

Executive Director's Column

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Autism One: One Family, One Vision, One Future

A year ago I wrote my editorial on *Autism One Radio*. In its infancy then, this part of the *Autism One* family has grown to include over 60 shows, not only in English, but in Spanish, French, Japanese, and Italian. Listen any time to shows archived for your convenience, by going to <www.autismone.org/radio>

Autism One 2006, the conference, takes place Memorial Day weekend in Chicago. It is a greatly expanded marketplace offering something for novice and seasoned parents, practitioners in every field, and anyone else interested in disabilities. Five (5) is the magic number: **5 days: May 24th – 28th, 5 tracks.**

DDR is proud to be the official bookseller at the conference. Look for us in the middle of the Exhibit Hall and at speaker presentations. We will have over 200 titles of carefully selected titles, including books written by speakers.

Pre-conference Days

Wednesday, May 24th is devoted to *Family Health*. The rate of separation and divorce in the autism community is almost 90%. The remaining 10% are often less than a vigorously functioning family unit. In the morning, take part in a workshop based on Bowen family systems theory, which views the family as an emotional unit. Families will learn healing and nurturing options for solving problems for all its members. The second half of the day takes the family into the future. Speakers address how to make the biomedically right choices to protect future health.

Thursday, May 25th has two exciting choices: *Culinary Delight* and *First Responders*. Good food is the best medicine. Want to put your child on a gluten- dairy-free or specific carbohydrate diet, and are afraid he/she will starve? Then *Culinary Delight* is for you! Learn how to prepare nutritious, delicious GF/CF and SCD meals, where to shop, how to read labels, what cookware to use, time-saving tips, and more from experts Sueson Vess, Jody Goddard, Betsy Hicks, and Carolyn Lewis.

Research indicates that persons with autism and other developmental disabilities are approximately seven times more likely to come in contact with law enforcement professionals than others. *First Responders* is a free day of training for law enforcement, fire rescue, public safety, emergency medical response teams, hospital ERs, 911 dispatchers, social services, and criminal justice agency personnel. The general public is also welcome. The workshop is led by Anne Yas, Norfolk County, MA. Assistant District Attorney, founder of Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC) and autism safety expert, Dennis Debbaudt.

Main Conference

Over 120 sessions combine the latest in scientific research with the most effective treatments and therapies. Speakers are distinguished researchers, scientists, doctors, practitioners and educators. DDR is very proud that several of our members are among them: Samuel Berne, Jeff Bradstreet, Peta Cohen, Mary Coyle, Dorinne Davis, Betsy & John Hicks, Patricia Lemer, Seth Pearl, Mary Rentschler, Terrie Silverman, Denise Tarasuk, Anju Usman, Andy Wakefield, William Walsh, Esther Weinstein, and Deborah Zelinsky,

- **Biomedical treatments** - Topics: autoimmune factors, the biochemistry of autism, chelation, dental care, diet, environmental toxins, enzymes, essential fats, glutathione, minerals, nutrition, oxidative stress, probiotics, secretin, transfer factors, vaccinations, vitamins, and more.
- **Behavioral, communication & educational therapies** - Applied behavioral analysis (ABA), auditory integration, FloorTime, hippotherapy, home schooling, music therapy, occupational therapy, reflex integration, social skills, sensory integration, verbal behavior, vision therapy, prioritizing therapies, toilet training, and others.
- **Complementary and alternative medicine** - Ayurveda medicine, detoxification, low oxalate & SCD diets, GF/CF, cell-signaling chiropractic, homeotoxicology, naturopathic medicine, hyperbaric oxygen, homeopathy, neurofeedback, traditional Chinese medicine, orthomolecular medicine, neural organization, NAET, and more.
- **Adolescence and Adulthood** – Bullying, driving, intimacy, living arrangements, middle school, puberty, safety, school districts, social skills training, work programs, and others.
- **Government, school, personnel and legal issues** - Autism and the law, estate planning, government services IEPs, insurance companies, legislative action, listservs, siblings, vaccines and the law, and more.

New this year are 25 workshops and roundtables with panels hosted by top people in their fields. These offer participants the opportunity to say, “I have a kid who...” and get answers from various points of view. DDR professionals will be hosting the one on behavioral, communication, and educational therapies.

Autism One 2006 is the first presentation at an autism conference by Dan Olmstead, a correspondent who has helped spread the word about the autism epidemic, vaccine/mercury/autism connection, and recovery stories. He will be presenting along with autism “hero” David Kirby. Be sure and use this opportunity to buy Kirby’s *Evidence of Harm* for everyone you know.

The conference has a few special events, adding fun to the weekend. Sign up now for the Saturday night dinner. DDR will host what has become our annual fund-raising auction. Bid on over 200 items. Most are available with “silent” bids before dinner. Buy \$5 lottery tickets, and you can win big prizes. A few special items, such as an autographed copy of Bernie Rimland’s *Infantile Autism*, will be auctioned off live with TACA’s Lisa Ackerman as auctioneer.

Childcare a problem? Not an excuse! For a small daily fee the onsite daycare center will provide supervised games, art supplies, and activities for all ages. Knowledgeable and experienced Easter Seals of Chicago workers will provide care and constant attention to children with autism and their siblings.

Thanks to “Emperor” Ed Arranga for making *Autism One 2006* the best conference yet. Go to <www.autismone.org> and register. **Hope is Real. Recovery is Real. Children get Better.**