

**Children's Health Program Psychologists  
(July 2023)**

### **Dr. Harry Bawden**

*Ph.D., 1986, Carleton University*

Psychologist, Neuropsychology Service

Clinical Interests: Child neuropsychology, childhood psychopathology; assessment and treatment/rehabilitation of children with suspected or demonstrated brain dysfunction; attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Research Interests: Social adjustment of children with Tourette's syndrome; recovery of function in head injured children; learning disabilities in children with neurofibromatosis; externalizing behaviour problems in preschoolers; long-term outcome of children who have had meningitis.

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### **Dr. Tricia Beattie**

*Ph.D., 2008, University of New Brunswick*

Psychologist, Neuropsychology Service

Clinical Interests: Neurocognitive outcome in children with various underlying neurological and medical conditions (e.g., traumatic brain injury, seizures); learning disabilities; anxiety. Research Interests: Assessment and remediation of memory and executive functioning problems in children; impact of various medical treatments/interventions on neurocognitive outcome in children; program evaluation.

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### **Dr. Erika U. Brady**

*Ph.D., 1998, Temple University*

Psychologist, Preschool Autism Team

Clinical Interests: Assessment, diagnosis, and intervention; developmental delays and/or disorders (e.g., autism spectrum disorders, communication disorders, and attention disorders); learning disabilities; anxiety disorders.

Research Interests: Diagnosis and intervention for autism and related disorders; impact of early identification and intervention.

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### **Ms. Katherine Carroll**

*MASP., 2005, Mount Saint Vincent University*

Psychologist, Clinical Interventionist-Provincial Trainer, Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention, Autism Team

Clinical and Research Interests: Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT).

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### **Dr. Dorothy Chitty**

*Ph.D., 2002, University of Manitoba*

Psychologist, Provincial and IWK Clinical Leader of Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention, Autism Team

Clinical and Research Interests: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with a focus on a pivotal response treatment and positive behavioural support of preschool children with autistic spectrum disorder in their natural environment.

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### **Mr. Nick Ciccarelli**

*M.A., 1990, Mount Saint Vincent University*

Psychometrist, Neuropsychological Services

Clinical Interests: Assessment and remediation of children with learning disabilities, neuropsychological assessment and clinical follow-up of children with closed head injuries, and neurological impairments.

Research Interests: Developing new approaches for improving social adaptive functioning for children with impaired cognitive abilities.

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### **Dr. Jamesie Coolican**

*Ph.D., 2009, Dalhousie University*

Psychologist, Feeding Clinic

Clinical Interests: Assessment and intervention for children with feeding difficulties.

Research Interests: Effectiveness of parent training/education on both child and parent outcomes. Program development and evaluation.

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### **Dr. Chelsea da Estrela**

*Ph.D., 2020, Concordia University*

Psychologist, Pediatric Pain Management Team

Clinical Interests: Outpatient consultation, assessment, and intervention for youth with chronic pain conditions

Research Interests: Identifying the biopsychosocial processes that support adaption to stress including sleep and heart rate variability.

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### **Dr. Megan Duffett**

*Ph.D., 2016, University of Windsor*

Psychologist, Neuropsychology Service and Autism Team

Clinical Interests: Neuropsychological assessment of children and adolescents with neurological and medical conditions. Diagnostic and neurocognitive assessment of school age children with suspected autism spectrum disorder.

Research Interests: Emotion socialization; parenting practices and associated behavioural and emotional development of children; experiences of parents of children with autism spectrum disorder; program evaluation.

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### **Dr. Melissa Ferland**

*Ph.D., 2023, York University*

Psychologist (Candidate Register), Preschool Autism Team

Clinical Interest: Diagnostic and cognitive assessment of young children with suspected autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Differential diagnosis between neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., ASD, ADHD, intellectual disability).

Research Interest: Evaluation of intervention programs for children with ASD.

Understanding the heterogeneity in the presentation and developmental course of children with ASD. Program development and evaluation.

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**Dr. Katharine Filbert**

*Ph.D., 2012, University of Ottawa*

Psychologist, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Nephrology and Inpatient Units Consult  
Liaison Psychology Service

Clinical Interests: Behavioural and cognitive behavioural intervention for medical treatment adherence; coping with acute and chronic illnesses and elimination disorders; parenting children and youth with a chronic illness; short-term evidence-based assessment, consultation, and treatment for mental health issues presenting during inpatient admissions; treatment of disruptive behaviour disorders; acceptance and commitment therapy; motivational interviewing.

Research Interests: Bullying prevention and intervention; childhood obesity; pediatric pain; preoperative intervention planning; program development and evaluation; resilience.

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**Dr. Jillian Filliter**

*Ph.D., 2014, Dalhousie University*

Psychologist, Autism Team

Clinical Interests: Assessment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Research Interests: Understanding how children and adolescents with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs) access and interact with the health care system; developing system-, provider-, and patient/family-level interventions that will help to ensure that the needs of youth with ASD and other NDDs are met within our health care system; ensuring equitable access to services for individuals with ASD and other NDDs from marginalized populations.

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**Dr. Helen Flanagan**

*Ph.D., 2010, York University*

Psychologist, Autism Team

Clinical Interests: Assessment and treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Diagnostic and cognitive assessment. Intervention to build communication and social skills and reduce challenging behaviours.

Research Interests: Evaluation of intervention programs for children with ASD; Developmental course of ASD; Program development and evaluation.

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**Dr. Joanne Gillespie**

*Ph.D., 2005, University of Western Ontario*

Psychologist, Pediatric Health Psychology Service

Coordinator of Clinical Training

Clinical Interests: ACT, motivational interviewing, behavioural intervention, and cognitive behavioural intervention for difficulties involving adherence to medical regimens and procedures, as well as coping with acute and chronic illness; medical/procedural anxiety; treatment of elimination disorders, psychological aspects of food allergies.

Research Interests: Individual differences in procedural distress; psychological aspects of food allergies; procedural anxiety; preoperative psychological assessment in pediatric orthopedic surgery

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**Ms. Michelle Kerr**

*M.A.S.P., 2014, Mount Saint Vincent University*

Psychologist (Candidate Register), Clinical Interventionist, Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention, Autism Team

Clinical and Research Interests: Autism Spectrum Disorders, Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT).

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**Dr. Crystal Lowe-Pearce**

*Ph.D., 2009, Dalhousie University*

Psychologist, Rehabilitation Psychology

Clinical Interests: Assessment, consultation, and intervention related to functional goals of children with physical needs that would benefit from a rehabilitation lens, including neurodevelopmental conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and spina bifida), acquired brain and/or spinal cord injuries. Evidence-based intervention to assist with cognitive, behavioural, or psychological adjustment issues, which are directly related to or complicated by disability. Interprofessional practice.

Research Interests: Program development and evaluation related to the clinical needs of rehabilitation populations.

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**Ms. Sarah Martin**

*M.A.S.P., 2007 Mount Saint Vincent University*

Psychometrist, Neuropsychological Services

Clinical Interests: Assessment of children with Neurological differences and learning, and behavioural difficulties.

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**Dr. Robyn McClure**

*Ph.D., 2020, University of British Columbia*

Psychologist, Autism Team

Clinical Interests: Diagnostic assessment of school age children with suspected autism spectrum disorder.

Research Interests: Empathy, bullying, social and emotional learning, school climate

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**Dr. Elizabeth McLaughlin**

*Ph.D., 2002, Dalhousie University*

Psychologist, Pediatric Health Psychology Service

Clinical Interests: Children and adolescents with acute and chronic medical conditions.

Assessment, treatment, and consultation regarding treatment adherence, procedural anxiety, and coping with illness using cognitive behaviour therapy, motivational interviewing, and acceptance and commitment therapy.

Research Interests: Program evaluation related to clinical intervention in health psychology, including multi-disciplinary collaborations.

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### **Ms. Anne Napier**

B.A., 1988, Saint Mary's University

Feeding Specialist / Feeding Clinic Coordinator

Clinical Interests: Feeding difficulties in young children. Working with children and their families using behavioural theories to improve the quality of the feeding interaction.

Children seen may have feeding issues secondary to a medical condition, such as reflux, or may have required supplemental feeds by tube feeding and have gained little or no oral experience. Children with insufficient caloric intake and/or restricted diet are also seen through the clinic.

Research Interests: Feeding issues and children

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### **Dr. Meghan Schinkel**

*Ph.D., 2018, Dalhousie University*

Psychologist, Complex Pain Clinic

Clinical Interests: Assessment, consultation and intervention for children and adolescents with complex pain or neurodevelopment conditions using CBT, ACT or motivational interviewing approaches. Intervention focused primarily on addressing functional goals, coping/adjustment, and mental health concerns related to a medical condition.

Research Interests: The role of family factors in pediatric pain; psychosocial functioning in siblings of children with chronic pain/chronic health conditions.

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### **Dr. Isabel Smith**

*Ph.D., 1996, Dalhousie University*

Joan & Jack Craig Chair in Autism Research

Clinical Interests: Assessment, treatment of autism spectrum disorders; Developmental disabilities; Parent education.

Research Interests: Autism spectrum disorder: early identification and intervention; natural history / longitudinal studies; physical and mental health co-morbidities; treatment evaluation; health aspects: sleep, feeding, etc.

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### **Dr. Ena Vukatana**

*Ph.D., 2017, University of Calgary*

Psychologist, Pediatric Health Psychology Service

Clinical Interests: Use of evidence-based strategies from behavioural, cognitive behavioral, and acceptance and commitment therapy approaches to support youth with a variety of acute and chronic medical challenges, such as procedural anxiety, treatment adherence, and coping with chronic health conditions; consultation with caregivers and health care providers to support youth in the aforementioned areas.

Research Interests: Psychosocial functioning of youth with chronic health conditions; parenting youth with chronic health conditions; procedural anxiety.

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**Dr. Aimée Yazbek**

*Ph.D., 2009, University of New Brunswick*

Psychologist, Preschool Pediatric Psychology Service

Clinical Interests: Assessment, diagnosis and intervention with infants, preschool and early elementary children with neurodevelopmental and genetic disorders; Development and implementation of home- and/or centre-based intervention programs; Consultation to health professionals, families, and schools; Group intervention for parents of children with disabilities.

Research Interests: Program development and evaluation.

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