



31st March 2009

Dear Colleague

We are writing to both introduce ourselves and to invite you to an afternoon research meeting, followed by an open lecture to be given by our guest, Professor Bruce Tomblin. Bruce is to give the Tom Ingram Trust Lecture. This generous support is undertaken in memory of Dr Tom Ingram who was the first paediatric neurologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. He set up the first multi-disciplinary clinic for children with speech and language disorders in Scotland which was established in the mid-1950s.

Professor Bruce Tomblin joined the faculty at the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of Iowa in 1972. In 1999 he was named to the D. C. Spriestersbach Distinguished Professorship in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Bruce has many years of expertise in the area of developmental speech and language disorders. Bruce is also well-known for several federally funded research grants concerned with the causes, course and outcomes of developmental language disorders in children with specific language impairment and hearing loss. Much of his research has centred on the academic and social outcomes of language impairment obtained from a large scale longitudinal study of children who were epidemiologically sampled and who have now completed their secondary school education. Developing an understanding of the genetic bases of language impairment and the manner in which genetic factors contribute to learning and cognitive mechanisms serving language development is currently at the forefront of Bruce's research with a five-year grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), support from the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR) for a genome-wide linkage scan and support from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust for a genome-wide association study.

The concept of the day is to create a forum to share research being undertaken in Scotland for children with communication disorders, on this occasion with the emphasis on specific language impairment. We plan to have a research meeting in the earlier part of the day at Queen Margaret University where we would envisage an opportunity to foster collaborations between researchers and research active practitioners in Scotland and showcase the research activity being undertaken here.

If you would like to attend the day, we cordially invite you to return the attached registration form through Professor James Law's PA, Elizabeth Leith, her email is eleith@qmu.ac.uk. There is no charge for attending.

If you would like to give a short presentation (15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions), can you please send an abstract (not more than 250 words) outlining your research work to Elizabeth by Monday 20th April. We will let you know whether your abstract has been accepted by Friday 25th April.

The programme would be as follows:-

Wednesday 27 May 2009

- 12 pm: Registration and lunch (to be provided), Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- 1.00-2.30: Seminar sessions on **Intervention in Specific Language Impairment**
- 2.30-3.00: Coffee
- 3.00-4.30: Seminar sessions on **Intervention in Specific Language Impairment**
- 4.30pm: Finish. Head into town for Professor Tomblin's lecture.
- 7.00 pm: Open lecture by Professor Bruce Tomblin
Exploring the borders of communication competence: Outcomes from a childhood of poor language skill.
Venue: Lecture Theatre, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Sciennes Road, Edinburgh

We look forward to hearing from you - please feel free to pass on this information to colleagues.

Yours sincerely

Professor James Law, Director of Centre for Integrated Health Care, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

Professor Anne O'Hare, Consultant paediatrician, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh

Dr Ann Clark, Lecturer, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

Dr Jocelyne Watson, Clinical Director and Senior Lecturer, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

Dr Elspeth McCartney, Reader, Speech and Language Therapy, University of Strathclyde.

Dr Wendy Cohen, Lecturer and Placement Co-ordinator, Speech and Language Therapy, University of Strathclyde.

Mr James Boyle, Reader, Psychology, University of Strathclyde

Directions to Queen Margaret University

The new QMU purpose built campus to the SouthWest of Musselburgh will be open from September 2007 and visitors are reminded that, in keeping with its extensive and inspiring sustainability credentials, car travel should be kept to a minimum. There is a robust and enforced parking policy in place, and visitors should be strongly advised to use sustainable travel methods wherever possible.

From Waverley Train Station (Princes Street)

Any train stopping at Musselburgh would be the best option as the station is right at the entrance to the campus. In addition, trains stopping at Newcraighall station will take you to within a 20 minute walk of the campus. The train journey from Waverley to Musselburgh takes only 6 minutes.

From Edinburgh or East Lothian by car

If, as a visitor, you choose to travel by car, please be aware that there is a parking permit system at the new campus, and prior notification of your intent would save you time and effort on arrival. (For all except visitors, car parking permits are only allocated on the basis of need and are priced according to your vehicle's carbon profile). The new campus is situated between Newcraighall and Musselburgh (SouthWest), and is adjacent to the A1. Travelling from Edinburgh, take the slip road after Newcraighall turn off, travelling from East Lothian, go past the campus and take the next right-hand junction at Newcraighall, and back up onto the A1 heading East, then take the next slip road.

If you are travelling from Musselburgh direction, you should be aware that there is no access to vehicles other than registered buses from Mucklets Bridge, and you must approach the campus from the A1 as above

By car from the West

Take the M8 and head for Edinburgh, at Hermiston Gait junction take the A720 (By-pass) to the right, heading South & East. Continue on by-pass until A1 junction, take a left and follow instructions as if driving from East Lothian.

By car from the North

Once you come off the Forth Road Bridge, follow A90 (Queensferry Road) to Barnton junction, then turn right onto A902 (Maybury Road). At the end take a right onto A8 (Glasgow Road) for a short distance, at roundabout take second exit onto Edinburgh By-pass. Continue on by-pass until A1 junction, take a left and follow instructions as if driving from East Lothian.

Directions to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children

The address is:

Royal Hospital for Sick Children
9 Sciennes Road
Edinburgh
EH9 1LF

For detailed directions, see <http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/hospitals/rhsc.asp>