



Awakening Thinking in the Body & Mind

A DIR–Neuroscience Dialogue

November 16, 2014

JOHN JAY COLLEGE

524 WEST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR

George McCloskey, PhD

Elizabeth Torres, PhD

PROFECTUM FACULTY

Serena Wieder, PhD

Clinical Director, Profectum Foundation

Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

Griffin Doyle, PhD

Gilbert Foley, EdD

Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC– SLP

Monica G. Osgood

Ruby Salazar, LCSW, BCD



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Profectum Foundation 4th Annual NY Conference

Awakening Thinking in the Body & Mind

A DIR-Neuroscience Dialogue

Research is providing insight into how the brain thinks, creates and feels. Scientific progress also reveals that for each person brain plasticity allows competencies to develop even when early implications imply limitations. We invite you to join us November 16, 2014 at John Jay College in New York City for Profectum Foundation's 4th Annual NY Conference.

Explore the newest scientific discoveries on how to recognize an individual's challenges expressing intent and ideas. These challenges often stem from sensory processing, motor control and executive function difficulties derailing the ability to define and effectively respond to and achieve specific goals. In the DIR-FCD Model intent and function are embedded in the affect that drives desire and gives meaning to communication via the relationships that mediate developmental progress. For so long many thought it was the processes of the mind that guided the body, but our understanding of mind and body is evolving as current neuroscience focuses on the interactions between the body and its environment, including other people, and how these interactions shape the mind.

This conference will present scientific research related to sensory motor process, executive function and state of the art developmental practice. Distinguished guest experts and the Profectum Faculty will engage in a dialogue related to the challenges we observe in ASD as individuals get older sharing new treatment paradigms, strategies to support functional capacities, and how new science offers hope in being able to

support each child's exploration and self-discovery in natural environments leading to functional competence.

You are sure to come away with new practical tools, insights, and inspiration!

We are here to make this an exciting, enjoyable and enriching experience for YOU and can't wait to see you this November in New York.

**The Faculty and Directors of
Profectum Foundation**

WHY ATTEND THIS GROUND BREAKING CONFERENCE?

You will gain knowledge about:

- ✓ New treatment paradigms related to science and practice
- ✓ How to distinguish overlapping features of Autism Spectrum, sensory processing, movement disorders and executive functions
- ✓ The use of clinical case studies to capture the active ingredients necessary to prepare individuals for adulthood and realize long term potential
- ✓ A developmental-emotional framework to support successful executive functioning starting in early childhood
- ✓ Gain perspectives from young adults reflecting on their journeys and what worked best and what else was needed to realize success

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS AMAZING LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONALS, PARENTS AND INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH ASD, SPD, AND RELATED SPECIAL NEEDS!

Who should attend?

We welcome parents and professionals including:

Physicians | Clinical Psychologists | Social Workers | Marriage and Family Therapists
Occupational and Physical Therapists | Speech-Language Pathologists | Developmental Optometrists
School Psychologists | Inclusion Specialists | Educators | Special Educators
Para-professionals | Early Interventionists | Music Therapists | Behavioral Specialists ... and more!

Whether you are the parent of or a professional working with children, adolescents and young adults with an ASD, Sensory Processing Disorder or other special needs, **THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU!**



Do not miss this opportunity to hear:

- ✓ **Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR**, discuss state of the art research and practice related to combining DIR/Floortime and sensory-based therapies that highlight the importance of process- based rather than activity-based treatment
- ✓ **Elizabeth Torres, PhD**, describe the latest science on how fluctuations in patterns of movement can sub-type the severity of Autism in terms of spoken verbal abilities, and steer the autistic individual towards the control of his/her actions at will
- ✓ **George McCloskey, PhD's** description of current brain science regarding the neurological basis of executive functions; how they develop in children from birth through young adulthood, and strategies to improve this essential ingredient for independence
- ✓ **Case studies** presented by **Profectum Faculty's** Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L, Monica G. Osgood, Griffin Doyle, PhD, and Ruby Salazar, LCSW, BCD; will provide the basis for a dialogue and panel discussion with Gilbert Foley, EdD, Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP, and Serena Wieder, PhD, regarding the interface between research, practice and theory



A "Certificate of Attendance" will be issued to all participants at the completion of the conference. The certificate will cover the number of hours in attendance. Participants are required to attend the entire program and complete an evaluation.

Continuing Education

**CEs for SLPs and
OTs are available.**

Conference Program

with Distinguished Guest Speakers and Profectum Faculty

Morning Session

8:45 am – 9:20 am | Welcome and Program Overview - Working Productively toward Self-Directed Goals:

Realizing Intent - Serena Wieder, PhD

9:20 am – 10:15 am | Technology Meets Science: Towards a New Quantitative Path of Hope in Autism Spectrum Disorders—Elizabeth Torres, PhD

The characterization of Autism as a cognitive/social problem has been up to now exclusively based on descriptions of observed behavior. Behavior however is constituted by a continuous flow of movements that are highly variable and have different levels of intent. These levels of intent evolve differently in different contexts, so it is important to promote environments where inter-relations between the child and the environment, including other people spontaneously emerge from the child's exploration and self-discovery. Under such naturalistic settings the statistics of the patterns of motor output variability from the continuous flow of movements, particularly from those movements that occur largely beneath our awareness, can be objectively quantified at the periphery in non-obtrusive ways.

In the past few years we have developed new methods to individually assess such statistical patterns and track them in real time as individuals interact with their surroundings. We have learned that locked in the minute fluctuations of such patterns are ways to unambiguously detect Autism, sub-type its severity in terms of spoken verbal abilities, and steer the autistic individual towards the control of his/her actions at will. This new framework can be paired with DIR-based interventions to quantify spontaneous transitions from random trial and error motions to systematic goal-directed behaviors that the child self-discovers and comes to executively control under prospective planning. Through the improvement of anticipatory sensory-motor control we have been able to positively impact the accuracy and speed of the decisions in non-verbal children with ASD, as well as to evoke intent in their actions. We will discuss our new statistical platform for individualized behavioral analyses and our new conceptual framework to diagnose, track and treat Autism Spectrum Disorders in unprecedented new ways using off-the-shelf wearable sensors to extract the predispositions, preferences and inherent capabilities of the person.

Participants will be able to:

- Explain about the neuroanatomy and functionality of the peripheral nervous systems
- Describe the concept of sensory-motor feedback loops and their use in new intervention concepts of sensory substitution and sensory augmentation in ASD
- Discuss about wearable sensors and their potential use in wellness and fitness monitoring applied to ASD

10:15 am - 11:00 am | Amalgamation of Sensory and Relationship Practice Models - Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR

Clinical practice and research continuously inform each other as they strive to identify the most effective interventions for children. This conference highlights new research and new treatment approaches for children with ASD and Sensory Processing Disorders SPD and their families.

Research studies are beginning to provide information about the biological basis of ASD and SPD, implicating various neurological mechanisms. The overview of current research on SPD will include the latest studies on prevalence, etiologies, diagnostic markers, phenotypic presentation and treatment effectiveness.

State of the art clinical practice combines DIR/Floortime and sensory-integration based therapies. This conference will highlight therapeutic approaches that are process-based rather than activity-based and cultivate parent-child interaction. The ultimate marker of success, the shared experience of joie de vivre, enhances acquisition of developmental goals but specific developmental skill acquisition is not a targeted outcome. Thus, the intervention moves away from "treating" developmental aspects of sensory processing and instead turns a broader eye toward participation and relationships within a rich sensory milieu that includes natural settings.

The method of education will focus on video-taped demonstrations of treatment sessions and will highlight how the STAR model of intensive treatment moves the therapeutic model from: (1) sensation to participation; (2) development to relationships; (3) child centered to family centered; (4) child improvement to parent empowerment; and (5) activity-oriented to process-based. This global model combines DIR/Floortime with other approaches (sensory integration therapy, psychotherapy, family therapy, listening therapy, etc.). The foundation of the model is arousal regulation, followed by interpersonal engagement, and then sensory strategies are provided. Goals of treatment are increasing social participation, self-regulation and self-esteem/confidence within a process of joyful and successful play. Early evidence of treatment effectiveness, e.g., findings of a randomized controlled trial will be presented and current outcomes research efforts will be discussed including a promising methodology for clinicians e.g., multiple baseline effectiveness research.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the latest findings in research from RCT and multiple baseline studies of Sensory Processing Disorders
- List how to move from "treating" developmental aspects of sensory processing toward intensive models of participation and relationships within a rich sensory milieu that includes natural settings.
- Explain how state of the art clinical practice that combines DIR/Floortime and sensory-integration based therapies enhances developmental goals

11:00 am to 11:20 am | Break

11:20 am to 11:45 am | Amalgamation of Sensory and Relationship Practice Models CONTINUED ...

Conference Program

with Distinguished Guest Speakers and Profectum Faculty

Morning Sessions continued ...

11:45 am –12:45 pm | Integrating Motor, Sensory, and Affect - The Foundational Grid of Development:

A Case Presentation -Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

Motor intentionality and sensory processing are core concepts in development. Through case material from treatment sessions we will try to show how, by coupling them with the core concept of affect, and situating them within the relational context, they are addressed within a DIR framework. We will also attempt to illustrate how they provide the foundations for later, higher level skills, such as Executive Functioning.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe sensory qualities which can support initiation, organization, and modulation of movement patterns.
- Explain affective qualities which can support initiation, organization, and modulation of movement patterns.
- Apply how to use the therapeutic process to enhance executive functioning.

DIR-Neuroscience Dialogue: Panel Discussion - Moderator: Serena Wieder, PhD

Panelists: Gilbert Foley, EdD; Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP; Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR; Elizabeth Torres, PhD

12:45 pm -1:45 pm | Lunch on Your Own

Afternoon Sessions

1:45 pm –2:45 pm | Understanding Executive Function and Its Role as a Core Competency - George McCloskey, PhD

This presentation will cover Executive Functions in children, adolescents and young adults; definitions of “Executive Functions”– what they are and aren’t; current brain science – what is known about the neurological basis of Executive Functions; how Executive Functions develop in children from birth through young adulthood; the ways Executive Functions impact the learning of reading, writing, math, athletic performance, listening, speaking and social behavior; how to recognize the signs of strengths and/or deficits in Executive Functions; assessing Executive Functions and what to do to improve the development of Executive Functions in your individuals with developmental challenges.

Participants will be able to:

- Define “Executive Functions”
- List how Executive Functions develop in children from birth through young adulthood
- Identify the ways Executive Functions impact the learning of reading, writing, math, athletic performance, listening, speaking and social behavior
- Assess Executive Functions and what to do to improve the development of Executive Functions in individuals with developmental challenges

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm | Executive Functioning through the Developmental Lens: How the Functional-Emotional Developmental Levels (FEDL’s) Foster the Evolution of Executive Functions - Monica G. Osgood & Griffin Doyle, PhD

Where does executive functioning start and how is it fostered within dynamic relationships? This plenary will build off of Dr. McCloskey’s presentation and explore how the developmental trajectory of the parent-child bond determines vital aspects of emerging EFs. This discussion will propose that the breathtaking conversion of baby into a discrete person (*Separation-Individuation Phase*) and the growth of EFs are inherently interdependent. How healthy autonomy is developed as a foundational capacity and reflects age-expected self-governing will be illustrated through lecture and video examples. A close look at executive functioning and autism and specific strategies for fostering these foundational capacities in individuals with diverse needs will be included.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe how to support development so that individuals can shift from requiring external controls to using internal controls for self-regulation, essentially becoming their own boss.
- Recite how the parent-child attachment continuously evolves (*Separation-Individuation Phase*) as the child displays burgeoning EFs, functional capacities, and simultaneously senses (s)he is a distinct, forceful human being.
- Describe how the pivotal quality of “awareness” in the development of EFs may be best delineated through the empowering, internal sense of self constructed through the growth of DIR Functional Capacities.

3:30 pm –3:45 pm | Break

Conference Program

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Afternoon Sessions continued ...

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm | Establishing a Secure Base for a Child and Family to Enhance Relationships, Learning and Self-Confidence: A 25 Year Journey - **Ruby Salazar, LCSW, BCD**

Difficulties with executive function are often evident in early childhood and challenge the course of development in the child and family. This longitudinal case will explore both the strengths and challenge of executive functioning in a child into adulthood who began at age three with an Autism diagnosis and with limited internal resources and difficulty responding to external supports. The DIR model was consistently implemented to activate executive functioning. Three developmental stages: preschool, pre-puberty and late adolescence will highlight the focus on core elements and specific constellations of the individual profile in executive functioning in the service of intentionality, relating, learning and achieving goals. Discussion will focus on developmental progression over time, differential diagnostic changes, and linking the intervention to the specific profile shifts and needs of the child in his family and community.

Participants will be able to:

- Explain basic elements important to long term treatment of executive functioning and theory of mind
- Explain assessment and reassessment in clinical situations where symptomatology and functioning changes as the child grows and thrives
- List techniques to enhance family health in the work with their child
- Utilize the use of the DIR model to foster attunement and shared meaning, self-awareness, organizational functioning and value of relationships and specific learning styles and challenges

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm | Success and Challenges Living with ASD as a Young Adult: Executive Functions and other Foundational Capacities Needed for Life - **Jennifer Ahluwalia, Keir Keebler, Anie Knipping, Alec Martinez, Katie Monroe, John Ritchie, Jenny Zaloom**

This final presentation of the day will provide first-hand insights into the experiences of people with ASD moving into the adult world. How they were prepared and capacities and skills they wish they had, or wish were stronger, will be revealed. Common developmental themes among this group will be highlighted and suggestions for what we can do now to help adults, and equally as important, what can we do in the early stages of development to foster success for people with ASD in the 21st century!

Participants will be able to:

- List the experiences of individuals with ASD as they transition from children to young adults and into adulthood
- List experiences and interventions that are critical to support healthy social, emotional and cognitive development
- Describe strategies for fostering independence and success in the 21st Century world

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm | Closing Comments - **Serena Wieder, PhD**

George McCloskey



Lucy Jane Miller



Elizabeth Torres



Presenter Bios

[[Guest Presenters](#)]

[[Profectum Faculty](#)]

Serena Wieder



Tal Baz



Griffin Doyle



Gilbert Foley



Sima Gerber



Monica G. Osgood



Ruby Salazar

BEST VALUE!

Early Bird Rate: now thru September 22nd
Regular Rate: September 23rd to November 13th
Late Registration Rate: after November 14th

Registration

	Early Bird Rate thru 9/22/14	Regular Rate 9/23/14 thru 11/13/14	Late Registration after 11/14/14
Registration Fee	\$195	\$235	\$265
CE Fee	\$30	\$30	\$30

Discounts

See if you qualify for a 15% discount off the registration fee. (Discounts do not apply to CE fees.)

Groups of 5+: For group registrations, at least 5 registrants must register at the same time. For important information on how groups will be charged and to register your group, please email emily.mohr@profectum.org.

Student with Current ID: Please email a copy of your current student ID to emily.mohr@profectum.org.

Parent of a Child with Special Needs or Individual with Special Needs: Please send an email to emily.mohr@profectum.org stating that you fall into this category.

Profectum Academy Member Enrolled Course Candidate or Profectum Certificate holder. Email emily.mohr@profectum.org for a discount code.

Registration and Cancellation


Registrations and payments must be received no later than **Friday, November 14, 2014**. Confirmations and receipts are furnished by email. Any registration received after **Friday, November 14, 2014** will be considered an "onsite registration", providing space is available, and you will be required to check in and register at the registration desk. We DO NOT invoice for our events. All attendees or groups must have a paid registration prior to the event. Written cancellation notification must be received no later than **Friday, October 31, 2014** via email to emily.mohr@profectum.org. No refunds or credit for future events will be given. Substitute attendees are welcome but we must be notified with their name and contact information. Please understand that if you do not attend you are still liable for full payment.

In the unlikely event that this program must be cancelled, you will be notified immediately and a credit will be issued toward a rescheduled seminar, or the entire submitted registration fee will be refunded without further liability on the part of the organizer.

Profectum Foundation reserves the right to make changes to the program and/or schedule at any time.

Continuing Education Credit

Speech Language Pathologists



The New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered up to 0.65 ASHA CEUs (Professional Area, Various Levels) Disclosure Statement – Presenters have Relevant Financial Relationship and Relevant Nonfinancial Relationships to disclose. Full disclosures may be viewed on the Profectum website. www.profectum.org

Occupational Therapists/ Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants



APPROVED PROVIDER of CONTINUING EDUCATION by The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

OPL is approved by the AOTA to provide continuing education. This conference is offered for up to .625 AOTA CEUs/ 6.25 contact hours. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA. AOTA Educational Level Introductory, Category 2: Occupational Therapy Process This educational offering qualifies for up to 6.25 continuing education hours as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Keep your course outline and certificate of attendance, and contact your own board or organization for specific filing requirements. Call Onsite Professional Learning (OPL) at 248-318-7732 if you have any CE questions regarding AOTA continued education.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

If you require ADA accommodations, please email emily.mohr@profectum.org at least 1-week prior to the conference date so that arrangements can be made.