



3rd Annual NY DIR[®] Conference

Overcoming Barriers to Progress: Vital Pathways to Advance Development

Sunday and Monday

October 13 & 14, 2013

Columbus Day Weekend

*Hotel Pennsylvania
Penn Top Ballroom
New York, NY*

Learn From the Source!

Featuring

Profectum Faculty

Serena Wieder, PhD

Co-Developer of the DIR[®] Model

Lynn Abelson, MA, CCC-SLP, OTR/L

Ron Balamuth, PhD

Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

Linda Cervenka, MA, CCC-SLP

Griff Doyle, PhD

Gilbert Foley, EdD

Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP

Monica G. Osgood

Michele Ricamato, MA, CCC-SLP

Ruby Salazar, LCSW, BCD

Christie Virtue-Herman, PhD

Invited Guest Speakers

Eric Hollander, MD

Jill Greenberg Kail, Esq

Nancy Schwartz, PhD, CCC-SLP

Leonard J. Press, OD

Mehrnaz D. Azimi Green, OD

And Other Invited Guests

DeMystifying Floortime™

*Two hands on workshops for parents, para-professionals,
and professionals at home, clinic and school*

The Keys to Comprehension

*In verbal and non-verbal individuals: Developmental, RDI
and augmentative approaches*

Mental Health and Sensory Processing

Perspectives that redefine intervention

Advocating for Educational Programs

A parent, a school administrator and an advocate views

The Meaning of Behavioral Disruption

What behaviors communicate and what to do

Ask the Doctor with Eric Hollander, MD

When medical processes impede learning

Visual/Spatial Portals to Thinking, Feeling & Movement

Not sight, but the inside story of vision

Book by Serena Wieder, PhD & Harry Wachs, OD

Testimonies from Students with Autism

Honoring

Evelyn J. Blanck, LCSW

Associate Executive Director

New York Center for Child Development

Recipient of Profectum's 1st Community Service Award

Overcoming Barriers to Progress: Vital Pathways to Advance Development and by Popular Demand! Demystifying Floortime™

This is the conference to help you understand the barriers to progress and “how to” move forward through case discussions, examining underlying processes, hands on workshops, and the opportunity to learn how to interact and play with your child using the techniques of Floortime™ to promote progress.

Floortime™ need not be a mystery! Learn the strategies to engage your child in play to help him relate, communicate, think and enjoy discovery and learning. Attend beginner and at school workshops during the conference. **Prior experience is not necessary. Floortime™ can be added to all other intervention approaches.**

You will learn what to do when:

- The child won't play with you and runs away instead
- When the child is flapping his hands instead of paying attention to you
- When the child loses control and has a meltdown or becomes your tyrant
- How to help the child expand his symbolic play and common sense reasoning
- How to respond when the child's themes in play or behavior is aggressive and you want him to be “nice”
- When you want to discover what is going on in his mind, why and what to do
- When you need to reflect on your feelings as you strive to co-regulate, play and climb the developmental ladder

To answer these questions, ask the right questions! The prelude to progress.

- What is the child's comprehension? What if he cannot tell you or cannot talk?
- Is he “lost in space” without visual anchors or direction to take the next step?
- What do you do when anxiety is so high learning comes to a halt?
- How do you support self-regulation as you see behaviors escalate?
- Are you underestimating the potential to think, and reason and use common sense?
- Why is it so hard to play, have conversations, or be a friend?

This conference is different! Don't miss this opportunity, attend this conference:

- To understand the challenges, often hidden in plain sight, to thinking, feeling, communicating and functioning
- To learn strategies and **practical approaches** you can implement at home, in therapy and in school
- To **help develop self-regulation and improve capacities to learn with less stress and greater relatedness**
- To **integrate four thematic areas related to comprehension – language, visual spatial, sensory and emotional processes, and education**
- To **meet and network** with colleagues, friends and parents dedicated to the progress of everyone they reach
- To hear a student panel discuss their experience of Autism

Who should attend?

We welcome **parents and professionals** including physicians, clinical and school psychologists, social workers, occupational and physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, developmental optometrists, inclusion specialists, educators, special educators, para-professionals, early interventionists, music and creative arts therapists, administrators, behavioral specialists ... and more! **DIR® supports all intervention approaches!**

So whether you are the parent of, or a professional working with children, adolescents and young adults with an ASD, mental health challenges, or other special needs, we are here to make this an exciting, enjoyable and enriching experience. **THIS IS THE CONFERENCE YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!**

Looking forward to meeting you this October in New York!
The Faculty and Directors of the Profectum Foundation

Conference Schedule

Sunday, October 13th			
8:00 am to 8:45 am	Registration		
The Keys to Comprehension			
8:45 am to 9:00 am	Welcome and Program Overview <i>Serena Wieder, PhD</i>		
9:00 am to 10:30 am	Comprehension Across the Spectrum: A Longitudinal Story of a Child's Triumphs and Struggles with Language Development <i>Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP</i>		
10:30 am to 11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Facilitating Parent-Child Floortime™ Interactions Across Language and Communication Stages: Following the Parent's Lead <i>Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP</i>	How Does Relatedness Intervention (based upon RDI®) Transfer the Responsibility for Interaction to the Child and Thereby Support Language Development <i>Nancy Z. Schwartz, PhD, CCC-SLP</i> <i>Moderator: Christie Virtue-Herman, PhD</i>	Relationship Based Augmentative Approaches with Non-Verbal Learners: The Continuum of Augmentative Approaches Tailored to Individual Needs <i>Panel: Lynn Abelson, MA, CCC-SLP, OTR/L; Elisa Chrem, MA, CCC-SLP; Lauren Blaszak; Lisa Romaine, MA</i> <i>Moderator: Serena Wieder, PhD</i>
12:30 pm to 1:45 pm	Lunch On Your Own <i>see lunch spot handouts</i>		
1:45 pm to 2:00 pm	Profectum Honors Evelyn J. Blanck, LCSW with its 1st Community Service Award		
	Visual Spatial Development		Floortime™ Workshop
2:00 pm to 3:45 pm	Plenary Part 1: The Domino Effect on All Aspects of Development When Visual Spatial Knowledge is Curtailed <i>Serena Wieder, PhD with Leonard J. Press, OD</i> Plenary Part 2: The Eye-Brain-Body Continuum and its Role in the Visual/Spatial Cognitive Profile <i>Serena Wieder, PhD with Leonard J. Press, OD</i>		Demystifying Floortime™ for Professionals and Parents Beginning Floortime™ <i>Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L and Griff Doyle, PhD</i>
3:45 pm to 4:00 pm	Break		
4:00 pm to 5:15 pm	Do You "See" It? Recognizing Challenges and Intervention Options <i>Leonard J. Press, OD and Mehrnaz D. Azimi Green, OD, FCOVD</i>	Integrating Visual-Spatial Thinking in the School Curriculum <i>Liza Kali, MSHS, OTR/L, Karen McDowell, Michele Parkins, OTR/L</i>	CONTINUED ... Demystifying Floortime™ for Professionals and Parents Beginning Floortime™ <i>Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L and Griff Doyle, PhD</i>

Monday, October 14th

8: 00 am to 8:45 am	Registration		
Interface Between Emotional and Sensory Differentiation			
8:45 am to 9:00 am	Welcome and Program Overview <i>Serena Wieder, PhD</i>		
		Floortime™ Workshop	
9:00 am to 10:30 am	Individuated but Not Separated: A DIR® Mental Health Perspective in Development <i>Gilbert Foley, EdD and Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L</i>	Floortime™ in Schools <i>Michele Ricamato MA, CCC-SLP and Linda Cervenka, MA, CCC-SLP</i>	
10:30 am to 11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am to 12:30 pm	Addressing Anxiety and Other Mental Health Challenges in the Context of DIR® Intervention <i>Gilbert Foley, EdD and Ron Balamuth, PhD</i>	Developing Regulation <i>Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L</i>	CONTINUED ... Floortime® in Schools <i>Michele Ricamato MA, CCC-SLP and Linda Cervenka, MA, CCC-SLP</i>
12:30 pm to 1:45 pm	Lunch On Your Own - see lunch spot handout		
1:45 pm to 3:45 pm	Understanding Behavior Through the Developmental – Biomedical Lens: Using a Team Approach to Finding Solutions <i>Monica G. Osgood and Eric Hollander, MD</i> Celebrate the Children School Adolescent Panel Discussing Their Experience of Autism <i>CTC Young Adult Panel</i>		
3:45 pm to 4:00 pm	Break		
4:00pm to 5:15 pm	Ask the Doctor! Selecting Effective Treatment Options <i>Eric Hollander, MD</i>	We are All Advocates for Progress <i>Gina Chaney, Amy Steinberg, and Jill Greenberg Kail, Esq.</i> <i>Moderator: Ruby Moye Salazar, LCSW, BCD</i>	The 21st Century School Model for Children with Diverse Needs <i>Monica G. Osgood and Lauren Blaszak</i>

Conference Program Descriptions

Sunday, October 13th

9:00 am – 10:30 am Plenary | **Comprehension Across the Spectrum: A Longitudinal Story of a Child's Triumphs and Struggles with Language Development**

Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP

This plenary will address the somewhat “hidden” but pervasive problem of comprehension challenges in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It will address the relationship between comprehension and production of language in both typical and atypical language acquisition. The origins of language comprehension from the early development of gestures and words in context to the decontextualized comprehension of the structures and meanings of language to the understanding of written text will be explored by telling the story of one child's language development over a 7-year period of language intervention. The correspondence between the child's DIR[®] Functional Emotional Developmental Levels and developmental language stages over the course of treatment will be reviewed and the goals and strategies of DIR[®]-informed language intervention at three points in the child's treatment will be illustrated. Finally, the child's use of unconventional forms of language, namely echolalia and scripting, seen as his “solution” to dealing with both comprehension and formulation difficulties and the shifting functions of these forms, will be a theme throughout the story.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Workshop | **Facilitating Parent-Child Floortime™ Interactions Across Language and Communication Stages: Following the Parent's Lead**

Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP

In this workshop, strategies for addressing comprehension challenges in natural parent-child interactions will be discussed. Based on input from the mother of the child presented in the morning plenary, typical roadblocks faced by parents of children with comprehension difficulties over the course of development will be considered and options for answering the question, “What do I do now?” will be generated. The strategies presented are intended to be helpful to parents as well as professionals who are (or would like to be) working (and playing) with parents.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Workshop | **How Does Relatedness Intervention (based upon RDI[®]) Transfer the Responsibility for Interaction to the Child and Thereby Support Language Development**

Nancy Z. Schwartz, PhD, CCC-SLP; Moderator: Christie Virtue-Herman, PhD

The development of relatedness, as based on Relationship Development Intervention authored by Steven E. Gutstein, PhD, supports the development of language through a focus on interaction. By acquiring relatedness skills, the child learns to assume the responsibility to remain within an interaction. The assumption of responsibility within an interaction underlies all language use and eventually, conversational skills. This presentation will utilize both videos of children at varied levels of development/language, as well as audience participation to teach specific techniques such as the use of declarative language, patterned activities and visual referencing. Workshop participants will learn how to transfer responsibility for remaining within an interaction from the adult to the child while maintaining the child's competence, a greater motivator than M&M'S[®]!

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Workshop | **Relationship Based Augmentative Approaches with Non-Verbal Learners: The Continuum of Augmentative Approaches Tailored to Individual Needs**

Panel: Lynn Abelson, MA, CCC-SLP, OTR/L; Phoenix Center; Elisa Chrem, MA, CCC-SLP, Imagine Academy; Lauren Blaszak and Lisa Romaine, MA; Celebrate the Children School; Moderator: Serena Wieder, PhD

Relationships provide the foundation for all intervention and are essential in assessing comprehension and supporting students with complex communication needs. The panel will describe and illustrate a variety of augmentative approaches which presume competence to stimulate interest and provide access to multiple modes of communication based on an individual's profile, opening the door of opportunity for all individuals regardless of disability.

2:00 pm – 5:15 pm Workshop | Demystifying Floortime™ for Professionals and Parents Beginning Floortime™

Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L and Griff Doyle, PhD

This is the workshop you have been waiting for! Participants will learn Floortime™ strategies to address challenges related to DIR® social-emotional developmental capacities: Regulation and Shared Attention, Engagement, Intentional Two-Way Communication, Complex Social Problem Solving, Symbolic Thinking, and Representational Ideas. We will show how these core capacities unfold in unique ways when development is compromised by also looking at typical development and play, and will outline and demonstrate the specific strategies and principles used in Floortime™ to scaffold and develop each child’s interactive capacities at different ages, wherever he might be in his developmental journey.

2:00 pm -3:15 pm Plenary Part One | The Domino Effect on All Aspects of Development When Visual Spatial Knowledge is Curtailed

Serena Wieder, PhD with Leonard J. Press, OD

Understanding where you are in space and where other things are relative to you – is essential to anything you want to do, how you think, how you learn, how you feel, how you relate and communicate with others, how you play, how you move and organize and navigate your world. This plenary will examine the symphony of developmental milestones supported by vision, the accommodations made to not “get lost in space”, the ways to identify difficulties, and why integrating the silos of intervention is essential through case illustrations. Based on *Visual/Spatial Portals to Thinking, Feeling and Movement* by Serena Wieder, PhD and Harry Wachs, OD.

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm Plenary Part Two | The Eye-Brain-Body Continuum and its Role in the Visual/Spatial Cognitive Profile

Serena Wieder, PhD with Leonard J. Press, OD

The traditional eye examination is limited to investigations concerning the integrity of the eye, the absence of disease, and any indications for glasses to see clearly. While important, this is merely the entree for a deeper understanding of how the eyes communicate with the brain, and how the brain uses visual information to build its spatial framework. This presentation will differentiate ocular and visual components of the Visual Spatial Cognitive Profile, and how they fit into a therapeutic framework.

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Workshop | Do You “See” It? Recognizing Challenges and Intervention Options

Leonard J. Press, OD and Mehrnaz D. Azimi Green, OD, FCOVD

This workshop will guide learners in the observation of Visual Spatial Capacities and illustrate activities related to the VSC Profile and their importance for learning, relating and functioning. A case presentation will highlight how to use DIR® principles and Floortime™ strategies to engage a child on the Autism Spectrum and how these interventions can be integrated into Floortime™ play, school and home activities and various interventions related to movement and sensory integration.

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Workshop | Integrating Visual-Spatial Thinking in the School Curriculum

Karen McDowell; Liza Marshall Kali, MSHS, OTR/L; Michelle Parkins, OTR/L; Celebrate the Children School

The student’s ability to accurately take in information from the environment and relate it to himself, others and mentally hold and manipulate images to connect to what he already knows is essential to plan, interact, and discover new knowledge. Classroom examples with younger and older students will illustrate how the inclusion of visual thinking elements such as time, space, perspective, and movement are essential to the student’s comprehension and progress.

Monday, October 14th

9:00 am – 12:30 pm Workshop | **Floortime™ in Schools**

Michele Ricamato MA, CCC-SLP and Linda Cervenka, MA, CCC-SLP; Soaring Eagle Academy

In this workshop, participants will learn about Floortime™ principles, practice and applications as conducted within a school environment across a range of developmental levels. Participants will learn Floortime™ interactive learning strategies that can be conducted in a school and how to naturally integrate and conceptualize Floortime™ as a component within all experiences throughout the school day.

9:00 am – 10:30 am Plenary | **Individuated but Not Separated: A DIR® Mental Health Perspective in Development**

Gilbert Foley, EdD and Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

This case presentation will revolve around two siblings, ages 5 and 3 years, both carrying ASD diagnoses. In the talk, we will describe the boys' unique sensory-affective profiles and complex but uneven developmental pathways, notably confounded by anxiety. While the boys evolve toward more elaborated and articulated aspects of the self, paradoxically, their tolerance for coping with the vicissitudes of separateness persists as a marker challenge. We will explore the ways in which the developmental trajectories of separation-individuation and sensation-affect influence and interact with each other and how the family, as a dynamic system, supports and facilitates each child's growth. We will describe the multi-disciplinary therapeutic program the boys are involved in, and the ways in which collaboration among family, treatment team and school is forged.

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Workshop | **Addressing Anxiety and Other Mental Health Challenges in the Context of DIR® Intervention**

Gilbert Foley, EdD and Ron Balamuth, PhD

This workshop addresses the co-morbidities between developmental and mental health challenges. It also expands on the plenary case presented by Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L and explores the sources of anxiety in children, the relationship between sensory dysregulation and anxiety, the hierarchy of anxiety management and strategies and techniques for helping children to manage and master anxiety and other emotional challenges in the context of DIR® intervention.

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Workshop | **Developing Regulation**

Tal Baz, MS, OTR/L

Regulation is considered as a core developmental capacity, and as such has impact on every aspect of functioning. Nevertheless - clinically, it is still quite illusive and not well understood. In this workshop we will explore the meanings of Regulation in a developmental context, especially the subtle interplay between Self and Co-Regulation, and discuss ways in which both parents and professionals can deepen their understanding, and support the development of regulation throughout ALL the developmental stages

1:45 pm -3:45 pm Plenary | **Understanding Behavior through the Developmental – Biomedical Lens: Using a Team Approach to Finding Solutions**

Monica G. Osgood and Eric Hollander, MD

Celebrate the Children School Adolescent Panel Discussing Their Experience of Autism

CTC Young Adult Panel

The focus of this plenary is on the comorbid issues that many children with developmental challenges face such as anxiety, depression, communication deficits, medical complications, trauma and more. School-based case studies will illustrate how multi-disciplinary teams work together to identify underlying causes for behavior and develop intervention plans that foster development, behavioral improvements and support the family. Dr. Hollander will discuss the role of the medical professional as team member when medical interventions are needed to allow the student to fully benefit from the developmental work. Testimonies from Celebrate the Children students allow participants to hear perspectives from inside the world of Autism.

4:00 p m - 5:15 pm Workshop | Ask the Doctor! Selecting Effective Treatment Options

Eric Hollander, MD

When medications need to be considered, it is important to understand the underlying neurobiology, as well as environmental factors contributing to the challenges in selecting effective treatment options. Clinical and research findings for the treatment of anxiety, attention, OCD, impulsive behavior and Autistic Spectrum Disorder will be discussed and participants will be able to ask general questions.

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm Workshop | We are All Advocates for Progress

Gina Chaney, Amy Steinberg, and Jill Greenberg Kail, Esq. Moderator: Ruby Moye Salazar, LCSW, BCD

Educational Intervention is always a moving target and collaboration between schools, the student and parent and advocates. Examining and redefining goals that presume competence and meet individual needs is an ongoing process essential to advancing development and laying the foundations for the future. A parent, early childhood coordinator, DIR® clinician and advocate address crafting social-Relational goals in the IEP process.

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Workshop | The 21st Century School Model for Children with Diverse Needs

Monica G. Osgood and Lauren Blaszak; Celebrate the Children School

An introduction to the philosophy, program components, sample schedules, best practice guidelines, principles and strategies of school models that maximize the potential of all students. In this workshop emphasis will be placed on presumed competence and the importance of relationships and “experience” in the classroom. Affective and emotionally meaningful learning will be demonstrated through video examples from both public and private schools.

Conference Presenters Biographies and Disclosures

View presenter bios on our website. [[link to Profectum Faculty Bios](#)] [[link to Guest Presenter Bios](#)]

View presenters’ ASHA disclosures on our website. [link to disclosures coming soon]

Continuing Education Information

We are seeking approvals and determining needs to offer CEUs for various disciplines.

View CEU info on our website. [[link to CEU page](#)]

A Certificate of Attendance will be offered to all conference attendees.

Registration Information

Click [[HERE](#)] to register online now!

Early Bird Rate

7-1-13 to 8-15-13

\$190 One Day

\$335 Two Days

\$135 Half-Day Floortime™ Workshop Only

\$35 CEUs

Regular Rate

8-16-13 to 10-14-13

\$225 One Day

\$395 Two Days

\$135 Half-Day Floortime™ Workshop Only

\$35 CEUs

Discounts can be taken off the Regular Rate Only - not the Early Bird Rate.

The FAR Fund has generously sponsored the parent scholarship program. We now have funds to offer partial scholarships to parents. [[link to the Parent Scholarship page](#)]

Discounts

Group Discount

A 20% discount will be given to groups of 10 or more. A 15% discount will be given to groups of 5 to 9. Group registrations must be completed at the same time.

Online Group Registration: Complete a Group Registration Form and submit to emily.mohr@profectum.org. Once we receive your form, we will send you a discount code. Each member of the group will need to register online individually with the discount code. [[download the Group Registration Form](#)]

Check Payment Group Registration: Complete a Group Registration Form and submit to emily.mohr@profectum.org. Once we receive your form, we will send an invoice for the amount due. Please mail a copy of the invoice with check made payable to Profectum Foundation, 88 East Main St., Ste. 212H, Mendham, NJ 07945. We require that each member of the group create an account on our website if they have not already done so. [[link to create a Profectum website account](#)] Once their account is created we will register each member manually. [[download the Group Registration Form](#)]

Student Discount

A 15% discount will be given to students. Please send an email to admin@profectum.org stating the school and degree program you are enrolled in. You will be sent a discount code.

Parent Discount

A 15% discount will be given to parents. Please send an email to admin@profectum.org stating you are a parent. You will be sent a discount code.

Registration and Cancellation Information

Registrations and payments must be received no later than Monday, September 30, 2013. Confirmations and receipts are furnished by email.

Any registration received after Monday, September 30, 2013 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 Monday, October 7, 2013 via email to beth.arena@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.

Directions | Parking | Hotel Accommodations

View our website for directions, parking and hotel accommodation information. [[link to info on our website](#)]

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

If you require ADA accommodations, please contact Beth Arena at beth.arena@profectum.org at least 1 week prior to the conference date so that arrangements can be made.