Speaker Bios

Eating, Feeding & Swallowing for children on the Autism Spectrum: Getting the info and figuring out what to do with it - Part 2: Treatment



Christie Raffaele, MSc(OT), OT Reg. (Ont.), is the Occupational Therapist in the Feeding and Swallowing Clinic at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Centre as well as in the Infancy & Early Childhood Program at Surrey Place. Christie is involved with research focusing on feeding challenges in kids on the autism spectrum and she is one of the co-authors of the online handbook Optimizing Feeding and Swallowing in Children with Physical and Developmental Disabilities: A Practical Guide for Clinicians.



Ellen Robertson, R.Psych, M.ED, is a Registered Psychologist and has worked at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital for the past 10 years. Currently, she provides consultation to the Feeding and Swallowing Assessment Service and works as part of the multidisciplinary Complex Feeding Therapy Team, with particular interest in treatment for ARFID. She also delivers outpatient programming for toddlers and preschoolers diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and diagnostic assessment for children and youth.



Rebecca Perlin, M.Cl.Sc. SLP(C) reg. CASLPO Rebecca is a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Feeding and Swallowing Clinic, the Cleft Lip and Palate Craniofacial Program, the Neuromuscular Team and Spina Bifida/Spinal Cord Team. She has presented extensively to clinicians and families on topics relating to Paediatric Feeding and Swallowing and the importance of a team-based approach to assessment and management. She has been a co-investigator in research designed to increase understanding of best practices in the area of feeding, swallowing and speech. Rebecca is also a Lecturer (Status Appointment) in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Sharon Smile, MBBS, DM, MSc, is a Developmental Paediatrician at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and a Clinical Study Investigator in the Bloorview Research Institute. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto.



Terra Ward, MSc. SLP, is the Team Lead for the Complex Feeding Therapy Team with the Specialized Rehabilitation Outpatient Program at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital. She has been a practicing SLP for 16 years and has always had a focus on dysphagia and feeding challenges. Terra strongly believes in multi-disciplinary practice and is proud of the work that the Complex feeding Therapy team has done in the past few years to establish an intervention stream at the Glenrose. In addition to feeding therapy, she also carries a caseload on the Northern NeoNatal Follow up Program and Pediatric Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic. Her other professional areas of interest include indigenous health and language revitalization.