



Presenters:

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DANIEL GESCHWIND, MD, PHD**

Dr. Daniel Geschwind is the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics and is a professor of neurology and psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine. He is director of the Neurogenetics Program and the Center for Autism Research and Treatment (CART) and co-director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics at UCLA.

**JEFFREY LICHTMAN, MD, PHD**

Dr. Lichtman, is a Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University.

**HOLLIS T. CLINE, PHD**

Dr. Cline, is a professor at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego. Her research focuses on determining the mechanisms by which sensory experience affects the development of brain structures and function.

**JASON DICTENBERG, PHD**

Dr. Dichtenberg is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Hunter College. His research focuses on synaptic defects in neurologic diseases of mRNA metabolism, such as Rett syndrome and autism.

**CHRISTOPHER WALSH, MD, PHD**

Dr. Walsh is the Chief in the Division of Genetics at Children's Hospital in Boston. In recent years, researchers have focused their efforts on identifying genes that, when altered, may lead to autism. His laboratory is actively searching for genes that, when altered, may lead to autism using a variety of techniques including cytogenetics (chromosome analysis), FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization) and molecular genomic approaches.

**SAMIE JAFFREY, MD, PHD**

Dr. Jaffrey is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Weill Cornell Medical College. The research in his laboratory is focused on identifying the roles of RNA regulation in neuronal growth, plasticity, and development.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GERALDINE DAWSON, PHD**

Dr. Geraldine Dawson is the Chief Science Officer at Autism Speaks Foundation. In this role, Dawson serves as the scientific leader of Autism Speaks, working with the scientific community; stakeholders, and science staff, to shape, expand, and communicate the foundation's scientific vision and strategy. Dawson is also Research Professor of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**MIRELLA DAPRETTO, PHD (UCLA)**

Dr. Dapretto is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at UCLA. Her current research is focusing on the neural basis of the persistent socio-communicative impairments observed in autism.

**HELEN TAGER-FLUSBERG, PHD**

Dr. Tager-Flusberg is a Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology and Psychology and is the Director of the Lab of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience at Boston University. The overall aims of the research conducted in her lab address questions about the essential characteristics of the cognitive/psychological phenotype that define different neurodevelopmental disorders with special interest in autism, specific language impairment (SLI) and Williams syndrome.

**SALLY ROGERS, PHD**

Dr. Rogers is a Professor in the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at UC Davis. She studies early social, cognitive, and emotional development, development of motor skills, communication, imitation, and language in children with severe disabilities, development of social relationships in people with disabilities, and treatment efficacy in autism.

**MICHAEL SILLER, PHD**

Dr. Siller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Hunter College. His ongoing work includes a randomized treatment study, designed to test the effectiveness of an innovative parent education program that targets children's communication skills in the context of parent-child play interactions.

**MARSHALYN YEARGIN-ALLSOPP, MD, FAAP**

Dr. Yeargin-Allsopp, MD, is a Medical Epidemiologist and Chief of the Developmental Disabilities Branch for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. She maintains her clinical experience as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Emory University School of Medicine and is the medical director of the Clayton Early Intervention Program in metropolitan Atlanta.

**SHIRLEY COHEN, PHD**

Dr. Shirley Cohen is a Professor in the Department of Special Education at Hunter College and the Director of the Regional Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Hunter. She co-developed an inclusion program for young children with ASD within the NYC public schools and directs training for new staff of that program.

This symposium is **free** to the public. Registration for the symposium is required at <http://autismsymposium.hunter.cuny.edu> or 212-396-6121

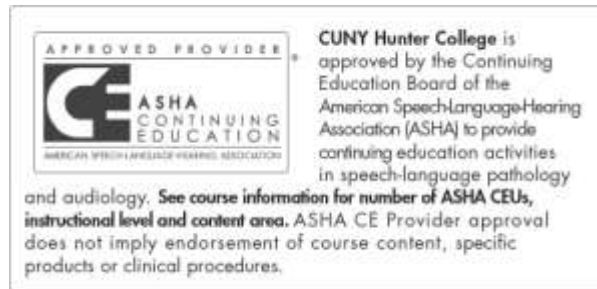
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New York, NY 10010

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