Dr. Paula Forgeron

Paula Forgeron(RN MN PhD)is an associate professor in the School of Nursing and Vice Dean, Professional Affairs for the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa. She is an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Anesthesia, Dalhousie University, and an affiliate investigator with the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute. She has been the recipient of a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Doctoral Fellowshipand received an Early Career Operating Grant from the Canadian Pain Society.With an extensive clinical background in pediatric complex pain management her clinically based interdisciplinary research program has two foci. Her primary research focus is on the social functioning and friendships of adolescents with chronically painful conditions. Her doctoral research produced some of the first studies to examine the friendships challenges of adolescents with chronic pain and reported that an adolescent’s chronic pain experience influences their friendships and their friendships influence their chronic pain experience. Her current studies focus on developing a better understanding of these friendships to define the issues and factors involvedto develop and test interventions to maintain and strengthen their friendships and determine other ways for adolescents with chronic pain to gain the social support and social understanding needed to help them cope with and manage their pain. Her second research focus examines the barriers and facilitators to pain care practices in hospitalized children and determine the knowledge translation strategies to improve their pain care globally. Based on this work and her clinical expertise she was invited to be on the Board of Directors ofChildKind International.