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As an occupational therapist, I found the OADD RSIG conference interesting in that I was able to meet with researchers from other fields, such as psychology, social work and education that study or work in the area of developmental disabilities. Presented at this seminar day was emerging research from across the province that covered a range of issues affecting individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. There was a familiar and inviting feeling in the room as students from across different Ontario Universities were united for the same cause.

The structure of the RSIG seminar day was dynamic in that presentations and poster presentations were alternated throughout the day. Some of the newest research presented included pilot studies for Ontario's first Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders clinic for adults and proposed benchmarks for the Ontario Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) program. Poster presentations also exhibited novel research. Those that stood out most for me covered areas that may not have received much attention in the past: writing skills of individuals with High Functioning Autism, reclaiming the use of expressive touch when caring for persons with developmental disabilities as well as poverty and disability.

The research in the field of developmental disabilities seems to be encompassing various areas of importance ranging from behavioural treatments for children with autism spectrum disorders to program evaluation of community services to international family quality of life issues. Both quantitative and qualitative methods including focus groups as well as participatory action research are creatively being used to uncover different areas of concern.

This was my first attendance at this conference. I felt there was a genuine interest from the researchers and students to learn more about this population in order to provide the needed services geared towards the individual and the family. The ultimate goal is to translate these research findings into successful treatment and community programs that aim to improve the quality of life of those affected. Despite the energy in the room, I could not help but think that much still needs to be done in order to promote the inclusion of children and adults with developmental disabilities in the community. Research days of this caliber provide a forum to raise awareness of issues as well as create opportunities for young researchers to form future collaborations.

I am currently completing my second year of my Master of Science in the Rehabilitation Sciences department at Queen's University. My research study is focused on exploring

the relationship between sensory processing patterns of adults with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and employment. I was fortunate to have the at this research seminar day. I am looking forward to hearing about the results from the studies presented at this day and I hope to continue to attend this conference in the years to come.