Workshop: Early intervention for babies with a brain injury
Focusing on a motor-learning approach

International Guest speaker: Professor Ann-Christin Eliasson
Occupational Therapist from the Astrid Lindgren Children’s Hospital & Karolinska Institute, Stockholm.

When: Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March, 9am-5pm.

Where: Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Education Centre, Herston, Qld.

Who should attend: Clinical and Research Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech Pathologists interested in early intervention and a motor-learning approach to neuro-rehabilitation.


Cost: $400 for the two days, full-time undergraduate students $100

Professor Ann-Christin Eliasson is an internationally recognized researcher in the field of early intervention, upper limb training, classification (Manual Abilities Classification), assessment (Assisting Hand Assessment) and motor control. She is visiting the Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre at the University of Queensland in preparation for the commencement of the new NHMRC funded study REACH: Rehabilitation Early for Congenital Hemiplegia. In this practical workshop she will explore the possibility of increasing the rate of early development hand use by upper limb training during the first year of life. The principles of motor learning will be applied to young children at risk of developing unilateral CP. One treatment approach will be based on an adapted model of Constraint Induced Therapy for children < 1 year of age “Baby CIMT project”. Another more general treatment approach will be for children with bilateral CP and is designed to increase hand use and help the babies to increase both cognitive, communication and fine motor function (“Small Step Project”).

Topics include:

- Current theories and evidence about the efficacy of early intervention:
  - A review of the literature (including neuroplasticity)
  - Important principles of motor learning
- Early development of hand function
- Experience from our previous studies in Congenital Hemiplegia (pre-school to adolescents)
- How to measure and describe hand function (mini AHA, AHA, MACs, Mini MACs)
- Cognition and hand function
- Experience from the “Small step project”
Also presenting at the workshop:

**Sue Greaves B.App.Sc (OT), MOT, PhD**

*Occupational Therapist from the Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne*

Sue has over 25 years of clinical experience working with children with cerebral palsy within hospital and community settings. Her recent doctoral research has intensified her interest and expertise with assessment and intervention for very young children with unilateral cerebral palsy. Presentation: An introduction to the Mini-Assisting Hand Assessment and its use to guide intervention planning for young children with unilateral CP

**Cathy Morgan B.AppSc (Physio)**

*Research Fellow at the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Institute*

Cathy has been working as a physiotherapist specialising in cerebral palsy for 10 years, and two years as a researcher at the Research Institute of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. She is involved in coordinating the development of an international network of researchers focussed on cure and prevention of cerebral palsy (IMPACT for CP). Cathy is a doctoral candidate of The University of Notre Dame Australia and recipient of an NHMRC/Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation Doctoral Scholarship. Her doctoral research is in the area of early detection and motor learning interventions for infants at high risk of cerebral palsy. Presentation: GAME – Goals Activity and Motor Enrichment for infants with cerebral palsy

**Roslyn Boyd PhD, MSc (Physio)**

*Professor of Cerebral Palsy Research at the Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre, The University of Queensland.*

Ros will introduce the new multisite NHMRC funded trial REACH: Rehabilitation Early in infants with Congenital Hemiplegia. This new randomised trial will commence in Queensland (CI’s: Boyd, Ziviani, Sakzewski), Victoria (CI: Greaves), New South Wales (CI’s: Novak, Badawi) and Western Australia (CI’s: Elliott, Valentine) in the first half of 2015. The study will enrol infants between 3 to 6 months corrected age at high risk of hemiplegic CP. The alternate interventions will be delivered up to 12 months C.A with follow-up at 24 months. Presentation: REACH: Introducing a randomised trial of Rehabilitation Early for Congenital Hemiplegia

**Key publications:**