

Title:

Developmental Co-ordination Disorder and Insights into Motor Learning

Abstract:

People with developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD) have difficulty co-ordinating body movements and accomplishing tasks involving movement. This seminar will provide an overview of the disorder and outline some important questions about how motor learning is involved in DCD.

Therapist reports and qualitative research suggest that individuals with DCD have trouble learning new tasks and generalizing to new contexts. At the same time, few studies of learning have been conducted with this population. Additionally, little is known about the basic principles by which individuals explore and initially learn a new task.

For these reasons, studies of DCD may serve the dual purpose of (a) leading to better therapeutic approaches for the disorder, and (b) shining light on the processes by which humans perform the initial learning of a motor task.

Speaker Bio:

Scott Young is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Southern California. He works in the laboratory of Terry Sanger, where he studies approaches for measuring and treating dystonia in children. He also collaborates with researchers from Occupational Therapy to develop studies of DCD. Scott completed a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto, where he studied movement-based decision tasks.