

# Meet the Team that is Building a Brighter 100 Years.



**Dr. Naveen Poonai,**  
*Principal Investigator*

Dr. Naveen Poonai is an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics in the Division of Paediatric Emergency Medicine. He is also cross-appointed to the Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology & Biostatistics. Dr. Poonai is the Chair of the Children's Health & Therapeutics Division of the Children's Health Research Institute, the Research Director of the Division of Paediatric Emergency Medicine, and a member of Western University's Health Sciences Research Ethics Board.

He is also a national leader in acute pain research: editing academic journals, disseminating rigorous clinical evidence, creating hubs for pain research and teaching physicians and nurses about managing pain.

He has published over 75 peer-reviewed articles, been a guest speaker at 20 events in six countries and been recognized with no less than five award titles for his research on procedural sedation and management of acute pain in children.

Naveen is currently the principal investigator for PRECIPICE: Predictors of chronic pain and related conditions in children - a longitudinal cohort study.



**Dr. Dwight Moulin,**  
*Chronic Pain Specialist*

Dr. Dwight Moulin is currently a Professor in Western's Departments of Clinical Neurological Sciences and Oncology at the Schulich School of Medicine. He was also Earl Russell Chair of Pain Medicine until 2020.

He has published extensively on the management of chronic pain, authoring over 100 scientific papers and numerous book chapters. He has also led ground-breaking trials and studies on pain management for non-cancer pain and neuropathic pain, as well as spearheading the recognition of the pain experienced with neurological disorders.

Dr. Moulin is a national leader in chronic pain research: chairing special interest groups, leading comprehensive analyses, helping found the subspecialty of pain medicine in medical schools, and receiving a Distinguished Career Award from the Canadian Pain Society.



**Dr. David Walton,**  
*Acute to Chronic Pain  
Transition Specialist*

Dr. David Walton is a Physiotherapist and Associate Professor with Western's School of Physical Therapy, and Department of Psychiatry in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. He is an Associate Scientist with the Lawson Health Research Institute and Western's Bone and Joint Institute, and Director of the Pain and Quality of Life Integrative Research Lab. He is also an Honorary Associate Professor of Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney.

Dr. Walton has authored a musculoskeletal pain textbook, over 100 scientific publications and book chapters and led several national and international presentations and workshops. His current research interest is the assessment and prognosis in acute and chronic pain arising from whiplash, sporting, or work injuries.

He holds two Teaching Awards of Excellence and three highly regarded Canadian awards. He is also the only person in Western's history to simultaneously hold the Western Faculty Scholar award and the Western Teaching Fellowship.



**Dr. Sheena Belisle,**  
*Quality Improvement Specialist*

Dr. Sheena Belisle completed her Doctor of Medicine at The Northern Ontario School of Medicine and her paediatric residency and emergency medicine fellowship training at Western University. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Paediatrics. She has an interest in quality improvement and patient safety and is currently completing her Masters of Science in Healthcare Quality from Queen's University.



**Dr. Jennifer Crotogino,**  
*Psychologist*

Dr. Jennifer Crotogino is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Clinical Psychology, the Departments of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, and of Paediatrics at Western University.

Dr. Crotogino addresses the needs of children and youth with complex pain as a Psychologist for the Paediatric Chronic Pain Program and member of Children's Comfort Promise Steering Committee, which disseminates information about approaches to reduce the pain of vaccinations, IV insertions and other needle procedures.

She helped develop the national Pain registry and collaborates internationally to train, implement, and evaluate clinical group interventions for teens with chronic pain through The Comfort Ability program. She has been published in multiple academic journals and given international presentations, which address both: abnormal bodily processes that contribute to migraine headaches, and understanding, preventing and treating pain in children and youth.



**Dr. Abirami Kandasamy,**  
*Psychologist*

Dr. Abirami Kandasamy is a full-time Psychologist with the Paediatric Chronic Pain Program at LHSC, an Adjunct Clinical Professor at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry in the Department of Anesthesia, an Associate Scientist at the Children's Health Research Institute, and the Clinical Director of Nanthi Psychology & Wellness.

Dr. Kandasamy specializes in child and adolescent mental health and paediatric chronic pain, while her research focuses on developing and validating innovative and novel assessment and intervention tools. Her current research focus is the effectiveness of virtual pain treatment for children with paediatric chronic pain. Dr. Kandasamy also collaborates on provincial committees to improve clinical care and research on paediatric chronic pain.



**Kathleen Lynch,**  
*Paediatric Chronic Pain Specialist*

Kathleen Lynch has a Master's of Science in Physiotherapy from Dalhousie University and is fluently bilingual. She lectures at both Western's school of Physiotherapy and provincial Children's Treatment Centres, educating others about chronic pain in children.

Ms. Lynch is also a physiotherapist at TVCC and Children's Hospital in the Paediatric Chronic Pain Program. She is a leader in two provincial committees, representing publicly funded chronic pain programs and organizing an annual educational conference for paediatric chronic pain health care providers.

Ms. Lynch was instrumental in designing the Paediatric Surgical Pain Pathway that helps decrease children's surgical pain. She is a co-investigator for the pathway's ongoing research and multiple research studies related to neuromuscular conditions.



**Erica Figgins,**  
*Research Coordinator*

Erica Figgins completed her Bachelor of Science in Behaviour Cognition and Neuroscience at the University of Windsor in 2018 and obtained her Masters of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Western University in 2020. Erica joined the Division of Paediatric Emergency Medicine in 2021 as a Clinical Research Coordinator. Prior to this, she worked as a research coordinator in the Division of Emergency Medicine at LHSC, where she assisted with the design, conduct, and management of multiple staff and resident-lead research studies. She is broadly interested in the application of health research methodologies to explore determinants of health across the lifespan and has published peer-reviewed articles on the risk factors associated with mobility performance in older adults.



**Dr. Paul Tremblay,**  
*Biostatistician*

Dr. Paul Tremblay is an Assistant Professor in Western's Department of Psychology and chair of the Social, Personality and Developmental Psychology Research Cluster. Dr. Tremblay helped develop graduate courses for the Research for Policy and Evaluation Master's in the faculty of Social Science. He also supervises Doctoral, Master's, and undergraduate students, receiving multiple Dean's Excellence Award.

Dr. Tremblay made significant contributions as a: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Scientist, principal investigator for two projects on alcohol consumption patterns, aggression, and depressive symptoms among university students, and author of 60 peer-reviewed publications and 12 book chapters. His publications focus on developing and validating cognitive tests that measure how individual differences influence personality, academic motivation, aggression, and depressive symptoms.



**Kyna Patterson,**  
*Knowledge Transition Specialist*

Kyna Patterson holds an Honours Bachelor of Health Science at the University of Western Ontario, a post-graduate diploma in Child Life Studies and a Master's of Science in Child Life and Paediatric Psychosocial Care from McMaster University. She is a Certified Child Life Specialist and Operations Manager at Children's Hospital, as well as an Implementation Co-Lead for the Children's Comfort Promise.

Kyna provides care to patients and families in various clinical settings, with a focus on psychosocial intervention for procedural pain. She is interested in knowledge mobilization related to paediatric procedural pain management and integrating evidence-based practices in clinical care to improve outcomes. At a national level, she is an executive member of the Canadian Association of Child Life Leaders.



**Colleen Haskett,**  
*Patient Engagement Lead*

Colleen Haskett is an active volunteer with the CHWO Family Advisory Committee and a Family Resource Facilitator with the Paediatric Family Resource Center. She is passionate about health equity, diversity and inclusion and regularly speaks to the impact of chronic pain on varying patient populations at LHSC conferences, parent sessions and during the Comfort Promise rollout.

As a parent to three young adults, two of whom live with chronic pain, she has lived experience advocating for their needs in education, health care and workplace systems. Colleen is also a Patient Partner with Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP) and recognizes the need for ongoing patient engagement to support knowledge translation.