



11<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Waisman Center Day with the Experts: Autism

Learn about the latest advances in autism research and services and hear from a panel of experts—individuals with autism and family members.

**Saturday, January 24, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

*(Complimentary coffee & bagels at 8:30 a.m.)*

9:00–9:30 a.m.

### **Welcome and Introduction to the Waisman Center**

*Albee Messing, VMD, PhD, Professor, Neuropathology and Interim Director, Waisman Center*

9:30–10:00 a.m.

### **Parental Verbal Responsiveness Can Facilitate Language and Communication in Young Children on the Autism Spectrum**

*Susan Ellis Weismer, PhD, Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders and Waisman Center Investigator*

This presentation will focus on connections between parent verbal responsiveness and language development in young children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Research shows that different types of linguistic input are needed to facilitate language learning depending on the child's developmental level. Results from two studies demonstrate the effectiveness of parent-implemented programs in aiding language development and communication.

10:00–10:30 a.m.

### **Motor Ability in Autism**

*Brittany Travers, PhD, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Waisman Center Investigator*

Motor difficulties are not considered a central feature of autism, yet a number of individuals with autism struggle with balance, completing a motor sequence, or reacting quickly. These motor difficulties have been found to relate to more severe autism symptoms and impaired activities of daily living. Therefore, motor difficulties may be intricately intertwined with social communication and independent living skills in this population. This presentation will discuss common motor difficulties in autism, how motor skills relate to neurobiology in autism, and how motor skills develop and change over the life span.

..... **BREAK** .....

10:45–11:15 a.m.

### **Quality of Life of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

*Leann Smith, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Waisman Center Investigator*

Given that more children with ASD than ever before are now entering adulthood, there is growing interest in understanding outcomes for individuals later in the life course. In addition to studying objective measures of adult life such as employment and independent living, it is important to understand the subjective experience of well-being for individuals with ASD from the perspective of adults themselves. This presentation shares findings from a recent study on quality of life for adults with ASD at mid-life and implications for future research and practice.

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

**LUNCH**—Optional, \$5 box lunches (Cousins Subs) available for purchase. Gluten free options available.  
**Optional question and answer session with a panel of clinicians.**

12:15–1:00 p.m.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**—A panel of experts that includes individuals with autism and family members.

**Please pre-register at**  
[waisman.wisc.edu/events-experts-autism15.htm](http://waisman.wisc.edu/events-experts-autism15.htm)

Hosted by the **Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin** and the **Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Sponsored by the **Friends of the Waisman Center**



Friends of the Waisman Center Auditorium | 1500 Highland Avenue | Madison, WI | Free admission and parking  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

For additional details, call 608.263.5837 or email [palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu)