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As a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Queen's University the opportunity to attend academic conferences is always an exciting one. The Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities Research Special Interest Group meeting was an excellent occasion to interact with professionals, students and researchers from Ontario in the field of developmental disabilities. The conference featured a number of speakers on various topics related to the field including access to behavioural interventions, the experiences of families of children with ASD in Ireland, and the experiences of Latin American mothers of children with autism.

The keynote speaker, Dr. John Lord, provided a thought provoking presentation focusing on the importance of including people with developmental disabilities and their families in the development of research questions and the interpretation of findings. His approach is important to acknowledge, as it seems to indicate a shift in the way research is conducted in this field. I would expect that with the adoption of his community-based research techniques researchers can provide meaningful information to families, agencies and people with disabilities.

Throughout the conference a number of the researchers pointed to areas of service delivery requiring change. For example, Dr. Maurice Feldman reported that many of the

children in his study with significant behaviour problems were not receiving behavioural services. As well, I learned about the difficulties posed for Latina mothers of children with autism attempting to access services for their children in an individualistic culture. However, some of the research pointed to services that were working to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Mary Forhan spoke about an individualized funding program, in which young adults and their families are able to control the allocation of funding for supports. These families reported satisfaction with their community activities and quality of life. I was also pleased to learn that in a study of the medical needs of adolescents and young adults with developmental disabilities, researchers found that in general individuals were receiving the medical and dental services they required. Much of the information presented at RSIG was informative in terms of the types of supports that are useful for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and the types of services that require further attention.

I am grateful to Autism Ontario for supporting my attendance of RSIG. I was able to share the results of some of my own research, as well as learn about other research on developmental disabilities taking place across the province.