

An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

[September 17, 2020 ONLINE workshop](#)

Presenter Biographies

Laurie Arnold, MSW, RSW is a Social Worker who has enjoyed working with parents, youth and children for over 20 years. Currently, she works in an interdisciplinary clinical team providing assessment, consultation and support services to families who have a child with developmental and or mental health needs. Laurie completed her BSW at University of Windsor and MSW at Western University in London, Ontario. She is a member of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and is an Adjunct Professor of Field Education Practice at Western University.

Joan Gardiner, SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist who has worked in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) for almost twenty years. As part of an interdisciplinary clinical team, Joan's role includes completing assessments and providing consultation on language and social communication-related challenges associated with ASD. Joan is a graduate of the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Western University.

Alison Gehl, OT is an occupational therapist at the Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) in London Ontario. Her 13 years of paediatric OT experience includes work in the Interdisciplinary Autism Service, Home Visiting Program for Infants and General Clinical Services. Alison completed her Clinical Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy at Queen's University. Additionally, she completed the graduate level Ayres Sensory Integration® Certification through the University of Southern California Division of Occupational Therapy. Alison is also certified in SOS Approach to Feeding.

Dr. Rob Nicolson, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Program at Western University. Dr. Nicolson completed medical school at Western University before moving to The University of Toronto to do his residency in psychiatry. He is a child psychiatrist whose practice is largely devoted to children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability. He is a psychiatrist in the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Program at Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre and in the Interdisciplinary Autism Service at the Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) in London.

Patty Petersen, BCBA is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and has worked at CPRI for more than 30 years, predominantly for outpatient service in the fields of

Autism and Developmental Disabilities. During this time, she returned to school to become a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) and began practicing as a BCBA shortly after her certification in 2011. In this position, her primary role has been to work on interdisciplinary teams, within CPRI's Interdisciplinary Autism Service, for children and youth with Special Needs who present with challenging high-risk behaviour.

Dr. Craig Ross, PhD, C.Psych is a Psychologist at CPRI who works with children and youth with diverse intellectual profiles, significant challenging behaviour, mental health concerns and life histories that involve traumatic experiences. Dr. Ross has a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Windsor, where he completed his pre-doctoral residency at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) in Ottawa, with rotations emphasizing neuro-developmental disorders and difficulties in depression and anxiety, and a Master's Degree in Social and Developmental Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University. Dr. Ross supports two outpatient teams at CPRI. The first follows an interdisciplinary model and focuses on symptoms and behaviours related to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The second supports children and youth demonstrating sexualized behaviour.