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I am finishing the second year of my PhD in York University's Clinical-Developmental psychology program where I do research involving families of children with autism. I would like to thank Autism Ontario for the travel bursary to attend the Research Special Interest Group (RSIG) of the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities conference. RSIG provides a unique opportunity to meet with others involved in the field of developmental disabilities. I appreciate having a chance to learn from multidisciplinary professionals in a variety of fields. I recognize the importance of being aware of developments in the broader field of disabilities, not exclusively from my current prospective as a future psychologist doing autism research.

At this year's conference, a number of presentations made lasting impressions. First, Dr. Karola Dillenburger, from Queen's University in Belfast, spoke about the status of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) for children with autism in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. Dr. Dillenburger explained that unlike Ontario's government funding for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI), there is currently no mandated funding

for intervention in Ireland. Furthermore, many professionals working in the field have not received sufficient training to work with children with autism or to provide ABA services. Dr. Dillenburger stressed the need for further advances in the provision of ABA services in Ireland, focusing on the evidence-base that exists for the intervention. The distinction between Ontario's IBI services for children with autism and those currently being provided in Ireland is striking.

Another interesting presentation included a talk by Dr. Maurice Feldman from Brock University that explored the use of behavioural services for preschool children with developmental disabilities. Results suggest that a minority of children in the study were receiving behavioural interventions or had parents who were receiving parent training despite the fact that the children had behaviour difficulties requiring intervention. Potential reasons for this lack of utilization (e.g., parents not being comfortable with behavioural services, waitlists, use of alternate services) were considered by Dr. Feldman and the audience. Finally, Kate Sheese from York University presented her research about

experiences of six Latin American mothers raising children with disabilities. She shared some of the challenges that the mothers experience, including the need to overcome economic, social, and cultural barriers.

In summary, I believe that attending RSIG is beneficial for a variety of reasons. RSIG affords an opportunity to

meet other researchers, to learn, and to stay on top of new theories and developments in the field. It also provides a unique occasion to learn from diverse and knowledgeable professionals. Finally, RSIG continually proves to be a conference where I can network; making connections and meeting with individuals with whom I will hopefully be working in the future.