

Multidisciplinary Care of Autistic Children



September 20th, 2024

8:30am - 4:30pm

Live Online and Live In-Person;

In-person Location: Sturgis Hall - [Westchester Behavioral Health Center](#)



- \$10 Virtual (+ optional \$140 CE/CME fee)

- \$50 In-person (+ optional \$140 CE/CME fee)

in-person attendance includes a coffee break and catered lunch



Click the Register Now button:

REGISTER NOW



CE: This event is approved by New York State Education Department (NYSED) to provide 7 CEs for NYS licensed Psychologists, Social Workers, and LMHCs. This event is also approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to provide 7 CEs to psychologists.

CME: Weill Cornell Medical College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Weill Cornell Medical College designates this live activity for a maximum of 7 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Instructional Level: This course is designed for medical providers of children and allied health professionals. This event is appropriate for all audiences (introductory, intermediate and advanced).

Psychologists, social workers and LMHC can contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell for additional CE information. Physicians and other providers seeking CMEs can email Monica Fortsch at mof4007@med.cornell.edu



Event Information

Comprehensive medical care of autistic children often necessitates a multidisciplinary team of providers to address their complex healthcare needs. While many primary care providers are experienced in caring for autistic children in their medical practice, they often feel unprepared to manage their complex medical needs. The goal of this program is to further their understanding and familiarity of the common medical co-occurring conditions that are seen in autistic children, as well as discuss strategies for assessment and management of these conditions. The panel of providers includes specialists from the following disciplines: psychology, child neurology, sleep medicine, genetics, gastroenterology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, nutrition, psychiatry, developmental pediatrics, and family navigators. Providers from each specialty will present information related to their particular specialty to provide background information and will discuss indications for referral to their particular specialty for further evaluation and provision of care

Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

1. Identify co-occurring medical conditions in autistic children, which will enhance the ability to provide care to this patient population.
2. Describe two strategies to manage co-occurring medical conditions commonly seen in this population.
3. List the multidisciplinary team members that are often a part of the comprehensive care of autistic children.
4. Identify when referral to a subspecialist or therapeutic provider is clinically indicated.



CE Certificate Requirements

7.0 CE credits are available for a fee and will be awarded to licensed psychologists, social workers and LMHC's who attend the conference live and have met the requirements below. Participants who do not meet the attendance requirements will not receive a CE certificate or refund.

Please note that to receive your 7.0 CE certificate for the event, you must sign in with your full name, attend the entire event live and complete the evaluation within 30 days in accordance with NYSED and APA requirements. Evaluation forms will be distributed via email following the workshop to those meeting the attendance requirements above. There will be one certificate awarding 7.0 CE hours for the event. No partial credit will be given to those attending only a portion of the conference.

Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Department of Psychiatry, 525 E 68th St. New York, NY 10065, is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0192. WCM Department of Psychiatry is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0302. WCM is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. WCM maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The New York Presbyterian Hospital Department of Social Work is recognized by New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0155.



CME Certificate Requirements

The CME Evaluation will be distributed following the conference. We encourage you to complete the Evaluation Form as this will allow us to assess the degree to which the activity met the following objective's that will lead to improved patient care, including improvements in knowledge, competence, or performance. It will also guide the planning of future activities and inform decisions about improving the educational program.

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WCMC is accessible for individuals with disabilities or special needs. Participants with special needs are requested to contact the Office of CME at 646-962-6931.

WCMC CME activities are intended to be evidence-based and free of commercial bias. If you have any concerns, please call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at 646-962-6931 to anonymously express them.

Program Schedule

Event moderators: Jennifer Bain, MD, PhD and Monica Pozzuoli, MD, MPH

8:30am- 8:40am | Introductory Remarks

Alycia Halladay, PhD

8:40am-9:20 am | Overview of the presentation and diagnosis of autism

Cynthia Martin, PsyD

9:30am-9:50am | Neurology: Co-occurring neurologic conditions

Wendy Silver MD, MA

9:50am-10:10am | Sleep disorders

Arezou Heshmati, MD

10:10am-10:20am | Questions

10:20am-10:40am | Break

10:40am-11:00am | Genetics

Lakshmi Mehta, MD

11:00am-11:20am | Gastrointestinal disorders

Thomas Ciecierrega, MD

11:20am - 11:40am | Feeding Issues

CADB team members: ST, OT, Nutrition: Jennifer Kissel, MS, CCC-SLP, TSSLD, Kaori Nakamura. OTR/L-NDT certified, SI specialist, SOS feeding specialist, Cristine DeIuzzo, RD

11:40am-12:00pm | Questions

12:00pm-1:00pm | Lunch

Discussion with a patient, discussion about person first vs identity first language

1:00pm-1:50pm | Psychiatry

Pankhuree Vandana, MD

1:50am-2:00pm | Questions

2:00pm-2:20pm | Support services in the community

CADB Family Navigators: Lissbeth Santos, Ivelisse Ferreira

2:20pm-2:50pm | Overview of developmental service

CADB team members: Kelly Mickler, MS, CCC-SLP, Hannah Miller, BCBA and Kaori Nakamura, MS, OTR/L

2:50pm-3:00pm | Questions

3:00pm-3:15pm | Break

3:15pm-4:00pm | Transition to adulthood

Alyson Gutman, MD

4:00pm-4:15pm | Questions

4:15pm-4:30pm | Closing Remarks

Stephen M. Kanne, Ph.D., ABPP (CN)



Featured Speakers



[Jennifer Bain, MD, PhD](#)

Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center

Jennifer Bain, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Bain completed both M.D. and PhD. as well as general pediatrics residency at Rutgers – New Jersey Medical School in Newark, New Jersey. She then trained in Child Neurology at New York Presbyterian – Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and is a board-certified neurologist with special certification in Child Neurology. Her early research career focused on spinal cord and brain development after injuries such as spinal cord injury and HIE. She currently works as a physician scientist at Columbia University specializing in general pediatric neurology with expertise in neurodevelopment, behavioral neurology and autism. Her clinical research has focused on studying the genetics of neurodevelopmental disorders including autism and cerebral palsy. She has been working closely with several patient advocacy groups, researchers, and Simons Searchlight to continuously move forward in the understanding of the developing brain. Dr. Bain co-founded the NewYork Presbyterian Autism Task Force in 2017 to improve collaboration across the NYP campuses by educating providers about autism care, resources and research



[Thomas Mathew Ciecierrega, MD](#)

Associate Professor of Pediatrics; Director of Pediatric Motility Center; Director of Pediatric Endoscopy, NYP - Weill Cornell Medical College

Director of the Pediatric Motility Program, the oldest and most comprehensive motility center in the tri-state area. Dr. Ciecierrega specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of complex motility disorders. He specializes in complex esophageal, gastric, intestinal, colonic, and anorectal motility testing. He co-directs multispecialty clinics at the Weill Cornell Pediatric Sub-Specialty Practice, including the Pediatric Aerodigestive Clinic. He is co-chair of the international PAAFIS (Pediatric, Adolescent and Adult Foregut Interdisciplinary Symposium) society and has been involved in national and international meetings and conferences.



[Ivelisse Ferreria](#)

Family Navigator

Ivelisse Ferreria holds a bachelor's degree in public health and a master's degree in health care administration from Monroe College. She has been employed at the Center for Autism and The Developing Brain as a Family Navigator for one year. Prior to her current position, she served as an Assistant Program Director for the New York City-funded eviction prevention program, Home-Base, for 11 years. She has been working in the social service field for approximately 17 years.

Featured Speakers



Alyson H. Gutman, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Weill Cornell Medicine
Department of Pediatrics, Child Development

Dr. Gutman earned her B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University and her medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed her Pediatrics residency at NorthShore University Hospital and a fellowship in Developmental Pediatrics at the Rose F. Kennedy Center. She worked in Child Development at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center for six years and then spent 22 years as an Attending in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Cohen Children's Medical Center (CCMC). At CCMC, she established a fellowship training program, served as Medical Director of the Reach Out and Read program, and was the Gun Safety Champion of the Division. She also led a suicide screening quality improvement project and published research on diagnosis disclosure in Autism Spectrum Disorders in 2020.



Alycia Halladay, PhD

Chief Science Officer, Autism Science Foundation

Alycia Halladay is the Chief Science Officer for the Autism Science Foundation (ASF). She oversees scientific activities, grants, and initiatives. ASF focuses on investing in early career researchers and supports projects like the Autism Sisters Project and Baby Siblings Research Consortium. Alycia produces a weekly podcast to explain scientific information to the public. Before joining ASF, she led the "Early Access to Care" Initiative at Autism Speaks. She has authored over three dozen peer-reviewed papers in science journals and serves on the board of the Phelan McDermid Syndrome Foundation. Alycia received her PhD from Rutgers in 2001 and holds a faculty appointment at the university. She has a 13-year-old daughter with ASD.



Arezou Heshmati, MD

Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, Sleep Medicine -
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Dr. Arezou Heshmati, MD, has served as an Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) within the Department of Neurology, specializing in Child Neurology. Board certified in Pediatrics, Sleep Medicine, and Neurology with special qualification in Child Neurology, Dr. Heshmati offers comprehensive care to both inpatient and outpatient pediatric neurology patients. She is actively involved in the development and expansion of the Pediatric Neurology Sleep Program at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, demonstrating her commitment to advancing clinical care and research in pediatric sleep disorders.

Featured Speakers



Stephen M. Kanne, Ph.D., ABPP (CN)

Director, Center for Autism and the Developing Brain
Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry -WCM
Attending Psychologist - NYP Hospital

Dr. Kanne is a Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College and the Director of the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain at Weill Cornell Medical School. He previously held positions at the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and the Department of Health Psychology. Dr. Kanne's research focuses on children with autism, including diagnostic tools, outcome measures, behavioral phenotyping, co-occurring symptoms, evidence-based therapies, and subthreshold symptoms. He also provides workshops nationally and internationally in autism.



Jennifer Kissel, M.S. CCC-SLP, TSSLD

Senior Speech-Language Pathologist, Center for Autism and the Developing Brain

Jennifer has been a speech-language pathologist for 9 years. She found her love of the field after volunteering in special education schools and working as a research assistant in college. Jennifer has extensive experience working with autistic individuals on their feeding challenges, language development, social skills, and development of communication using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). At CADB, Jennifer is responsible for providing direct speech and feeding therapy to children under 8 as well as providing parent coaching through CADB's EI program. Jennifer has also been involved in CADB's research. She has participated in research studying investigating the effectiveness of video modeling in parent coaching, virtual service delivery of an evidence based social skills group during the COVID-19 pandemic and is currently investigating barriers to accessing autism services.



Cynthia Martin, PsyD

Senior Psychologist; Senior Director of Autism Center at Child Mind Institute

Dr. Cynthia Martin is a Senior Director and psychologist at the Autism Center of the Child Mind Institute. She specializes in the evaluation and treatment of autism and related disorders, with a focus on very young children and girls. Dr. Martin is experienced in treating communication and social skill deficits, challenging behavior, and sleep difficulties. She is also involved in research on neurodevelopment and behavior in children with Down syndrome and autism.

Featured Speakers



Lakshmi Mehta, MD, FACMG

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics - Columbia University Medical Center
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

Dr. Lakshmi Mehta is a Clinical Geneticist at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. She is an experienced clinician and educator, having trained many geneticists and genetic counselors. Dr. Mehta's clinical research focuses on rare genetic disorders, gene discovery, and elaborating the phenotype and natural history of these conditions. She is active in committees and workgroups of the American College of Medical Genetics and presents regularly at national meetings. She is currently a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Clinical Genetics at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of Columbia University Irving Medical Center.



Kelly Mickler, M.S., CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital,
Center for Autism and the Developing Brain

Kelly is a speech-language pathologist with nearly 10 years of experience working with autistic individuals. Her clinical experience includes working in residential, outpatient, inpatient, and home-based settings for autistic individuals across the lifespan. Currently, Kelly provides individual and group outpatient services to school age, teen, and adult patients at the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain. Kelly serves as a member of the CADB Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) team, a multidisciplinary consultation service that provides quality improvement initiatives for autistic/IDD patients on inpatient psychiatric units at NYP. She earned her B.S. in Communication Sciences/Disorders at the University of Rhode Island and her M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology at SUNY New Paltz.



Hannah Miller, BCBA, LBA

Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Weill Cornell

Hannah has worked in behavior analysis for over 10 years, supporting autistic children, young adults, and families. She has worked as a direct support provider, special education teacher, and BCBA supervisor for home services before joining CADB. Her experiences in schools include working in ABA classrooms at the NYC Autism Charter Schools and a BOCES public school. She incorporates behavior analytic research into plans, staff training, reading instruction, and feeding interventions. Hannah's work includes supporting individuals from age 2 into adulthood with various support needs. As a BCBA at CADB, she conducts parent training and is part of the PBS consult team on the inpatient campus. Her parent training programs include Research Units in Behavior Analysis (RUBI) and Project Impact.

Featured Speakers



Kaori Nakamura, MS, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist— NY Presbyterian Hospital – Westchester Campus Center for Autism & the Developing Brain

After meeting a neighbor who was studying occupational therapy in her first post-college NYC apartment, Kaori Nakamura changed her career to become an occupational therapist. She received her Master's degree from Columbia University and worked in various rehabilitation settings for over 27 years. Kaori has specialized training to treat brain injuries and sensory-based feeding issues, and currently works as an occupational therapist at CADB (Center for Autism and the Developing Brain). Besides her career, Kaori enjoys writing for a magazine, cheering for Cornell Women's Lacrosse, and soaking up the sun in San Diego!



Cristine Del Pizzo, RD, CDN, CDCES

Clinical Nutrition Supervisor at New York Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health

Cristine is a registered dietitian-nutritionist graduating from the College of Saint Benedict's coordinated dietetics program. She has training in Culinary Arts with a degree from Johnson & Wales University. This allows her to offer a unique food forward approach to her clinical work. She also holds a specialty certification as a certified diabetes education specialist. She has been providing nutrition services in the acute care setting for over 20 years with the majority of her work in pediatric and adolescent nutrition care. For the past 6 years her work has focused on the field of behavioral health nutrition. In partnership with The Center for Autism and the Developing Brain she has been providing individualized nutrition assessment and counseling services for individuals with ASD.



Monica Pozzuoli, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College

Monica Pozzuoli, MD, MPH is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Pozzuoli completed her undergraduate studies at Barnard College, Columbia University. She then attended New York Medical College, where she earned her M.D. and MPH in Epidemiology in 2004. She then completed a residency in Pediatrics at New York Presbyterian, Weill Cornell Medicine in 2007. She cared for pediatric patients in primary care settings from 2007-2020 and served as the Primary Care Chair of the Quality and Patient Safety Committee at Weill Cornell Medicine from 2011-2020. In 2021 she transitioned to her current role as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine. In this role, she provides medical care and consultations for pediatric patients at the New York Presbyterian, Westchester Behavioral Health (NYP-WBH) campus in White Plains, New York. She cares for pediatric patients on the inpatient setting, as well as in the outpatient setting at the New York Presbyterian Center for Autism and the Developing Brain. She is an active member of the NYP-WBH Child Protection Committee, as well as the New York Presbyterian Autism Task Force. She has been active as an educator for medical trainees throughout her career.

Featured Speakers



Lissbeth Santos

Lead Family Navigator

Lissbeth Santos is the Lead Family Navigator at the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology at the City College of New York. She has over 7 years of experience working in social services. Lissbeth has primarily worked with families with children and adolescents, doing case management/case planning work and providing resources. She was trained and certified as a SafeCare provider and provided parent training modules to parents of children 0-5 years old. She has worked with children with autism in the past and assisted parents with obtaining appropriate services. Lissbeth has been working at CADB for 3 years and 5 months, and she is passionate about helping families and assisting with navigating both external and internal services.



Wendy Silver MD, MA

Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics , Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Wendy Silver is a child neurologist and Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Her expertise is in child development and behavior. In particular, she is interested in treating children with autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD, and in behavioral neurology, including neurological outcomes of children who had COVID-19 and TBI. In addition to completing a fellowship training in child neurology, she also completed a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) fellowship. With this background and expertise, she has participated in several NIH supported studies related to the COVID-19 pandemic as has co-authored the chapter on ADHD in the latest edition of an important child neurology textbook.



Pankhuree Vandana, MD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Dr. Pankhuree Vandana is a dual board-certified pediatric and adult psychiatrist, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University, and Research Psychiatrist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. She serves as Service Chief of the Neurodevelopmental Conditions inpatient consult service at NYP Center for Autism and the Developing Brain, and Medical Director of the CADB Translational Medicine Research Program. Specializing in neurodevelopmental conditions and severe psychiatric comorbidities, she is active on multiple national committees and frequently presents at national and international conferences.

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Financial Disclosures

Jennifer Bain, MD, PhD (Course Co-Director, Moderator, Planning Committee) is an Consultant at Grin Therapeutics, Neurvati, Guidepoint Consulting,

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