

Conference 2009 "Through Ages and Stages"

Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada Presents National

October 1st - 4th Mississauga, Ontario



Official Programme



Tourette Syndrome
Foundation of Canada
La Fondation canadienne
du syndrome de la Tourette

Contents

3

General Information

4

The Tracks

5

Further Information

6

Travel & Accommodation

7

Registration, Privacy & Attire

8

Program Schedule

11

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers



General Information

About the conference

The TSFC Conference is an intensive learning experience for everyone in attendance, with fun and entertainment on the side.

The Conference begins Thursday evening, ending late Saturday night. During that period, there will be presentations on the subject of TS and its comorbidities, as well as workshops and plenty of opportunity to network with others. Programs are offered for teachers, parents, adults with TS and children aged six and up.

Who should attend?

Persons with TS, parents, caregivers, family members, teachers, therapists, social workers, counsellors, and anyone affiliated with a childcare or mental health facility. Everyone will benefit from this conference.

Who are we?

The TSFC is the only national organization in Canada focused exclusively on Tourette Syndrome. The Foundation is dedicated to helping individuals with TS, their families and care givers through education and awareness, public policy development, and encouraging self-help, as well as access to professional services through advocacy and the promotion of research.

Why attend?

We offer a lively, congenial and accepting atmosphere that is very conducive to both learning and forming new relationships. Attend the only national meeting in Canada that focuses exclusively on Tourette Syndrome and its associated disorders.

Get great value: Your registration includes all handouts, exhibits, workshops, opening reception, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and closing celebratory banquet. Each year we hear stories about how these sessions have transformed families and changed people's lives forever. Some of our younger participants may arrive with apprehension. We are sure they will leave with a totally new outlook, and in many cases, lifelong friendships.

What Will I Learn?

Participants will gain a greater understanding of the various disorders associated with TS, together with the most recent diagnostic and treatment options available. Learn more about the impact TS has on personal or familial relationships. Leave the conference with a fresh understanding and an increased capacity to facilitate new change.

Pre-Conference In-Service Training Opportunity

Put your public speaking and knowledge to work! The Foundation's in-service program is always looking for presenters who have experience with TS and who are willing to conduct in-service presentations in their communities. To that end we are pleased to offer a pre-conference training session for volunteers on the art of in-service presentations. There is no registration fee for this training and breakfast, lunch and refreshments are provided. If you are interested, please contact the National Office for more details.

Thursday Evening Meet and Greet

Adults

Have you ever wondered how different or how similar your issues were to those of others within the TS community? How do others cope with some of the challenges in their lives? How does the disorder affect your lifestyle or that of your partner? Have you chosen to tell everyone about your TS or is there always an elephant in the room?

Moms and Dads

As a parent, guardian or care giver you may find yourself frustrated by those around you who just don't seem to understand what TS is all about, no matter how many times you try to explain it. This session is designed to allow you to share your story, experiences, and learn from others who can truly empathize, all in an informal setting.

Children

We offer a separate program for children 6 to 12 years of age. Children will have the opportunity to get to know each other during this evening meet and greet to prepare them for the two-days ahead.

The Tracks

Should circumstances dictate, you may register for only one day.

General

Learn from experts who share their real-world experience while giving you honest, practical advice. Use this opportunity to network with others who share the same challenges as you or your family. Through Ages and Stages is designed to benefit everyone by arming you with strategies to make your journey easier.

Adult

Share your thoughts and feelings with the rest of the adult community by attending the adult issues forum where each of the topics relevant to daily life with TS are discussed in an understanding and accepting environment. Be sure to indicate your attendance in this track on the general registration form.

Children

This program runs all day Friday and Saturday. Note: this may put the child at a disadvantage in terms of integrating into the group as bonds will have already formed among the participants at the opening session. Once you have registered your child(ren), we will send additional details, an intake form and waivers.

Youth

We offer a separate and simultaneously run youth program for young people aged 13 to 17. The same information on attendance and meals applies for this group.

Educators' Track

Challenging Kids, Challenged Teachers!

A separate program for educators' will run concurrently with the general conference tracks on Friday, October 1st. This day is designed specifically for educators' on classroom management.

You may even wish to sponsor your child's teacher to attend. Pass this information on to your child's teacher(s) and help educate the school. See our website for more details and registration information for this separate track.

Further Information

Donations to Assist Others

We are approached each year by families as well as clinicians asking us if we could provide bursaries for their patients and/or their families so they may benefit from the enormous learning that takes place at this event.

Unfortunately, the need to attend this life-changing experience is expressed more often than we can possibly accommodate. While we do what we can to assist those in need, our resources are extremely limited. This event is not a means to raise funds for the Foundation, but rather to provide the best information we can at the most reasonable cost to the participants. Donations to assist others to attend the conference are gratefully accepted. A tax creditable receipt for donations of \$20.00 or more will be issued. Please fill in the line provided for this option on your registration form.

About Your Meals

Meals are a very costly component. We need your help to ensure our resources are maximized. Please advise the registration desk should you not wish to attend a particular meal. There is always a waiting list. While we cannot offer a refund because the hotel will have already ordered the food, we may be able to provide your meal ticket to someone who otherwise could not have attended. This may be a volunteer or a member of someone's family.

A special child's meal (burger or chicken fingers and fries) ticket is available for \$35.00 per child. If your child would like an adult meal (full course dinner) instead, the regular banquet ticket fee will apply.

Dietary Restrictions

If you have a food allergy whether mild or serious, it is your sole responsibility to advise us prior to your attendance. We accept no liability in cases where we have not been informed. We work diligently with the hotel to ensure your needs are met and your patience at meal times is appreciated.

Every effort will be made to accommodate dietary restrictions that are brought to our attention five days prior to commencement. After this time, we can not guarantee the chef can meet your needs. We trust you can appreciate that we are unable to accommodate personal preferences and thank you for your understanding. Please contact the national office with any further questions.

Travel & Accommodation

Travel Information

The official travel agent for Conference 2009 is:



Toll-Free: 1-866-890-3377 or 204-989-9630

Online: www.heartland.ca

Please mention that you are travelling to the Tourette Conference.

Ground Transportation

Taxis are available from Pearson International Airport to the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Convention Centre for approximately \$40.00 one way.

Hotel Parking

Parking is metered with a daily maximum of \$8.50 pay and display. Overnight parking is \$12.00 plus taxes and may be charged to your room. Please ensure the front desk has your licence plate number so you won't be towed.

Hotel Accommodations

The conference takes place at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. You may make a reservation by calling locally at **905-542-4003** or toll-free at **1-800-422-8238**.

To make reservations by email send your requirements to:

mea.reservations@deltahotels.com.

Advise them you are booking for the TS conference so you are able to take advantage of the special rates. We have negotiated for our conference participants single or double occupancy rooms at \$145.00 per night plus applicable taxes. The special offer expires September 11th, 2009.

Registration, Privacy & Attire

How Do I Register?

There are four ways to register:

Call us at:

905-673-2255 or 1-800-361-3120

Fax us at:

905-673-2638 or 1-800-387-0120

Online at:

www.tourette.ca

Post:

**Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada
195-5945 Airport Road
Mississauga, ON L4V 1R9**

We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

Confirmation and Name Tags

All registrants are considered confirmed upon our processing of payment. Due to limited staffing, confirmation receipts will not be sent unless specifically requested. Conference name badges must be worn at all times as they are required for admission to sessions and meals.

Onsite/Walk-in Registration

The registration table will be staffed throughout the weekend. Walk-in registration will be taken only if space is available. Note: under these circumstances, we may not be able to accommodate meals. Full registration fees apply.

Photography

Throughout the weekend we may take photos and/or video footage for awareness purposes. Unless you indicate your dissent at the time of registration consent is implied for you and/or your child(ren).

Privacy Statement

The personal information you and/or your children provide is collected and protected under applicable privacy laws. This information will be used to process your registration, provide appropriate support for the child and youth programs, correspond with you and distribute information. Our lists are not sold or traded.

Conference Attire

Appropriate attire for all conference activities, including workshops and sessions, is casual. The Saturday evening banquet has been known to take on a more formal flavour. You may wish to bring a suit and evening wear for the occasion.

Note: meeting rooms may vary in temperature, so please dress accordingly.

Cell Phones and Pager Use

We recognize that some of you will need to have access to your cell phones or pagers. Please turn them to vibrate/silent mode during sessions. Exiting the meeting room to respond to your caller is appropriate so that those around you and our speakers will not be disrupted.

Program: Thursday, October 1st

10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Pre-Conference In-Service Training Opportunity (By invitation only.
Separate registration is required. Please contact the national office for details)

5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. Registration Opens

5:00 p.m. — **World Premiere of *The Space Between You and Me***
This interactive, high tech, and unique presentation features youth with TS and uses interpretive dance to send a powerful message. Exhibit will be open throughout the weekend.

6:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. Opening and Welcome Address
Ewan Dobson *In Tune With TS*

7:45 p.m. — 9:30 p.m. Meet and Greet Sessions, all tracks
(Moms, Dads, Child, Youth and Adult)

Program: Friday, October 2nd

7:30 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.	Registration All Tracks
7:30 a.m. — 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m. — 9:15 a.m.	Opening and Welcome Remarks
9:15 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Address John T. Walkup, M.D. <i>Tourette Syndrome: Past, Present and Future</i>
10:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops (choose one) Workshop A – Jennifer Musser, MA, LAPC <i>A New Reality: Grief vs. Relief</i> Workshop B – Ken Shyminsky <i>Tourette Syndrome: Understanding and Overcoming the Challenges in the Classroom</i>
10:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Adult Track Daniel G. Pruitt, CPCC, PC , <i>Getting and Staying Organized</i>
12:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon
1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	Concurrent Workshops (choose one) Workshop A – Alison Creech, ND <i>Understanding the Alternatives: How Naturopathic Medicine Can Work for You</i> Workshop B – Kirk O'Brien, MBA, PFP, STI, TEP, David H. Stewart, MBA, RFP, CFP, Jay Thomblison, CA <i>Disability Credit Applications and Estate Planning Simplified</i>
3:00 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	<i>Through Ages and Stages: The REAL Experts</i> <i>Why The Space Between You and Me?</i>
7:00 p.m. —	Dinner Celebrate Oktoberfest Tourette-style <i>Ump Pa Pa</i> by Sonic Events

Program: Saturday, October 3rd

8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast Annual General Meeting and Town Hall
9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.	Dianne Bouwman, OT (R) NL and Jennifer Drover, BSc. DC <i>From Meltdowns to Calm Downs and Productive Wellbeing</i>
11:00 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.	Refreshment Break
11:15 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.	Rob Nickel <i>Staying Safe in a Wired World</i> *Each family will receive a complimentary copy of Rob's book
11:15 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.	Adult Track Lorraine Pearce <i>Identity Theft and Why You Should be Concerned</i>
12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Book signing with Rob Nickel
1:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	Sheryl K. Pruitt, MEd, Daniel G. Pruitt, CPCC, PC and Darin M. Bush <i>Neurology "R" Us!</i>
1:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.	Adult Track <i>Adult Issues Forum: Demystifying Relationships, Disclosure and More</i>
2:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.	Refreshment Break Book signing with Sheryl Pruitt and Darin Bush
3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	Special Guest Tic Piccirillo <i>The Magic of Your Potential</i>
6:30 p.m. —	Cocktail Reception (cash bar)
7:30 p.m. —	Closing Banquet Dance to big band tunes with <i>No Strings Attached</i>

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

Keynote Speaker

John T. Walkup, M.D. is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore Maryland. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He will assume the position as Vice Chair for Child Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell College of Medicine in November 2009. He has been involved in a number of the large definitive clinical treatment trial for childhood psychiatric disorders including the Treatment of Adolescents with Depression Study (TADS), Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS); the Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention for Tics Study (CBITS); the Treatment of Early Age Mania study (TEAM) and the Treatment of Adolescent Suicide Attempters (TASA). He also has two large projects working with American Indian tribes in the Southwest United States. "Cradling our Future" is a NIDA-funded clinical trial of an in home intervention delivered by native paraprofessionals to pregnant teens and the second is "Empowering our Spirits" a SAMHSA sponsored suicide prevention study funded under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. He is the current Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the USA Tourette Syndrome Association. In 2009, he received the Charlotte and Norbert Reiger Award for Scientific Achievement from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Walkup is the author of a number of articles and book chapters on mood and anxiety disorders, Tourette Syndrome and psychopharmacology.

Presentation Outline:

"Tourette Syndrome: Past, Present and Future"
We have come a long way in our understanding of Tourette Syndrome. This presentation will provide a survey of where we have been, what we are currently doing and where we are headed. The changes in our understanding of what TS is and what this means for treatment should offer patients and families hope for improved outcome over the lifetime.

Other Speakers

Alida Diane Bouwman OT(R) NL

Diane graduated from McGill University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy. She has 24 years of experience working with children in private practice, rehabilitation and hospital based services as well as 4 years at Giant Steps (School) in Montreal. She is a certified Educational Kinesiology Practitioner and Brain Gym Instructor since 1995.

For the past 13 years Diane has worked on the Learning and Behaviour Team at Eastern Health in St. John's, NL, providing assessment and intervention to children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders such as ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, Development Coordination Disorder and Asperger's. She has extensive training and education in traditional and alternative treatment modalities that improve ones ability to be self aware and self regulate (emotions and behaviour), learn, socialize, perform daily activities, and engage in meaningful life experiences.

Jennifer Drover, BSc., DC

Jennifer has an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Memorial University (1994) and her Doctor of Chiropractic from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (1998). She is co-founder of the wellness company Core Insight and co-inventor of a health management process called The Integrative HealthCare Solution™. Jennifer is currently practicing in St. John's, NL. She has been in practice for 11 years. She has worked in Toronto, ON and Sydney, Australia. Jennifer has an eclectic and holistic approach to chiropractic practice. She incorporates structural, biochemical and mental/emotional interventions in her patient care. Jennifer is a member in good standing with the Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Association. She is a certified Educational Kinesiology Practitioner, Brain Gym instructor, Craniosacral Therapist and Holistic Nutritionist.

Presentation Outline:

"From Meltdowns to Calm Downs and Productive Wellbeing"

Meltdowns occur when the mind and body get overwhelmed. When this occurs, a person is 'stuck' and has gone beyond the capacity to cope with

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

completing daily tasks such as homework, writing, sports, dressing and participating in social or group activities. Our knowledge of how stress impacts the functions of the body and brain (thinking) helps us understand the benefits that are gained from doing Brain Gym activities, sensory-based activities (sensory diets), and other body movements or energy exercises (Applied kinesiology). Participants will experience various sensory movement based exercises which have an effect on moving one from being in a stressed 'switched off' state to being in a more relaxed and productive 'switched on' state. These activities can then become part of your, the parent or child's 'tool box' available for dealing with emotional brain overload.

Brain Gym® is an educational model which uses movement based activities to optimize whole brain integration, improve self awareness, promote ease of learning and a sense of well being. Brain Gym can improve the ability to focus, communicate, write, listen, and be organized.

Allison Creech is a licensed Naturopathic Doctor who also holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. In addition to her private practice, Allison is a faculty member at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine and is a contributing author to a textbook on the foundations of naturopathic medicine. Her practice has a bio-psycho-social focus and is based on both traditional sciences and clinically validated therapies. Allison provides patient-centered care and believes that healing begins by understanding each person as an individual. Her goals are to cooperate with the healing power that is inherent in each of us, to promote wellness, and to share her passion for integrative medicine. Her current areas of clinical interest include neuropsychology and behavioral medicine, stress management, women's health, and family medicine.

Workshop Outline:

"Understanding the Alternatives: How Naturopathic Medicine Can Work for You" Naturopathic medicine is a distinct primary health care system that blends modern scientific knowledge with traditional and natural forms of healing. This workshop will teach you about the foundations of naturopathic medicine and show you how it can be a resource for you and your

family. We will specifically address the ways that natural therapies may be helpful for people with Tourette Syndrome, focusing on current research with regards to diet and nutrition. This workshop will empower you to make choices with regards to natural therapies and to understand how naturopathic medicine can be used to help alleviate symptoms, prevent side effects of medication, and protect long-term health.

Jennifer Musser, MA, LAPC

Jennifer holds a master's degree in psychology with a clinical specialty and is a licensed counsellor in the state of Georgia. She works with children and adolescents doing psychotherapy and neurological testing at Parkaire Consultants, a tertiary clinic specializing in difficult to treat children with diagnoses such as Tourette Syndrome, ADHD, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder. She is also the mother of three children with neurological disorders including TS+.

Workshop Outline:

"A New Reality: Grief vs. Relief"

For those that are at the beginning of the TS journey, not knowing what to expect or how to determine which symptoms to address can seem daunting. Add to that the challenge of dealing with others' reactions and 'advice' and it's easy to feel inundated with stress. Jennifer will share strategies on how to manage these challenges so they don't overwhelm.

Lorraine Pearce

Lorri had a varied career in corporate management positions with Bell for over 30 years. Whether it was customer service, marketing, project management, training, development of new products or programs, or negotiating skills, her talents to bring the best out in people and organize what was needed made success of her efforts.

As a dedicated and passionate volunteer, she was involved in many organizations, big and small. Here are just a few: women's shelters, RCMP & OPP teddy bears for traumatized children, heart pillows for heart surgery patients, sports jamborees for physically challenged & blind teens, maternity clinics in Malawai, pub nights for seniors at rehab and senior's residences, camp for Tourette teens. She has worked tirelessly on many boards to improve the organizations or special programs:

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

President of 345 unit condo board for 12 years, President of Telco Community Volunteers, Fieldway club for 8 years and on the Board of Directors in various positions, President and founding Director of Clowns Canada Inc., Member of the first Board of Trustees and President for one term of Tourette Syndrome Foundation Canada.

She has managed her own business and developed an agency of associates in the healthy chocolate business: Xocai chocolate. Lorri is also an independent associate of Prepaid Legal Care of Canada; a risk management specialist for individuals, and small and large businesses.

Adult Workshop Outline:

"Identity theft: Why you should be concerned" The growing identity theft in North America alarmed Lorri. When one of her friends was affected, she took an in-depth look into what was happening. Her investigation, training and awareness of the issues made her realize that people needed to know more and protect themselves. She willingly shares her knowledge with others to increase their ability to protect themselves. Lorri, a risk management specialist in the area of identity theft, protection and restoration will share her expertise with you: the types of identity theft, case histories, and what you can do to protect yourself. It is NOT just credit cards. Knowledge is power! Participate and protect yourself and your family.

Tim Piccorillio

Born with Tourette Syndrome, Tim grew up with severe symptoms (currently controlled with medication) of jerking his limbs involuntarily, facial tics as well as self-abusive behaviours. With the help of his parents and the support of two teachers, Tim learned to cope with this devastating disorder and achieve success in two different fields. Today, Tim presents captivating school assembly programs as a motivational school speaker, as well as high-energy keynote presentations for colleges and organizations throughout the country.

Tim graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1984 with a B.S. in Habilitative Science. He worked in progressively responsible positions in the mental health field before

becoming Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living in 1989. In 1992 he decided to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a professional comedy magician. He has worked with many national stars and celebrities in his career as an entertainer. In 1995 he decided to share his experiences and knowledge to help others fulfill their dreams. As a full-time motivational youth speaker and keynote presenter, Tim travels across the country motivating and inspiring students, teachers, human service professionals and corporate and association audiences through his various programs. He lives what he teaches and believes in the power of *everyone's* potential.

Presentation Outline:

Listen and watch as Tim unlocks *your* potential. He is sure to wow you!

Ken Shyminsky is a vice principal with the Halton District School Board. He has drawn upon his personal life experiences as an individual with Tourette Syndrome, to help children and adults alike manage their TS symptoms and related disorders. Ken has enjoyed working as a Special Education teacher, counseling children with TS+ (and their families) and being a mentor to many with TS+.

As a former vice president of the Greater Toronto Chapter of the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada and member of the National Education and Advocacy Committee, he was a co-author and co-editor of Tourette Syndrome: A Handbook for Educators, and the creator of monthly recreational networking sessions for children and teens who suffer from TS+. In 1998, the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada recognized Ken for his contributions by naming him 'Ken the National Senior Role Model'. Ken is also a member of the Board of Directors for Camp Winston, a world-renowned summer camp for children who live with Tourette Syndrome and other neuro-chemical disorders, as well as autism and learning disabilities.

Workshop Outline:

"Tourette Syndrome: Understanding and Overcoming the Challenges"

Using his own experiences as a Special Education Teacher of students affected by Tourette Syndrome, and as a student afflicted with TS, the

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

presenter will provide participants with insight and understanding into the challenges faced by students who are affected by Tourette Syndrome and its associated disorders. Participants will also learn strategies to overcome the barriers that Tourette Syndrome brings to the classroom.

Daniel G. Pruitt, CPCC, PC

Mr. Pruitt is currently working as a professional coach at Parkaire Consultants helping neurologically impaired adults obtain their goals. He holds the Certified Co-Active Coach designation (CPCC) from the Coaches Training Institute and the Associate Certified Coach designation (ACC) from the International Coaching Federation. He understands the difficulties of being a person with Attention Deficit Disorder because he has ADHD himself. Dan Pruitt's best qualifications are successful parenting of two Tourette Syndrome/ADHD/OCD boys. He has been a presenter at international, national, regional and local conferences on the subject of fathering TS children and has run improvisational workshops for parents. He is currently on the Professional Advisory Board for North Atlanta and Central Georgia CHADD. Dan illustrated and contributed to the book, *Teaching the Tiger*, by Marilyn P. Dornbush, Ph.D., and Sheryl K. Pruitt, M.Ed. Coaching is a term that is being used in multiple settings at this time. Dan's coaching is for independent adolescents and adults who are interested in fixing the impact of their neurological disorders on everyday life.

Sheryl K. Pruitt, M.Ed., ET/P is the Clinical Director of Parkaire Consultants, a clinic she founded to serve neurologically impaired individuals. Prior to the founding of Parkaire Consultants, Ms. Pruitt conducted a State of Georgia exemplary Model Learning Disability Program and taught behaviour-disordered students in a psychoeducational setting. Ms. Pruitt served on the board of directors of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Georgia for six years and as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Georgia and South Carolina. Ms. Pruitt was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Tourette Spectrum Disorder Association of California. She is a member of the Professional Advisory Board for North Atlanta and Central Georgia CHADD.

She also served on the National Tourette Syndrome Association's Education Committee. She is also a member of the Professional Advisory Board of the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada. Ms. Pruitt is a co-author of the book *Teaching the Tiger* and is a contributing author to the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada's *Understanding Tourette Syndrome: A Handbook for Educators*. She teaches a State of Georgia Professional Learning Unit Course on students with neurological impairments and the impact of their disorders on education, behaviour, family, and socialization.

Sheryl K. Pruitt has presented both nationally and internationally. Her presentations incorporate not only professional experiences, but her personal experiences of living with children, a spouse and herself with these conditions. Marilyn P. Dornbush, Ph.D. and Sheryl have a new book at the publisher, Parkaire Press, Inc. titled *Tigers, Too*. Sheryl and Leslie E. Packer, Ph.D. are currently collaborating on a book for educators with a working title of *Challenging Kids, Challenged Teachers* to be published by Woodbine House in 2009.

Darin M. Bush got his start in special education the old fashion way: the family business. Darin has several co-morbid genetic disorders, including TS, ADHD and OCD. He also qualifies for five other handicapping conditions that are not unusual with these neurological disorders. They include sensory, handwriting, and reading problems and a very strange language disorder that he loves to discuss.

On the upside, his mother is Sheryl K. Pruitt, co-author of *Teaching the Tiger*, and founder of Parkaire Consultants, a clinic with expertise in treating learning disabilities (LD) and other neurological disorders. Darin worked full-time at Parkaire as an academic tutor for almost a decade, specializing in teaching math, science, and computers to children with ADHD, OCD and LD. While working at Parkaire, he developed and taught a class for educators on teaching math to special education children.

During this time, Darin served on the board of directors for the Tourette Syndrome Association of Georgia. Darin led several peer support groups for adults with or parents of neurological disorders.

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

During its existence, his first TS support group – for adults – was the longest running group of its type in North America. He is pleased to say that this record has been broken many times.

Darin continues to be involved in the special education community. He lectures on the personal experience of neurological disorders and leads workshops using theatre improvisation tools to open up the discussion of TS. Recently he published the book *Tigers Trails: An Unconventional Introduction to Tourette's Syndrome*. This book covers the first 90 minutes of the discussion of TS and its related disorders, with a friendly and sometimes humorous tone.

Darin's crowning achievement, however, is his daughter, Julianna Natalia. Julianna has symptoms of TS, OCD, ADHD, and LD, just like her old man. She is a textbook example of all these disorders: sorting crayons by color at age three and ticing a few days after her seventh birthday. Darin and Julianna are walking proof that education and self-awareness of neurological disorders greatly improve the quality of life for people with Tourette.

Presentation Outline:

"Neurology 'R' Us! How Did We Survive Speaking To Each Other and Staying a Happy Family Through the Differing Ages and Stages?" The family's day to day struggle with the impact of neurological disorders on marriage and family life in general is often not completely understood. The presenters will speak from a professional as well as personal point of view, having walked in these shoes. The family had the additional burden of having children with Tourette Syndrome, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Mood Disorders, Sensory Integration Dysfunction, Sleep Disorders and Learning Disabilities at a time when they were not diagnosed and medicated or remediated. To add to this, as if it was not enough, these are genetic disorders and the 'apples' did not fall far from the trees. Strategies will be presented that offset problems that ensue such as those caused by the 'traumatic triad' of homework, waking up and storms (rage behaviour).

Ewan Dobson has established himself as one of Canada's most brilliant and exhilarating young

guitarists, having won first prize in nearly every single competition across the country.

The development of Ewan Dobson into the artist that he is today has been an eclectic journey to say the least. After humble beginnings with his first electric guitar playing heavy metal and hard rock music to the structured discipline of his classical training, Dobson has expanded his repertoire to include bluegrass, Canadian folk and contemporary finger-style music. The culmination of all of these diverse influences has fuelled his creativity to compose his own unique brand of music and resulted in creating the captivating artist that he is today. Ewan Dobson is a young artist of exceptional technical virtuosity and refined artistry that will enthral audiences wherever he performs.

Presentation Outline:

"In Tune with TS"

With his impressive credentials, a stool and a guitar Ewan will not only entertain you but share his story and message hope. Join us for this unique opportunity to hear from one of Canada's rising talents.

Other Presenters

Rob Nickel is a Cyber-Safety Expert, Professional Speaker and Author dedicated to helping children stay safe on the Internet. Rob is a former 14-year veteran of the Ontario Provincial Police. In February 2003 he retired at the rank of detective sergeant from the OPP Child Pornography Section. Rob is globally recognized as an expert in the field of undercover investigations as they relate to the Internet.

Rob spent his first seven years with the OPP at Simcoe Detachment, his last four years at that detachment he worked with the Criminal Investigations Unit as a plainclothes detective.

Rob then spent four years in the Child Pornography Section of the OPP as a detective constable. During these four years he worked in an Undercover Capacity dealing with child pornography investigations.

These investigations included face to face meetings with pedophiles in an undercover capacity as well

Guest Panelists, Presenters & Speakers

as working undercover online. Rob was then promoted to the rank of detective sergeant and during these three years continued online undercover work as well as lectured and trained officers throughout Canada and the world on online undercover techniques. Rob has lectured in numerous provinces throughout Canada as well as France, Spain, Belgium and Brazil.

Rob is recognized in Canadian courts as an expert in online undercover investigations, workings of the Internet, in relations to criminal offences and the identification of child pornography. Rob now lectures to students and parents on internet safety, as well as produces interactive material to help parents understand the computer age and internet safety as it relates to their children's lives.

Rob is the author of *Staying Safe in a Wired World – A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety* which has been featured on hundreds of Radio and Television shows including Oprah, Dr. Phil, CNBC's The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch, Good Day New York and many others. He has also provided information for hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles in print all over the world. Rob is married, and lives with his wife and two daughters in Cambridge, ON.

Presentation Outline

Rob will give a different perspective on internet safety by using examples from past investigations. His understanding of the criminal mind used on the internet gives students and parents the upper hand in protecting themselves online. Although the subject of internet safety is a serious one, Rob will use humor throughout his presentation and will leave you with a better understanding of internet safety.

**Kirk O'Brien, MBA, PFP, STI, TEP,
David H. Stewart, MBA, RFP, CFP and
Jay Thomblison, CA**
"Disability Credit Applications and Estate Planning Simplified"

Workshop Outline

With their collective professional expertise and their intimate knowledge of Tourette Syndrome, these gentlemen will run an interactive workshop outlining how you can provide for your children even after you're gone; the benefits of a Henson

Trust; how you or your child may qualify for disability support programs; and how the new Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) can affect your family.