

TODDLERS WITH AUTISM IN NEW YORK CITY

**Public Policy Roundtable on the Challenges
of Enhancing Early Intervention Services
for Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Saturday, March 5th 2011
9:30am to 7:00pm
Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute
at Hunter College**

PROGRAM



WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this public policy roundtable. During the last decade, research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has made tremendous progress with regards to early identification. For the first time, it is feasible to reliably identify red flags for ASD in children as young as 18 months. These advances are reflected in a 2006 policy statement published by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Even though data from several clinical trials are forthcoming, prompt access to intense early intervention services is critical for the well-being of children with ASD and their families.

Despite these exciting advances in the science of early identification, attempts to implement best practice in this area face a multitude of challenges and obstacles. This public policy roundtable brings together an exclusive panel of presenters and a select group of local experts, stakeholders and leaders for a day-long, action-oriented dialogue that will inspire, educate, and produce a blueprint of recommendations for addressing the unique needs of toddlers between 18 and 24 month who are at “high risk” for ASD in New York City.

For their incredible efforts in putting this roundtable event together, I would like to thank our consultants: Emily Forrest, M.D. and Mary Jo Ward, Ph.D. from the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College and Lindee Morgan, Ph.D. from the Florida State University Autism Institute. Special thanks also to Meghan Swanson who is a doctoral student of psychology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Finally, this event would not have been possible without the vision and generous support by The FAR Fund and its director Dr. Shirlee Taylor.

Once again, allow me to welcome you and wish you an enjoyable and productive day.

Sincerely,



Michael Siller, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology at Hunter College

Michael Siller

Co-director of the Hunter College Autism Center; Assistant Professor of Psychology

Michael Siller received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles. He accepted a faculty position in the Psychology Department at Hunter College in 2007, where he also co-directs the Hunter College Autism Center. Dr. Siller’s research focuses on the social and communicative development of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), parent-child communication, and the efficacy of parent mediated interventions. Dr. Siller is currently collaborating with Dr. Connie Kasari (UCLA) on a treatment study for toddlers who are at “high risk” for ASD. This research is funded as part of the Autism Speaks Toddler Treatment Network, which Dr. Siller co-directs with Dr. Sally Rogers (UC Davis).

AGENDA



9:30 - 10:00AM: Breakfast & registration

10:00-10:15AM Welcome remarks
Jennifer Raab, President of Hunter College
Shirlee Taylor, Director of The FAR Fund

10:15-10:25AM Opening remarks: Michael Siller

10:25-11:25AM Morning panel presentations: Wendy Stone, Susan Hyman, Barbara Kalmanson, Alice Carter, Marilyn Rubinstein, Laura Slatkin

11:25-12:10AM Morning panel conversation: Moderated by Alice Carter

12:10-1:30PM Breakout groups & lunch

- Topic 1: Implementing Developmental Surveillance and Screening
- Topic 2: Communicating with Parents about Diagnosis and Intervention
- Topic 3: Making Appropriate Referrals

1:30-2:15PM Morning panel reconvenes: Moderated by Michael Siller

2:15-3:05PM Afternoon panel presentations: Amy Wetherby, Gary Mesibov, Michael Ganz, Donna Noyes-Grosser, Peter Bell

3:05-3:50AM Afternoon panel conversation: Moderated by Alice Carter

3:50-5:00PM Breakout groups & coffee

- Topic 1: Developing Appropriate Services
- Topic 2: Making Appropriate Services Accessible to Families
- Topic 3: Funding Appropriate Services

5:00-5:45PM Afternoon panel reconvenes: Moderated by Michael Siller

5:45-6:00PM Closing remarks: Fred Volkmar

6:00-7:00PM Wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres



Peter H. Bell

Executive Vice President for Programs and Services at Autism Speaks

Peter Bell is executive vice president for programs and services at Autism Speaks. He oversees the foundation's government relations and family services activities and also serves as an advisor to the science division. Prior to his role at Autism Speaks, Bell was president and CEO of Cure Autism Now, which merged with Autism Speaks in February 2007. Peter joined Cure Autism Now in 2004 following a successful 12-year marketing career at McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, a member of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies. Peter led Cure Autism Now through a tremendous growth period and brought the foundation's funding total to more than \$39 million. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University and holds an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University. Peter and his wife, Liz, reside in New Jersey with their three children. Their eldest son, Tyler, has autism.



Alice S. Carter

Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Alice Carter is a Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology in the Psychology Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston, an Associate Research Scientist at the Yale Child Study Center, and a Research Associate in the Boston University Medical School Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. Dr. Carter majored in Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University, where she received her B.S. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Houston and completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Boston she was an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at Yale University. Her primary area of research is infant, toddler, and preschool psychopathology, with an emphasis on early detection, characterization, and amelioration of social-emotional problems and delays in competence, including autism spectrum and anxiety disorders.



Susan L. Hyman

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center

Susan L. Hyman practices Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the Golisano Children's Hospital of the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Division Chief of Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. In addition to clinical assessment and management of children and youth with autism and other developmental disabilities, Dr. Hyman teaches medical students, residents, fellows and other professional trainees and maintains an active research program focused on medical comorbidities of autism, interventions for autism, and diet and nutrition of children with autism. She is co-PI of the Rochester site of the Autism Treatment Network. In addition, she is the chair of the Autism Subcommittee of the American Academy of Pediatrics. As such she advises the AAP Committee on Children with Disabilities and is responsible for the revised version of the AAP Toolkit on Autism for pediatric health care providers.

Michael Ganz

**Adjunct Assistant Professor of Society, Human Development, and Health,
Harvard University**

Michael Ganz has a Ph.D. in Sociomedical Sciences and an MS in Biostatistics, both from Columbia University in New York, and a BA in Economics from UCLA. From 1998 to May 2006 Dr. Ganz was on the faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health (formerly in the Department of Maternal and Child Health). In 2006 Dr. Ganz joined the Cambridge-based consulting firm Abt Associates Inc/Abt Bio-Pharma Solutions, Inc, which was recently acquired by United BioSource Corporation (UBC). Dr. Ganz is currently a Research Scientist at UBC as well as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the HSPH where he continues to teach courses in the analysis of secondary data. Dr. Ganz is an active referee for a number of economic and clinical journals and is a member of a number of economics, public health, and health economics associations.



Barbara Kalmanson

Academic Dean, ICDL Graduate School; Clinical Psychologist

Barbara Kalmanson, a clinical psychologist and special educator, has worked with infants, children and their families for over 30 years. She did her doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley. She was a Harris Fellow of Zero to Three, where she began working with Stanley Greenspan to develop the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL). Dr. Kalmanson is currently the Academic Dean of the ICDL Graduate School doctoral program in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Developmental Disorders. She is a founder of the Oak Hill School, a developmental, relationship-based school for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum and related neurodevelopmental disorders. She practices in San Francisco and Marin County, teaches locally and internationally, and has served on multiple boards of directors, received several honors and awards, and published and presented on infant mental health, early identification and treatment of autistic spectrum disorders, and family-provider relationships.



Gary Mesibov

Former Director of Division TEACCH; Professor Emeritus of Psychology, University of North Carolina

Gary Mesibov is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served on the faculty for 35 years. He was the Director of Division TEACCH at the University of North Carolina from 1992 until 2010. Dr. Mesibov has received degrees from Stanford University (A.B.), The University of Michigan (M.A.), Brandeis University (Ph.D.), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Postdoctoral Fellowship). Dr. Mesibov is a licensed Psychologist in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Mesibov's has editorial appointments at: the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, the *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, and the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. He has written numerous books, journal articles, book reviews, editorials, chapters and research papers dealing with all aspects of autism and developmental disabilities and has been recognized with numerous local, national and international awards for his work.





Donna M. Noyes-Grosser

**Associate Director for Clinical Policy, Bureau of Early Intervention,
NYS Department of Health**

Donna M. Noyes-Grosser received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts and her master's and doctoral degrees in developmental psychology from Stony Brook University. She began her career in government as a Revson Fellow at the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society, and subsequently joined the NYS Council on Children and Families as a research associate, where her work focused on prevention of child maltreatment and development of parent education and support programs. Dr. Noyes-Grosser has served in a leadership capacity in NYS Department of Health's Part C Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families since 1989, where she has been involved in planning, policy development, and implementation of this statewide service delivery system. She currently serves as Associate Director for Clinical Policy for the Bureau of Early Intervention, New York State Department of Health.



Marilyn Rubinstein

Director, Early Childhood Direction Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital

Marilyn Rubinstein is the Director of the Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) in Manhattan at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She has a B.A. in Special Education and M.S in Early Childhood Special Education and has been both a teacher and an administrator in programs for children with typical and atypical development. She began her teaching career in a preschool program for children with autism. As one of the original staff members of the NYC Regional Planning Group for Infants and Toddlers, she has a unique "historian's" perspective of Early Intervention in New York State.



Laura Slatkin

Parent of a Child with Autism; Founder of the New York Center for Autism

Laura Slatkin is the CEO of NEST Fragrances, a luxury home fragrance company. She previously served as President of Slatkin & Co. and, prior to that, Senior Vice President at Lehman Brothers. In 2003, Laura and her husband, Harry, along with a group of colleagues, founded the New York Center for Autism (NYCA), a tri-partite organization dedicated to autism education, community outreach and biomedical research. In 2005, NYCA founded the NYCA Charter School, the first public charter school dedicated to serving children with autism. In 2008, NYCA funded and established the Hunter College Autism Center's "Teach the Teacher" Program. Laura serves on the Board of Directors of Autism Speaks, NYCA, NYCA Charter School, New England Center for Children, and the Henry Street Settlement House, and the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry Advisory Board. Laura has a son who was diagnosed with severe autism.

Wendy Stone

Director, University of Washington Autism Center; Professor of Psychology

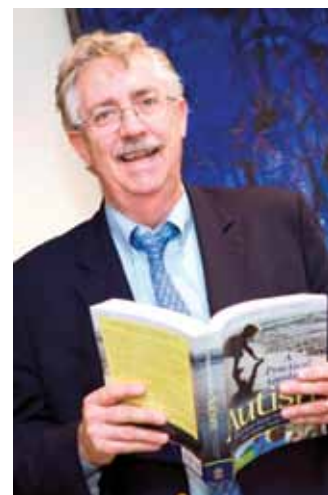
Wendy Stone received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami in 1981. She completed her predoctoral internship at Division TEACCH, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Stone accepted a faculty position at Vanderbilt University in 1988, and remained there for the next 22 years. Based in the Department of Pediatrics and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, she founded and directed the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD), and was promoted to full professor in 2001. While at Vanderbilt she received service awards from the Autism Society of Tennessee and the Mayor's Advisory Council, as well as the outstanding alumnus award from the University of Miami. In May 2010, Dr. Stone joined the University of Washington faculty, where she is Professor of Psychology and directs the UW Autism Center as the Susan & Richard Fade Endowed Chair.



Fred R. Volkmar

Chair, Child Study Center at Yale University; Chief, Child Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital; Irving B. Harris Professor in the Child Study Center and Professor of Pediatrics, of Psychiatry and of Psychology

Fred R. Volkmar is Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Director of the Yale University Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine. He is also the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT. A graduate of the University of Illinois where he received an undergraduate degree in psychology in 1972 and of Stanford University where he received his M.D. and a master's degree in psychology in 1976. Dr. Volkmar was the primary author of the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-IV autism and pervasive developmental disorders section. He is the author of several hundred scientific papers and chapters as well as a number of books including *Asperger's Syndrome* (Guilford Press), *Health Care for Children on the Autism Spectrum* (Woodbine Publishing), *the Handbook of Autism* (Wiley Publishing), and *A Practical Guide to Autism: What Every Parent, Teacher and Family Members Needs to Know* (Wiley Publishing) with another three books in varying stages of production. He has served as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, and the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. He currently serves as Editor of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. He has served as co-chairperson of the autism/intellectual disabilities committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In addition to having directed the internationally known autism clinic he also served as director of autism research at Yale before becoming chairperson of the Department. Dr. Volkmar has been the principal investigator of three program project grants including a CPEA (Collaborative Program of Excellence in Autism) grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and a STAART (Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment) Autism Center Grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.



Amy Wetherby

Director, Florida State University Autism Institute; Distinguished Research Professor in the College of Medicine; L.L. Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders

Amy M. Wetherby is a Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences and Director of the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine and the Laurel Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders at Florida State University. She has 30 years of clinical experience and is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Dr. Wetherby has published extensively and presents regularly at national conventions on early detection of children with autism spectrum disorder and intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder using the SCERTS model. She served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee for Educational Interventions for Children with Autism and is the Executive Director of the Florida State University *Center for Autism and Related Disabilities*. She is the project director of research grants funded by U.S. Department of Education, National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Autism Speaks.





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