

MAC REHAB CLUB X MCMASTER MSA PANELIST & NETWORKING EVENT



SANDRA VANDERKAAY



Educational Background

BA and BSc OT (Queen's University), MSc and PhD (McMaster University)



Current Job

- Assistant professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University
- Director of Clinical Education for the MSc OT program
- CanChild Scientist

Email: vandes22@mcmaster.ca

SANDRA VANDERKAAY



Current Research

- OT Role with Children and Youth with Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes
 - School-Based Occupational Therapy
 - Trauma-Informed Pedagogy
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EVELYNE DUROCHER



Educational Background

- HonBSc in Math and Physics at U of Toronto
- Masters of OT (MOT) at the U of Manitoba
- PhD in Rehabilitation and Bioethics at U of Toronto



Current Job

- Assistant professor at McMaster University in Rehabilitation Science and Occupational Therapy

Email: durochee@mcmaster.ca

EVELYNE DUROCHER



Current Research

- Exploring equity, vulnerability, autonomy, wellbeing, justice, occupation, risk, and safety in health and social care for older adults
- Identifying ways to enhance health and social care experiences for older adults, their families, and care providers
- Examining the implications of failures in care from multiple perspectives



Advice to Students

- "There is no one right way. Have ideas and plans, but also follow where your gut and the road lead you. Also, don't push the river. Listen carefully."

ADA TANG



Educational Background

- Physiotherapy Degree in 1995 (back when it was an undergrad degree!)
- MSc in 2005 and PhD in 2010 all at the University of Toronto
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of British Columbia 2010-2012



Current Job

- Professor and Assistant Dean (Rehabilitation Science) at **McMaster University**

Email: atang@mcmaster.ca

ADA TANG



Current Research

- Leads the MacStroke Canada research team, studying the effects of exercise on cardiovascular health, fitness, and function in stroke survivors & individuals with other conditions
 - Integrates considerations of sex, gender, and equity, diversity, and inclusion in stroke recovery research,
 - Recognized as a YWCA Woman of Distinction
 - Associate editor for Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair.
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ADA TANG



Advice to Students

→ “Be open to learning about opportunities out there. Talk to people. Learn from them. Keep expanding your network so you can keep learning. My path was not straight or straightforward and I credit many people around me who were generous with their time in sharing their experiences and their own journeys with me, or friends who lent an ear so I could work through my own uncertain thoughts. Every conversation helped me reflect on what is important to me to guide me in taking my next steps.”

ANASTASIA NEWMAN



Educational Background

- Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology
- MSc(PT), MSc(RS), PhD (all at McMaster University)



Current Job

- Currently an Assistant Professor with the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University
- Teaches full time in the IRH program and part-time in the McMaster Physiotherapy program

Email: newmanan@mcmaster.ca

ANASTASIA NEWMAN



Current Research

- Investigates the effects of inspiratory muscle training, pulmonary rehabilitation, and digital interventions on respiratory health, function, and recovery in critically ill adults and individuals with chronic diseases.
 - Explores physiotherapy interventions in intensive care, including in-bed cycling, early mobilization, and point-of-care ultrasonography, aiming to improve rehabilitation outcomes.
 - Examines treatment fidelity, program implementation, and project management challenges in rehabilitation-focused randomized controlled trials.
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RAGHAD AZZAM



Educational Background

- Graduated from McMaster University in 2020 with a Bachelors of Applied Science in Human Behaviour
- Completed my Masters of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology at SUNY University at Buffalo in 2023

RAGHAD AZZAM



Current Research

- Works at a private practice in Dundas, providing speech-language services both in-office and virtually, including at a private school.
- Primarily works with children aged 3-12, supporting their communication needs through virtual and in-person sessions.
- Provides virtual services to northern Indigenous communities and has traveled to Northern Ontario and Nunavut to see clients in person.



Advice to Students

- "Follow your passion, but don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try something new. Take advantage of your time as students, and figure out the clinical area you feel most passionate about!"

LEEN AL-FAYEZ



Educational Background

- Bachelors of Applied Science in Nutrition at Toronto Metropolitan University
- Masters of Health Science in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Toronto



Current Job

- School based speech language pathologist
- Children aged 5 to 18 with voice, articulation, motor speech and fluency disorders with ErinOakKids and the Peel District School Board.

Email: Leen.alfayez.98@gmail.com

LEEN AL-FAYEZ



Current Research

- Works as a school-based speech-language pathologist with ErinOakKids and the Peel District School Board, assessing and treating children aged 5 to 18 with speech and communication disorders.
 - Uses clinical observation, instrumental tools, and standardized tests to evaluate clients' needs and develop treatment goals for speech sound improvement.
 - Focuses on enhancing students' ability to access their curriculum by improving their speech clarity and communicative confidence.
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LEEN AL-FAYEZ



Advice to Students



“Don’t be afraid to explore what your ideal environment and what ideal profession looks and feels like, be sure to apply yourself in all scopes of practice before choosing your preference, use your undergraduate experience to shape your intersectional approach to care and your identity as a professional, don’t hesitate to make the risky choices that prioritize your passion”

PRABJYOT BAJWA



Educational Background

→ Bachelor of Kinesiology from the University of Regina



Currently...

→ First-year Physiotherapy student with a specific interest in paediatric and pelvic floor physiotherapy

PRABJYOT BAJWA



Advice to Students

- "My advice to students is to be yourself throughout undergrad. It's easy to get caught up in doing things just to build your application, but don't lose sight of who you are. Get involved in activities that genuinely interest you, not just ones that look good on paper. Your unique personality, passions, and experiences are what will make you stand out. Stay true to your values, surround yourself with people who support you, and don't be afraid to take opportunities that excite you, even if they don't seem directly related to your career path. In the end, authenticity matters more than a perfectly crafted resume.."
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NORA KARAMANLIAN



Educational Background

- Honours Bachelor of Science at University of Toronto (2023)
- Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy at McMaster University (expected 2025)



Currently...

- Second-year OT student completing final education term of the program.
- Had a number of placement experiences in outpatient mental health, inpatient acute medicine, and inpatient rehabilitation.

Email: karamann@mcmaster.ca

BUSHRA BHATTI



Educational Background

→ MSCPT, HBSCKIN



Current Job

→ Full time PT in ED



Advice to Students

→ Never give up! The opportunities are endless

Email: bushra.bhatti@hotmail.com

JOSIE BALVERS



Educational Background

- Bachelor of Arts and Science at McGill University
- Currently completing a MScOT at McMaster University



Currently...

- First year OT student
- Completed first placement in outpatient stroke rehabilitation

**Any questions
about
admissions?
Contact...**

PT

Shelby

askpt@mcmaster.ca

SLP

Julia

slpadmin@mcmaster.ca

OT

Jose

askot@mcmaster.ca

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