



## Newsletter - October 2018

Happy Thanksgiving!

We have some news to share with you, including

- A new Mission Statement
- Completion of our Member Engagement and Strategic Planning day on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
- Two presentations have been accepted for the OACRS Annual Conference on November 20<sup>th</sup>
- SAVE THE DATE for our annual dinner meeting in Toronto, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 9:00 pm. <http://www.oacrs.com/en/Registration>

The last 6 months have been heavily focused on our strategic plan which was contributed to in a well-attended member engagement exercise on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. As part of the process, we reworked our mission statement. It now reads:

### **Mission Statement**

**PONDA is a volunteer network of physicians and psychologists advocating to optimize the wellbeing of individuals with neurodevelopmental needs in Ontario by promoting evidence informed policy in the systems of care.**

Our strategic planning work identified many lofty goals for our organization, however, we are a volunteer organization of busy individuals and our energy is not limitless (but pretty close). We have narrowed our To Do list into something manageable. We will present our updated goals at our next meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Come prepared to volunteer your time and energy and help us advocate on behalf of individuals with neurodevelopmental needs!

PONDA members have submitted two presentations for the OACRS meeting on November 19 and 20, 2018 in Toronto, and both have been accepted.

- Ben Klein and Olaf Kraus de Camargo will present a two hour workshop on the FACT (Functional Abilities Classification Tool) which has recently been published. They will discuss how their tool

is used, ongoing research and next steps. Feedback will be welcome.  
Tues, Nov. 20, 2018 at 8:30 AM

- Carolyn Hunt, Nicky Jones-Stokreef, Beth Macklin and Ben Klein will discuss “How Developmental Paediatricians Add Value to CTCs”. Each of us work at a different CTC and will present different models of how physicians can work within these agencies. This follows up on the Survey and presentation that was done a year ago looking at how physician involvement at CTCs is viewed by the OACRS leadership. Tues, Nov. 20, 2018 at 1:00 PM

To sign up for the OACRS Conference, please go to the following webpage:  
<http://www.oacrs.com/en/Registration> Early bird rates end October 19<sup>th</sup> so don't delay! The conference will be held in Toronto at the Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel again, November 18 to 20, 2018. Although the conference is well attended by developmental paediatricians, few if any general paediatricians know about it. Many excellent presentations that would be of interest to general paediatricians are part of the conference, including by speakers such as Darcy Fehlings (Early Diagnosis of CP), Melissa Carter (Genetic Testing in Developmental Disabilities), and Sharon Smile ( Approach to Feeding in ASD).

The **annual PONDA dinner meeting** will be held as usual on the Monday night of the OACRS conference, **November 19, 2018**. Rates do go up on October 19, so **sign up early** (*done through the OACRS annual conference registration, attending the full conference is not necessary*). This is a chance to network with colleagues who share a passion for advocacy in the developmental sector. We are always looking for new members, so sign up and bring a friend. There will be lots on the agenda, including our new strategic plan, advocacy strategies with the new Ontario PC Government, and much more.

**PONDA Steering Committee:**

**Chair:** Nicky Jones-Stokreef

**Vice Chair:** Alvin Loh

**Past Chair:** Ronit Mesterman

**Communications:** Olaf Kraus de Camargo

**Treasurer:** Mohammad Zubairi

**Members at large:** Pam Frid, Jennifer McLean, Paige Church, Beth Macklin and Ben Klein

Membership is open to physicians and psychologists. We have approximately 120 members and are looking to expand. The more members, the stronger our voice. Please email me if you are interested in joining. So far, there is no membership fee!

Don't forget to follow us on twitter: @pondanetwork and like us on Facebook!

Sincerely,

Nicky Jones-Stokreef,  
Chair of PONDA  
Nicolajs005@icloud.com