



SURREY PLACE CENTRE

SPC offers interdisciplinary services through a variety of developmental and autism programs to Toronto residents

Surrey Place Centre (SPC) is a community affiliated teaching site within the University of Toronto. The Centre provides interdisciplinary community-based services targeted to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) of all ages in keeping with the standards of Accreditation Canada.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SPC offers interdisciplinary services through a variety of developmental and autism programs (www.surreyplace.on.ca) to Toronto residents. In addition the Centre provides specialized clinical and mental health consultation to adults in remote northern Ontario communities via video conferencing and is the co-lead in the Tri-Region Alliance (Central Ontario Network of Specialized Care), one of four provincial Networks of Specialized Care (www.community-networks.ca), serving adults with dual diagnosis and challenging behaviours. SPC is the lead Toronto agency engaged in innovative treatment of children with autism. In partnership with Bloorview Kids Rehab and the Hospital for Sick

Kids, SPC is the Canadian clinical site for the Autism Treatment Network (ATN). The ATN is a collaboration of hospitals and medical centers throughout the USA (and now Canada) dedicated to improving medical care for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to standardizing the care these individuals receive.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past year, Dr. Michael Kugelmass, a psychiatrist specializing in the care of older adults, and Dr. Kassia Johnson, a developmental paediatrician working on transitional issues with children with ID, have joined Medical Services. Dr. Tom Cheetham, a family physician who specializes in ID will join the staff in the next academic year.

SPC staff, together with several Toronto partner agencies contribute to the interdisciplinary teaching of medical students and residents (psychiatry, paediatrics, family medicine, neurology).

Self advocates (persons with ID) and their families, also participate in SPC teaching. Through these partnerships trainees learn about life span approaches as well as the vital importance of continuity and integration of care for this client group.

In collaboration with the Dual Diagnosis Program at CAMH, SPC is developing curriculum in IPE and ID and providing associated clinical placements for University of Toronto undergraduates with the support of a grant from Health Force Ontario, Interprofessional Care/Education Fund.

The Day in Developmental Disabilities for third year medical undergraduates will now take place earlier in their six-week psychiatry placement and will be included in their exam. The focus of this full day event is on health vulnerabilities, services, communication and attitudes, issues pertinent to optimal health care for this population.

SPC and DD CAMH faculty together continue to coordinate mandatory core curriculum teaching in ID in the Psychiatry Residency Program at the U of T. Each psychiatry resident has 15 hours clinical teaching and exposure to ID through interdisciplinary team activities. The first year residents' Emergency Room teaching in ID now involves the additional partnership with St Michael's Hospital faculty.

Medical Services is in the third year of its 5-year plan to raise the standard of health care for individuals with ID through education and networking with community physicians and other health care providers. This project, through which *Consensus Guidelines for the Primary Health Care of Adults with Developmental Disabilities* (2006, revised 2009) was developed with funding by the Ontario Ministries of Community and Social Services, Health and Long Term Care and Surrey Place Centre Foundation. Through this project ID faculty within the department are involved in continuing professional development workshops and on-line discussion groups that focus on shared care (family medicine and psychiatry) practice.

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The first ATN Toronto symposium took place in March 2009 at Bloorview Kids Rehab. Through the year, faculty participation and presentations internationally included workshops on psychotropic medication guidelines and on approaches to trauma as these relate to adults and adolescents with ID.

*Elsbeth Bradley, MB, FRCPC
Psychiatrist-in-Chief
Surrey Place Centre*