

Autism Society of Minnesota's 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference

Caregiver's Guide to the Conference

AuSM invites you to join us for the 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest from Wednesday, April 24-Saturday, April 27, 2019. If you're uncertain about what to expect, this guide will help you prepare!



Held during Autism Awareness Month, the state autism conference will feature 4 keynote speakers; 39 breakout sessions; 35 exhibitors offering autism-focused products and services; networking opportunities; the AuSM bookstore; and catered lunches.

Why should a parent or caregiver attend the conference?

The Minnesota autism conference presents opportunities to connect with other caregivers, meet successful adults on the spectrum, find new resources, and get revitalized! You'll come away with new strategies, new resources, and a community of people who "get it."



AuSM Fun & Games Gala

If you're interested in supporting AuSM and the work that we do year round, join us for the *AuSM Fun & Games Gala*. Join AuSM for a whimsical evening of food, drinks, games, silent and live auctions, and a celebration of those serving as true inspirations to individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Held on April 26 from 6-10 p.m., the gala is a great way to have fun while supporting the local autism community.

Navigating Conference

To help you make the most of your conference experience, this guide includes recommendations for caregivers. Be sure you visit the AuSM Bookstore, a place where you can pick up reading materials on everything from the humor in autism to sexuality. Discover additional resources in the exhibit hall. You'll also be able to connect with other caregivers as well as educators, adults on the spectrum, and professionals if you join us for lunch on Thursday and Friday. Below is a guide to some suggested sessions.

Conference Keynote Presentations

- **Wednesday, April 24 Evening:** Theresa M. Regan, PhD, CBIS, CAS: *Autism Spectrum Disorder in Adults and Aging Adults: Lessons Learned*
- **Thursday, April 25 Morning:** Patrick Schwarz, PhD: *From Possibility to Success: Achieving Successful Student Outcomes*
- **Thursday, April 25 Evening:** Jennifer O'Toole: *Connecting to Others and Understanding Social Rules Through Counterculture*
- **Friday, April 26 Morning:** Sue Swenson, MBA: *How to Change the World*

Conference Breakout Sessions

Thursday, April 25

- Myths of Autism in Childhood and Families: AuSM Counseling and Consulting Services
- Advancing Social Coping Mechanisms from School to the Workplace: Allen Mavis
- Myths of Autism in Adulthood: AuSM Counseling and Consulting Services
- To Share or Not to Share: Decisions Around ASD Disclosure: Barb Luskin, PhD and Jen Reinke, PhD, LAMFT, CFLE
- Transition from School to Post School Best Practices: Patrick Schwarz, PhD

Friday, April 26

- Understanding Emotional Regulation in Autism: Kari Dunn Buron, MS
- The Divine Maze: How Two Non-Speaking Siblings Discovered a Shared Voice: Meghana Junnuru, Chetan Junnuru, Indu Eati, and Chris Martin
- Consumer-Directed Community Supports: A Program That Works for Individuals and Their Families: Vicki Gerrits, BA; Julie Lux, BA; and Shantel Jaszczak, BA
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports: In Schools and At Home Via Telehealth: Maci Brown, MA, BCBA; Adele Dimian, PhD; and Jessica Simacek, PhD, BCaBA
- Navigating Minnesota's System of Supports for Children, Youth, and Young Adults with ASD: Nicole Berning, BBA; Erin Farrell, MA, BCBA; and Shawn Holmes
- Expanding Early Childhood Strengths-Based Strategies for Autistic Children: Sonya Emerick
- A Sensory Diet for Adults: Olivia James
- Addressing Challenging Behaviors With Parent-Implemented Functional Communication Training: Jaelyn Gunderson, MA
- 15 Music Therapy Strategies for Incorporating Music in the Classroom and Home: Lyndie Walker, MT-BC; and Alexa Rosenbaum, MT-BC
- Supporting the Transition of Young Adults with ASD: Rebekah Hudock, PhD and Kelly Nye-Lengerman, PhD

Saturday, April 27

- Cannabis and Autism Spectrum Disorder: Andria Botzet, MA, LAMFT; Linda Skalski, PhD, LP; and Jenna Triana, MD
- Parent-Implemented Models for Autism Early Intervention: Research, Key Elements, and Implementation: Richard Solomon, MD
- Autism in Pink: Growing up Female on the Autism Spectrum: Nemeah Al-Sarraj
- Community Building: Current Activities, Groups, and Initiatives in the Autism Community: Tom Cox and Laura Dettloff
- Understanding Supplemental Security Income Benefits: Nate Gurol, JD
- Sensory Differences: Tools and Treatment Options for Chronic Pain in Autism: Erin Dykhuizen, MA, MSW, LICSW
- APPy Hour: Apps for AAC – A Feature Comparison: Bridget Gillormini, MST-SLP, ATP
- Promoting Family Community Integration: The Interplay of Family Adaptation, Resilience, and Culture: Beth Dierker, PhD; Amy Gunty; and Pang Chaxiong, MA

What's Next?

While the annual autism conference is a fantastic resource, it only happens once a year, and life with autism is year-round. Stay involved with AuSM! Over the summer we have dozens of social skills classes that will let your loved one tap in to a special interest, make new friends, and engage with the community. We also have AuSM Skillshops, two hour mini-workshops on important community topics. Finally, consider visiting our Caregiver Support Group, a free place to develop and build meaningful relationships with this community.

Stay connected to AuSM with our twice monthly e-newsletter, AuSM Connections. You can sign up to receive the newsletter on www.ausm.org.

To learn more about autism, join us for ASD Direct Support Certification, a 15-hour intensive course that gives practical solutions for working with people on the spectrum.

If you're interested in presenting at the 2020 autism conference, you can find the Call for Papers online or at AuSM Headquarters.

AuSM is always seeking volunteers for events and project. If you're interested, visit www.ausm.org and click on "give."

AuSM is currently seeking staff for our summer camps and social skills classes. You can find all the details under the "Summer" section of our website.

Throughout the year, AuSM finds low cost and free opportunities for families to have fun. Check out these Uniting the Community Events under the "Events" section of our website.

You can learn more about all these opportunities at www.ausm.org.