



Research Bulletin

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Interested in research? You're not alone

St. Amant's Research Interest Group provides an ongoing series of informal meetings and presentations related to research in developmental disabilities. The group meets approximately bimonthly at St. Amant (440 River Road), and sessions are open to all staff and visitors.

The Group has no fixed membership: meetings draw attendees from across St. Amant's diverse range of programs, along with parents, students, and staff from other agencies. Past topics have included aging with a developmental disability, family perceptions of gastrostomy feeding, and teaching conversation skills to children with autism.

An exciting line-up of topics is taking shape for the winter months. In December 2009, Dr. Dickie Yu will facilitate a discussion session on severe challenging behaviour. Dr. Bev Temple will present on pain assessment for persons with a developmental disability in January 2010.

More details on these and other sessions are coming soon at <http://stamantresearch.ca>. If you'd like to attend a particular session, have an idea for an important topic, or would like to present at a future meeting, please contact Toby Martin (tmartin@stamant.mb.ca).

The **St. Amant Research Centre** is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities through research and education.

The Research Centre is possible thanks to the generous support of

- University of Manitoba faculties of Nursing, Human Ecology, and Arts.
- The Winnipeg Foundation
- St. Amant Foundation

Helping children with autism to connect with others

Seeing the world from another person's perspective is a fundamental part of human communication, yet it often poses a difficult challenge to someone with autism. Kerri Walters, a PhD student at the University of Manitoba, is conducting research on techniques to teach perspective –taking to children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

To learn more about this important project, please visit:

<http://stamantresearch.ca/perspective>

Sharing knowledge to promote health

Drs. Beverley Temple and Shahin Shooshtari of the Research Centre participated in a unique collaborative event this past September in Kingston, Ontario. Queens University and the South Eastern Ontario Community-University Research Alliance in Intellectual Disabilities hosted the 2009 Health Issues Special Interest Research Group Roundtable. St. Amant and the Research Centre were contributing sponsors to this event, which was promoted by the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities.

The event's purpose was to:

"...foster collaboration in the conduct of research and knowledge translation/ mobilization around the world. The premise of the Roundtable is that we have much to learn from each other through collaborative and comparative endeavours. We can advance knowledge and knowledge transfer by joining forces when we design and conduct our research and when we seek to influence policy and practice." (www.seocura.org)

Bev and Shahin learned how people around the world were promoting health, established new contacts and networks, and learned about programs available to teach health care providers about relevant ways to promote health with our population.

The Roundtable consisted of workshops on five priority areas: Epilepsy, Obesity, nutrition, and lifestyle, Sensory impairments, Health promotion, and Healthcare delivery. The outcomes of each workshop will be developed into plans for further international collaboration. Participant groups will continue to work together to prepare interdisciplinary research proposals on the five priority areas. An overall report on outcomes from the Roundtable will be submitted for publication at the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.

We will share more about the Roundtable outcomes as they become available, in future Bulletins and at the Research Centre website.

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