RESEARCH
UNCOVERED



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

Sponsorship Packet

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Rethinking Autism State Conference
April 1-2, 2016

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*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, 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

Event hosted by:

Optimal Rhythms | ACCESS Academy



Make a true impact in our community this year during Autism Awareness Month! Please consider becoming a sponsor for the 2016 Indiana Rethinking Autism Conference.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

CHANGE-MAKER SPONSOR - $10,000

- Conference naming rights (*brought to you by X*)
- Company logo on handouts and materials
- Acknowledgement during speaker intros
- One large poster displayed at conference location
- Logo on keynote presentation podium
- Logo and company link posted on www.optimalrhythms.org
- Promotion in Optimal Rhythms media and social media
- Full-page ad in conference program
- Ad display at registration table and acknowledgement at workshops
- Largest logo on conference t-shirt
- Four (4) conference registrations
- Table of eight (8) at Rethinking Autism Benefit Luncheon

HOPE-GIVER SPONSOR - $5,000

- Recognized prior to keynote speaker
- Company logo on handouts and materials
- One large poster displayed at conference location
- Logo on keynote presentation podium
- Logo and company link posted on www.optimalrhythms.org
- Promotion in Optimal Rhythms media and social media
- Half-page ad in conference program
- Large logo on conference t-shirt
- Two (2) conference registrations
- Four (4) tickets to Rethinking Autism Benefit Luncheon

ADVOCATE SPONSOR - $2,500

- Company logo on handouts and materials
- Logo posted on www.optimalrhythms.org
- Link to your company's website posted on www.optimalrhythms.org
- Promotion in Optimal Rhythms social media
- Quarter-page ad in conference program
- Logo on conference t-shirt
- Two (2) conference registrations
- Two (2) tickets to Rethinking Autism Benefit Luncheon

RETHINKING AUTISM BENEFIT LUNCHEON SPONSORS

The Rethinking Autism Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 11:00 AM in the Holiday Inn Evansville Airport. This event will celebrate the start of Autism Awareness Month by highlighting exciting and innovative research that is informing both clinical treatment and educational practices for individuals in our community on the autism spectrum.

RETHINK AUTISM LUNCHEON SPONSOR - $1,500

- Company logo in conference program
- Acknowledgement during benefit event
- Exhibit/display table at event entrance
- Logo and company link posted on www.optimalrhythms.org
- Promotion in Optimal Rhythms social media
- Ad display at registration table
- Four (4) tickets to the Luncheon

RETHINK AUTISM BENEFIT TABLE SPONSOR - $250

- Listed in Benefit Luncheon program
- Acknowledgement during event
- Signage on sponsored table
- Table of eight (8) for the Luncheon

RETHINKING AUTISM EXHIBITORS

The Rethinking Autism Vendors will be located in the atrium of the Holiday Inn, adjacent to the conference meeting room. We are encouraging vendors of all types to consider joining us as we plan to have a unique variety to conference attendees: professionals, families, stakeholders, etc. This event will celebrate the start of Autism Acceptance Month by highlighting exciting and innovative research that is informing both clinical treatment and educational practices for autistic individuals in our community, across Indiana, and beyond.

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)

To become an exhibitor, please complete the form at autism.optimalrhythms.org and email it to: admin@optimalrhythms.org or print and mail it with your exhibitor fee to:

Autism Conference, c/o Optimal Rhythms, 621 S. Cullen Ave., Suite 120, Evansville, IN 47715

Call 812-491-9401 with questions.

RETHINKING AUTISM CONFERENCE

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 of 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.

(Suzanne Oliver Continued)

She is an advocate for those who seek to use nontraditional communication methods and are advocating for themselves. 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 Rethinking Autism 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

*Visit http://autism.optimalrhythms.org to see our full conference program, venue, and registration information.