

**SCSU Center of Excellence on
Autism Spectrum Disorders Presents:**
***WHAT'S NEW IN ASD IN
THE NORTHEAST REGION***

**October 14th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Southern Connecticut State University**

Registration Fee \$100

Includes box lunch

Register at <https://bit.ly/ASD-CenterStore>

Fred Volkmar, MD

New Models of Medical and Mental Health for Adults and Youth with ASD

Description: Adolescents with autism/ASD face many challenges as they transition to adulthood. These include appropriate vocational support, independent living, and access to medical and mental health care. In this presentation, Dr. Volkmar will review the work on the best approaches to supporting the transition to adulthood and factors that predict positive outcomes. The special mental health challenges many young adults face will be summarized and approaches to care including new approaches will be discussed.

Kate E. Wallis, MD

A Roadmap for Equity in Autism Diagnosis and Care

Description: In this talk, Dr. Wallis will describe disparities in autism diagnosis and interventions by race and ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, and cognitive ability, based on published studies. She will describe potential mechanisms through which disparities in autism diagnosis and care are perpetuated. And will then discuss potential solutions to improve equity in autism identification and care.

John Molteni, PhD

**Acceptance and Commitment Therapy/Treatment – Developing
Psychological Flexibility within a Values-Based Framework**

Description: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy/Treatment is an approach to addressing higher-order concept formation and psychological flexibility. As a therapeutic approach, it offers a focus on individual values as a guide for behavior change and a process for differentiating thoughts and emotions from the person (e.g., I am experiencing anger vs. I am angry). Acceptance and Commitment Therapy is a member of the third wave of behavior therapy focusing on mindfulness, committed action, and acceptance of uncertain or potentially aversive outcomes. In this presentation, we will discuss various applications of ACT across intervention contexts.

Lauren Tucker, EdD
Essential Technology for Life and Learning

Description: This session will provide an overview of assistive technology to support learning and life. We will focus on essential tasks... reading, writing, transitioning activities, and daily living skills. For each task, technology options will be demonstrated and explained how they can support an individual.

Jeff Forte, JD
Connecticut's New IEP, CT-SEDS: What's It All About?

Description: In July 2022, the Connecticut State Department of Education implemented a new IEP form and data collection system. Attorney Forte will walk through the new IEP form, page by page, and explain what is new and what you need to know to be a knowledgeable member of a PPT team.

Panel Discussion

Skills and Strategies Needed for a Successful Transition to Adulthood

Description: This panel discussion will bring together autistic individuals, parents, and service providers in a discussion of the needed skills and strategies to see a successful transition to adulthood. Representatives from Chapel Haven Schleifer Center and Adelbrook Behavior Health Center will highlight the skills they see as most valuable to individuals in this age group. Autistic individuals and their families will weigh in on their experiences from the transition from childhood to adulthood and how they manage all that is involved.

Adam Naples, PhD
Measurement in Neuropsychiatric Biomarkers in Autism

Description: This talk will introduce attendees to current research in biomarker research in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Naples will discuss findings from large-scale biomarker research studies in autism and progress in adapting biomarker measurement to heterogeneous, including previously ineligible, populations.

Suzanne Macari, PhD
Early Development in Autism

Description: Social, emotional, and behavioral development in young children with autism is the focus of this presentation. Dr. Macari will discuss recent research on psychological development in very young children with autism, including work from longitudinal infant sibling studies.

Christopher McDougle, MD
The Psychopharmacology of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Description: The purpose of this presentation is to describe the target symptoms associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that may be amenable to treatment with medication; the types of medication that may be helpful for improving target symptoms associated with ASD, and the potential side effects associated with these medications. The associated target symptoms will include ADHD, Irritability (aggression, self-injury, property destruction, tantrums, and mood swings), Anxiety, Sleep Disturbances, and Language Impairment, among others.