

Preliminary Conference Program

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

New Insights into Identifying and Treating Medical Conditions Associated with ASD

7:00 am

Registration Opens

7:00–8:00 am

DIR® Institute Certificate Program Breakfast

An invitation for current DIR® Institute candidates to come to a reunion and an opportunity for others interested in DIR® intensive educational programs to attend. Join faculty, fellow professionals and Floortime™ practitioners to learn more about the Certificate Program.

8:00–8:15 am

Introduction

Ricki Robinson, M.D., MPH, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

8:15–9:15 am

Mitochondrial Conditions Associated with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Richard Kelley, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University

9:15–10:15 am

Sleep Issues and ASD

Beth Malow, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology and Director, Vanderbilt Sleep Center

10:15–10:45 am

Morning Break

10:45–11:45 am

Seizure Disorders and Other Medical Conditions: NIMH Research Initiatives

Sarah Spence, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Clinician, Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch, NIMH

11:45 am–12:30 pm

Ask the Doctor

An opportunity to present medical challenges in your patients with autism spectrum disorders to Drs. Robinson, Kelley, Malow and Spence.

12:30–2:00 pm

Lunch On Your Own

Parent Networking Lunch

Join other parents attending the ICDL conference for a networking lunch. An informal opportunity to meet other families from your region.

ICDL Graduate School Information Session

Graduate School Faculty will discuss the new Ph.D. program in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Disorders.

2:00–3:30 pm

Concurrent Seminars

*Attend the session
that most interests you.*

Autism the Musical (Video)

AUTISM: THE MUSICAL is the story of one woman's optimistic pledge to lead a group of autistic children in defying diagnosed expectations by writing, rehearsing and performing their own full-length musical. Following five Los Angeles children over the course of six months, director Tricia Regan captures the struggles and triumphs of their family lives and observes how this musical production gives these performers a comfort zone in which they can explore their creative sides.

Can You Outgrow the PDD Diagnosis?

Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (PDD NOS) commonly becomes the diagnosis of choice when a small child shows pervasive delay across all domains of developmental process but still maintains sufficient relatedness and/or developmental momentum that the characteristics of a specific pervasive developmental disorder (such as typical autism, selective mutism, or other developmental delays) are not observed. This seminar will explore the characteristics of PDD-NOS when it is encountered in early development, and its possible course when comprehensive (DIR®) intervention occurs. We will discuss the theory behind the historic meaning of 'delay' and what practices and processes are necessary in order to understand these developmental delay issues as potentially resolvable.

Gerry Costa, Ph.D., Director, YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health, East Orange, NJ and **Molly Romer Witten, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist, Chicago, IL

+ Children and Babies with Mood Swings

This seminar will present very recent information on the earliest symptoms of mood disorders in preschool aged children. We will look at how mood disorders have been approached traditionally and then discuss variables that have not been reviewed in the literature. The session will focus on preschool depression and preschool bipolar disorder.

Ira Glovinsky, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Ann Arbor, MI, and Co-Author, with Stanley Greenspan, M.D. of the recently published, *Children and Babies with Mood Swings; New Insights for Parents and Professionals*

DIR®/Floortime™ All Day Long






This seminar will discuss how to apply the principles of Floortime™ to everyday living with the child with special needs and how to sensitize ourselves and our families to the countless ordinary and extraordinary situations that are potential "goldmines" for promoting regulation and attention, warm engagement, organization and problem solving, cause and effect, symbolic meaning and more while moving around town, working around the house, or buying gasoline or groceries. The group will interactively develop some guidelines and examples of these charged instances with which to heighten our awareness and assist parents to accrue this special "eye" and creative attitude.

Milagros Cordero, Ed.D., OTR/L, Executive Director, ITT's for Children, Atlanta, GA and **Griff Doyle, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist, Bethesda, MD

+ A DIR® Reflection on Siblings— The Other Children

Siblings are often forgotten in our work with children and families. In the hope of noticing and including the siblings, a long term model case of a sibling with a special needs brother will be presented. A typical sibling's developmental challenges and therapeutic intervention will be discussed from a DIR® perspective. Many of the issues related to siblings of special needs children will be included in this presentation, including the factors that hinder and contribute to a sibling's emotional development, given his growing up with a special needs child in the family.

Diane Selinger, Ph.D., Psychologist, Glenview, IL and **Stephanie Pass, Ph.D.**, Psychologist, San Francisco, CA

-  The DIR® Model and Intervention
-  Clinical Cases
-  Education
-  Research
-  Policy and Advocacy

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- + Clinical Cases
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🔍 Evaluating Outcomes: Challenges for the DIR® Clinician

This seminar will discuss the challenges of evaluating outcomes of DIR® Intervention for the DIR® clinician or educator offering services in clinics or schools including alternative research designs. A range of pre and post measurements related to DIR objectives will be described by the DIR® research panel including the FEAS, language samples and “dialogue analyses” that measure “reciprocity” or “circles of communication”, and related current research. How parents feel about the changes in their relationships and communication with their children, including tools to measure parent satisfaction and stress, will be suggested. Resources for further study and references will be provided.

Lois Black, Ph.D., Associate Scientist, Center for Spoken Language Understanding, Oregon Health and Science University, **Devin Casenhiser, Ph.D.**, Head of Research, and **Sonia Mastrangelo, MEHRI**, York University, **Richard Solomon, M.D.**, Medical Director, Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, and **Serena Wieder, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist and Director, DIR® Institute

🔍 NIMH Clinical Protocols

A continuation of the morning discussion with further information on National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) clinical protocols as they relate to children with ASD.

Sarah Spence, M.D., Staff Clinician, Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch, NIMH and **Ricki Robinson, M.D., MPH**, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

👤 Social and Interactive Groups

This seminar will help parents and professionals learn how to facilitate socialization among children with special needs. Adult facilitation in social and interactive groups encourages children to have developmentally appropriate interactions with peers. Social groups allow children to develop skills including sensory and emotional regulation, initiation and engagement with peers, assertiveness, complex social problem solving, compromising, symbolic play, and building bridges between logical ideas. Focus will be placed on learning to recognize the delicate balance of active facilitation versus passive facilitation, or when to be more involved and when to let the children problem-solve themselves. Using video clips and slides, this workshop will illustrate different tools and techniques for effective and positive adult facilitation in social groups.

Tim Bleecker and **Jake Greenspan**, Co-Directors, DIR Support Services, Bethesda, MD

+ Utilizing Principles of Motor Control to Support Relationships between an Infant and Mother within the DIR® Model

With only a one month window to help a baby with motor control challenges to organize and respond to a relationship with his pregnant mother, this therapist integrated different methods to develop his motor system to allow beautiful reciprocity and engagement to emerge.

Lois Gold, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Center for Pediatric Therapy, Miami, FL and **Barbara Kalmanson, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist and Special Educator, San Francisco, CA and Dean, ICDL Graduate School

3:30–4:00 pm

Afternoon Break

Poster Sessions: New Developments in the DIR World!

Featuring new and innovative applications of the DIR®/Floortime™ Model in the U.S. and internationally in research, intervention and training programs.

For information on how you can apply to present your program, visit www.icdl.com.

4:00–5:30 pm

Concurrent Seminars

Attend the session that most interests you.

👤 DIR® and Psychoanalysis

This seminar is for clinicians of various disciplines who encounter emotional-mental health challenges in families they work with. Historically, efforts to understand, conceptualize and help families have taken different perspectives and built upon each other as theory and practice evolved. This seminar will present clinical case material with faculty highlighting how traditional infant mental health and psychoanalysis would approach these challenges, and how DIR® differentiates these perspectives and organizes our understanding and work to optimize the development of children and parents together and understand our relationships with them.

DIR Institute Faculty: **Ron Balamuth, Ph.D.**, **Gerry Costa, Ph.D.**, **Gil Foley, Ed.D.**, **Barbara Kalmanson, Ph.D.**, **Molly Romer Witten, Ph.D.**, and **Serena Wieder, Ph.D.**

+ DIR® Therapeutic Interventions with Siblings: A Panel Discussion

This seminar will present the case of a sibling with a special needs brother and will emphasize promoting developmental growth in siblings using the DIR® model, based on what we have learned from our work with siblings over many years. The panel will include presentations on early intervention work with siblings during infancy, later therapeutic work with older siblings and their families and including siblings within DIR® treatment sessions.

Diane Selinger, Ph.D., Psychologist, Glenview, IL, **Rosemary White, OTR/L**, Director, Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy Services, Seattle, WA, and **Sherry Cawn, M.A., CCC/SLP**, Speech Language Pathologist/Early Childhood Specialist, Northbrook, IL

+ Facilitating the Development of Oral-Motor/Speech Skills within the DIR® Framework

This seminar will provide specific information about how facilitating regulation and engagement inform the teaching of oral-motor/speech skills. Floortime will be discussed, as will other therapeutic interventions such as sensory integration, neurodevelopmental treatment, music, cranial sacral, horns, bubbles, stretches, the PROMPT and the *Kaufman Speech Praxis Test*. Demonstrations and videos will be used to illustrate the techniques.

Diane Lewis, MA, CCC/SLP, Director of Communication Enrichment Services, Bethesda, MD and **Bobbi Wade, MAT, CCC/SLP, SLP**, Alexandria, VA

🌐 Pennsylvania State Assessment Project






This seminar will provide participants an opportunity to enhance and learn skills in program development, staff training, community service shifts and policy changes. The panel will discuss the components of program development and policy shifts that lead to services providing developmental-relationship based care on local and state levels.

Ruby Moyé Salazar, L.C.S.W., B.C.D., Clinical Social Worker, Salazar Associates, Clarks Summit, PA, **Bernard McBride**, Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Bucks County, PA and **Charlotte Collier, Ph.D.**, Clinical Lead, Pennsylvania State Assessment Project

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Picture Books and Floortime

Picture books enrich children's understanding about their world and their relationships within it. This presentation will consider some of the best picture books and discuss them from a developmental and psychodynamic perspective, looking closely at their themes and discussing their utility to children at different developmental levels.

Stephanie Pass, Ph.D., Psychologist, San Francisco, CA and **Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok, LCSW, Ph.D.**, Director, Institute for Infants, Children and Families, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, NY, NY

The PLAY Project

This session will include an overview of the PLAY Project Home Consultation model, a practical, parent training application of DIR®. It will also review the research evidence published in the May 2007 issue of *Autism*, a peer reviewed, scientific journal, in an article entitled, 'Pilot study of a parent training program for

young children with autism: The PLAY Project Home Consultation program.' (Vol 11(3) 205-224). A review of the scientific literature on social-pragmatic (i.e. play-based) interventions for young children with autism will also be presented.

Richard Solomon, M.D., Medical Director, Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Ann Arbor, MI

Pulling the Pieces Together: Praxis, Learning and Frontal Lobe Function in Young Children with ASD and other Neurogenetic Disorders

Focusing on the intricate relationship between praxis, learning and frontal lobe function in infants and children with ASD and other neurogenetic disorders, this seminar will discuss how a common but unknown sex chromosome disorder reveals the very early signs of dyspraxia and frontal dysfunction as early as four months of age. This dysfunction can affect all domains of development and

recovery can be quite effective with targeted treatment and syndrome specific goals.

Carole Samango-Sproue, Ed.D., Director, Neurodevelopmental Diagnostic Center for Young Children, Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, George Washington University, Washington, DC and **Ricki Robinson, M.D., MPH**, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

Sensory Motor and Regulatory Treatment

This presentation will explore and integrate current thinking about sensory processing, sensory reactivity, sensory modulation, and the intersection between regulation and motor planning with the DIR® model. Participants will be exposed to the concepts of self-regulation and co-regulation to help foster the 'fit' between the child and the adult.

Milagros Cordero, Ed.D., OTR/L, Executive Director, ITT's for Children, Atlanta, GA