

**Multidisciplinary Care of Autistic Children**  
Friday, September 20th, 2024  
Annex II, Westchester Behavioral Health Center AND via Zoom

***CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION -- GENERAL INFORMATION***

**Introductory Remarks with Alycia Halladay, PhD**  
*(Alycia Halladay, PhD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Overview of the presentation and diagnosis of autism with Cynthia Martin, PsyD**

• Clinical presentation  
• Referral guidelines  
• Criteria for diagnosis  
• Diagnostic testing: overview  
• Co-occurring developmental disabilities

*(Cynthia Martin, PsyD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Neurology: Co-occurring neurologic conditions with Wendy Silver, MD**

• Seizure disorders  
• Toe-walking  
• Developmental coordination disorder  
• Hypotonia

*(Wendy Silver, MD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Sleep disorders with Arezou Heshmati, MD**

• Common sleep issues that affect autistic individuals  
• Modalities of treatment  
• When to consider referral to a sleep specialist and/or a sleep study

*(Arezou Heshmati, MD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Genetics with Lakshmi Mehta, MD**

• Why is testing important  
• What are common conditions or syndromes that are screened for with testing  
• How is testing done  
• Physical examination: dysmorphic features

*(Lakshmi Mehta, MD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Gastrointestinal disorders with Thomas Ciecierega, MD**

• Common co-occurring GI disorders  
• Indications for referral

*(Thomas Ciecierega, MD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Feeding issues with CADB team members: ST, OT, Nutrition: Jennifer Kissel, MS, CCC-SLP, TSSLD, Kaori Nakamura. OTR/L-NDT, certified, SI specialist, SOS, feeding specialist, and Cristine Del Pizzo, RD**

• Sensory vs behavioral feeding aversions  
• Feeding therapy: when to refer, general overview of treatment  
• Common nutritional deficiencies. Screening labs to consider

*(Jennifer Kissel, Kaori Nakamura, and Cristine Del Pizzo have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Psychiatry with Pankhuree Vandana, MD**

• Overview of co-occurring psychiatric conditions  
• Screening for suicide risk and safety planning  
• Therapeutic approaches

*(Pankhuree Vandana, MD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose but DOES INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Overview of developmental services with CADB team members: Kelly Mickler, MS, CCC-SLP and Hannah Miller, BCBA**

• Speech therapy  
• Occupational therapy  
• Physical therapy  
• Behavioral therapy

*(Kelly Mickler and Hannah Miller have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Support services in the community with CADB Family Navigators: Lissbeth Santos and Ivelisse Ferreira**

• OPWDD: overview, how to apply  
• Respite services  
• Support groups for patients and families

*(Lissbeth Santos and Ivelisse Ferreira have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

**Transition to adulthood with Alyson Gutman, MD**

• Sharing the diagnosis with a teen or young adult  
• Transitioning to adult providers  
• Consideration regarding care of the autistic adult (guardianship, employment)

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Closing remarks with Stephen Kanne, PhD

*(Stephen Kanne, PhD has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.)*

IDENTIFIED PRACTICE GAPS/EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Autistic children have complex medical needs, which often require the care of a multidisciplinary team of individuals from varied health care specialties. Lack of awareness and understanding these needs, coupled with a lack of knowledge regarding the management of these health care issues, can result in disparities in the provision of health care services for autistic children. Through participation in this program, physicians and health care providers can better understand the complex needs and management of this patient population, which will help to close the gap related to the provision of medical services and promote equity in healthcare for these individuals.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

This course is designed for medical providers of children and allied health professionals.

OBJECTIVES/DESIRED OUTCOMES

It is intended that this Weill Cornell CME activity will lead to improved patient care, including improvements in knowledge, competence, or performance. At 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. Manage the co-occurring medical conditions commonly seen in this population
3. Understand the multidisciplinary team that is often a part of the comprehensive care of autistic children
4. Identify when referral to a subspecialist or therapeutic provider is clinically indicated

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Course Director

Monica Pozzuoli, MD, MPH

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Course Co-Director (if applicable)

Jennifer Bain, MD, PhD

• Consultant at Grin Therapeutics, Neurvati, Guidepoint Consulting, COMBINED Brain, and Health Advances

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Planning Committee

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Cynthia Martin, PsyD

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Alyson Gutman, MD

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Tara Maloney, LMHC

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Course Coordinator

Monica Fortsch

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CME Staff

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EVALUATION

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 its objectives. It will also guide the planning of future activities and inform decisions about improving the educational program.

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