
Plenary: Craniopagus Conjoined Twins: The Journey

Maureen Story, PT

Session description:

Conjoined twins is a rare phenomenon occurring 1 in 200,000 live births. Craniopagus conjoined twins occur 1 out of 2.5 million live births. I have had the unique experience of following a set of craniopagus conjoined twins since their birth. In the absence of commercially available equipment and appropriate developmental assessments for this situation, issues around feeding, sleeping, bathing, transportation and developmental positioning and play needed to be creatively and innovatively addressed. It was also important to include and respect the family, consider quality of life and social participation. Into this mix was thrust the media circus and the very vocal public, and their opinions, that surrounded the girls. In this session I will share my experiences in this incredible journey.

Speaker biography:

Maureen Story is a Physical and Occupational Therapist who has worked in the field of Positioning and Mobility for over 30 years in both private practice and most notably at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children in Vancouver, B.C. She was part of the team that developed and implemented the Positioning and Mobility Clinic at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children and is a clinical instructor at the University of B.C. She has presented at numerous conferences both nationally and internationally, and has been involved in a number of research projects including development of the Seated Postural Control Measure. She has been involved in international health projects in both India and China, and has most recently provided training and guidance to the staff at Guangzhou Children's Hospital to assist them in developing and opening the first pediatric seating clinic in mainland China. Maureen has been a member of the International Seating Symposium committee since its inception in 1983 and has been Co-Chair since 2000.