



### **Laura Passalent**

Laura Passalent obtained her Bachelor's of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Toronto in 1995 and completed a Masters of Health Science in Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Toronto in 2005. She is a certified Advanced Practitioner in Arthritis Care, having graduated from the ACPAC program in 2008.

Laura Passalent's research focuses on the rehabilitation and education of the spondyloarthritis population, as well as innovative health services delivery by rehabilitation professionals. Her research to date has included the development of a physiotherapist-led screening program for spondyloarthritis and the development, implementation and evaluation of an interdisciplinary education program for patients diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis. She has presented and published on the subjects of physiotherapy for spondyloarthritis, extended scope practice of rehabilitation professionals in arthritis care, access to rehabilitation, and the use of geographic information systems in the analysis of rehabilitation services.

Laura Passalent is a Lecturer at the Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and works as a Physiotherapist Practitioner with the Arthritis Program at the Toronto Western Hospital.

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### **Christopher Hawke**

Christopher Hawke is an advanced practice physiotherapist at Toronto Western Hospital, working in the Arthritis program.

Christopher's practice includes the assessment and treatment of Rheumatology conditions including ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriatic arthritis. Christopher is currently focusing on ankylosing spondylitis and is the principal investigator on a physiotherapy-led screening program to facilitate the early detection of the disease. Other projects include the development of an educational program for ankylosing spondylitis patients, which aims to assess the effectiveness of groups exercise and small group education.

Christopher trained as a physiotherapist in the UK and has worked in acute care for over 5 years with experience in general surgery, critical care, orthopedics and neurosurgery. He has been published in Physiotherapy Canada, holds instructor status at the University of Toronto and is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Rheumatology and the International Journal of Clinical Rheumatology.