



FPWR-Canada Awards



FPWR Canada Young Investigator Award

For a Junior Investigator who has made outstanding contributions to research in Prader-Willi syndrome, and who has demonstrated commitment to the PWS community.



To Dr. Kate Woodcock, School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast, for her studies on cognitive deficits in PWS, difficulties with changes to plans or routines and the development of tools and strategies for temper outbursts triggered by changes.

Dr. Kate Woodcock is a Lecturer in Psychology at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. Her research focuses on individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders who face difficulties because of their disruptive behaviours. Her work aims to examine factors that can influence these behaviours, including genes, brain functioning, cognitions, and multiple aspects of the environment. Kate is particularly interested in how different types of factors interact to affect behaviour and how to use our knowledge of these interactions to develop and test strategies that will be beneficial for individuals and their families. Kate's PhD research focused on Prader-Willi syndrome and much of her research since then has been designed to better understand the syndrome and how we can ameliorate the difficulties associated with it. Kate completed her BSc with Honours and PhD degrees in Psychology at the University of Birmingham, UK, before completing a two year postdoctoral fellowship at the Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders, also at the University of Birmingham. Kate then won a three year Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship from the European Commission, which included two years conducting research on the cognitive neuroscience of emotion control at Peking University, China. Kate took up her lectureship at Queen's in March 2014.

FPWR Canada Trainee Publication Award

For a trainee who made a significant contribution to a research publication relevant to PWS that has been published during the years 2013-2016.



To Lauren Rice, Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney, Sydney Australia, for her role in the publication "A Double-Blind Randomized Controlled Trial of Oxytocin Nasal Spray in Prader Willi Syndrome."

Lauren has recently completed a PhD under the supervision of Professor Stewart Einfeld at the Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney. Her thesis explored the characteristics and causal mechanisms of temper outbursts in Prader Willi syndrome (PWS). Two mechanisms of interest were in vivo brain glutamate and gamma-aminobutyric acid concentration and abnormalities in the integrity and connectivity of the white matter tract. She also worked on the first double-blind placebo-controlled trial of oxytocin in PWS and is now investigating the nature of the PWS oxytocin abnormality. In addition to her thesis work, Lauren has used longitudinal data collected by Professor Einfeld to understand the developmental trajectory of disruptive and self-injurious behaviours in PWS. Lauren is a board member of the Prader Willi Syndrome Association of New South Wales and a member of the Society for the Study of Behavioural Phenotypes.

FPWR Canada “Eliminate the Challenges” Award

For a member of the PWS community who has embraced the mission of FPWR - to eliminate the challenges of Prader-Willi syndrome through the advancement of research.



To Professor Tony Holland for a lifetime of work in the area of intellectual and developmental disabilities, and more specifically in Prader-Willi syndrome. Prof. Holland’s dedication to improving the lives of people with PWS through your clinical practice, research, involvement in patient advocacy groups, conference organization, and in an advisory capacity on legal and ethical issues is truly remarkable.

Tony Holland trained in Medicine at University College and University College Hospital, London, qualifying in 1973. After some years in General Medicine he trained in Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry in London. From 1992 to 2002 he held a University Lecturer’s post in the Section of Developmental Psychiatry in the University of Cambridge, and in 2002 was awarded the Health Foundation Chair in Learning (Intellectual) Disability establishing the Cambridge Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Group (www.CIDDRG.org.uk). This multidisciplinary group undertakes a broad range of research relevant to people with intellectual disabilities. His clinical work has been as a consultant psychiatrist with the specialist learning disabilities services for Cambridgeshire, working in the multidisciplinary Intensive Assessment and Support Service (IASS) in the community. His specific research interests include the eating, behavioural and mental health problems associated with having Prader Willi Syndrome; the relationship between Down’s syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease, and also clinical/legal issues relevant to the needs of people with intellectual disabilities. With colleagues he has published research extensively on these topics in academic and practice-based journals. He works closely with charitable organisations and he is Patron of the UK Prader Willi Syndrome Association and Chairs the Clinical and Scientific Advisory Board of the International PWS Organisation. In 2010 he was elected a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences. Since October 2015 he has held an Emeritus position at the University of Cambridge. In 2015, Professor Holland was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to Psychiatry.



Headline Sponsor

The Foundation for Prader-Willi Research was founded in 2003 with the mission to eliminate the challenges of Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) through the advancement of research. To date, FPWR has funded over \$7 million dollars of high quality PWS research around the world. FPWR supports innovative research along the entire translational spectrum, from fundamental studies of the underlying molecular mechanisms of PWS, through the development and evaluation of novel therapies. FPWR also makes targeted investments to foster collaboration among stakeholders and build critical research resources. Recent initiatives include the launch of the Global PWS Registry and The International Consortium to Advance Clinical Trials for PWS. Fundraising comes through the tireless efforts of families, friends, volunteers, and other supporters. FPWR is honored to be a sponsor for this year's IPWSO conference. We thank the scientific community for their outstanding work on behalf of those with PWS, and we look forward to an informative and inspiring program.

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