

2008/2009 Seed Funding Grant Recipients

In fiscal 2008/2009, the POGO Research Unit (PRU) provided four Seed Funding Grants to facilitate research projects that demonstrate relevance to the vision and goals of the PRU.

Dr. Maru Barrera and her research team were awarded \$14,999 for their project entitled *A Feasibility Pilot Test Study of Group Therapy for Bereaved Siblings*. The ultimate goal of this study is to develop evidence-based interventions that will improve the well-being of all children and their families affected by pediatric cancer. The research team has developed a manualized group intervention that aims to foster coping with grief and psychosocial adjustment during the first year after the death of a sibling. Testing the feasibility and effectiveness of this intervention will ensure that these children receive optimal help for better reintegration into their daily lives in the community.

Dr. Laura Janzen and her research team received \$14,431 in support of *Atypical Development Prior to Diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Incidence and Neurocognitive Outcomes*. The researchers will characterize the nature and frequency of atypical development in children newly diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). They will also determine whether children with atypical development prior to a diagnosis of ALL experience a higher rate of acute treatment-related neurotoxicity or poorer long-term cognitive, behavioural, and quality of life outcomes after treatment relative to children who have a history of typical development at the time of diagnosis.

Drs. Anne Klassen and David Dix received \$14,691 in support of their project entitled *Developing a Questionnaire to Measure Job Satisfaction and Work-Related Stress and Burnout in Pediatric Oncology Staff*. This study will collaborate with investigators and clinicians at the University of York (United Kingdom) in the development of a questionnaire to measure job satisfaction and work-related stress from the perspective of pediatric oncology staff (doctors, nurses, social workers, and child-life specialists). More specifically, the objective of this feasibility study is to understand and to identify the main sources of job satisfaction and work-related stress and burnout in Canadian pediatric oncology staff.

Dr. Lillian Sung and her research team were awarded \$14,992 in support of her project entitled *ChIMES - Understandability and Content Validity*. Oral mucositis is one of the most debilitating side effects of chemotherapy. The overall goal of this study is to iteratively interview parents and children in order to evaluate the understandability, content validity, and overall acceptability of ChIMES (Children's International Mucositis Evaluation Scale). The researchers will sequentially modify ChIMES based upon the comments and re-evaluate the modified instrument with a new group of parents and children.