

Ramping Up the Pace in 2019!

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our PACE Coaching and Parent-Child Connections partners! It's hard to believe that this is our second New Year to celebrate with everyone in the project. Let's all have a safe, healthy, happy, and productive 2019!

MORE FAMILIES CONSENT

We expected enrolment to slow down over the holiday period, but the Qs at several sites decided to forge ahead to invite parents and complete assessments, despite the break. As you can see from our enrolment thermometer, 33 families have now consented to participate – an increase of 8 families since early December. Bravo!

ENROLMENT VARIABILITY

Although our fabulous partner agencies continue to work hard to enroll families in the project, we are seeing a lot of variability from site-to-site. In some sites, enrolments are steadily coming in at the rate we would expect, given the size of the community. In

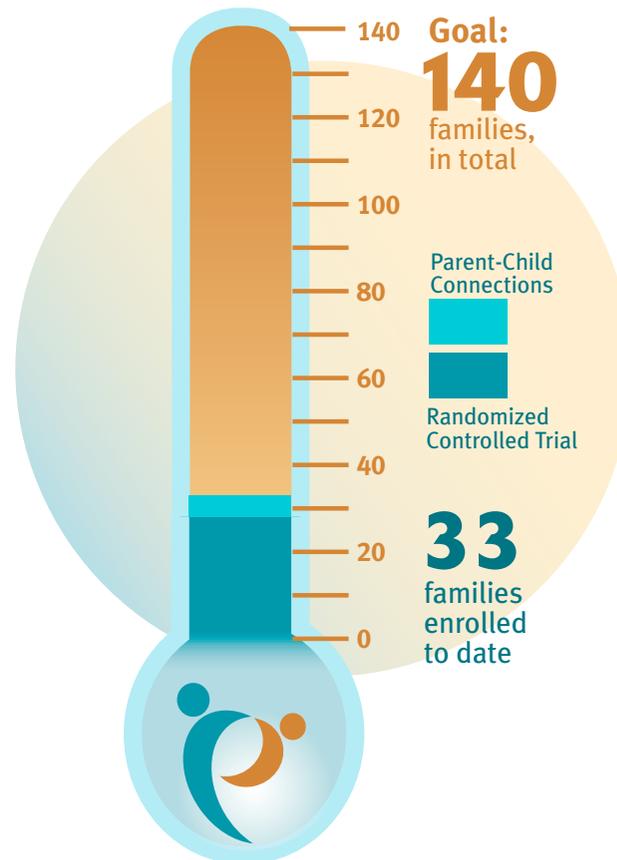
others, enrolment is quite low; and in still others, there have been no enrolments at all so far. Furthermore, almost all of the families whose children have been screened

and enrolled have come from within our partner agencies – that is, they are already connected with the local CDC and are already receiving supports there. Given this, we are not confident that the word is getting out to those in the wider community. This is a concern because we know that, everywhere, there are toddlers with social-communication delays that might put them at risk for autism, who are NOT already connected to the local CDC. So the question is: how do we find them?

SPREADING THE WORD

So far, we have worked with the leadership team and Qs in our partner agencies to distribute information sheets about the project to physicians, health unit professionals, and other family agencies. We have also printed and distributed thousands of parent flyers about the project, and we continue to do so. But now, we want to support our partners to increase recruitment efforts, especially in communities where

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there are fully trained PACE coaches who have not yet started working with families – you know who you are! For example, a member of the research team is willing to travel to low-enrolment communities and explain the project to pediatricians, family physicians, health unit professionals, and/or members of other groups that support families. While we are there, we can also do a workshop for the general public, if you can assist by circulating invitations beforehand to the community-at-large. We also want to increase the use of social media to distribute information – most communities have a Facebook page that is widely used by parents to share information, and we can start using that. We are also thinking of initiating a Twitter feed (#pacecoaching, anyone?) so that the availability of the project can be circulated organically. In fact, if you are in a CDC that currently uses social media to share information – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, whatever – we encourage you to get the word out through one or more of these platforms, starting immediately.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The research team is eager to work with agency teams toward the goal of “ramping up” recruitment over the next few months. Very soon, we will be contacting the Executive Directors and Qs in low-enrolment communities to brainstorm about how to get the word out more broadly. Recruit, recruit, recruit!

The Times Are A-Changing!

ON JANUARY 10, we met with the dedicated members of our project Advisory Committee to provide a progress update and to seek their advice about a number of important issues. Based on their input, we have decided to extend the cut-off date for enrolment of parents in the project to **July 1, 2019**. This means that, in most cases, Qs can continue to consent parents for screening until that date. As usual, parents will then need to complete the M-CHAT-R/F and, if they agree to enroll in the project, the baseline assessments as well. The goal is to enable parents who are assigned to the Parent Coaching group or are in Parent-Child Connections to **begin the coaching process no later than early September 2019**, so that the coaching period is finished by the end of March, 2020. Qs in agencies that are closed in July and/or August will need to adjust the recruitment cut-off date to accommodate this. If you are in one of these agencies, please direct questions about the best cut-off date to Pat Miranda (pat.miranda@ubc.ca).



Heeere's Terry!

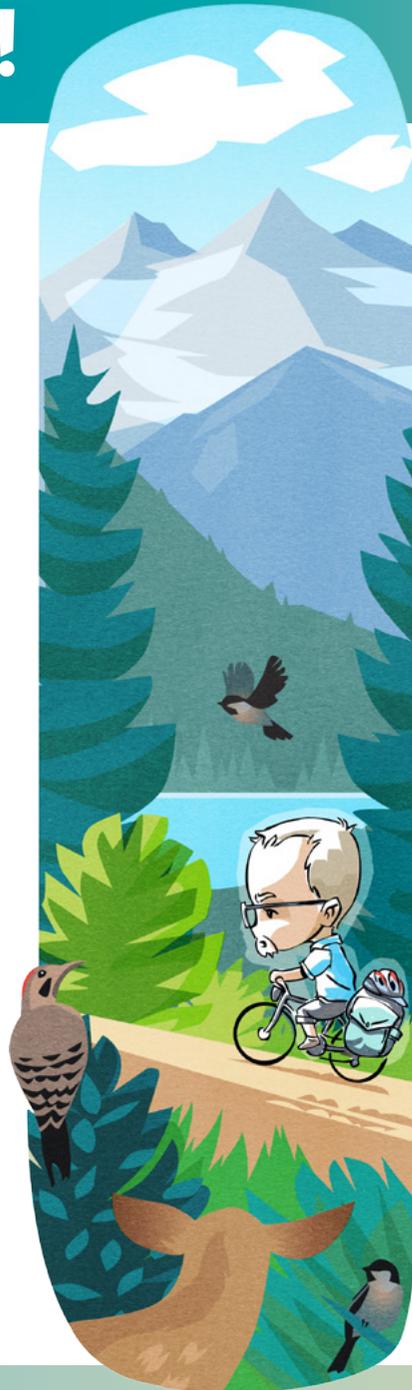
MANY PEOPLE HAVE commented on the terrific design of and images used in our quarterly *Keeping PACE* newsletters and our monthly *Keeping Up the PACE* bulletins. We are often asked who on the research team is responsible for the “look” of the newsletters and the answer is – no one! None of us on the team have the skills needed to produce a newsletter, so we asked Terry Sunderland, a graphic designer who lives in Vancouver, to help us out. Recently, we asked Terry to provide some information about himself and here is what he said:

PACE: What's your hometown?

I GREW UP in Sydney, Nova Scotia and came out to Vancouver when I was twenty-one. My plan was to stay for a year or two. That was in 1981...

PACE: How did you get into the design business? Was it always something you were always interested in?

LIKE MOST DESIGNERS and artists, I got my start by drawing instead of paying attention during class in elementary school. I planned to be a painter and took graphic design at Emily Carr College in the 90s, but I turned to illustration when I moved to Vancouver.



PACE: What's the most fun job you've ever worked on?

I WAS ART DIRECTOR at *Adbusters Magazine* for three years, and directing photo shoots for parody advertisements was amazing. Later, I made the ‘devil-man’ logo for the documentary film *The Corporation*, and we did dozens of variations on it over the years – as a zombie, as a panhandler, as Santa, etc. Making the covers for the *Gay Lesbian Business Association Directory* 20 years ago with my friend Carmen Mills was also really fun. We created a cartoon alphabet using roles, costumes, clichés, businesses and activities from the Vancouver gay community. It got pretty silly, and they gave us a lot of latitude.

PACE: We know you are an avid adventure cyclist. What was your favourite trip?

MY FAVOURITE TRIP was the last one - through the Kootenays and Okanagan from Revelstoke through Kaslo and Christina Lake and ending in Penticton. It was hot and sunny every day, and every day involved climbing another mountain pass. For a camping cyclist, these are good things :)

PACE: Any other favourite things you like to do when you're not toiling away for clients?

EARLY MUSIC Vancouver, reading manga, cleaning house, drawing, and planning future trips to Japan.