5th Annual Elizabeth A. Connelly Memorial Conference: Autism and the Treatment of Challenging Behaviors

April 7, 2011

Sponsored by
New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
and
Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.

Organized & Hosted by
Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR)

Speakers

Peter Gerhardt, EdD  Director of Education, Upper School for the McCarton School, New York, NY
Applied Behavior Analysis in Support of Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)
Dr. Gerhardt provided a brief overview of some of the challenges to effective behavior analytic intervention with older individuals with ASD and offer recommendations toward improving outcomes leading to lives of competence, dignity, and quality.

Frank J. Symons, PhD  Associate Professor of Special Education and Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Self-Injury, Pain, and Sensory Mechanisms in Individuals with Autism
Dr. Symons provided an overview of ongoing work at the intersection of sensory biology and behavior of self-injury among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and ASDs.

Matthew P. Janicki, PhD  Associate Research Professor and Director for Technical Assistance, Rehabilitation and Training Center in Aging and Developmental Disabilities–Lifespan Health and Function, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
Lifespan Approach to Autism
Dr. Janicki examined suppositions for lifespan aspects and their implications for various developmental disabilities, how findings of studies related to aging of people with select developmental disabilities are helping better understand and plot appropriate interventions, and what are some of the factors that can minimize dependency and enhance quality of life over the lifespan. He also discussed the research needed to examine the impact of aging on people with autism and related conditions.

Jennifer R. Zarcone, PhD  Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY
Challenging Behavior and Psychotropic Medication: Evidence-Based Practices
Dr. Zarcone reviewed research on evaluation of behavioral outcomes when individuals with intellectual disabilities are prescribed psychotropic medication. She discussed the ideal guidelines for conducting medication clinical trial research and how they can be used to guide clinical service in community settings. She also described the need for measures of social validity as well as collaboration across disciplines.

W. Ted Brown, MD, PhD, FACMG  Director, IBR; Chairperson, Department of Human Genetics, IBR
Summary of New Drug Trials in ASD and Fragile X Syndrome, and Automated Analysis of Speech Pathology in Autism
Dr. Brown reviewed recent progress being made in developing targeted drug therapies for fragile X syndrome and ASD, and reviewed what is being learned from automated vocal analysis of naturalistic speech recordings from children with ASDs.