



## AN INTER-PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

**August 18–19, 2017**

**LOCATION:** 4444 Forest Park Ave., Washington University OT Auditorium, 1st Floor

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** PTs, OTs, PTAs, COTAs, SLPs, audiologists, teachers, social workers, child life specialists, special education paraprofessionals, and other health care providers

**OVERVIEW:** Join St. Louis Children's Hospital therapy and audiology services for this two-day event bringing best-practice ideas for working with children, adolescents and young adults with Autism from medical, behavioral, psychological, community and clinic perspectives. Connect with fellow practitioners from multiple disciplines to create a community of support in working with clients on the Autism spectrum. Single-day registration or two-day registration is available.

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BCH HealthCare

# OBJECTIVES:

## Day 1: Friday, August 18, 2017

Participants will:

- Describe the clinical symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Identify indications for pharmacologic intervention in autism.
- Describe comprehensive medical support of children with ASD through each successive stage of development.
- Become familiar with the diagnostic criteria, assessments and screening tools used to identify ASD.
- Delineate cognitive assessment and typical neurocognitive functions (strengths and challenges) seen in children with ASD.
- Be able to describe the 4 main functions of behavior.
- Identify the basics of behavior management, including target behaviors, "ABC's" of behavioral responses and functional based interventions, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) strategies.
- Discuss intervention strategies used by health care professionals to promote successful care of children with ASD.
- Explore clinic and community based services and resources available to children with ASD and their families.
- Distinguish between social skills, social tasks and social competency.
- Describe basics of sensory processing and the 7 senses.

## Day 2: Saturday, August 19, 2017

Participants will:

- Describe the ASD diagnosis based on DSM-V, prevalence studies and early warning signs.
- Describe the roles and contributions of interdisciplinary team members related to differential diagnosis and special populations (e.g., children with hearing impairment or Down syndrome).
- Review and apply evidence-based interventions for individuals with ASD disorders to a parent coaching model.
- Promote successful participation in daily living skills (including sleep, eating and toileting) for individuals with ASD through application of a routines-based approach using sensory, motor and behavior principles.
- Identify occupation-based, contextually-relevant interventions to address self-regulation, social skills and executive function difficulties in individuals with high-functioning ASD.

*Teaching methods used include lecture, demonstration and case-based discussions. This course is designed for participants with a basic to intermediate level of experience.*

# AGENDA: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

## Day 1: Addressing Autism from the Medical, Behavioral, Community and Social Perspectives

Topics for day one include: best-practice and pharmacology, neuropsychology, applied behavior analysis, therapy, professional panel discussion, community resources, social skill interventions, parent panel.

- 7:30 a.m.**      **Registration and Sign-In – Welcome**
- 8:00 a.m.**      *Pharmacology and Best Practice Trends*  
John Constantino, MD
- 9:00 a.m.**      *Diagnostics: The Ins and Outs of Identifying Autism in Children*  
Anna Abbacchi, LPC
- 9:45 a.m.**      **Break**
- 10:00 a.m.**     *Appraising Cognition in Children with Autism*  
Christen Bass, MA
- 10:45 a.m.**     *Managing Behaviors in Children with Autism*  
Brandon May, BCBA
- 11:30 a.m.**     *Professional Panel Discussion: Comprehensive Intervention*  
John Constantino, MD, Megan Tregnago, Anna Abbacchi, Christen Bass, Brandon May and SLCH Autism Task Force (Kasey Davis, PsyD; Melissa Weinacht, OTR/L and Jane Quarles, SLP-CCC)
- 12:00 p.m.**     **Lunch on Your Own**
- 1:00 p.m.**      *Easter Seals: Community Resources*  
Megan Tregnago, M.ED, MHA, BCBA, LBA
- 2:00 p.m.**      *Social Competence Interventions for Kids*  
Jeanne Eichler, OTR/L, St. Louis University
- 3:00 p.m.**      **Break**
- 3:15 p.m.**      *Navigating Sensory Needs for Children with ASD*  
Jordan Starr, BS; Easter Seals
- 4:00 p.m.**      *Tying it All Together*  
Michelle Iannicola, Parent; Chelsea Carroll, OTR/L
- 4:45 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks**

# AGENDA: SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

## Day 2: A Day of Discovery

Topics for day two include: a therapeutic approach to psychology of Autism, integrating multiple disciplines for holistic client care, sensory motor intervention, behavioral strategies, self-care skills, educating and advocating.

**7:30 a.m.**      **Registration and Sign-In – Welcome**

**8:00 a.m.**      *Autism Basics: Definitions, Core Features and Current Best Practice*  
Patti LaVesser, PHD, OTR/L

**10:00 a.m.**      **Break**

**10:15 a.m.**      *Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behaviors: When is it Sensory? Sensory Processing and Motor Development in Children with ASD*  
Patti LaVesser, PHD, OTR/L

**12:00 p.m.**      **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:00 p.m.**      *Addressing Occupational Performance Needs of Children with ASD: Sleep, Toileting and Picky Eating*  
Patti LaVesser, PHD, OTR/L

**2:30 p.m.**      **Break**

**2:45 p.m.**      *Interdisciplinary Intervention Ideas to Address Social Interaction and Communication Difficulties in Children with ASD*  
Patti LaVesser, PHD, OTR/L

**4:00 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks**



This course is offered for up to 13.5 ASHA CEUs (Various levels, Professional area)

**St Louis Children's Hospital** is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course provides up to 13.75 contact hours of professional education for OTs, COTAs, PTs, and PTAs.

# REGISTRATION:

## Contact:

Questions regarding this conference may be directed to: Pam Carpenter at St. Louis Children's Hospital, 314.358.4807 or [pamela.carpenter@bjc.org](mailto:pamela.carpenter@bjc.org)

## Fees:

Early Bird Registration (registration and payment must be received on or before 8/3/17):

- \$200 for full course (or \$100 for one day)
- Conference price for BJC employees: \$50 for full course (or \$25/day)

Registration Fee after 8/3:

- \$240 (or \$120 for one day)
- BJC Employees: \$80 (or \$40/day)

## Registration Deadline: August 14, 2017

Available to register for one or two-day registration

Registration is available online at:

[nurses.stlouischildrens.org/classes-events/registration-inter-professional-approach-caring-children-with-autism](http://nurses.stlouischildrens.org/classes-events/registration-inter-professional-approach-caring-children-with-autism)

## Cancellations:

Cancellations must be made in writing. Cancellations between July 1 - August 10, will incur a \$25 processing fee. After August 10, 2017, all cancellations will be non-refundable.

## Please Note:

Conference room temperature may be variable, so please dress in layers for comfort.

## Parking:

Surface parking is available in the visitor section of the lot at 4444 Forest Park Ave. (All SLCH employees should park in the SLCH employee garage)

## Local Hotel Options:

### **Parkway Hotel: 314.256.7777**

4550 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108;

for more information on this hotel and its services, please visit [theparkwayhotel.com](http://theparkwayhotel.com).

### **Holiday Inn: 314.361.4900**

4630 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

### **Marriott Hotel Downtown: 314.289.7500**

525 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63103

## **SPEAKERS (in order of presentation):**

### **John Constantino, MD**

John N. Constantino, MD, is the Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis, where he directs the William Greenleaf Eliot Division of Child Psychiatry, co-directs an NICHD Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, and serves as Psychiatrist-In-Chief of St. Louis Children's Hospital. He completed a triple board residency (Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Child Psychiatry) at Bronx Municipal Hospital in New York and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His work has focused on understanding genetic and environmental influences on disorders of social development in childhood, and their implications for preventive intervention. He and his scientific team developed and advanced methods for measuring autistic symptoms as quantitative traits, allowing patterns of transmission of inherited susceptibility to be traced in families and large populations. These methods are now in standard use in laboratories around the world, and their findings have helped elucidate the genetic structure of autism spectrum disorders.

### **Anna Abbacchi, LPC**

Anna Abbacchi, MS, LPC is a clinical research specialist at Washington University School of Medicine, and a psychometrician for the Developmental and Behavioral Assessment Unit of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. She received graduate degrees in Experimental Psychology and Child & Family Psychotherapy from St. Louis University, and she has worked in the field of autism spectrum disorders for 15 years. Anna Abbacchi is the program coordinator of a multisite Autism Center of Excellence funded by the National Institute of Mental Health aimed at helping to increase the representation of African-American children in autism research.

### **Christen Bass, MA**

Christen is a psychometrician for the Developmental and Behavioral Assessment Unit of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis. She received a Master's in Psychology from George Mason University. She completed her practicum at the Child Development Clinic at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

### **Megan Tregnago, M.ED, MHA, BCBA, LBA**

Megan Tregnago is the manager of applied behavior analysis services for Easterseals Midwest in Columbia, MO. Megan is a licensed and board-certified behavior analyst (LBA, BCBA). She has masters degrees in special education with an emphasis on autism, and in health administration, both from the University of Missouri. Through her work at Easterseals Midwest, she provides and oversees services based upon applied behavior analysis (ABA), develops and delivers parent and professional trainings and participates in the quality improvement of services. Megan's interests include providing consultation for early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI) programs, implementing natural language techniques with young children with autism, and improving the quality of autism services in the state of Missouri.

## **Kasey Davis, PsyD**

Dr. Davis is a pediatric psychologist that specializes in the assessment and treatment of young children with emotional, behavioral, developmental and medical challenges. Her practice includes work with inpatients with a diagnosis of Autism, providing care and consultation related to development and behavioral management. She has experience in standardized assessment of Autism and the use of ABA therapy. She is co-chair of the Autism Task Force for inpatients at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

## **Melissa Weinacht, MOT, OTR/L**

Melissa is a pediatric occupational therapist, working in the field for 6 years. She has had experience in both the outpatient and school-based settings. At St. Louis Children's Hospital, she works with many children with ASD as an outpatient occupational therapist, as a member of the augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) team, and as a member of the inpatient behavioral health team. She has worked with fellow peers to develop and provide occupational therapy services to children requiring sensory supports during short and long term inpatient stays.

## **Jane K. Quarles, MS, CCC-SLP**

Jane Keegan Quarles is a speech-language pathologist specializing in complex communication disorders. She leads the augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) team at St. Louis Children's Hospital (SLCH). Over her fifteen years at SLCH, she has worked to expand the AAC program. Most recently, she has championed a sense of urgency for inpatient-provider communication at SLCH. She developed a dynamic, low-tech communication board in her efforts and spearheaded the communication supports cohort at SLCH which focuses efforts on communication accessibility for all in the organization.

## **Jeanne Eichler MOT, OTR/L**

Jeanne Ross Eichler, is self-employed with OT Everywhere, LLC. She was formerly affiliated with St. Louis University as an assistant professor and lead practitioner at the OT Pediatric Faculty Practice, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Doisy College of Health Sciences. She is also a PRN occupational therapist at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center. She has a background in music therapy, and has been an occupational therapist since 2001. She has been working professionally with people who have autism and their families since 1994.

Jeanne has extensive experience and expertise in therapeutic strategies and techniques, understanding Autism and sensory processing, social competency, life transitions from middle school through age 25. She has created many programs with the goal to improve social competency in clinic, community and university settings. Jeanne has a focus on college/career-bound teens and young adults and their integration into mainstream workplaces and independent living. She is currently developing a curriculum for all high school students to ensure college readiness related to social competency. Her current research reflects the need for development of standardized measurable social competency standards for high school graduation eligibility.

## **Jordan Starr, BS**

Jordan Starr is originally from Southern Illinois. She attended Southeast Missouri State University from 2009-2013 and graduated with a Bachelors in Science with an emphasis in communication disorders with a minor in social work. In 2014, she became an Autism specialist with Easterseals Midwest in Cape Girardeau, Mo. She provided in-home and community support services to families and children of all ages with Autism. In the summer of 2015, she became the area team leader and Autism training specialist. She provides a variety of services to families and individuals of all ages with Autism. These services include the on-site intensive two-week parent training, social skills groups, in-home parent training, and a variety of trainings for community members and schools. In the Spring of 2017, she became the Autism services program manager. She continues to provide services to families touched with Autism through the on-site intensive two-week parent training, provides a variety of trainings for community members and schools, coaches the PEERS Friendship Training Program, and oversees all autism services provided in the 19 counties served.

## **Brandon May, BCBA**

Brandon May is a board-certified and licensed behavior analyst. Brandon earned his Bachelor's in Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Colorado-Boulder and his Masters in Social Work and Applied Behavior Analysis at Saint Louis University. He has worked with individuals with Autism and developmental disabilities for 14 years in home-based, academic, residential and clinic settings.

Brandon is a clinical case coordinator in the Child Psychiatry Department at Washington University School of Medicine as well as the president and senior behavior analyst at Elite ABA Services. Brandon has presented at parent education and professional development conferences across the state and is on the Missouri Behavior Support Review Committee, which reviews assessments and behavior plans for high risk individuals in the St. Louis area. Brandon's research interests include function-based treatment for severe challenging behaviors, physical fitness, and organizational behavior management.

## **Chelsea Carroll, MOT, OTR/L**

Chelsea earned her Master of Occupational Therapy degree from Maryville University of Saint Louis. She has experience working in outpatient, community, and school based settings. Chelsea has received continuing education in the areas of sensory processing, reading, yoga for special needs children, and Autism. She primarily works with children with sensory processing difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and anxiety.

## Patti LaVesser, PhD, OTR/L

Patti LaVesser, PhD, OTR/L is currently an Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine, JFK Partners. Dr. LaVesser has worked in the area of developmental disabilities for over 35 years. She currently serves as the Training Director and as Occupational Therapy Discipline Director on the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), Maternal Child Health Bureau grant. As training director, she oversees the development and implementation of courses, experiences and projects for interdisciplinary fellows and interns who are pursuing advanced, post-degree training in developmental disabilities. She also serves as a clinician case reviewer for the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network and as an evaluator for the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED). Clinically, Dr. LaVesser coordinates occupational therapy services for the interdisciplinary clinical assessment teams through Developmental Pediatrics at The Children's Hospital of Colorado, and provides early intervention services through the ENRICH program.

Prior to joining the faculty at JFK Partners, Dr. LaVesser was a faculty member at the Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University in St. Louis for 25 years. She has a wide range of clinical pediatric experience that includes early intervention, school-based, and hospital-based practice.

**For additional information on this conference  
including faculty disclosures, please go to:**

[stlouischildrens.org/classes-events/inter-professional-approach-caring-children-with-autism](http://stlouischildrens.org/classes-events/inter-professional-approach-caring-children-with-autism)

