

Links

[Become a Member](#)

[CE Center Directory](#)

[CE Training Programs](#)

Spring Events

April

April 18: Marketing
Subcommittee Meeting

May

May 2: Board meeting
May 17: Research
Subcommittee Meeting

June

June 5: Deadline for Board
Nominations
June 6: Board meeting
June 14th - 21st : ACENA
Elections

*For a list of 2017 events,
remember to check out our
[ACENA Calendar!](#)*

*If you would like more
information on any of these
events or wish to attend,
please contact
bjennings@marchofdimes.ca*

ACENA Conference 2018!

Mark your calendars! We
are excited to announce the
date and location of the
2018 ACENA Conference:

August 27th to 29th, 2018
[Sara's Garden](#)
Wauseon, OH

Stay tuned for more details!

National CE Day 2017



photo courtesy of CLC

There are millions of children and adults with motor disorders across North America. ACENA works to advocate the power and purpose of Conductive Education to help these individuals to maximize their independence. Conductive Education has the potential to make a significant, life-changing impact on the mobility and independence of close to nine million people in the United States and Canada. Millions more will also indirectly benefit - spouses, parents and caregivers - by having loved ones become more independent, motivated and self-sufficient.

On Thursday, February 16, 2017 the member organizations of ACENA celebrated Conductive Education Day! Here are some of the ways that Centers celebrated:



Photo courtesy of CFI

Center for Independence through Conductive Education : Northwest Site

As the children entered into class, there was a sense that something was a little different; all of us wearing green, our space decorated in green,



CE Day: Photo courtesy of MODC

ACENA Elections 2017-2018

It's that time again. We are looking for members to join us on our board. Elections will occur **June 14th - 21st** so don't forget to vote! This year there are five positions up for election:

- President - Elect (to run for this office, a member must have first served a term on the Board);
- Secretary;
- Director of Communications;
- Director of Finance;
- Director of Continuing Education (to run for this office, a member must be a CET and;
- Director of Program Operations

If you would like to run for one of these positions, please contact Nominations Chair, Steven Fong at sfong@marchofdimes.ca.

and handing out green T-shirts to all the kids. The purpose was to get their attention, in the hopes of getting them to ask, "Why is everything green?" Well it sort of worked. It got their attention anyways. Throughout the free sitting program, we discussed what conductive education means, and what it means to have CP. As we transitioned to the lying program, we talked about what they can and cannot do and why. These conversations led to many interesting discoveries about themselves. It helped them think about what adjustments or adaptations could help them be independent. It also led them to understand that having an "I Can" attitude can make all the difference from them accomplishing or failing. Lastly, during our ambulation time, we challenged them to come up with ideas of things that they can do, that we could take pictures of. The children had a lot of fun coming up with ideas together, and of course posing for the pictures. All in all, it was a good day of awareness for the impact conductive education can have, but even more importantly the impact that having a positive "I Can" attitude can have.



Photo courtesy of CFI

Center for Independence through Conductive Education: El Valor

This year we sent out a survey with questions about Conductive Education:

1. What does Conductive Education mean to you?
2. How is it different from other therapy places?
3. Why is the group setting beneficial for your child?

Here is some of the feedback we received:

"Conductive Education is different because the children attend more frequently and for a longer period of time. This allows the team to really get to know the children and work in depth on a variety of skills. Conductive education also takes place in a group setting which allows them to socialize and learn not only from each other but also their peers."



CE Day: Photo courtesy of CECO

"I am very thankful to conductive education for teaching us how to get the best positive attitude for what we get in this beautiful life."



Photo courtesy of CFI

Toileting Research Study

Governors State University has partnered with the physicians at The Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago to investigate the mastery of toileting skills in children (ages 2-18) who have Cerebral Palsy. The project is two fold: 1) There is a thought that children who participate in CE achieve toilet training mastery at a different rate than children who do not attend CE. 2) the data collected will be used to try to establish when a child with CP is typically able to master bowel and bladder control.

The link to the survey, to be completed by the child's parent or guardian, is [here](#). This is specifically for children who have attended a CE program at some time in their lives. The survey should take less than 30 minutes to complete.

All data will be de-identified before the researchers have access to it. Thus, the researchers will not be able to identify any individual respondent.

March of Dimes Canada

We celebrated National Conductive Education day with our annual fundraiser, Stand Up for CE. Participants set themselves a new goal to work towards and invited friends and family to sponsor them and make pledges. At their Stand Up for CE event, participants challenged themselves to complete the new task or skill that they had been working on during their Conductive Education class. Over \$18,000 was raised this year to help support our CE program and our participants. Check out our [Youtube video](#) to see how hard all our participants worked toward their goals!

Conductive Learning Center

For National Conductive Education Day, the Conductive Learning Center celebrated by having a school wide carnival with family and friends, that included many fun activities such as, spin art, karaoke, and making cotton candy!



photo courtesy of CLC

Please help us to spread the word and get involved!

Next year's date is: February 15, 2018

Gaitway CE Center Closure

ACENA is saddened to hear of the upcoming closure of [GaitWay](#) in Tucson, AZ.

Looking for information on upcoming events, research and activities for ACENA? Check out our website:

- [RESOURCES](#)
- [ACENA CALENDAR](#)
- [NACA](#)

Certain pages under our Resources section are only available to ACENA members using the password Acena123.

ACENA Facebook Group

Make sure you join our [ACENA Facebook group](#)



To learn about upcoming ACENA activities and receive information and articles relating to Conductive Education.



CE Day: Photo courtesy of New Hope

Get Involved!

There are a number of ways you can get involved in ACENA. Consider joining a subcommittee to have your voice heard and help shape the spread of Conductive

Gaitway has been a pioneer in bringing Conductive Education to North America and a key organizer in the foundation of ACENA. Gaitway was formed in 1998 in an effort to bring Conductive Education to Arizona. Dr. David Rhea, M.D. OB/GYN, and his wife Mary Hare, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., formed GaitWay after their granddaughter, Shelby, was born with cerebral palsy. Along with their daughter, they searched for a more effective and intensive program to help Shelby learn. In 1997, after three years of traveling to Conductive Education Summer Camps, they brought a conductor to Tucson to provide a summer camp to local families. The rest they say, is history.

Supported by parents, the community, funders, a long list of volunteers, and a strong Board of Directors that included Barbara Kincaid, who began her volunteer role in 1999, Gaitway flourished and grew. It was one of the first American centers to provide adult-related services (in 2009), and was an approved vendor for the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) for habilitation, respite and day treatment and training for after school programs and summer camp. Throughout this time, Mary Hare and her team helped found ACENA with Mary serving on the ACENA Board several times. The Gaitway team regularly attended ACENA Conferences and helped mentor up-and-coming programs.

While May 25, 2017 will see the doors close at Gaitway for the last time, ACENA recognizes, honours and thanks everyone involved at Gaitway for their unfailing commitment to the North American community, the practice of CE, and the hundreds of students whose lives were made more independent through their participation in Gaitway programs.

On behalf of ACENA members and the ACENA Board, we salute you! We will continue to reflect on, remember and honour your vital contribution! We, of course, wish you all the best as you move on to this next chapter in your lives!

ACENA Webinar

This past month on behalf of the Conductive Learning Center, several ACENA members participated in a professional development opportunity on the topic of Selective Dorsal

Education in North America.
For more information on how
you can get involved, email
Director of Membership, Liz
Filkins at
liz.filkins@gmail.com

Rhizotomy presented by Dr. Erzsebet Balogh,
from Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Erzsébet Balogh is a pediatrician, neurologist and Honorary Conductor. She retired in 2005 from the International Peto Institute. At that time, she was the research and medical director of the Institute. She continues to be active in the International Pető Association. Her teaching activity includes Functional Neuroanatomy, Pediatric Neurology, Selective Chapters of Adult Neurology, and Comparative Conductive Education. Her special interests include: possibilities and variants in clinical neurological examination, early (and differential) diagnosis of neuromuscular and hereditary degenerative diseases, cerebral palsy, causes and pathomechanisms of movement disorders, literature about the sensory motor organization of movement, human clinical evidences for neuroplasticity and neurological diseases or conditions in movies and the arts. Dr. Balogh has a long list of publications on conductive education topics.

This webinar lecture gave an overview of the selective dorsal rhizotomy procedure, as well as, research based critical reviews, and contraindications.

Thank you Dr. Balogh! Stay tuned for more webinar series in the upcoming months!