

# Autism Society of Minnesota's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Autism Conference

## Therapist's Guide to Conference

AuSM invites you to join us for the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 therapist attend the conference?

The Minnesota annual autism conference is a great place for therapists to stay up to date on the latest best practices and research for autism. Not only will you walk away with practical strategies that will help you with everything from behaviors to social skills, you also will earn CE credits and connect with colleagues. If you don't find information on everything you're looking for at the conference, our AuSM Bookstore has a hand-selected collection of books and other resources about every age, topic, and concern related to autism. If you're looking for help with a particular topic, visit the bookstore and we will help you find the right resource.

### Obtain CEs

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available from the Minnesota Board of Psychology, the Minnesota Board of Social Work, and the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy for conference sessions. Certificates will be available at the end of each day at AuSM Headquarters. If you are applying for CEUs through a different board, a Certificate of Attendance will be available in your participant folder to submit to your board.

### 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
- Transition from School to Post School Best Practices: Patrick Schwarz, PhD
- Understanding the Benefits of Positive Behavior Supports Across All Settings: Elizabeth Freese, MS
- An Introduction to Applied Behavioral Analysis Strategies for the Classroom: L. Lynn Stansberry Brusnahan, PhD; Erin Farrell, MA, BCBA; and Deeqifrah Hussein, MA
- To Share or Not to Share: Decisions Around ASD Disclosure: Barb Luskin, PhD and Jen Reinke, PhD, LAMFT, CFLE

#### 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
- Historical Trauma and Autism: Using Trauma-Informed Care to Heal the Disability Community: Andrea Zuber
- Expanding Early Childhood Strengths-Based Strategies for Autistic Children: Sonya Emerick
- Supporting the Transition of Young Adults with ASD: Rebekah Hudock, PhD and Kelly Nye-Lengerman, PhD
- Equity in Autism Identification and Intervention: Challenges, Opportunities, and Local Advances: Amanda Sullivan, PhD, LP; Cindy Hillyer, BSN, LSN; Suad Salad; Mariana Walther; and Eleanor Chenoweth
- Develop Meaningful Social Skills with Adolescents on the Spectrum: The PEERS Program: Jessica Muszynski, Eds; and Christine Peterson, PhD
- Social Narratives: Not Just for Kids: Jillian Nelson
- Consumer-Directed Community Supports: A Program that Works for Individuals and Their Families: Vicki Gerritts, BA; Julie Lux, BA; and Shantel Jaszczak, BA
- A Sensory Diet for Adults: Olivia James
- Addressing Challenging Behaviors with Parent-Implemented Functional Communication Training: Jaclyn Gunderson, MA

### **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
- Community Building: Current Activities, Groups, and Initiatives in the Autism Community: Tom Cox and Laura Dettloff
- Autism, Relationships, and Sexuality: Having Fulfilling Relationships: Robert McCauley
- Autism in Pink: Growing up Female on the Autism Spectrum: Nemeh Al-Sarraj
- Parent Perceptions of Barriers and Facilitators to Obtaining a Diagnosis of Autism: Pang Chaxiong, MA; Alefyah Shipchandler, BA; and Jennifer Hall-Lande, PhD
- Sensory Differences: Tools and Treatment Options for Chronic Pain in Autism: Erin Dykhuizen, MA, MSW, LICSW
- Promoting Family Community Integration: The Interplay of Family Adaptation, Resilience, and Culture: Beth Dierker, PhD; Amy Gunty; and Pang Chaxiong, MA

### **What's Next**

In addition to the annual state autism conference, AuSM offers resources and services throughout the year that can be beneficial to therapists working with clients on the spectrum. The AuSM Counseling and Consulting team is available to consult with therapists, group home staff, community organizations, employers, day training and habilitation groups, and other direct support professionals who work with individuals with autism to help with general training or to offer strategies related to a specific issue or topic. In addition, we have customized trainings available. Visit [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) for more information.

Make sure you stay connected to AuSM with our twice monthly e-newsletter, *AuSM Connections*. You can sign up to receive the newsletter on [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org).

AuSM hosts a monthly professional networking group. Contact [autismcounseling@ausm.org](mailto:autismcounseling@ausm.org) for more information and to RSVP.

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.