

## **Are Parents Perpetuating Pain?**

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Professionals working with paediatric patients are acutely aware of the multiple roles a parent plays within the context of a child's illness. Parenting style, interpersonal dynamics and differing personalities may result in challenging interactions between health-care professionals and parents despite both parties having the best of intentions for the patient. This talk examines helpful and unhelpful parental behaviours in the context of acute, procedural and chronic pain, and the effects of such behaviour. Recognising these will help the practitioner open the conversation on the magnitude of influence a parent has on the patient's reactions to pain, medication and therapy, as well as guide parents on appropriate and inappropriate reactions to their child's pain. With the simple skills and readily available resources contained in this session, clinicians will be able to better help parents fulfill their roles as providers, protectors, advocates and life coaches for their children.