

Small Steps... Big Differences... Brighter Tomorrows

Second Annual
Prince George's County
Special Needs Conference
March 23, 2013 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Presenter Bios:

Adam Berman

Adam Berman was born in September 1986 and diagnosed with autism/PDD at 18 months. His parents were told he was “profoundly retarded.” After years of intensive ABA therapy at a self-contained preschool, Adam learned to speak at the age of four. He was mainstreamed by the first grade and eventually graduated from high school with his peers. Adam attended the University of Maryland and participated in an honors program. Currently, he works as a paraprofessional, teaching middle school students with autism. In addition, he recently started graduate school at George Washington University, majoring in special education. Adam’s plans for the future include furthering his education and working as a professor and/or researcher.

Pamela Creekmur

Pamela Creekmur’s professional senior health care management career spans over 20 years in health care administration and business operations. As the medical center administrator for the Largo Medical Center, she was accountable for the overall management of a large multi-specialty medical center with more than 350 employees and physicians. During her tenure with Kaiser Permanente, she gained experience with process improvement, policy setting, budget control, program development, and leadership development. Before coming to the Prince George’s County Health Department as the interim Health Officer, she previously served as director of Surgical Services for the District of Columbia/Suburban Maryland region of Kaiser Permanente serving more than 280,000 members. Ms. Creekmur is a graduate of Howard University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Currently, she is a candidate for a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from the University of Maryland University College. She lives in Prince George’s County with her husband of 29 years and daughter.

Brenda Theresa Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D.

Brenda Theresa Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D., MPH, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and an adjunct faculty of special education at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her clinical expertise is extensive and includes primarily developmental evaluation and early intervention for infants and toddlers. Her scope of clinical practice includes NICU multidisciplinary rounds, developmental evaluations, developmental intervention plans. She currently coordinates Maryland’s NICU Follow-Up program and directs the Maryland’s PRIDE NICU program. Her innovative techniques for the management of premature infants include the development of the Best Beginnings Developmental Screen, family questionnaires, and parent handouts that are used at the University of Maryland’s NICU, NICU Follow-Up Clinic, Maryland’s PRIDE, and a variety of other programs.

Tracy King, M.D., Ph.D.

Tracy King, M.D., is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University. She conducts research that focuses on enhancing the role of pediatric primary care in improving early developmental and school readiness outcomes for disadvantaged urban children. Her current projects aim to improve identification and referral of young children with developmental delays through implementation of high quality developmental screening and the establishment of closer relationships between primary care providers and community-based early childhood programs.

Daniel Levy, M.D.

Daniel Levy, M.D., has been in pediatric practice in Owings Mills for 34 years. He is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins; clinical assistant; professor at the University of Maryland; and a past president of the Maryland Chapter, AAP. He currently serves as the District III vice chair of the AAP and a national spokesperson for the AAP.

Edisa Padder, M.D.

Dr. Edisa Tokovic Padder, M.D., serves as a child care/early education liaison for the Maryland chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics. She is also a member of Maryland State Department of Education’s Advisory Council for the Office of Child Care. Her interests include childhood obesity, developmental screening and promoting early literacy. Dr. Padder finished her undergraduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She completed medical school at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. She moved to Washington, D.C. to complete her pediatric training at Children’s National Medical Center. Dr. Padder has established her community-based private practice in Howard County. She lives with her husband and three children in Ellicott City, MD.

Meredith J. Pyle

Meredith J. Pyle is the systems development chief in Maryland's Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs (OGCSHCN). Her current responsibilities include a variety of strategic planning, supervisory, analytic, administrative, and coordinative tasks in support of statewide public health systems and policy development to support the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs. She is a project manager for a two-year grant to develop a statewide plan to improve the system of health care and related services for children with autism and other developmental disabilities. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in public policy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Abila Tazanu, M.D.

Abila Tazanu, M.D., is the co-founder and executive director of the One World Center for Autism, Inc. She is a general pediatrician and clinical associate at Children's National Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. and provides school-based health care for children with special needs. She is the mother of five children, two of whom have autism. Her personal struggle to diagnose and care for her own children created the vision for the One World Center for Autism, Inc. and continues to fuel her passion to help individuals living with autism and related special needs. Her vision is to create a standard of centralized care for all individuals on the spectrum that incorporates family support, community awareness, and comprehensive medical and therapeutic interventions.

Josie Thomas

Josie Thomas is the executive director and co-founder of The Parent's Place of Maryland, which is the Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center for the state of Maryland. She is the parent of an adult with special needs and a passionate advocate for all families living with special needs in the state of Maryland.

Yulanda Swindell, M.D.

Yulanda Swindell, M.D., is vice president of the board of directors for the One World Center for Autism. She is a graduate of Howard University College of Medicine and completed her pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Swindell is a board certified pediatrician who serves as the primary care provider for youngsters and adolescents in a group home in Baltimore County, many of whom have cognitive, emotional, psychiatric, and developmental diagnoses. She also provides care for underserved children in southern Maryland through Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc. She currently resides in University Park, Maryland and singly parents a twelve-year-old son with autism and his younger sibling. She advocates tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all affected by autism.