



Symposium 2023

Topics & Schedule

8:00 - 8:15 am **Kristin Sohl, MD**

Welcome & Opening Remarks

8:15 - 9:15 am **Cecilia Montiel-Nava, Ph.D**

Implementing the WHO-Caregivers Skills Training (CST) Program in Low Resourced Communities

WHO-CST is a parent-mediated intervention, freely available and adapted to various settings and levels of care, that aims to decrease the supports and services gap for children with developmental disabilities globally, especially those in low income and underserved settings.

9:15 - 10:15 am **Evdokia Anagnostou, MD**

Heterogeneity in Autism

Dr. Anagnostou will share about the state of science and the conceptualization of ASD as a biological diagnosis and/or neurodevelopmental spectrum.

10:15 - 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 - 11:30 am **Stephen Shore, Ed.D.**
Crystalena Oberweiser, Ph.D.
Patrina Dixon, CESP
Andrew Arboe

Listen to the Spectrum Panel: See Possibilities in All Abilities

Gain insight and greater understanding by listening to a panel of autistic adults who will share their perspectives and what it really means to listen to, support and authentically engage autistic people.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Michelle Reynolds, Ph.D.**

Charting Your LifeCourse: Planning for Now and the Future

The Charting the LifeCourse Framework was created “by families, for families” to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find, or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live. Learn how these tools are being used by and with individuals and families to focus on their current situation and stage of life and to look forward to the future. This human-centric framework is being used around the country to support persons with and without disabilities, as well as being used for organizational and systems change.

12:30 - 1:15 pm **Lunch Break**

1:15 - 2:15 pm **Judith Ursitti**
Kate Movius
Dilshad Ali
Sabrina Vaughn

Listen to the Spectrum Panel: Understanding Profound Autism

Panelists will share from their perspectives how they have seen their loved one be best included – what worked well, what worked okay, and what did not work. Panelists will share examples of what you think your loved one would say if they could communicate in words.

2:15 - 3:15 pm **Vanessa Hus Bal, Ph.D**

Autism in Adults: Considerations for First Time Adult Diagnosis

The increased awareness of autism, including disclosure of diagnosis by high-profile celebrities, has sparked an increase in adult referrals for first-time autism diagnosis. Autism specialty clinics are already managing long waitlists and often situated in pediatric settings; even those with capacity to see adults often feel inadequately prepared to serve this population. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the presentation of autism in adults, discuss important considerations for mental health and allied professionals when presented with first-time adult diagnostic referrals and conclude with steps that professionals across disciplines can take to make large-scale, systemic improvements to care for autistic adults.

3:15 - 4:15 pm **Brian Boyd, Ph.D.**

Partnering with Communities: What Works, and What Doesn't

Community-partnered participatory research methods are being used to increase the diversity and representation of marginalized groups in autism research. These research methods strive to give “voice” to the voiceless and ensure decision-making and power are shared throughout the research process. This presentation will provide (1) a rationale for the use of community-partnered participatory research methods, (2) an overview of strategies and principles to promote and sustain community partnerships, and (3) ideas for improving the racial and ethnic diversity of community members engaged in autism research.

4:15 - 4:30 pm **Kristin Sohl, MD**

Closing Remarks
