



Living Your Potential - All Your Life!

Enabling Full Participation

For People With Developmental Disabilities

Preclerkship Exploration in Developmental Disabilities

This seven week elective, for 1st and 2nd year medical students and nursing students from the University of Toronto, provides an overview of the interdisciplinary supports needed for people living with developmental disability and autism spectrum disorder. The curriculum provides an introduction to developmental disability and autism spectrum disorder; examines the physical health issues and assessment needs for people with development disabilities; addresses the diverse communication, hearing, vision and mental health issues that this population may face and examines the role physicians may play in accessing community supports and advocacy. This elective runs from January until March each year.

Week 1 - Introduction to DD: Meeting Individuals with DD and community members involved in DD

Presenters: Barry Isaacs, Director of Research, Evaluation and Education and Dr. Alvin Loh, Developmental Paediatrician, Surrey Place Centre

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session students will be able to:

1. Define developmental disability
2. Identify the barriers and facilitators that individuals with DD and their caregivers have when interacting with the health care system

Week 2 - Physical Disabilities

Presenters: Dr. Angela Orsino and Dr. Elizabeth Jimenez, Developmental Paediatricians, Holland Bloorview

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate the lasting impact physicians can have on families caring for children with a disability and the important of advocating for patients and their families
2. Explain effective management of cerebral palsy
3. Describe how an inter-professional team at HBKRH works



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Week 3 - Physical Health in DD

Presenters: Dr. Elspeth Bradley, Psychiatrist, Leeping Tao, Nurse Practitioner, Surrey Place Centre, Angie Gonzales, Health Care Facilitator, Toronto Community Network of Specialized Care

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will be able to:

1. Explain the need for [Consensus Guidelines for the Primary Care of Adults with DD](#)
2. Employ the [Primary Care Tools for Adults with DD](#)
3. Question non-specific complaints of distress that may mask underlying medical conditions

Week 4 - Family Day—No Class

Week 5 - Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenters: Dr. Alvin Loh, Developmental Paediatrician and Stasia Rossinsky, ASD Trainer & Quality Assurance Supervisor - TPAS, Surrey Place Centre

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar, student learn how to:

1. Screen a child for ASD
2. Counsel families around key issues after an abnormal screening result
3. Investigate a child for a cause for their ASD
4. Identify strategies for behavioural therapy for children with ASD

Week 6 - Communication, Hearing and Vision Impairment

Presenters: Julie Capitelli, Audiologist, Sarah Dennis, Speech Language Pathologist and Lindsay Hillier, Manager, Blind-Low Vision Program

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will be able to:

1. Understand communication, hearing, and vision development and their impact throughout the lifespan
2. Understand the common interventions for vision, hearing, and communication impairments
3. Know when to make a referral for communication, hearing, and vision services



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Week 7 - Mental Health and Behaviour in DD

Presenters: Dr. Elspeth Bradley, Psychiatrist, Jessica Fox, Senior Behaviour Therapist and Amy Dashineau, Occupational Therapist, Surrey Place Centre

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar, student will be able to:

1. Use a diagnostic formulation tool for behavioural concerns
2. Understand the importance of determining individuals' baselines
3. Appreciate challenging behaviours as communication not a psychiatric disorder

Week 8 - March Break—No Class

Week 9 - Pulling It Together and Making a Difference (Advocacy)

Presenters: Pam Green, Nurse Practitioner, Angie Gonzales, Health Care Facilitator, TNSC, Shirley McMillan, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Kelly Bryce, Registered Nurse, Surrey Place Centre

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will be able to:

1. Explain the most common needs of clients of developmental services and possible barriers to having such needs met
2. Name some of the services available in Ontario
3. Identify opportunities to advocate for people with DD and their families: now and in the future role of physicians

For more information on the DD Undergraduate Elective, please contact Andrea Lavallee, Education Coordinator at andrea.lavallee@surreyplace.on.ca or 416-535-5141 x 3116.