

Supporting Relational Synchrony

May 15 & May 22, 2022

**The Central Role of Regulation of Arousal,
Sensation, Motion and Emotion in the
Development of Agency and the Sense of Self**

Plenary Presentations

Mona Delahooke, PhD

Elizabeth Torres, PhD

Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E

Serena Wieder, PhD

Ira Glovinsky, PhD

Case Presentations

Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN

Profectum™ Virtual Conference

The logo for Profectum, featuring a stylized graphic of a person or figure within a circular frame, positioned at the bottom of the vertical text.



Serena Wieder, PhD

Profectum Foundation Clinical & Conference Co-Director
Co-creator of the DIR® Model

Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E

Profectum Foundation Sr. Faculty
Conference Co-Director

Greetings,

We all have children who are puzzling whether you are a parent or a clinician. These children present with behaviors and feelings that are complex and confusing. What we observe in behavior alone is only the “tip of the causal iceberg.” Underneath these behavioral patterns are layers of contributing challenges, not readily discernible to the naked eye. **This cutting-edge conference will shed light and insight on these hidden factors, sharpening your powers of assessment, formulation and treatment.**

We will bring body-brain systems, sensory and emotion regulation, motor planning, agency and sense of self into a clinically meaningful whole. Challenges in these areas lead to behavioral dysregulation, fear and anxiety, and mood and arousal changes that interfere with being able to form ideas, take perspective, inhibit, exercise judgment, act with agency or even know who you are.

This is what you'll come away with:

- How body-brain signaling processes influence how children feel and act and how to apply these concepts to tailored treatment and parenting approaches
- How to support developmental capacities and build on individual differences that contribute to being intentional and relational, having agency, and sense of self
- How and why Individual differences matter and how biosensor technology can help to measure what we cannot discern clinically to improve therapeutic interventions
- How to apply the DIR® (Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-based) approach to children with complex with neurodevelopmental differences, illustrated through cases with anxiety, bipolar disorder, and dysregulation of arousal
- How the DIR® Model is grounded in bioscientific research

Thank you, and we hope you enjoy the conference!

With appreciation,

Serena, Gil and the Conference Committee



Carrie Alvarado,
PhD, OT



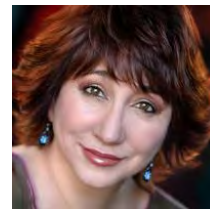
Tal Baz, MS,
OTR/L



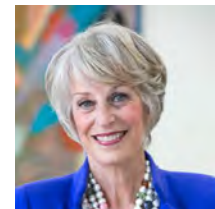
Mona Delahooke,
PhD



Ira Glovinsky,
PhD



Connie Lillas,
PhD, MFT, RN



Ricki Robinson,
MD, MPH



Sunday, May 15, 2022

11:00 am to 5:40 pm EDT | Recording Available May 17 - June 6

10:15 – 10:45 am	Meet Old and New Friends in the "Coffee and Connect" Breakout Rooms
10:45 - 11:00 am	ZOOM Webinar Opens for Attendees
11:00 - 11:15 am	Welcome Serena Wieder, PhD
11:15 – 12:15 pm	The Role of the Brain-Body Feedback Loop and Its Impact on Development and Relationships Mona Delahooke, PhD
12:20 - 1:35 pm	Harnessing the Readiness Potential of your Child Through the Identification of Personalized Targets for Treatment: Aiding Therapies with Three Contemporary Revolutions Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD
1:35 - 2:05 pm	Lunch
2:05 - 2:50 pm	Panel Discussion: Harnessing the Readiness Potential of your Child Through the Identification of Personalized Targets for Treatment: Aiding Therapies with Three Contemporary Revolutions Panelists: Carrie Alvarado, PhD, OTR; Mona Delahooke, PhD; Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO; Anie Knipping; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD; Serena Wieder, PhD
2:55 - 3:55 pm	Sensation, Separation and Self: Pathways and Hurdles for Neurodivergent Development Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Serena Wieder, PhD
3:55 - 4:10 pm	Break
4:10 – 5:40 pm	When Emotion Regulation Collapses: Disorders of Severe Mood Dysregulation and Bipolar Patterns in Children Ira Glovinsky, PhD

Sunday, May 22, 2022

11:00 am to 4:15 pm EDT | Recording Available May 24 - June 6

10:30 – 11:00 am	Meet Old and New Friends in the "Coffee and Connect" Breakout Rooms
11:00 - 11:15 am	Welcome Serena Wieder, PhD
11:15 - 1:00 pm	Regulation of Arousal as the Foundation for Organizing Individual Differences Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 - 3:00 pm	Regulation of Arousal as the Foundation for Organizing Individual Differences cont ...
3:00 - 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 - 4:15 pm	Panel Discussion Discussant: Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L Moderator: Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E Panel: Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L; Cortney Grove, MA, CCC-SLP; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Traci Swink, MD; Serena Wieder, PhD

Registration Fees

	Early Bird Mar 21 - May 1	Member May 2 - May 22	Non-Member May 2 - May 22	Grp of 5+ May 2 - May 22	Scholarship Applications Due May 12
2 Days	\$275	\$295	\$335	\$295	\$75 to \$250
1 Day	\$195	\$205	\$235	\$205	\$75 to \$150

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Program

Sunday, May 15, 2022 & Sunday, May 22, 2022

Supporting Relational Synchrony: The Central Role of Regulation of Arousal, Sensation, Motion and Emotion in the Development of Agency and the Sense of Self

Relationships are at the heart of development for all of us. They play a pivotal role in integrating body-brain systems which are in constant motion and dynamic interaction and are key to the development of agency and self.

What we observe in behavior is only the “tip of the iceberg.” Underneath these behavioral patterns are layers of challenges, not easily detectable to the naked eye of the diagnostician, therapist, parent, and even to oneself.

In this cutting-edge conference, neuroscientific research and clinical practice will be combined in dynamic, inspiring, and valuable ways in a journey to a greater understanding of intentionality, regulation, and social communication. Addressing the foundational underpinnings of relationships and behaviors that define neurodivergent development, including the range of diagnostic categories from autism to trauma, will help the clinician design personalized approaches that promote respectful, non-ableist supports and advance the emergence of self and agency.

As a result of this conference, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the meanings of self and agency in development.
2. Identify the non-visible body-brain systems that interact to promote emotional regulation.
3. Define the goals of personalized intervention approaches.

An Invitation from Dr. Mona Delahooke
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Program

Sunday, May 15, 2022

The Role of the Brain-Body Feedback Loop and its Impact on Development and Relationships

Mona Delahooke, PhD

A new understanding of the Body-Brain connection opens up new vistas in how we understand, treat and parent neurodivergent individuals whose social and emotional development face challenges.

When the body sends signals to the brain, it directs us to respond in a way that keeps our body budget in balance—in scientific language, to maintain homeostasis. We often overlook that it's the information flowing to the brain from children's bodies that influences how they feel and what they do. Paying heed to these body-up signals helps us to customize our treatment techniques and parenting tools to each individual's unique physiology and allows us to better understand how they feel in body and in mind. We use this cross disciplinary information to customize an approach for each child that is respectful of their body's natural inclinations, visual and movement patterns, and adaptive responses. This approach is a stark contrast to the prevailing treatment models that view behaviors as a target, rather than a valuable signal of a child's internal world and coping strategies.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the role of the body's signals to the brain in how we interpret children's communication and behaviors.
2. Explain the difference between afferent and efferent neural pathways.
3. Describe why coherence is important in the relational dance and what it means.

Thank you to our sponsors!



The Bracken Family



Program

Harnessing the Readiness Potential of your Child Through the Identification of Personalized Targets for Treatment: Aiding Therapies with Three Contemporary Revolutions

Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD

Panel: Carrie Alvarado, PhD, OTR; Mona Delahooke, PhD; Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD; Serena Wieder, PhD; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO



Left to Right: Carrie Alvarado, PhD, OTR; Mona Delahooke, PhD; Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD; Serena Wieder, PhD; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO

Recent research advances in developmental neuroscience have revealed the plurality of paths that a nascent nervous system could take preceding a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder. It has become clear that while disorders on a spectrum serve the purpose of facilitating clinical classification, their heterogeneity poses a challenge when treatments are designed under a one-size-fits-all model. A case in point is autism spectrum disorders, allowed by the latest DSM-5 criteria to be comorbid with ADHD and other disorders involving sensory issues. These disorders are also now diagnosed at younger ages, with a push for early detection allowing early intervention. However, there is no concrete model that tailors focused treatment on readiness potential or learning preferences that prepare the child for schooling years. Clinicians across the board are asking for new tools to facilitate their continuous attempts to personalize treatments while helping them accelerate the child's gains. In this talk, Dr Torres will present new tools that effectively use wearable sensors unobtrusively during clinical practices. These tools help mitigate stress and enhance the dyadic interaction that takes place during the therapy. She will do so within the model of Precision (personalized) Medicine adapted to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders on a spectrum. This new model combines knowledge from multiple layers of research and clinical practices, spanning from clinical inventories to digital biomarkers, to omics. The goal being to bring a personalized approach to the identification of targets for treatments that dynamically shift and adapt as the child ages.

Dr Torres will show different comorbidities common with autism that have known genetic origins and will suggest ways to utilize existing resources to help treatments while identifying preferences based on newly characterized learning modes. This talk will augment your knowledge with the potential to enhance child-therapist interactions towards faster and more effective ways to learn together.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the Precision Medicine model as it relates to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
2. Describe autism and divergent development and describe the potential use of wearable biosensors in the treatment of autism and related disorders.
3. List conditions commonly comorbid with autism and recognize their genetic origins when designing treatments.

Program

Sensation, Separation and Self: Pathways and Hurdles for Neurodivergent Development

Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Serena Wieder, PhD

Separation is a lifespan process and the pathway to selfhood and agency. The road is peppered with body-brain challenges for neurotypical children-fears of loss, being left alone, bodily injury, and aggression itself. For neurodivergent children, including the range of diagnostic categories from autism to trauma, these and more fundamental "tests" related to regulation of physiological arousal, sensation, anxiety and emotions; movement and communication and relating itself complicate the journey.

DIR®, with roots in psychodynamic, attachment-separation and cognitive theories, offers practitioners a unique, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, bio-developmental, play and relationship-based approach to tackle these roadblocks. Learn how DIR® therapeutically addresses the complexity, puts the pieces together and promotes development by coaching parents while respecting each child's individual differences and uniqueness providing non-ableist intervention that advance the emergence of self and agency.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the challenges of sensation and movement impacting the development of self.
2. Describe the anxiety and conflict related to separation for child and parents.
3. List tangible strategies to support the development of agency and self.

When Emotion Regulation Collapses: Disorders of Severe Mood Dysregulation and Bipolar Patterns in Children

Ira Glovinsky, PhD

Pediatric bipolar disorder is highly complex and involves multiple body symptoms. Although still controversial, the diagnosis is consistent with a trend to understand children, adolescents and adults more dimensionally and find parallels between the manifest behavior and the underlying genetic, biological, social-cognitive and emotional contributions.

In this session, a historical perspective will examine the factors that led to the conceptualization of bipolar disorder as "madness", the link between mania and depression (manic-depressive) and the current conceptualization of bipolar disorder. The contemporary multi-dimensional model of bipolar that accounts for genetics, molecular and cellular structures, physiology and environmental factors, will be highlighted, including the important role of the autonomic and endocrine systems in understanding the disorder. These transacting component parts of the disorder will be humanized through the lens of my experience parenting a child with bipolar disorder.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between categorical diagnoses and dimensional determinants.
2. List the dimensional factors that contribute to severe mood dysregulation.
3. Develop an intervention plan to work with children with severe emotion dysregulation.

Program

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Regulation of Arousal as the Foundation for Organizing Individual Differences

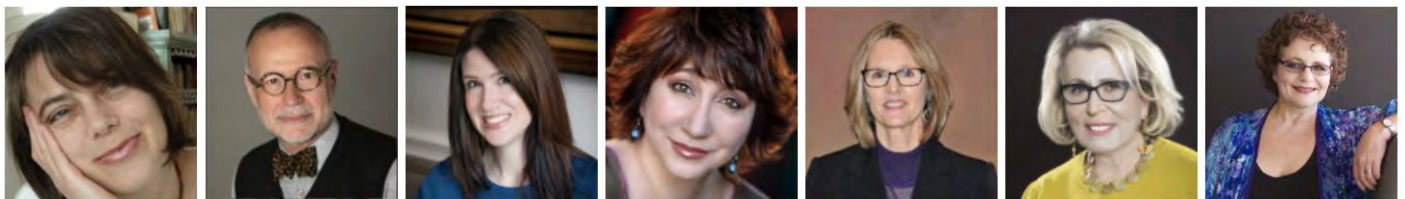
Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN

Discussant: Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L

Moderator: Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E

Panel: Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L; Cortney Grove, MA, CCC-SLP;

Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Traci Swink, MD; Serena Wieder, PhD



Left to Right: Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L; Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E; Cortney Grove, MA, CCC-SLP; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Traci Swink, MD; Serena Wieder, PhD; Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L

Exploring the Individual Profile of any child presents a challenge for caretakers, since any child's profile is neither simple nor static, but rather multi-faceted as well as subtly fluctuating and evolving throughout development. Moreover, a child's profile is not independent of how others perceive and respond to it, at any given moment and over time.

A unifying principle for this presentation will be the concept of arousal as the foundation for organizing the individual profile. The phenomenon of arousal will be further elaborated and discussed as a distributed property across autonomic reactivity, sensory reactivity, emotional reactivity, and motor reactivity.

In this presentation we will explore the unique, complex, and uneven regulatory profiles of two different boys and the ways we can make sense of their making sense of their world. These two cases illustrate two different stress response patterns; One child who fluctuates between moments of shut down and moments of seeking high positive affect, accompanied by giddiness and motor disorganization, and another with intense hypervigilance and controlling behaviors, with spikes into aggression.

Approaches for scaffolding self and co-regulation of arousal will be described and methodologies to compliment the individual differences will be emphasized.

A team of disciplines spanning neurology, mental health, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy will then relate to the cases and expand on the discussion.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss Arousal as the foundation for organizing the individual profile.
2. Identify the differences between Arousal Profiles.
3. Describe the intervention methodologies used to enhance Regulation of Arousal.

Continuing Education Information

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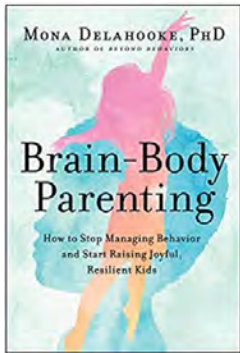
Occupational Therapists/Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants:



Profectum Foundation is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID# 04486. This Distance Learning-Interactive is offered up to .55 CEUs on May 15 & .425 CEUs on May 22 Intermediate, OT Service Delivery, Foundational Knowledge. AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.



Our presenters are publishing far and wide. Come learn with us!



Mona Delahooke, PhD

Brain-Body Parenting: How to Stop Managing Behavior and Start Raising Joyful, Resilient Kids
by Mona Delahooke, PhD

Beyond Behaviors: Using Brain Science and Compassion to Understand and Solve Children's Behavioral Challenges
by Mona Delahooke, PhD

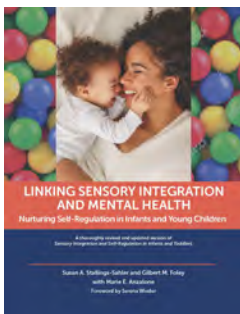


Elizabeth B. Torres, PhD

The most popular paper is “Autism: the micro-movement perspective” which is part of the research topic “Autism: The Movement Perspective” with over 700K accesses.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/801/autism-the-movement-perspective#articles>

Autism: The Movement Sensing Perspective
by Elizabeth B. Torres, Caroline Whyatt



Gilbert Foley, EdD, IMH-E

Linking Sensory Integration and Mental Health: Nurturing Self-Regulation in Infants and Young Children (2022. Zero To Three Press. Forward by Serena Wieder, PhD)

by Susan A. Stallings-Sahler and Gilbert M. Foley with Marie E. Anzalone

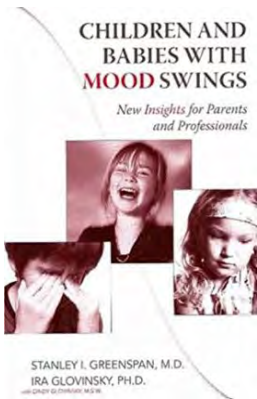


Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN

To be released soon - *3 Steps to Resilience: NRF Foundations Manual: An Introduction for Enhancing Customized and Collaborative Care*
by Connie Lillas PhD, MFT, RN

Infant/Child Mental Health, Early Intervention, and Relationship-Based Therapies: A Neurorelational Framework for Interdisciplinary Practice
by Connie Lillas PhD, MFT, RN and Janiece Turnbull, PhD

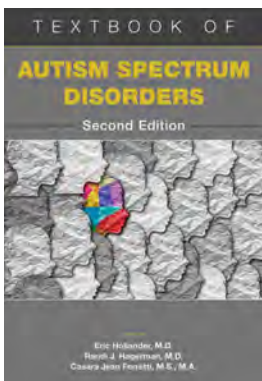
Our presenters are publishing far and wide. Come learn with us!



Ira Glovinsky, PhD

Children and Babies with Mood Swings: New Insights for Parents and Professionals
by Stanley I. Greenspan, MD; Ira Glovinsky, PhD with Cindy Glovinsky, MSW

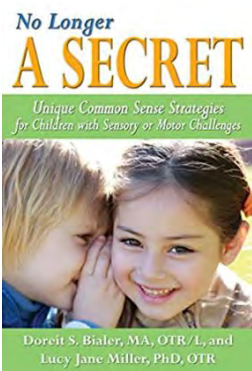
Bipolar Patterns in Children: New Perspectives on Developmental Pathways and a Comprehensive Approach to Prevention and Treatment
by Stanley I. Greenspan, MD and Ira Glovinsky, PhD



Serena Wieder, PhD

Wieder, S. (2022). The Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-Based Intervention Model: A Comprehensive Parent-Mediated Approach. In E. Hollander (Ed.). Textbook of Autism Spectrum Disorders, Second Edition.(pp. 565-574) Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association Publishing.

Visual/Spatial Portals to Thinking, Feeling and Movement: Advancing Competencies and Emotional Development in Children with Learning and Autism Spectrum Disorders
By Serena Wieder, PhD and Harry Wachs, OD



Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L

No Longer A SECRET: Unique Common Sense Strategies for Children with Sensory or Motor Challenges (2nd Edition)
by Doreit S. Bialer, MA, OTR/L and Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L

Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder
by Lucy Jane Miller, PhD, OTR/L

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