



The Canadian Institute for
Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
L'Institut Canadien des Troubles Obsessifs Compulsifs
www.ciocd.ca

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP: Please e-mail Dr Debbie Sookman at:
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Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is a disabling and prevalent mental disorder ranked by the World Health Organization (2008) to be among the ten leading causes of medical disability worldwide, on par with major physical illnesses such as cancer. Treatment for OCD and related disorders is a specialized field. Curative evidence-based treatments are available at top international specialized centers for OCD. However, tragically, there is currently a mental health crisis in this field due to the paucity of clinicians across Canada and globally with the requisite knowledge and competencies to effectively treat OCD, especially dire in more remote or undeveloped regions.

The Canadian Institute for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (CIOCD, www.ciocd.ca) is a federally incorporated charitable Institute dedicated to achieving urgently needed transformative improvement in evidence-based clinical treatment for OCD and related disorders.

CIOCD national initiatives involve education, prevention, and early intervention for OCD across Canada through the lifespan, for teachers, pediatricians, family physicians, and mental health clinicians and sites, in collaboration with Canadian professionals and the public.

CIOCD international initiatives: The CIOCD has convened and oversees *The International OCD Accreditation Task Force (ATF)*, an unprecedented task force comprising 125 OCD experts representing 21 nations led by Canada. News releases world-wide (examples below) have described the knowledge and competency standards developed by the ATF for specialized treatments for OCD through the lifespan as a transformative advance in this field. Ongoing ATF phase three (of four) involves elaboration of comprehensive multi-level (foundational to specialized) training protocols for wide international dissemination **based on the established CIOCD ATF specialized knowledge and competency standards**. The ATF comprises the expertise and representation required for broad national and international implementation. The list of prominent ATF members and authors is available on request.

CIOCD International OCD Accreditation Task Force (ATF, N = 125)

*Chair, Debbie Sookman, PhD, McGill University, Canada, and David Veale, MD, Kings College London, UK;
Senior Consultant, Katharine Phillips, MD, Cornell University, USA*

Nations represented (N = 21): Australia, **Canada**, Brazil, Chile, China, Denmark, England, Greece, Iceland, Israel, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, USA, South Korea, Spain, South Africa, Sweden

McGill University news release: <https://www.mcgill.ca/channels/channels/news/mcgill-researcher-led-international-task-force-unveils-first-its-kind-standards-treatment-obsessive-331348>

American Psychiatric Association news

release: <https://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.pn.2021.10.19>

ATF second five paper special issue (2021):

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/psychiatry-research/special-issue/10QR7D2XHJ0>