



DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND E-LEARNING

LETTER CIRCULAR

**Information:** X **Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
**Action Required:** X **Ref:** DCM 27/2008  
**To:** All Heads of School (State & Non-State) and Sections  
**From:** Director,  
Curriculum Management and E-Learning **Tel:** 2598 2478 / 2598 2480  
**Fax:** 2598 2149  
**E-mail:** [raymond.j.camilleri@gov.mt](mailto:raymond.j.camilleri@gov.mt)  
**Subject:** Seminar – *Managing Sensory Modulation Disorders in Children...*

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Heads of School are kindly requested to bring the attached information from the Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services of St Luke's Hospital to the attention of all teaching staff.

**Raymond J. Camilleri**  
Director, Curriculum Management and E-Learning

## **Seminar**

# ***Managing Sensory Modulation Disorders in Children with Different Developmental Disorders***

***Place: Coastline Hotel  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 (Saturday)  
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.***

## **Content**

Research in the past thirty years has shown that some children with specific learning difficulties, poor motor and behavioural organisation, autistic spectrum disorder, language and communication difficulties, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and challenging behaviour often do not sense the world normally. Their bodies and brains do not use sensations correctly to produce normal, organised learning, movement control and behaviour. These problems occur deep inside the brain without the child's conscious control. What can we do to help these children?

First, we need to recognise that some of these children have a form of Sensory Modulation Disorders (SMD) and that there is some confusion in the activities of their brains. SMD is a problem in the capacity to regulate and organise the degree, intensity, and nature of response to sensory input in a graded and adaptive manner.

Sensory Modulation Disorders are commonly identified in children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and other behavioural-based developmental disorders. SMD disrupts a child's ability to achieve and maintain an optimal range of performance and to adapt to challenges in daily life. Therefore, it is important to apply different treatment techniques and management strategies to help these children to get the normal sensations of life to flow through the brain and activate the normal organising responses of early childhood. With normalised sensory modulation functions, these children will be able to participate in different play, learning, social and daily living activities.

In this seminar, the following topics will be discussed:-

1. Importance of normal sensory modulation function.
2. What is Sensory Modulation Disorder (SMD)?
3. Effects of SMD on leaning and behaviour
4. SMD in children with different developmental disorders.
5. Identification of SMD
6. Behavioural indicators for SMD
7. Treatment approaches / techniques for SMD

At the end of the seminar, participants will have a basic understanding of the concept of Sensory Modulation Disorders, their effect on the child's development and management strategies in supporting these children within home and classroom environment.

## **Speaker**

**Sidney Chu PhD, MSc, OTR**

**Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service Manager  
Ealing Primary Care Trust, England, UK**

Dr. Chu has over 25 years of experience in working with children in both child health and child psychiatry settings. He manages a Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service for children with various disability conditions in different service settings. He has special interest in the assessment and treatment of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), Dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Cerebral Palsy (CP) and Tics Disorder.

He is one of the founder members and ex-Chairperson of the British Institute for Sensory Integration (BISI) which was amalgamated with other organisations to become the Sensory Integration Network – UK & Ireland. He is an honorary member of the SI Network.

Besides a qualification in Occupational Therapy, he also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Biomechanics, a British Dyslexia Association Diploma in Teaching Students with Dyslexia, a Master of Science Degree in Health Psychology and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Science and Social Care. His Doctorate Study is on children with ADHD. He has published research and clinical articles in different professional journals, and also chapters in books. He presents regular clinical workshops to different health, educational and psychological professionals within the UK and also overseas. He has recently been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Brunel University to recognise his contribution in the field.



ST LUKE'S, SIR PAUL BOFFA, MATER DEI  
HOSPITALS

Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services  
Child Development Assessment Unit  
St. Luke's Hospital  
G'Mangia  
Malta

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25<sup>th</sup> February 2008

A seminar is being organised by The Paediatric Occupational Therapists, based at C.D.A.U, St Luke's Hospital, in collaboration with the Malta Association of Occupational Therapists.

The title of the seminar is:

**'Managing Sensory Modulation Disorders in Children with Different developmental disorders'.**

The speaker is Dr Sidney Chu, PhD, MSc, SROT, OTR. (See attached profile and information on the seminar.)

Date: **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Venue: **The Coastline Hotel, Salina Bay, Salina**

Time: **9.30 am to 12.30pm**

Cost: **€20** (includes tea/coffee break)

Kindly send the attached application form together with your cheque payable to 'The Malta Association of Occupational Therapists' by **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008**. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Payment will be acknowledged through receipt forwarded by post.

If you have any queries please call Liliana or Elena on the above numbers.

We look forward to seeing you.

Nathalie Buhagiar  
Principal Paediatric Occupational Therapist  
f/ organising team.



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Kindly complete in block letters and return with payment.

Envelope should be addressed as follows:

Ms Liliana Agius, Senior Occupational Therapist, Sensory Modulation Seminar,  
Occupational Therapy dept., Child Development Assessment Unit, St Luke's Hospital,  
G'Mangia

or

Completed form and payment can be forwarded by hand to Nathalie Buhagiar/ Liliana  
Agius at The Occupational Therapy Dept. Mater Dei hospital (Tuesday and Friday).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of work/ area of practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_