



Current OCTC Research Projects

OCTC staff may be involved in research projects initiated by other agencies (such as universities, hospitals, or other children's treatment centres), as well as research projects that they initiate themselves. Many of our projects are conducted in partnership with researchers from local universities. OCTC research has focused on a variety of topics, such as Botox treatment, play skills, literacy, virtual reality, satisfaction with seating & mobility systems, voice recognition systems for writing, and evaluation of specific OCTC programs and services.

Investigators	Title of Project	Purpose of Project	Research Impact on Clinical Approach	Funding Source	Dissemination (publication, presentation)
Ann Sutton (U. of Ottawa) & Susan Mendelsohn (OCTC)	Successful AAC Users: What contributes to positive outcomes in augmentative and alternative communication for school aged children?	To determine factors that may lead to successful outcomes for school-aged AAC users, who are the primary clientele served by the CAC team. The CAC team will then be able to take these factors into account when assessing clients for possible AAC systems and when developing goals	None yet. Initial project completed with 2 participants. Planning to continue with additional participants.	None. Project is being conducted in partnership with SLP students as part of the requirements for completing their Masters' degree.	Research in progress



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		and implementation plans for clients.			
Dr. Beth Macklin (OCTC)	Micro-Array (Chart Audit) Study	To evaluate the effect, in terms of timeliness to etiologic diagnosis, of having Developmental Pediatricians order a microarray when they diagnose ASD and/or GDD rather than referring to a Geneticist for this test.	Assuming it is shown that the use of microarray by pediatricians leads to more timely genetic etiologic diagnoses, this will be important to determine whether this is perceived as helpful by families, and if there would be reason to advocate for change in practice among pediatricians.	None	Research in progress
Marie Brien (OCTC), Keri Burgess (OCTC), Melissa Cormier (OCTC), Danielle Levac (U. of Ottawa), Rick Mills (U. of Ottawa), Heidi Sveistrup (U. of Ottawa), Mindy Levin (McGill), Anna McCormick	A Rehabilitation 'Jump-Start': Does an intensive clinic-based virtual reality (VR) experience enhance the effectiveness of a homebased therapy program in	To compare the effect of a 6-week Kinect home-based exercise program alone to the same program that begins with an intense 'jumpstart' 1-week IREX VR program (at OCTC) on improving	This study informs clinicians on whether an intense "jumpstart" 1-week of OCTC based VR (IREX) is beneficial and how to optimally target and challenge skill progression.	This study is funded by the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP) and by OCTC Clinical Research Grant.	Publication phase in process.



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(CHEO), & Elka Miller (U. of Ottawa)	children with CP?	balance, walking skills and participation in physical activities in children and adolescents with CP.			
Krista Wadden (OCTC)	Evaluating Feeding Outcomes for Children with G-tube	To assess whether children with gastrostomy tubes experience improved tolerance to feeds using the syringe method of administration rather than the pump method.	It is hypothesized that feeding via syringe will improve tolerance to feeds, decrease times spent feeding, and improve quality of life. This research may change the way the majority of children are fed using the G-tube.	None	Research in progress
Helene Courchesne (OCTC), Dharma Patel (OCTC), Tara Cummings (OCTC), Catherine Landriault (OCTC)	Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Group Stepping Stones Program for OCTC clients.	To determine if the Group Stepping Stones program at OCTC, a Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, is an effective intervention for parents concerned for their child's behavioral development. Group Stepping Stones is designed to help parents manage problem behavior and developmental issues	Behavioral Services and Social Work Services at OCTC have collaborated to offer the Group Stepping Stones program to OCTC clients. This study supported this program as a successful intervention for increasing parent confidence and for supporting functional parenting styles for	None	Poster at Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (OACRS), Toronto, ON, November 2014.



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		common in children under 12 years of age and with disabilities.	clients at the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre.		
Jocelyn-Barden Underhill, Amita Furgoch (OCTC), Jean Ju (OCTC), Pascal Lefebvre (U. of Ottawa) & Leslie Walker (OCTC)	Improving Future Health Outcomes for Children with Severe Speech and Physical Impairment: Creation of a Knowledge to Action Roadmap for Literacy	This is phase 2 of the initial project: The Match Between Current Service Supply and Demand Regarding AAC and Literacy Intervention and the Needs of School Age Children with Severe Speech and Physical Impairments (SSPI).	The aim is to describe how current service supply and demand regarding AAC and literacy intervention complies to the needs of children and youth in the Ottawa area with SSPI and English as a primary language.	Seeking CIHR Grant.	Research in process.

Current External Projects with OCTC Involvement

Project Title	OCTC Involvement	Time Frame	Status	Funding Source	Dissemination (publication, presentation)
Childhood Cerebral Palsy Integrated Discovery Network (CP-Net)	Dr. Anna McCormick (OCTC, CHEO, U. of Ottawa), Primary Investigator for OCTC site	2013-2018	Rolling out Phase 2 of the CP-NET project	Ontario Brain Institute	Research in progress.
GaitEnable Junior: A Robotic Walker for Children with CP	Dr. Anna McCormick (OCTC, CHEO, U. of Ottawa), Primary Investigator for OCTC Lead Project	2013-2016	Data Collection	Ontario Brain Institute	Research in progress.
Characteristics and Energy Expenditure of Virtual Reality Game (Danielle Levac)	OCTC (Marie Brien) recruited participants for this study; youth with CP.	July 2013 - December 2013	Pilot study results show that even short amounts of game play can increase HR in children with CP and TD children and that games elicit TM to various degrees. These results could be used by therapists as a mean to increase activity levels with children with CP to promote a healthier and more optimal occupational balance.	None	Publication phase in process.