

# Family Member's Guide to Conference



## Why should a therapist attend the conference?

The Minnesota Autism Conference presents opportunities to connect with other caregivers, meet 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 understand. Below is a guide to some suggested sessions.

## Recommended Sessions for Family Members

### Conference Keynote Presentations

- Wednesday April 15, 9-10:15 a.m.  
**Breaking Barriers: Ending Bias in Autism Diagnosis** presented by Maria Davis-Pierre
- Thursday, April 16, 9-10:15 a.m.  
**Supporting Students to Find Autistic Joy Through Evidence-Based Practice** presented by Erin Farrell

### Conference Breakout Presentations

#### Wednesday, April 15

##### 10:30-11:30 a.m.

- Improving Autism-Related Clinical Care: Lessons Learned from University-Community Partnerships with Somali Community Organizations presented by Casey Burrows, Munira MaalimIsaq, Fatima Molas, and Rebecca Vaurio
- Practical Support Strategies & Approaches for Educators of Neurodivergent Learners presented by Nicole Ogren

##### 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

- Redefining Leadership: Beyond Neurotypical Models presented by Erin Flicker
- From Awareness to Belonging: Closing the Social Reciprocity Gap presented by Robin McLeod

#### Thursday, April 16

##### 10:30-11:30 a.m.

- The Caregiver's Survival Guide to Mental Wellness presented by Louis Scarantino

##### 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

- The Spectrum: Bridging the Gap between All Kinds of Autistics presented by Sam Stein
- Coaching Parents Toward Self-Reflection: Building Stronger Connections with Neurodivergent Children presented by Alyssa Norenberg and Oana Zayic

## What's Next

Stay involved with AuSM! Over the summer we have dozens of social and recreation opportunities that will let your loved one tap in to a special interest, make new friends, and engage with the community. Check out our upcoming AuSM Workshops, including 1.5 hour options or half day sessions. We invite you to join us at this year's Steps for Autism on May 18 at the ROC at the St. Louis Park Rec Center. Come together with your community for activities, a festival atmosphere, resources and more! Finally, consider visiting our Caregiver Support Group, a free place to develop and build meaningful relationships with this community.

To stay in the know, make sure you visit [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) to sign up for our twice monthly e-newsletter, AuSM Connections. You can find the sign up at the bottom of any page on AuSM's website.

**Visit [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) for details.**