

Roundtable on Father Research and Clinical Practice

Workshop Description

The aim of this roundtable is to engage researchers and clinicians who are interested in including fathers in their work to address the current challenges and future directions of the field. The inclusion of fathers in perinatal mental health research and clinical practice is relatively new and, thus, this an opportunity for us further this field of work. The first objective is to have the opportunity for researchers and clinicians in this area of work to congregate, interact, network, and share their ideas and experiences. We also hope this is an opportunity to mentor the next generation of scholars. Second, we aim to address the barriers to research on fathers, including recruitment/retention, funding opportunities, biases in publication, and national policy. The third objective is to address the difficulties with inclusion of fathers in clinical treatment, including access to fathers, screening mental health, clinical presentation of mood and anxiety disorders, how to use them as assets to maternal and family health, and challenges in engagement of fathers. The discussion of the roundtable will be summarized to develop a document highlighting key points on the direction for father research and clinical practice.

Registration Fee

\$0.00

Target Audience

Researchers and clinicians who are focused on inclusion of fathers or interested in including fathers in their work.

Presented by

Sheehan D. Fisher, PhD

Dr. Fisher's research career focuses on the effects of perinatal and subsequent parental mental health on infant/child health outcomes, with a specialization in the emerging field of father mental health. More specifically, he examines: 1) the biopsychosocial risk factors for parental psychopathology, 2) the impact of parental psychopathology on parenting behaviors and the family environment, and 3) the combined effect of the family environment on infant/child medical and emotional health outcomes. His aim is to reconceptualize parental mental health research to integrally involve fathers to differentiate the etiology, course, and potential interactivity of paternal and maternal mental health and, in turn, the longitudinal associations with child medical and mental health.

Richard Fletcher, PhD

Dr. Richard Fletcher leads the Fathers and Families Research Program (FFRP) within the Family Action Centre at the University of Newcastle. The FFRP team focus on research and teaching around fathers, particularly fathers of young children and babies. Richard believes that we as a society need to change our expectations and beliefs relating to the role of fathers, for the benefit of the whole family and wider society.

Craig Garfield, MD

Dr. Garfield is a Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Social Sciences. His research focuses on child health within the context of the family, with a particular emphasis on the social determinants of health, the role of fathers and special attention to the ability of technology to support parenting.

Paul Ramchandani, PhD

Dr. Ramchandani is the LEGO® Professor of Play in Education, Development and Learning at Cambridge University, UK. His research is focused on early child development and he has a particular interest in how we give children the best start in life, including the prevention of emotional and behavioural difficulties. Much of this work has explored the role of fathers, as well as mothers, in children's lives and development.

Daniel Singley, PhD

Dr. Singley is the founder of The Center for Men's Excellence that offers clinical treatment to men, with a focus on fathers' experience throughout their child's life. He also leads a research team conducting ongoing research projects aimed at more clearly understanding the factors most central to new fathers.