

Psychovocational Assessments:

Providing Solutions to your Rehabilitation Challenges

Psychovocational assessments represent a key intersection between psychological and vocational services, and are important to the treatment of many of the clients we see. Our individualized assessments are designed to determine the range of practical and realistic options available for each client's unique set of strengths and challenges.

Dr. Sarah Vernon-Scott, Psychologist, is enjoying the last few weeks of her maternity leave. She returns to work on January 3, 2012 and we are now taking referrals in anticipation of her arrival. Sarah conducts psychovocational assessments, and also provides a full range of psychological assessment and treatment.

For more information about [Sarah](#), [psychovocational assessments](#), [psychology](#) or any of our services and programs at Brainworks, check out our [website](#), or contact Arden McGregor [via email](#) or phone at 519-657-1180 ext. 102.

Occupational Therapy at Brainworks



Brainworks is proud to announce that we have now added occupational therapy to our list of programs and services. We are also very happy to welcome Jennifer Scornaiencki, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario's Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy program. She is dedicated to helping our clients regain independent, productive and satisfying lives through multidisciplinary rehabilitation leadership. Continuously pursuing clinical excellence and strong in the client-centred beliefs of our organization, Jennifer is a welcome asset to our team.

For more information about Brainworks' [Occupational Therapy Services](#), please contact:

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Culturally Sensitive Rehab

How would you serve a client from another cultural background who you know is suffering intensely, but minimizes their pain?

With growing numbers of clients entering rehab from multicultural backgrounds, particularly Arabic-speaking families, we felt it was important and timely to focus our 3rd Annual Breakfast Seminar, held on November 29, 2011, on *Understanding and Resolving Cultural Barriers: Rehabilitation within Arabic-Speaking Communities*.



In presentations by **Mr. Faisal Joseph** of Lerner's, **Dr. Nidaa Khalil** and **Mr. Abe Ibrahim** from Brainworks, and the discussions that followed, it was evident that many of our colleagues have been seeing the same issues in their own practices, these include:

- Clients feeling shame in admitting vulnerability
- A pervasive belief that pain is a sign of weakness
- Concern about being judged negatively for asking for help
- A believe that no one could possibly understand or help with MVC-related problems

Seminar participants took away with them a better understanding of the multicultural client experience and ways to reach out with care and sensitivity. For those who missed this powerful seminar, **Dr. Nidaa Khalil** (Psychologist) and **Abe Ibrahim** (Social Service Worker and Rehabilitation Therapist) are two of our gifted professionals here at Brainworks who have special insight into cultural diversity, and are fluent in Arabic. Both Nidaa and Abe are accepting referrals for the New Year. Contact Tami Nestor [by email](#) or at 1-866-394-6240 ext. 0 with inquiries or referrals.



Once again, in lieu of sending out printed holiday greetings or gifts to our friends and colleagues, we have taken on a project to support needy families served by the Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury Community Outreach Program at the Thames Valley Children's Centre. Our staff are happily collecting toys, as well as food, clothes and other essential items for these families who have young children coping with an acquired brain injury. We hope to bring a little extra joy this season to these families.

We wish you and yours a beautiful holiday season and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!