Notes from the Co-Chairs

It has been another busy but wonderful year! Celia Heppner completed her term in December 2015, and we welcome Tricia Marik in her place. ACPA brought the fourth annual Mental Health Forum and fifth annual SIG meeting, where we were joined by other mental health professionals working with families impacted by a craniofacial diagnosis. Canice and Tricia also attended SPPAC in April where they had a chance to discuss the SIG and ways of improving our visibility at this conference. We are excited about our current accomplishments and look forward to a productive year ahead!

Committee Updates [Canice Crerand and Tricia Marik]

At the time of this newsletter, there are 33 official members of the Craniofacial SIG. Our numbers have declined, mostly due to lapsed SPP dues. Please remember to renew your SPP membership each year to maintain your SIG membership. Also, please contact Canice or Tricia if you are not receiving listserv announcements.

Evidence-Based Practice and Outreach Committee accomplishments are highlighted below.

Evidence-Based Practice Committee: Americleft Update [Canice Crerand]

The Americleft Psychosocial Outcomes Committee has been hard at work over the past year. This Committee is charged with increasing standardized measurement of cleft treatment outcomes to allow for comparisons across institutions. The Committee has developed a protocol designed to evaluate the family dynamics, psychosocial functioning, and quality of life of children with cleft lip and/or palate between the ages of 8 and 10 years of age and their parents. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Kapp-Simon, the Americleft Committee was recently awarded a 3 year grant from the Cleft Palate Foundation to support this project which will take place at six sites (Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH; Shriner’s 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). Data collection is set to begin in July 2016. Results of this study will be used to help inform treatment outcome assessment and ways of improving care for children and families.

Outreach Committee [Tricia Marik]

Several years ago, the Craniofacial SIG hosted a discussion about the challenges presented in cleft care. The difficulty many of us have with finding mental health providers with cleft specific training or experience (or even formal pediatric or health psychology training) in local communities that may be hours from a major medical center was cited as a common challenge. Through this discussion, it was determined that the SIG would create a Fact Sheet for Mental Health Providers working with patients with CLP. This fact sheet was created by considering the psychosocial consequences that would be most relevant to outpatient mental health providers such as mood, learning, and behavioral concerns impacting patients, family factors, and developmental risks as well as briefly describing relevant evidence-based assessments and interventions. Our goal was for this fact sheet to be one page for ease of reading and reference for the community providers. After creating an initial draft, the fact sheet was circulated to SIG members for review and input. Feedback was then solicited from psychotherapists, clinical psychologists and child and adolescent psychiatrists at a children’s hospital. The Fact Sheet is also available for downloading via the Craniofacial SIG website (www.http://www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org/craniofacial). We hope to create additional similar teaching sheets addressing other craniofacial conditions (e.g., craniosynostosis) that can be used to facilitate referrals to community providers.

Goals/Mission:
The SIG seeks to improve understanding and treatment of behavioral, emotional, academic, medical, and familial issues that patients experience through evidence-based practice.
Attention SIG Members! We need your help. We recently sent out a BRIEF survey to help us get to know members better and their interests/activities. If you have not yet completed the survey, you may do so through July 1, 2016.

The link is: https://redcap.nchri.org/surveys/?s=9CKNC4888J

Student Spotlight (Claudia Crilly Bellucci)

“After a number of careers (including teacher; banker, program director) and years spent volunteering with underserved youth populations, I decided to attend graduate school in psychology. Since earning a master’s degree, I have spent the past 13 years with a cleft/craniofacial team as research project coordinator. The projects have included studies of quality of life of children with congenital and developmental facial-skeletal conditions, the neurobehavioral correlates of infants and children with craniosynostosis and craniofacial microsomnia, reading outcomes for children with clefts and patient-centered outcomes of infants and children with clefts. I am currently a doctoral student in International Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. One of my primary interests is quality of life, particularly as situated within the context of culture. My dissertation proposes to measure quality of life of children and adolescents with cleft lip and palate in Mexico City, Mexico compared to similar findings in the United States. Upon receiving my PhD, I plan to continue to conduct research in the area of cleft and craniofacial care.”

Announcements

Member Publications and Presentations


Kapp-Simon, KA, Wallace E, Collett BR, Birgfield CB, Starr JR, Patel PK, Speltz ML. Surgery age, anesthesia exposure, and neurodevelopment in children with single-suture craniosynostosis. 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association, April 8, 2016, Atlanta, GA.


Member Grants

Cleft Palate Foundation Clinical Research Grant


This grant is sponsored by the Cleft Palate Foundation and is designed to promote scientific research regarding developmental and therapeutic issues related to cleft and craniofacial conditions. This is a three-year, $24,000 grant.