

**Children's Health Program Psychology Staff
(July 2024)**

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.

Email: tricia.beattie@iwk.nshealth.ca

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.

Email: nick.ciccarelli@iwk.nshealth.ca

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.

Email: Jamesie.Coolican@iwk.nshealth.ca

Dr. Chelsea da Estrela (on parental leave 2024-2025)

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.

Email: Chelsea.daEstrela@iwk.nshealth.ca

Dr. Megan Duffett

Ph.D., 2016, University of Windsor

Psychologist, Neuropsychology Service

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.

Email: Megan.Duffett@iwk.nshealth.ca

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.

Email: Katharine.Filbert@iwk.nshealth.ca

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

Email: joanne.gillespie@iwk.nshealth.ca

Dr. Trisha-Lee Halamay

Ph.D., 2021, University of New Brunswick

Psychologist, Rehabilitation Psychology & Pediatric Health Psychology

Clinical Interests: Rehabilitation Psychology: Outpatient support to children and adolescents with ongoing physical needs that benefit from a rehabilitation lens, including neurodevelopmental conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and spina bifida), as well as sudden functional change related to injury or illness (e.g., brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation). Evidence-based intervention to assist with cognitive, behavioural, or psychological adjustment issues, directly related to or complicated by disability. Health Psychology: Evidence-based intervention using behavioural, cognitive, and acceptance and commitment therapy approaches to support children and adolescents receiving outpatient care for a variety of acute and chronic medical challenges (e.g., procedural anxiety, adherence, and coping with conditions); consultation with caregivers and other health care providers.

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

Email: trisha-lee.halamay@iwk.nshealth.ca

Dr. Crystal Lowe-Pearce

Ph.D., 2009, Dalhousie University

Psychologist, Rehabilitation Psychology

Clinical Interests: Assessment, consultation, and intervention for children with ongoing physical needs that would benefit from a rehabilitation lens, including neurodevelopmental conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and spina bifida), as well as sudden functional change related to injury or illness (e.g., brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation). 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.

Email: crystal.lowepearce@iwk.nshealth.ca

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.

Email: elizabeth.mclaughlin@iwk.nshealth.ca

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 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.

Email: meghan.schinkel@iwk.nshealth.ca

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.

Email: ena.vukatana@iwk.nshealth.ca

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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