RESEARCH
UNCOVERED

Rethinking Autism
State Conference
April 1-2, 2016

EVIDENCE
REVEALED

RETHINKING AUTISM CONFERENCE

APRIL 1-2, 2016 • 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

HOLIDAY INN EVANSVILLE AIRPORT | 7101 US 41 NORTH | EVANSVILLE, IN

Registration Packet

Hosted by:

Optimal Rhythms



April 1-2, 2016 **Evansville, Indiana**

The **Rethinking Autism** Conference will bring together hundreds of voices as a passionate network to inspire hope and ignite change.

Come explore compelling research that challenges our original understanding of autism spectrum disorder and establishes the evidence behind innovative and neurologically-based sensory supports and accommodations that are increasing functioning through improved regulation, reliable communication, meaningful social relationships, and lasting behavioral outcomes for individuals on the spectrum.

Conference participants will engage in multi-modal learning experiences from Elizabeth Torres, PhD, Researcher with Rutgers University; Suzanne Oliver, Clinician, Founder and Executive Director of Neurologic Music Therapy Services of Arizona; Jayme Whitaker, System of Care Expert from FSSA; as well as an esteemed panel of autistic self-advocates who will discuss critical issues related to educational access for students on the autism spectrum.

Friday, April 1, 2016: **RETHINKING AUTISM Conference**
Holiday Inn Evansville Airport

Saturday, April 2, 2016: **RETHINKING AUTISM Conference**
and Benefit Luncheon
Holiday Inn Evansville Airport

Optimal Rhythms, Inc. | 621 South Cullen Avenue, Suite 120 | Evansville, IN 47715 | (812) 491-9401

The **2016 Rethinking Autism Conference** was designed with you in mind. In the most recent report, the Centers for Disease Control announced that the new autism prevalence rate is now 1 in 45. If we applied these statistics to our Southwest Indiana region alone, nearly 2,000 children experience autism spectrum disorder – and of those, 500 children are non-verbal or non-reliably verbal.

We are a team that is passionate about supporting individuals on the autism spectrum to move toward independence. As a result, we have established the following goals for this conference:

1) Participants will explore the connectivity differences in the autistic brain that impact movement and sensory regulation, making it difficult for individuals who are competent to effectively demonstrate or communicate what they know without helpful supports and accommodations in place.

2) Participants will understand the importance of using new data to aid in the development of effective and respectful supports and accommodations that address the true needs of individuals on the autism spectrum.

3) Participants will be able to identify symptoms and difficulties related to movement disorders and how they relate to common difficulties of individuals with severe autism spectrum disorder

4) Participants will learn the importance of accepting neurodiversity in all people and how to support "neuro-diversity" in a "neuro-typical" world.

5) Participants will experience why assuming competence is the least dangerous assumption during assessment, treatment, and education of patient/clients.

It is our intention that you will be challenged to discover uncovered and valuable information regarding autism spectrum disorder. More importantly, it is our desire that participants will better understand individuals with autism spectrum disorder and respect them for who they are as well as give them an opportunity to demonstrate their unique gifts.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you in this conference. In this packet, you will find our conference agenda, highlights on our speakers, registration pricing, and vendor registration information. You can register online or by mail. Please visit our website: autism.optimalrhythms.org or contact us at admin@optimalrhythms.org or (812) 491-9401.

Sincerely,

Your 2016 Rethinking Autism Conference Planning Committee

Rethinking Autism
Conference Agenda

Day I

8:00 AM	Registration / Vendors Open
8:30 AM	Welcome / Announcements / Introductions
9:00 AM	Keynote Session by Elizabeth Torres, PhD
	"The Movement Perspective: Revolutionizing the Way Non-Verbal Autism is Diagnosed and Treated"
11:00 AM	Family Presentation and Video Examples
11:30 AM	Lunch on your own / Vendor Fair
12:30 PM	Movement Break / Experiential Exercise / Drumming
1:00 PM	Afternoon Session by Suzanne Oliver, MT-BC
	"Neurologic Research Uncovered: Rethinking Autism to Improve Outcomes in Clinical and Educational Settings"
2:15 PM	Break
2:30 PM	Education Panel Discussion (Autistic self-advocates share their education stories)
3:45 PM	The ACT School Model – Suzanne Oliver
4:15 PM	Silent Auction Closes / A-ha Moments
4:30 PM	End of Day 1

Day II

8:00 AM	Registration / Vendors Open
8:30 AM	Welcome /Announcements / Introductions
9:00 AM	Keynote Session by Suzanne Oliver, MT-BC
	"Following the Evidence: Professional Growth through Practical Experience"
11:00 AM	Rethinking Autism Benefit Luncheon
12:30 PM	Afternoon Session by Elizabeth Torres, PhD
	"Precision Medicine in Autism: from Birth to Adulthood"
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Afternoon Session by Jayme Whitaker, System of Care Technical Assistant Coordinator, FSSA
	"A Collaboration Matrix: Developing Systems of Care Adaptive Environments that Partner with Families and Youth"
3:45 PM	Silent Auction Ends / Conference Evaluations
4:00 PM	Conference Ends

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS



Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD is a cognitive neuroscientist who has been working on computational aspects of sensory motor integration since the late 90's. She studied mathematics and computer science as an undergraduate and spent a year at the NIH as a Pre-IRTA fellow, working on various computational models of cognition. While obtaining her PhD, she developed a new theoretical framework for the study of sensory motor integration using differential geometry and in particular elements of Riemannian geometry and tensor calculus used in contemporary mechanics and dynamics. Torres provided a model for movement in closed loop with cognition, targeting intentional behaviors of the nervous system. She went on to Caltech to receive postdoctoral training in electrophysiology and computational neural systems. She was a Sloan-Swartz Fellow, a Della Martin Fellow and a Neuroscience Scholar during those years.

In parallel, she worked on translational applications of her models to address issues in patients with Parkinson's disease, stroke, neuropathy and upon joining Rutgers University in 2008, she applied a stochastic extension of such models to autism spectrum disorders with a focus on spontaneous and autonomic behaviors. The new extension characterizes a read out of somatosensation in millisecond range fluctuations of physiological motions. These fluctuations enable the sub-typing of severity and the tracking of performance in non-verbal individuals. Under an NSF Cyber Enabled Discovery Award, she developed this new technology and under the NSF I-Corps program is translating it to commercialize it and disseminate it. This framework deals well with the heterogeneity of disorders on a spectrum in general. It allows the design of personalized treatments. The outcome of this work has resulted in multiple ongoing collaborative efforts across various institutions that use the metrics developed in her laboratory to assess natural behaviors in Parkinson's disease, autism, and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar.



Suzanne Oliver is a Board Certified Music Therapist, and a Fellow of the Academy of Neurologic Music Therapy. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Neurologic Music Therapy Services of Arizona/NMTSA, a nonprofit organization that has served the Phoenix area for over 34 years. NMTSA employs 7 NMTs serving over 200 individuals a week in its clinical services. Today NMTSA is recognized for its outstanding treatment of and services for individuals with Autism and a variety of other neurological impairments. In January 2007, NMTSA opened a 7600 sq foot clinic in central Phoenix and began a literacy-based elementary education program (A.C.T. School) for students with autism that addresses communication and sensory accommodations while providing a challenging and motivating academic curriculum. A.C.T. (Assuming Competency Today) now has a collaborative relationship with a private high school where ACT students are taking non-modified general education courses while supported by ACT school staff. NMTSA/ACT just had its first high school student receive a regular course of study diploma from his school district in December, with an additional student slated to graduate with a district regular course of study diploma in May 2016.

Suzanne has presented on Autism and related topics for several years and for a number organizations including the Autism National Committee, Autism Society of America, the Institute for Communication and Inclusion at Syracuse University, and at Chapel Hill University as well as at several AMTA National and Regional Conferences. She has provided training to the Phoenix Community in Competency-Based Communication methods, including FCT and supported typing, since the early 90's. She is an advocate for those who seek to use nontraditional communication methods and are advocating for themselves.

(Suzanne Oliver Continued)

Suzanne has conducted rhythm analysis and evaluations for several individuals across the country who are working to be independent in their typing, and has assisted many of those individuals in the development of home drumming programs to promote self-regulation and improve their active independence. Suzanne's passion is to educate the community on current research regarding the impact of rhythm on the brain and how this knowledge can impact everyday life, and to assist persons with autism to embrace and utilize their strengths while minimizing their weaknesses through the use of best practice interventions.



Jayme Whitaker grew up a "system kid" and has spent a lifetime living with the long-term effects of early childhood trauma. His experiences and triumphs led him to advocate and work as a provider for families and youth during his years working in ministry and mentoring youth. Since 2008 he has committed his time and energy into investing in the growth of Indiana Systems of Care, here in our state and the goal of meeting the needs of youth and families. He now works as a Technical Assistance Coordinator for our Indiana Systems of Care and travels throughout the state developing SOC by sharing its values and principles. Jayme recognizes the obstacles individuals and families affected by autism face when trying to access mental health and other necessary services. He is leading discussions to make this a SOC priority.

Your conference committee is also excited to welcome these esteemed self-advocates (and others) who will participate in our Conference Education Panel and Self-advocacy Spotlights:

Andrew Simmons
Grant Blasko
Josh Berkau
John Smyth
Matt and Amelia Reibsamen

Registration Information

Rethinking Autism Conference

Holiday Inn Evansville Airport
7101 US Highway 41 North
Evansville, Indiana

April 1-2, 2016 | 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
(Registration and exhibitors open at 8:00 AM)

Welcome to the Rethinking Autism Conference registration! General conference registration includes access to full conference offerings.

Conference Website: Additional information about the conference and specific details about CEUs offered are provided online at autism.optimalrhythms.org.

Conference Hotel Accommodations/Travel: Make hotel reservations by calling 812-867-7999 or by visiting http://bit.ly/1KwP564. Group code is: ORA and group rate is $99/night if reserved by March 1st. Hotel provides free shuttle service to and from Evansville Regional Airport.

All attendees must register. Children under the age of 18 are complimentary but must be registered. Pre-registration is not available for minors, they must be registered onsite.

Registration cancellation requests received by March 18, 2016 will be processed without a cancellation penalty. A full refund will be granted. Registration cancellation requests received after March 18, 2016 will be processed minus a $50.00 cancellation penalty per registration.

Professional group registrations must be submitted together. Per-person discount is available for a minimum of 5 registrations when all registrations in the group are submitted together or on the same day, if submitted online. All names must be listed on the registration form.

Individuals on the spectrum/self-advocates with financial needs, please call us at (812) 491-9401 to request help with registration fees. A small number of needs-based scholarships are available on a first come – first served basis.

If you would like to speak with a person about conference registration, you can reach us by calling (812) 491-9401 or email admin@optimalrhythms.org.

Conference Registration Form

Thank you for your interest in attending the **2016 Rethinking Autism Conference**.
Please fill in one conference registration form below for each individual or for each person attending from your group, company, or organization. Group registrations must be submitted together.

Name (please print): _____
Company/Organization: _____
Title/Discipline: _____ **CEUs Requested:** □ **yes** □ **no**
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Please indicate if you require special accommodations (physical, dietary, etc.)**:** _____
_____

Registration Fees:

	Early Bird **before March 1, 2016** (Bold rates **include free t-shirt)**	**Regular/Onsite** **after March 1, 2016**
Professional Registration Rate (See website for pre-approved CEU offerings)	□ **$149** T-Shirt Size _____	□ **$179**
Day I only	□ $75	□ $90
Day II only	□ $100	□ $115
Group Discount Rate (5 or more Professionals) *****Group registrations must be submitted together to qualify.*****	□ **$129** T-Shirt Size _____	**N/A**
General Registration Rate	□ **$99** T-Shirt Size _____	□ **$129**
Day I only	□ $50	□ $65
Day II only	□ $75	□ $90
Student Registration Rate	□ **$65** T-Shirt Size _____	□ **$85**
Day I only	□ $35	□ $45
Day II only	□ $60	□ $70

I'm paying for _____ total registration(s) for a total cost of $_____
Rethink Autism Luncheon (1 ticket included with registration): Additional Ticket(s): _____ @ $25
TOTAL DUE: $_____

Please mail completed form with your check, money order, or credit card payment to:
Rethinking Autism Conference
c/o Optimal Rhythms, Inc.
621 S. Cullen Ave., Suite 120
Evansville, IN 47715

Card Type: Visa / Discover / Mastercard
Card # _____
Expiration Date: _____
CVV Code: _____
Signature:
_____

Online Registration Also Available:
Visit our conference website at ***autism.optimalrhythms.org***

Rethinking Autism Conference

Exhibitor Information

April 1-2, 2016 Evansville, Indiana

CONFERENCE EXHIBITOR - $ 200

Exhibitors have a reserved space for both conference days

- One eight-foot, table with two chairs
- Promotion in Optimal Rhythms social media
- Listing in conference materials
- Listing on www.optimalrhythms.org
- One conference registration
- Electricity at your table, if needed – (you are urged to bring extra electric cords to ensure access to no-charge electricity)

Please complete form and return with payment:

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Will you be selling items: □ Yes □ No

If yes, describe: _____

Do you need electricity? □ Yes □ No

Are you willing to donate an item for the Attendance Drawing? □ Yes □ No

If yes, describe item to be donated: _____

Value of item to be donated: $_____

Rethinking Autism | c/o Optimal Rhythms, Inc. | 621 S. Cullen Avenue, Suite 120 | Evansville, IN 47715
Questions? Call (812) 491-9401