SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY
CRANIOFACIAL SIG

Division 54, Society of Pediatric Psychology

Notes from the Co-Chairs

It has been another wonderful year! Amy Conrad, one of the SIG’s first two co-chairs, has completed her term and we welcome Canice Crerand in her place. Our committees have been working on presentations and short courses to spread our goals/mission. ACPA brought the third annual Mental Health Forum and fourth annual SIG meeting, where we were joined by other mental health professionals working with families impacted by a craniofacial diagnosis. As the important role that Mental Health plays in craniofacial care is becoming more widely recognized, goals for the future include increased communication, collaboration and education.

Goal/Mission:
The SIG seeks to improve understanding and treatment of behavioral, emotional, academic, medical, and familial issues that patients experience through evidence-based practice.

SIG Structure:
Co-Chairs:
- Celia Heppner, PsyD
- Canice Crerand, PhD
Student Representative:
- Lillian Hamill, BS
Committees:
- Outreach/Recruitment Committee
- Evidence Based Practices Committee
AmeriCleft Updates [Canice Crerand]
The AmeriCleft initiative seeks to increase standardized measurement of treatment outcomes to allow for comparisons across institutions. The Psychosocial group (composed of social workers and psychologists) met initially in 2013 and over the course of 1½ years, has developed a protocol designed to evaluate the family dynamics, psychosocial functioning, and quality of life of patients. Over the past year, the committee has finalized the assessment battery and drafted an IRB protocol with the goal of collecting data at six sites (Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH; Shriners’ Hospital, Chicago, IL; The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, Iowa City, IA; Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, Lancaster, PA; and Children’s Medical Center, Dallas, TX). The battery will be administered to patients between the ages of 8-10 years old along with their parents. Other sites interested in participating can contact the Americleft Psychosocial Committee Chair, Dr. Kathy Kapp-Simon, at kapp.simon@gmail.com.

Student Spotlight [Glynnis McDonnell]
“I have had an interest in the psychosocial development of children, adolescents, and young adults with medical conditions since I began working toward my master’s degree in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University in 2011. Currently, I am a member of a lab at St. John’s University that conducts research relating to the psychosocial development of children and adolescents with craniofacial conditions. I am assisting with several projects about social competence and self-esteem in this population, as well as the role of parents in scaffolding the social interactions of children with craniofacial conditions. Through this research, I have learned about the social challenges faced by children with craniofacial conditions and the strategies they and their parents utilize to cope with these challenges. I hope to build upon this experience to identify strategies to support the social development of children, adolescents, and young adults with chronic illnesses.”

Announcements
Member Publications


Member Grants


Alexis Johns—Donation to help fund Division of Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery and Craniofacial and Cleft Center support groups, Meta and George Rosenberg Foundation, 2014.