

**6TH ELIZABETH A. CONNELLY MEMORIAL CONFERENCE:
AUTISM THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN**

APRIL 11, 2013

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

Catherine Lord, PhD Professor and Director, Center for Autism and the Developing Brain, Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital, White Plains, NY

Where Did the New DSM-5 Criteria Come From and Where Will They Take Us?

The proposed changes to the DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) were first discussed in 1999, when key leaders of the American Psychiatric Association and the National Institute of Mental Health decided to work together on expanding the scientific basis for psychiatric diagnosis and classification. This presentation addressed how autism is currently being diagnosed and the various factors that have made diagnosing autism more challenging. The goals in revising DSM-5 criteria were discussed at length.

Marsha R. Mailick, PhD Professor and Director, Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Trajectories of Lifespan Development in People with Autism Spectrum Disorders

In 1990, the prevalence of autism began to rise sharply, and the first generation of children diagnosed after this surge began are now young adults. Most research has focused on the autism behavioral phenotype during childhood, with less attention paid to the trajectories of development through adolescence and into adulthood. This presentation provided data about how individuals with autism change as they traverse these stages of life, focusing on autism symptoms, behavior problems, adaptive behavior, social involvement, and quality of life.

Ami Klin, PhD Professor and Director, Marcus Autism Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; Professor & Chief, Division of Autism and Related Disorders, Emory University School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Bringing Science to the Community: A New System of Healthcare Delivery for Infants and Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorders

This presentation highlighted the critical role of early diagnosis and intervention in attenuating the symptoms of autism. Data were presented on early diagnostic indicators obtained through eye-tracking-based behavioral assays that quantify the social disabilities in autism. These methods yielded high sensitivity and specificity for the screening of infants. The ultimate goal of this effort is to develop objectified and quantified tools for the detection of autism in infancy, tools that might be deployed in primary care and pediatricians' offices.

Susan L. Hyman, MD Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Neurodevelopmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY

Complementary and Alternative Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders: Their Use and the Evidence Behind Their Use

This presentation reviewed the use of complementary and alternative treatments for autism, outlining aspects of their use in individuals with autism as well as evidence supporting the risks and benefits associated with their use.