

Speaker Bios

Dr. Carole-Anne Hapchyn MD, FRCPC Psychiatrist, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health. Dr. Hapchyn is an infant and early childhood psychiatrist who has provided assessment and treatment for infants and young children and their families for over 30 years in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She was the medical lead of Infant Preschool Services at CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health and of the Autism Clinic at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital. She currently works in private practice and is Co-Director at the ElmTree Clinic, an outpatient psychiatry clinic for infants, young children, and their families. Dr. Hapchyn is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta. Carole Anne is a past president and founding member of the Alberta Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. She collaborates with agencies, educators, and health and mental health care providers in Alberta to incorporate the NeuroRelational Framework into practice in her role as faculty, trainer, and mentor for the NRF.

Dr Hamdy El-Hakim MB ChB, FRCS (Ed), FRCS (ORL), FRCS(C). Dr. El-Hakim graduated from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. His higher surgical training was completed in the United Kingdom. His Fellowship training in Pediatric Otolaryngology was at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Currently he is Professor at the Department of Surgery and has adjunct appointment at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Alberta. He is also the Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship Program Director, and the Clinical Research Director for the Department of Surgery at the University of Alberta. His portfolio includes leadership of the Aerodigestive and Aspiration Team. He is an Editorial Board member for the International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology and a member of the International Board of Clinical Otolaryngology and Allied Health. His research interests and publications include sleep disordered breathing, swallowing disorders and laryngeal mobility disorders.

Julia Giesen, MSc. SLP, R.SLP, S-LP(C) is a speech-language pathologist with fifteen years of clinical practice working with pediatric patients in their homes, community programs, rehabilitation, and acute care settings. She is an Adjunct Professor in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Alberta. Julia's primary role is as a feeding and swallowing specialist in the Stollery Children's Hospital's Philip C. Etches Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She is certified as a NIDCAP professional (the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program) and as an instructor for Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education (FINE). She draws on this learning to coach families and NICU staff in providing developmentally supportive, responsive care for infants.

Keri Fehler, MSc RD is Registered Dietitian at the Stollery Children's Hospital. She is a mother of 3 children who loves the gardening and the outdoors, and acreage living with her furry companions. Keri has been a Dietitian since 1999 and with AHS since 2004 in Central and Edmonton Zone. Keri has been working with enterally-fed children and their families for majority of her career. The highlight of her role is providing patient centered care- meeting patients where they are at and working towards their goals.

Kristina Van Nest, MSc RD is Registered Dietitian at the Alberta Children's Hospital. She is a mom of three busy girls and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, skiing and biking. Kristina has worked with AHS for 16 years and specifically works in Neurosciences with mostly enterally fed infant and children for the last 13 years. Kristina is a PEAS committee member and is passionate about home blended foods patient centered care.

Melissa Lachapelle, BSc RD is a Registered Dietitian and Provincial Practice Lead for Nutrition Services. Melissa has worked in health care since 2007 and spent 8 years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Inpatient and Outpatient Pediatric areas. During that time, she was privileged to work with a feeding team to service Central Alberta families and children with a pediatric feeding disorder throughout their continuum of care. In her current provincial role, Melissa chairs the PEAS Standardized Practice and Education working group, supports Connect Care, and pediatric nutrition support.

Patty O'Krafka, Bsc OT, MSc is an Occupational Therapist who has been supporting PEAS as co-chair for Access and Navigation. She is also a Senior Practice Consultant with the Provincial Rehabilitation team and recently supported the Pediatric Practice Council for Occupational Therapy in developing provincial sensory standards and practice guidance documents.