Funded by the University of Florida, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Supported by the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA)
http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/
General Information
Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607

Registration
Registration is available online at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autism-uf-going-greater-conference-registration-43992537865

Who should attend this conference?
• Parents, private practitioners, healthcare providers, general and special educators, administrators, speech-language pathologists, occupational/physical therapists, early interventionists, psychologists, primary care physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, and social workers serving children with autism spectrum disorder
• University of Florida students interested in preservice training in autism spectrum disorder.

This conference will present new findings on research-based practices and offer strategies for implementing these practices for students with ASD in home, educational, and community settings. This conference is designed to help attendees understand the social communication, behavioral, and learning characteristics of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

This is a free conference.

Check-in for the conference begins at 8:00am

ADA Accommodations
If you require ADA accommodations or ADA accessible materials, please contact Carole Polefko by phone at (352) 273-0598 or email at cpolefko@ufl.edu by April 18th, 2018. This brochure is available in alternative formats upon request.

Parking Information
On-site parking is free.
Conference Information
For any questions or concerns about the conference, please visit the conference registration desk in the preconference area. You may also drop off or collect lost and found items at this location.

Conference Badges
Please make sure to wear your conference name badge to all events.

Need Assistance?
Please find our UF CARD staff for any assistance. We will be wearing our CARD name badges and happy to assist. You can also visit the solutions desk in the registration area.

Conference Handouts
In an effort to go green, digital presentation handouts can be accessed electronically until April 30, 2018. The link to the handouts will be emailed to registered attendees prior to the conference. If handouts are not available for a particular session, it is because the presenter has opted not to provide them.

In-service Components
You are responsible for providing the required documentation to your district staff development contact in order to apply for in-service points. A session verification sheet can be obtained from the registration desk to track your session attendance. Please see a UF CARD staff member to sign your sheet.

Unfortunately, at this time, we are not offering continuing education credits for behavior analysts, speech language pathologists, licensed mental health or clinical social workers, counselors or psychologists.

Schedule of Presentations

Thursday, April 26, 2018

9:00 - 9:15
Welcome and Opening Remarks - Regina Bussing, MD, Professor & Donald R. Dizney Chair in Psychiatry

9:15 - 9:50 - Keynote
Lessons Along the Way - A Parent Perspective
Pam Kissoondyal, Family Specialist FAVI Deaf-Blind Collaborative

Autism without a doubt can derail anyone from their intended tracks - if you are not prepared. In this session, I will share with you the lessons we have learned on our journey.

About the presenter: Pam Kissoondyal is a Family Engagement Coordinator, at the Florida and Virgin Islands DeafBlind Collaborative at UF. She also is chair of the UF CARD constituency
board and the parent of young adult with autism.

10:00 - 10:50
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for Children with ASD and Their Families
Melanie Nelson, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) was developed originally for the treatment of disruptive behavior in young children, and has shown great outcomes in this population. However, its focus on developing a strong relationship between parent and child, along with its techniques for reducing non-preferred behaviors, make it well suited to address the needs of young children with ASD and their families. This presentation will describe PCIT and highlight current research and clinical findings supporting the use of PCIT for children with ASD to address disruptive behavior. Additional outcomes, such as benefits related to language development, social behavior, and play skills, will also be discussed.

About the presenter: Dr. Nelson is a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. She specializes in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, which has been the focus of her clinical work, research, and educational activities for the past 16 years. She also has experience in the assessment and treatment of young children with ASD, having served as director of a multi-disciplinary assessment team for children ages 0-5 for several years in Oklahoma.

11:00 - 11:30
Adult Developmental Out-patient Clinic Services
Kohl Mayberry, DO, Assistant Professor

11:30 - 12:00
Impact Autism, a Student-run Organization Working with UF CARD
Amanda Colas, Junior, UF College of Nursing

Aspiring doctors, therapists, educators, nurses, researchers, and volunteers— we even have a few engineers. We’re a diverse group, but it’s a shared passion to make an IMPACT, a desire to learn more, and a love of serving others and giving back, that brings us all together. Our philosophy of assuming competence in every individual with autism and our passion for the cause makes us more than just a student organization; we’re a family that’s out to make a difference. During our presentation, we will share our recent activities in this effort.

About the presenter: Amanda is a junior at the University of Florida in the Traditional Bachelors in Science of Nursing program with a minor in Disabilities in Society. She is currently serving as President for IMPACT Autism. Amanda also works at the Florida Autism Center as a Registered Behavior Therapist. Amanda aspires to graduate as a Registered Nurse and continue her education to become a Nurse Practitioner with a passion for helping individuals with disabilities.

12:00 - 1:00
LUNCH
Engaging and Empowering Families in Treatment and Research for Autism Spectrum Disorders
Jennifer H. Elder, PhD, RN, FAAN Professor and PhD Program Director, College of Nursing

Families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are faced with a variety of challenges beginning with the acquisition of a timely diagnosis to finding the most effective interventions. This presentation will provide an overview of ASD, popular yet unproven interventions, NIH funded research to promote social and language development, and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) focus on engaging families in planning and conducting meaningful research in ASD. This information should help participants equip parents and other family members to make the most timely and informed treatments choices and improve the everyday lives of the family member with ASD.

About the presenter: Dr. Jennifer Elder has spent over 30 years studying autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Much of her work examines ways to empower families and reduce caregiver stress and has been funded by four NIH/NINR grants ($2.5 million dollars). The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) awarded her three consecutive Pipeline to Proposal grants to connect patients and families in rural, underserved communities with clinicians, teachers, and community members to identify interventions most effective for individuals with ASD. Dr. Elder is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and frequently reviews for NIH and Department of Defense. She has also given numerous national and international research presentations, including an invited presentation in New Delhi by India’s president.

Teaching Parents of Children with ASD to Implement Treatments for Food Selectivity
Jonathan K. Fernand, Ph.D., BCBA
Co-director, Pediatric Feeding Disorders Clinic
Post-doctoral Fellow, Behavior Analysis Research Clinic

Pediatric feeding problems can occur in upwards of 35% of typically developing children and 90% of children with developmental disabilities. Some drastic effects such as weight loss and malnourishment can occur if a feeding problem remains untreated. Although some procedures are highly efficacious, it remains unclear to what extent children will eat with their caregivers following therapist-implemented procedures in clinics. The purpose of the current study was to directly test whether consumption would occur with caregivers following therapist-implemented procedures in clinic. In addition, we sought to test what procedures were required for caregivers to improve their feeding skills if generalization did not occur. Data suggest that some parents might not need to be directly trained.

About the presenter: Jonathan K. Fernand received his M.A. from the California State University, Sacramento under the advisement of Becky Penrod, Ph.D., BCBA-D in 2012 and his Ph.D. from the University of Florida under the advisement of Timothy Vollmer, Ph.D., BCBA-D in 2017. Currently Jonathan is a Post-doctoral Associate and Co-director of the Pediatric Feeding Disorders Clinic at the University of Florida. He has served as a reviewer for several journals including the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavior Analysis in Practice, Behavior &
Philosophy, and The Analysis of Verbal Behavior. Jonathan has published several articles and book chapters pertaining to a range of topics including his biggest passion, the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding problems.

3:10 - 4:00
SOCIAL Gators- a program for UF students who want to enhance their skills for a more enriching college experience.
Amanda Brown, MHS, LMHC

SOCIAL Gators (Student Opportunities for Career, Independent, and Academic Life) is a collaborative effort between the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC), and the Disability Resource Center (DRC). We focus on developing skills in social interaction, independent living, career seeking, and academics. This presentation will provide an overview of the program.

About the presenter: Amanda Brown is the Associate Director of the UF Disability Resource Center and has over 15 years of experience working with youth and college age students who have disabilities. Ms. Brown is one of the co-founders of UF’s first and only specialized program, SOCIAL Gators, whose primary goal is to enhance the college experience of students on the autism spectrum. She is also a member of the University’s Neurodiversity Council and the Vice President’s Autism Council. Ms. Brown was recently appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Rehabilitation Council whose mission is to assist The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in planning and developing statewide rehabilitation programs and services, and recommending improvements to programs and services.

4:00 - 6:00pm
Reception in the preconference space adjacent to the conference area. Please join us for an hors d’oeuvre and drink reception following day 1 of the conference. Open to all Autism & UF Conference attendees.

Friday, April 27, 2018

9:00 - 9:50
Keynote -
Mark Lewis, Ph.D. DIRECTOR, UF CARD
Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Psychology
Co-Vice Chair for Research, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

10:00 - 10:50
RUBI Parent Training for Disruptive Behaviors in Young Children with ASD
Cynthia R. Johnson, PhD

The Research Unit on Behavioral Interventions (RUBI) Autism Network developed a manualized parent training program specifically for families of children with ASD and the often observed disruptive behaviors. The program has been tested in a series of studies and found that
it is acceptable to parents, can be reliably delivered by trained therapists, and significantly reduces disruptive behaviors. The flagship report of the RUBI Parent Training program was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in 2015. This presentation will give an overview of the RUBI program and the research findings.

About the presenter: Cynthia Rheney Johnson, PhD is currently a faculty member in the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Florida. She is currently the principal investigator of a NIH-funded grant studying the efficacy of parent training in the treatment of feeding problems in children with autism. She recently had other NIH funding on the efficacy of parent training in the treatment of disruptive behaviors in young children with ASD and the treatment of sleep disturbances.

11:00 - 11:50
Celebrating Neuro-Diversity: Creating a Community that Cares
Cindi Gayle, PhD, Post-doctoral Fellow

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is often co-morbid with other conditions, including anxiety disorders and sensory over-responsiveness. The purpose of this presentation is to share information regarding co-morbidity for those with ASD, ways we can identify co-morbid conditions as well as treatment considerations. As you can imagine these symptoms have a significant impact on one’s quality of life and can contribute to immense suffering. This presentation will bring awareness to help build better understanding of these symptoms, psychoeducation regarding treatment options to bring relief to those with ASD, their families, and our community-at-large. In doing so, we can come together to support our neuro-diverse community and help those with ASD reach their full potential.

About the presenter: Cindi Gayle, PhD is a licensed psychologist who holds an adjunct position with the UF College of Education and owns a private practice dedicated to providing services for those with autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. Please see www.cindigayle.com for more information.

12:00 - 1:00 - LUNCH

1:00 - 1:50
Recent Advancements in the Treatment of Food Selectivity in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Vivian F. Ibañez, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Co-director, Pediatric Feeding Disorders Clinic
Post-doctoral Fellow, Behavior Analysis Research Clinic

Children with ASD often display feeding problems such as food selectivity (i.e., consumption of a limited variety of foods; Schreck, Williams, & Smith, 2004). Without intervention, food selectivity can lead to inadequate dietary intake, which is associated with learning, behavior, and health problems. Currently, treatments for pediatric feeding disorders based on applied behavior-analytic research have the most empirical support (Volkert & Piazza, 2012). This presentation will show data on antecedent-based strategies to increase consumption of novel foods for
children with autism spectrum disorder and food selectivity. Results will also highlight important considerations for future research to advance our understanding of treatments for food selectivity among this population.

About the presenter: Dr. Ibañez received her master's degree in applied behavior analysis (ABA) from the University of Maryland Baltimore County under the supervision of Dr. Carrie Borrero while working at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program. She continued to specialize in the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders and earned a doctorate in ABA from the University of Nebraska Medical Center under the advisement of Dr. Cathleen Piazza while working in the Munroe-Meyer Institute's day-treatment feeding program. Currently, Dr. Ibañez is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Vollmer where she continues to conduct clinical research on a wide variety of feeding problems.

2:00 - 2:50
Developmental Sensory Impairments and Potential Involvement in Autism
Susan Nittrouer, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

About the presenter: Susan Nittrouer received a Master’s degree in deaf education from Smith College. After teaching for five years, she returned to university and received her PhD in 1985 from the City University of New York in Speech and Hearing Science. Following a post-doctoral fellowship at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Connecticut, she began investigating how children learn language at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Currently, she is Professor and Chair of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at UF, and heads the Speech Development Laboratory. Her research focuses on how children learn language, and what goes wrong when they encounter challenges, with a special interest in this work that includes those with hearing loss and those having difficulty learning to read.

3:00 - 3:30
Psychopharmacology in Autism Spectrum Disorders
Richard D’Alli, M.D.

3:40 - 4:00 Closing Remarks
Greg Valcante, PhD, Director, UF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

About the presenter: Greg Valcante is the Director of the University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and a Research Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He has served as CARD Director since the Centers were developed in 1994. As such he is dedicated to CARD’s mission of service to individuals with autism and related disabilities along with their families. Dr. Valcante has worked as a teacher, administrator and researcher in the field of autism for over 40 years including 32 years at UF. He has authored a number of research publications and presented both nationally and internationally. Dr. Valcante has a B.S. in Biology, and an M.Ed. in Special Education, from The College of William and Mary and his Ph.D., from the University of Florida College of Education.