

International Conference on Child Development and Learning

(Conference Programme)

Organized by "Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities",

Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Co-Organized by "Joint PolyU - Peking U Centre for Child Development and Learning",

Department of Psychology, Peking University

Sponsored by "Scientific Learning Corporation", U.S.A.

17th December 2011 (Saturday)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Lecture Theatre TU103, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

| Time | Program |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00-9:15am | Registration |
| 9:15-9:30am | Opening ceremony Prof. James Lee (Head & Professor, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University) |
| 9:30-10:15am | How the core cognitive and linguistic attributes (Memory, Attention, Processing and Sequencing) that define a student's ability to benefit from classroom instruction can be successfully improved by using acoustically modified speech technology Dr. William Jenkins (Chief Scientific Officer, Scientific Learning, U.S.A.) |
| 10:15-10:30am | Break |
| 10:30-11:15am | Multiple Deficits of Chinese Developmental Dyslexia: A Neuroscience Based Remediation Program Using Fast ForWord and Reading Assistant Dr. Alice Cheng-Lai (Associate Professor & Person-in-Charge, Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University) |
| 11:15-12:00am | How "do-able" small changes can be: best practice from teachers school-based try-out projects & establishing the dyslexic friendly school: teaching strategies for students with learning difference Mr. Neil MacKay (Chief Executive Officer, Action Dyslexia, U.K.) |
| 12:00-13:30pm | Lunch break (not provided) |
| 13:30-14:15pm | Literacy training and speech therapy for children with learning disabilities Dr. M. T. Leung (Associate Professor, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, Hong Kong Polytechnic University) |
| 14:15-15:00pm | Neuro-imaging studies of Chinese developmental dyslexia Dr. Xiangzhi Meng (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Peking University) |

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| 15:00-15:15 pm | Break |
| 15:15-16:00pm | Showcase Fast ForWord and Reading Assistant Ms. Cheryl Chia (Centre Director, BrainFit Studio, S.G.) |
| 16:00-16:30pm | Concluding & Thanks Remarks Dr. Alice Cheng-Lai (Associate Professor & Person-in-Charge, Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University) |
| 16:30-17:00pm | Questions and Answers Site-visit to Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities |



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Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre TU103, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

WELCOME

We are pleased to announce an **International Conference on Child Development and Learning** to be held on **17 December 2011** at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Lecture Theatre, **TU103**. The International Conference is organized by "Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities", Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Co-Organized by "Joint PolyU - Peking U Centre for Child Development and Learning", Department of Psychology, Peking University, and sponsored by "Scientific Learning Corporation" from the United States of America.

ABSTRACT

The Conference brings together researchers working in different areas in the fields of learning disabilities (dyslexia) in children, in an effort to promote the integration of research in all aspects. The conference looks into speech technology that could benefit students, such as neurological-based training, which has drawn increasing attention and been widely known by Hong Kong families in recent years. World-wide speakers will present their work at the Conference; they are all researchers from linguistics, neuro-cognitive science, psychology, speech therapy, consultancy experts and language education. The Conference seeks to create a platform to facilitate presentation and the exchange of recent findings on Chinese speaking children learning English as a second language. We hope to forge a dialogue and synergy between researchers who share similar interests in bilingual acquisition, stimulating research with an interdisciplinary perspective. The Conference will be of interest to a wide spectrum of professionals in childhood education, second language acquisition, speech science and teacher training.

SPEAKERS

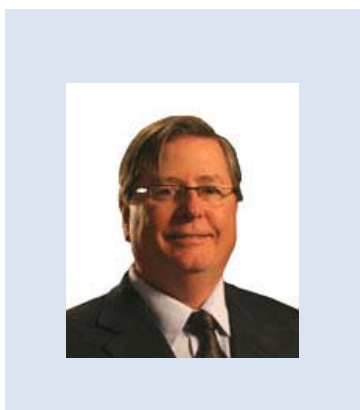


Alice Cheng-Lai (Department of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Dr. Alice Cheng-Lai is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Social Sciences, and Person-in-charge of Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as well as the Director of Joint PolyU-Peking U Centre for Child Development and Learning. Her major specialty focuses on brain and

evidence-based assessment and intervention of learning disabilities in children and youths. Based on the published findings from her various projects, Dr. Cheng-Lai has developed an Early Identification and Intervention System for Young Children with Reading/Learning Disabilities. The system offers solutions of early identification and intervention for young children with potentially at risk learning disabilities.

Dr. Cheng-Lai has led the establishment of “Manulife Centre for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities” in 1999, located at HJ201 in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The Centre sees its mission as taking a leading role in the holistic development of children with SpLD in Hong Kong, through providing academic and professional services such as assessment, training and counseling.



William M. Jenkins (Scientific Learning)

William M. Jenkins, Ph.D., is Scientific Learning's Chief Scientific Officer. One of the Scientific Learning founders, he joined the company on its inception from a faculty position at the Keck Center for Integrative Neurosciences at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

Dr. Jenkins is an expert in learning-based brain plasticity, behavioral algorithms, and psychophysical methods, as well as an expert in multimedia and Internet technology.

Dr. Jenkins earned his bachelor's degree in psychology, along with a master's degree and Ph.D. in psychobiology, from Florida State University. He is an author or co-author of more than 100 publications, 13 commercial software products and holds 40 U.S. patents and 12 foreign patents. He was recognized by Discovery Magazine in its annual Awards for Technology Innovations and received the Year 2000 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award.



Meng Xiangzhi (Department of Psychology, Peking University)

Dr. Meng Xiangzhi is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology, and Co-director of Peking University - Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Joint-center for child development and learning at Peking University, Beijing. Her major interest of research area focuses on Reading development, Reading disabilities, Early Language development, and Chinese - speaking children learning

English as a second language: development and variations, remediation and brain plasticity. Dr. Meng has been the P.I for various research projects and been very active in publications.



Neil MacKay (Action Dyslexia)

Mr. MacKay is a well-known consultant and trainer who created the concept of Dyslexia Friendly Schools. He is an experienced teacher who has taught for 26 years, working with children with a wide range of ages, needs and ability.

Mr. MacKay is known for his ability to bring the classroom into his training and for providing lively, entertaining and thought provoking opportunities for teachers and teaching assistants to reflect on and develop their practice.

His audiences particularly appreciate his ability to offer workable responses to a range of learning needs, including AD(H)D, Asperger's Syndrome and Dyspraxia in ways which meet diverse learning needs without affecting the work of the rest of the class.



Leung Man Tak (Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Dr. Leung is an Associate professor of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He received his Speech Pathologist qualification from Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, Australia and his Ph. D. degree from The University of Hong Kong. Dr. Leung specialized in research and teaching on language processing, acquired language disorders and

children reading development. He has developed several treatment approaches for teaching reading to dyslexic students and has gained substantial experience in conducting school-based treatment in Hong Kong. He has published articles, books, book chapters on

corpus linguistics, reading and its relationship with cognitive, psychological and linguistic development, standardized assessment and treatment for dyslexia.



Cheryl Chia Li Chin (BrainFit Studio)

Ms. Cheryl Chia holds a Master Degree in Physiotherapy Studies (Paediatrics) from University of Queensland (“UQ”), Australia. She was awarded a full scholarship from KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital (“KK Hospital”) in Singapore to study Physiotherapy at UQ, where she was subsequently conferred membership in the Golden Key National Honor Society in recognition of outstanding scholastic

achievement and excellence.

She has more than 15 years of work experience, with over 4 years of clinical physiotherapy experience in KK Hospital where she held various responsibilities including being the overall co-ordinator for paediatric neurology physiotherapy. Ms Chia was also part-time lecturer on Paediatric Neurology Physiotherapy and Paediatric Orthopaedics Physiotherapy at the School of Health Sciences, Nanyang Polytechnic.

Ms Chia has keen interest in multi-disciplinary intervention approaches as well as brain research on learning skills. As the Founder and Director of BrainFit Studio and BrainFit Classroom, Ms Chia is widely recognised by industry peers and has presented at numerous international conferences and symposiums related to brain fitness development. Currently with twelve centres in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines and Thailand, BrainFit Studio focuses on helping children aged 4 to 18 years old improve their brain fitness skills and learning abilities, while BrainFit Classroom focuses on academic content learning while incorporating brain fitness enhancement.