney Austin holds a master's in clinical child psychology, with a career dedicated to strengths-based, neurodivergence-affirming approaches to research and clinical practice. Sydney is the Programs Coordinator at Kids Brain Health Network, a funder for this project. As an autistic individual herself, she believes every child deserves to have their pain seen, understood, and thoughtfully managed.

kids brain health network

Lise Gagnon

With 25 years of experience as a Child Life Specialist in pediatric hospitals, Lise has dedicated her career to supporting children and families through difficult and often painful events. As a parent of two neurodivergent children, her commitment to this initiative is both professional and personal. At Ste-Justine Hospital, her role is instrumental in the development of a hospital-wide initiative to improve and provide adaptive care for patients with special needs.

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Goldie Turk

Goldie Turk is an articling student at Inclusion Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Health Administration, and JD specializing in health law and policy. As a sibling, she is committed to advancing inclusion and human rights for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Inclusion Canada

Audrey McFarlane

Audrey McFarlane, B.CR; MBA (CED), A.O.E., is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives for the Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network, following over 10 years as Executive Director, and a founder of the Lakeland Centre for FASD, where she led the development of rural diagnostic and support service models adopted across Canada. For over 30 years, she has worked alongside individuals with FASD, families, service systems, and policymakers to advance best practices in diagnosis, prevention, community outreach, and research that is meaningful and impact-driven. This project is an opportunity to bring awareness to the pain that many individuals with FASD have but may be unable to identify or describe. Knowing how to manage these situations is important and we just don't know enough about this topic.

CanFASD
CANADA FASD RESEARCH NETWORK

Carly McMorris

Dr. McMorris' program of research focuses on how to improve the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental dosprders (NDDs), such as autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), and cerebral palsy (CP). She is interested in understanding the risk/protective factors for the development of mental health issues in NDDs. She investigates the underlying neuropsychological, social, neurological, and physiological mechanisms of mental health issues in NDDs, and how such issues impact children and families. She examines the service use patterns and needs, and barriers/facilitators to accessing services for families of individuals with NDDs and co-occurring mental health issues. Her research aims to determine the effectiveness of psychological (e.g., CBT) and pharmacological interventions for individuals with NDDs and mental health issues.

Tamer Shahin

Tamer is a parent of a 10-year old who is growing up with Cerebral Palsy. Inspired by his son, Tamer is conducting research about the use of computer interaction in the field of pediatric rehabilitation, and joined SKIP to help bring in the perspective of parents and kids who are non-verbal, and have physical disabilities.

Harold (Hal) Siden

Dr. Harold (Hal) Siden, MD, MHSc, FRCPC is Scientific Director at Canuck Place Children's Hospice in Vancouver, Canada, and a clinician-researcher at BC Children's Hospital. His clinical-research interests are pediatric palliative care, pain management and complex care pediatrics. He is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He is Principal Investigator on several projects funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

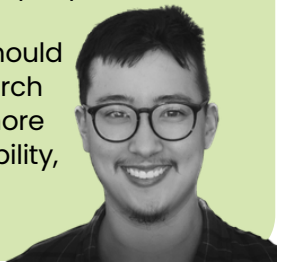
CHILD-BRIGHT Network

Hayley Turnbull

Hayley Turnbull is a Pediatric Palliative Care physician practicing at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, SK. Hayley is passionate about the quality of life of her patients and their families. She got involved in this project because she sees the inequities in pain prevention, assessment and management that children with neurodevelopmental disabilities experience and wants to work towards improving pain care for this population.

Logan Wong

Logan Wong identifies as a trans, bi-racial, Autistic person living with cerebral palsy. As an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Consultant, he works from a trans-inclusive feminist, anti-colonial, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive framework. Logan works at McMaster University as a research associate within the School of Rehabilitation Sciences and is one of CanChild's Associate Members who has parlayed his social work training and experience as a research partner into his work as an inclusion, diversity, equity, anti-racism, and accessibility (IDEAA) consultant. Logan uses his understanding of the world, of organizations, systems, and people to support the creation, implementation, and sustainability of diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments which reflects that everyone has different needs, strengths, and talents that should be celebrated. Logan is candid about the importance of lived experience within health research and firm in his belief that engaging those with lived experience in health research leads to more relevant, impactful outcomes. As someone who lives with chronic pain due to a lifelong disability, Logan is honoured to be part of this initiative to continue to advocate to destigmatize pain management as a critical aspect of healthcare for children, youth, and their families.



kids brain health network

Fondation Brain Canada Foundation

skip solutions for kids in pain pour la douleur chez les enfants

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