



Honoring Individual Differences: The Gateway to Supporting Neurodiversity in Autism & Mental Health Treatment

March 31– April 1, 2017

**THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**



GUEST PRESENTERS

Anne Donnellan, PhD
Stephen W. Porges, PhD
Steve Silberman
Amy Johnson, MA, CCC-SLP, CNDT
Anie Knipping
Natalie Kitts, MS, OTR
Joshua Kitts
Chantal Sicile-Kira
Jeremy Sicile-Kira
Joyce Show, MD
Peter Tran

PROFECTUM FACULTY

Serena Wieder, PhD
Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH
Mona M. Delahooke, PhD
Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN
Monica G. Osgood
Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg, CASLPO
Michele Parkins, MS, OTR

Profectum Foundation 5th International Conference

MARCH 31-April 1, 2017 • SAN MARINO, CA

Honoring Individual Differences: The Gateway to Supporting Neurodiversity in Autism & Mental Health Treatment



This conference presents a paradigm shift from a disability perspective to approaches that value neurodiversity and individual differences. Hear from neurodiverse individuals, groundbreaking authors and scientists who will help us see the difference between responses to stress (safety vs. threat) and what are commonly thought of as “disorders” and/or challenging behaviors. Through keynotes and in-depth case presentations, this thought provoking and inspirational conference will detail ways to support and presume competence in mental health and autism treatment across the lifespan.

We invite you to join us **March 31 thru April 1, 2017 in San Marino, California, for Profectum Foundation's 5th International Conference**. Keynote presentations by leading scientists, clinicians, and educators feature state-of-the-art research and treatment models to advance progress for individuals diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum, Sensory Processing Disorders, Anxiety, Challenging Behaviors, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity, Mood Disorders, and other neurological differences that can impact social, academic, or vocational function at any age.

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 March in San Marino.

The Faculty and Directors of Profectum Foundation

WHY ATTEND THIS GROUND BREAKING CONFERENCE?

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

Continuing Education: Approved—LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, LEPs & Psychologists, OTs, OTAs, SLPs

- ✓ Summarize the profound importance of physiological state regulation and neuroception on social-emotional development and mental health
- ✓ Discuss how movement differences have been misunderstood in autism, and how an increased awareness of these differences can enhance treatment techniques and garner respect for neurodiversity
- ✓ Describe how the DIR model complements and informs treatment for autism and mental health treatment with a focus on appreciating individual differences and neurodiversity
- ✓ Recognize the contributions of neurodiversity on creative expression through the arts

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 Therapists | Occupational Therapy Assistants | Physical Therapists | Speech-language Pathologists | Developmental Optometrists | School Psychologists | Inclusion Specialists | Educators | Special Educators | Para-professionals | Early Interventionists | Music Therapists | Regional Center Case Managers | 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!**

Featured Conference Titles

- ◆ Individual Differences in Detecting Safety and Threat in Social Emotional Development
- ◆ Understanding Individual Differences Through Movement
- ◆ Neurodiversity and the Appreciation of Individual Differences



You will have opportunities to attend:

- ✓ Plenary presentations on all these topics
- ✓ Multi-disciplinary panel discussions that will include case histories viewed through video clips that demonstrate relationship based treatment strategies to address key challenges
- ✓ Parent panels to address concerns for all those raising children with special needs
- ✓ A Resource Partner Fair to learn what is available and forge new relationships within the community
- ✓ Book signings at the Special Needs Project Bookstore
- ✓ Meet and network with colleagues, friends and parents dedicated to the progress of every individual!

Keynote Speakers



Anne Donnellan, PhD



Stephen W. Porges, PhD



Chantal & Jeremy Sicile-Kira



Steve Silberman

Conference Program

with Distinguished Guest Speakers and Profectum Faculty

Friday, March 31, 2017

MORNING SESSIONS

Individual Differences in Detecting Safety and Threat in Social Emotional Development

8:30 – 8:45 am—**Welcome to the Conference and Profectum**

Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH

8:45 – 9:00 am—**Conference Overview**

Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN

9:00 - 10:00 am—**How Do We Identify Threat and Find Safety? What All Parents and Providers Need to Know**

Stephen W. Porges, PhD

A common approach to behavior from our culture is that behavior is evaluated as either “compliant” or “noncompliant”. This prevalent perspective honors and rewards compliant behavior and either ignores or punishes noncompliant behavior. Such approaches often stop us from honoring and respecting the complexity of individual differences and viewing behavior from perspectives of safety and threat. Dr. Porges will take us into his life’s work on “neuroception,” which is our automatic system that detects safety or threat in our relationships and environment. Embedded in his work is the importance of social connectedness as a potent regulatory of behavioral and physiological state. As we evaluate behavior as a response to risk and become curious about the meaning and the sources of threat, we can help individuals find and embrace safety through relationships.

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

- Identify that non-verbal cues from our face, voice, and gestures are used to detect safety and threat.
- Describe how “neuroception” under safety turns defensive responses “off” and under threat, turns defensive responses “on”.
- Identify that faulty neuroception is a feature of several categories ranging from autism, to schizophrenia, to anxiety disorders, to depression, to trauma, to reactive attachment disorder (RAD), and others.

10:00 - 10:30 am—**Break: Book Signings, Resource Partner Fair**

10:30 - 11:30 am—**Interpreting Challenging Behaviors as Threat Instead of Non-Compliance**

Monica G. Osgood; Michele Parkins, MS, OTR; Natalie Kitts, MS, OTR

This longitudinal case presentation will introduce us to a child’s journey, starting from his early years, that included the ups and downs of grade school that led to a school placement change. His aggressive behaviors within this school environment were understood from a position of non-compliance. As the lens of neuroception was applied to understanding this child’s challenging behaviors in a new educational setting, the team discovered what individual differences frightened him and what soothed him. The school director and teacher team will present how they were able to identify threat and establish safety. This youth is now in his early 20’s. His mother is present to share her reflections on this period.

11:30 am - 12:00 pm—**Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN with Stephen W. Porges, PhD; Serena Wieder, PhD; Monica G. Osgood; Michele Parkins, MS, OTR; Natalie Kitts, MS, OTR

As a result of this **case presentation and panel**, participants will be able to:

- Explain why punishing noncompliant behavior can lead to further trauma, reinforcing the threat detection system to stay on high alert.
- Describe how the lens of safety versus threat provides a new way to support individuals with challenging and egregious behaviors.
- Identify non-verbal cues that promote experience of threat which are followed by stress responses and nonverbal cues that support safety which are followed by social engagement behaviors.



M. Delahooke



C. Lillas



S. Wieder



R. Robinson



M. Osgood

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Understanding Individual Differences Through Movement

12:00 - 12:15 pm—**Honoring DIR and Profectum**

Serena Wieder, PhD

12:15 - 1:45 pm—**Lunch On Your Own**

1:45 - 2:45 pm—**Sensory – Movement Differences Being Interpreted as Intentional Behaviors**

Anne Donnellan, PhD

Our professional culture has often interpreted autism in terms of simple, binary views of behavior (i.e. good/bad or positive/negative), seeing behavior as controlled by immediate, situational triggers and their consequences. An alternative perspective is that movement, sensations, feelings, and thoughts are all dynamically influencing each other according to an ever-changing context. If individuals move and respond in idiosyncratic ways from infancy, they will experience interactions in a unique frame that differs from the broader cultural consensus and expectations of how relationships work. Autistic individuals, while often aware of their differences, may not have sufficient motor control to communicate, participate and relate in a neurotypical fashion. “Behavior” is often misunderstood as non-reciprocal without understanding how movement disorders interrupt the flow of this capacity. Dr. Donnellan will present her ground-breaking views that Autism primarily involves neurodivergent motor movements and is not a social-communication disorder.

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

- Describe the variations in movement disorders.
- Identify how idiosyncrasies of movement are misunderstood as intentional blocks to reciprocal communication.
- Discover how movement is a part of every inherent behavior, action, feeling, and thought.

2:45 – 3:15 pm—**Break: Book Signings, Resource Partner Fair**

3:15 - 4:45 pm—**How Safety Supports the Capacity to Thrive**

Monica G. Osgood; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO, SLP; Joshua Kitts

We continue this longitudinal case presentation this afternoon with the careful examination of how this youth, now under conditions of safety in his new school setting, was able to mature developmentally in all arenas. We will organize his growth according to his socio-emotional milestones. Within that rubric, we will look at his motor development across all arenas, including his speech and language maturation which evolved into cause/effect thinking and self-reflection. The Director and a Speech and Language Therapist will present their longitudinal work with him. This young man has come full circle and now volunteers his time to help other youth who struggle with their aggressive behaviors. We are grateful that he will be present with us at the conference to share his reflections on his life’s journey thus far. The cyclical aspects of revisiting safety and threat during different developmental bursts across the lifecycle will be integrated in his presentation.

4:15 - 4:45 pm—**Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN with Anne Donnellan, PhD; Monica G. Osgood; Michele Parkins, MS, OTR; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO; Joshua Kitts; Natalie Kitts, MS, OTR

This panel now brings together the presenters of the day to discuss the various components of safety vs. threat and binary views of intentional behavior. By moving away from conditions of threat and misattributions of movement allowed this youth’s individual needs and gifts to be optimized. We are privileged to have this young man and his mother bring to us their personal experiences of being misunderstood, and how these were transformed into positive connections.

As a result of this **case presentation and panel**, participants will be able to:

- Describe the importance of the proper understanding of idiosyncratic movements that can be misinterpreted as non-compliance or as a lack of interest in social reciprocity.
- Identify the progression of relational milestones and how that can guide all other milestones, including speech & language.
- Observe how longitudinal care with positive connections provide a context for thriving and valuing individual differences.

Conference Schedule

Day 1—Friday, March 31

8:30 am to 4:45 pm

Day 2—Saturday, April 1

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday, April 1, 2017

MORNING SESSIONS

Neurodiversity and the Appreciation of Individual Differences

8:30 – 8:45 am—**Welcome**

Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH

8:45 – 8:55 am—**Conference Overview**

Mona Delahooke, PhD

8:55 – 9:00 am—**Introduction of Steve Silberman**

Serena Wieder, PhD and Mona Delahooke, PhD

9:00 - 10:15 am—**The Birth of the Neurodiversity Movement & Autism Treatment: Implications for Parents and Professionals**

Steve Silberman

Steve Silberman's *Neurotribes*, a New York Times Bestseller, has captured the country's attention and shed new light on how we view autism and related forms of neurological diversity. Steve will reveal how his research into the history of autism is bringing new awareness to the public about autism acceptance and treatment. He will present the implications of the success of *Neurotribes*, including a new focus on the importance of appropriate accommodations, support and inclusion strategies for individuals on the spectrum.

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

- Describe how the history of autism impacted contemporary treatment paradigms.
- Explain the importance of appropriate supports and accommodations tailored to the individual needs of autistic persons.
- Describe what practitioners and parents can learn from the neurodiversity movement.

10:00 - 10:15 am—**Question & Answer with the Audience**

Moderator: Mona Delahooke, PhD and Steve Silberman

10:15 - 10:45 am—**Break: Book Signings, Resource Partner Fair**

10:45 - 11:45 am—**Nurturing Individual Differences from Infancy to Adulthood**

Chantal Sicile-Kira; Jeremy Sicile-Kira

Chantal Sicile-Kira, an author and autism expert specializing in transitions to adulthood will talk to us about the complex issues regarding support for individuals on the spectrum as they age out of extensive school services. She will share her story as the mother of Jeremy, an adult who communicates by typing, who is now a celebrated artist, writer and painter. Jeremy will join his mother to talk about his own perspective, and they will answer questions from the audience.

11:15 - 11:45 am—**Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Mona Delahooke, PhD with Chantal Sicile-Kira; Jeremy Sicile-Kira

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

- Describe the issues faced by individuals and families as their children age out of extensive school services and into adult life.
- Explain how parents can help their transition age children manage the complexity of decreased services and job availability.
- Demonstrate how discovering one's interests and passions can lead to increased independence and occupational satisfaction.

11:45 am - 12:00 pm—**Profectum Programs**

Monica G. Osgood

12:00 - 1:30 pm—**Lunch On Your Own**



C. Harrison



M. Parkins



A. Johnson



A. Knipping

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Neurodiversity and the Appreciation of Individual Differences

1:30 – 2:30 pm—DIR and Neurodiversity: Appreciating Individual Differences

Mona Delahooke, PhD

DIR support for individuals on the autism spectrum has not had the wide exposure of behavioral treatments such as ABA. In this case presentation, Dr. Delahooke will present how DIR supported individual differences and the social emotional development of a neurodiverse child. By treating her diverse behaviors with respect, a DIR framework complemented her other programs and provided a compassionate, neurodevelopmental lens for the family and treatment team. You will meet the child, now a teenager, through video clips as she describes her journey in her own words. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion and questions from the audience.

2:15 - 2:30 pm—Panel Discussion

Moderator: Mona Delahooke, PhD

Michele Parkins, MS, OTR; Amy Johnson, MA. CCC-SLP, C/NDT; Cindy Harrison, MSc Reg CASLPO; Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH; Anne Donnellan, PhD; Steve W. Porges, PhD

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

- Observe how DIR theory values and leverages individual differences/neurodiversity to help each individual thrive.
- Identify the problems associated with a neurotypical bias in interpreting and managing behavioral differences in autism.
- Describe the potential costs in applying negative consequences to actions that are not under intentional control.

2:30 - 3:00 pm—Break: Book Signings, Resource Partner Fair

3:00 - 4:15 pm—My Own Point of View: Expressing Individual Differences through Creativity and the Arts

Moderator: Mona Delahooke, PhD

Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH; Joyce Show, MD; Peter Tran; Anie Knipping; Chantal Sicile-Kira; Jeremy Sicile-Kira

Dr. Ricki Robinson will begin this panel with a brief discussion about the neuroscience of creativity and, in particular, the amazing ways that individuals with autism express their view of the world through creative channels. Dr. Joyce Show will then share how she sought support for her son Peter in typing to communicate, and the changes it brought to their family and Peter's life and development especially as his creativity emerged. Anie Knipping, a visual artist and writer, and Peter Tran, a high school student and poet, along with Jeremy Sicile-Kira, a writer and painter, will then share how creativity and arts has impacted their lives. Through writing, painting, poetry and other avenues, each panelist's neurodiversity has contributed to the beauty and individuality of their art. Peter's essay and poems about his life's journey will be read, and Anie and Jeremy will each comment about their art and the role of it has played in their lives as neurodiverse individuals. The panel, moderated by Mona Delahooke, Ph.D. will answer written questions from the audience after the presentations.

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

- Explain how differences in sensory processing can be an asset in expressing oneself via the arts.
- Describe how to better support neurodiverse individuals by appreciating individual differences and capitalizing on strengths.
- Describe how art and symbolic expression can open up new pathways for autistic individuals to share their strengths with the larger culture.

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm—Presentation by Exceptional Minds

Mona Delahooke, PhD with the Exceptional Minds Students

Continuing Education

Continuing Education Credit: LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, LEPs, Psychologists



This conference is sponsored by Policy and Training Institute (formerly known as the Early Intervention Training Institute) at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic. Call the Policy and Training Institute at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic at 323-373-2400 if you have any CE questions regarding Psychologists, LMFT, LCSW, LEP, LPCC continued education. [[link to Policy and Training Institute website](#)]

This program meets the requirements for up to 9.50 hours of continuing education (5 hrs. on Friday, March 31, 2017; 4.50 hrs. on Saturday, April 1, 2017) for licensed psychologists, LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and LEPs. The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The course meets the above hours of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. It is the licensee's responsibility to retain this Certificate of Attendance for a period of four years after the course date.

CE Completion Requirements

Please visit the [Continuing Education Page](#) on the conference website for detailed information on board specific requirements for obtaining credits at this conference and to see which presentations are available for Continuing Education credit. If you have signed up for Continuing Education credit, providers require that you sign in and out at intervals during the day, and submit a evaluation form at the end of the day. Please visit the CE registration desk upon arrival.

Continuing Education Credit: OTs, OTAs, SLPs

Occupational Therapists/ Occupational Therapy Assistants

This conference is offered for up to .95 AOTA CEUs / 9.5 Contact Hours (Intermediate Level)



The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA. See Course Requirements below.

AOTA Classification Codes: Content Focus - Domain of OT - Context and Environment | Domain of OT - Performance Patterns | Occupational Therapy Process - Intervention

Speech-Language Pathologists



This conference is sponsored by Professional Child Development Associates. Call The Professional Child Development Associates at 626-793-7350 if you have any CE questions regarding SLP continuing education. [[link to PCDA website](#)]



PCDA DBA Professional Child Development Associates 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 program is offered for up to 0.95 ASHA CEUs (Various levels; Professional area)

[[LINK TO CONTINUING EDUCATION PAGE FOR PRESENTER DISCLOSURES & BIOS](#)]

Continuing Education Complaint Resolution Policy

For questions or concerns please contact admin@profectum.org

BEST VALUE!

Regional Center Vendor # PD2979

Early Bird Rate: February 15, 2017

Regular Rate: February 16 to April 1, 2017

Registration

	Early Bird Rate EXTENDED To 2/15/17	Regular Rate 2/16/17 thru 4/1/17
Both Days	\$375	\$405
Friday Only	\$190	\$225
Saturday Only	\$190	\$225
CE Fees	\$30	\$30

Discounts

Do you qualify for a 15% discount?

Groups of 5+: For group registrations at least 5 registrants must register at the same time.

Student w/ Current Id: You will need to provide a copy of your current student ID

Parent of a Child with Special Needs or Individual with Special Needs

Profectum Academy Member

If you meet the discount criteria above, please contact emily.mohr@profectum.org for information and instructions on how to register with a discount code.

Discounts do not apply to CE fees.

Regional Center Information

This Conference is Vendored by the Frank D. Lanterman Center. Vendor # PD2979

Speak with your Service Coordinator at your Regional Center to see if you qualify for financial assistance.

Registration and Cancellation

Registrations and payments must be received no later than **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**. Confirmations and receipts are furnished by email. Any registration received after **Wednesday, March 22, 2017** 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 or change notification must be received no later than **Friday, March 24, 2017** via email to emily.mohr@profectum.org **A cancellation/change processing fee of \$25 will be charged. After Friday, March 24, 2017, 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 via email and a credit will be issued toward a rescheduled conference, or the entire submitted registration fee will be refunded without further liability on the part of the organizer.

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

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

Hotel Accommodations

There are special rate courtesy blocks available at area hotels. Detailed information is located on our Conference webpage under Hotel & Accommodations [[click here](#)].

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities & Special Needs Request

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