



Atlanta Autism Consortium, Inc.

"Connecting the Atlanta Autism Community:
Doing together what no one organization can do on its own"

<http://www.atlantaautismconsortium.org/>

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SUMMARY of the AAC Monthly Meetings and Special Events since 2010

2010:

November 19, 2010, 2-4 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Insurance reform, Autism, and the State of Georgia: An open and objective discussion

Presenters: Lori Unumb, Autism Speaks.

December 10, 2010, 2-4 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Organizational Overview: Center for Translational Social Neuroscience, Emory University

Presenters: Larry Young, Ph.D., Director, Emory Center for Translational Neuroscience

2011:

January 19, 2011, 4-6 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Sexual health and developmental disabilities

Presenters: Mitchell Tepper, Ph.D., M.P.H., Adjunct Research Assistant Professor of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Center of Excellence for Sexual Health's Disabilities, Chronic Conditions and Sexual Health Program, Satcher Health Leadership Institute (Morehouse School of Medicine) and Moshe Manheim, LCSW, senior clinical social worker (Marcus Autism Center).

February 11, 2011, 2-4 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Autism in the context of Developmental Disabilities in Atlanta, Georgia - a 20 year overview; a personal perspective

Presenter: Leslie Rubin, Ph.D., President of Institute for the Study of Disadvantage and Disability, Medical Director of TEAM Centers and Developmental Pediatrics Specialists, Co-director of Southeast PEHSU, Emory University and Research Associate Professor of Department of Pediatrics, Morehouse School of Medicine.

March 16, 2011, 4-6 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Improving Outcomes for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Early Detection to Early Intervention

Presenter: Amy Wetherby, Ph.D. Distinguished Research Professor, Florida State University

April 8, 2011, 2-4 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Organizational overview: Overview of Autism Research at the University of Georgia, Athens

Presenters: Drs. David L. Gast, Kevin M. Ayres and Jonathan Campbell

May 20, 2011, 4-6 pm at Emory University

SPECIAL EVENT: AAC Annual Research Symposium

Event Content: 1) Presentations and Review of the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) by AAC members/researchers and 2) Symposium on Kennesaw State University Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth

May 26, 2011, 8:30 am-5:00 pm at Georgia Institute of Technology

SPECIAL EVENT: Live broadcast of UJA-NY Federation, Symposium on Autism

Creating a fulfilling life for young adults with autism

June 9, 2011, 5:30-7:30 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Why is this brain autistic? Exploring cognitive versatility in autism

International guest: Michelle Dawson, Autistic Researcher, University of Montreal, Canada

June 10, 2011, 2-4 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Autism intervention research: Good and bad news

International guest: Michelle Dawson, Autistic researcher, University of Montreal, Canada

August 26, 2011, 3-5 pm, at Marcus Autism center

Organizational overview: The Devereux Foundation: Providing High Quality Autism Services Across The Life Span

Presenters: Robert Kreider, Todd Harris, Ph.D., Marylin Benoit, M.D., Elizabeth Chadwick

September 13, 2011, 4-7 pm at Yerkes NPRC-Emory University

Organizational overviews: GA Tech, CHOA, GSU, Emory University, Emory Autism Center, Marcus Autism Center, CADEF, SPECTRUM, GA Department of Education, The community School (Decatur) and Floortime Atlanta.

November 8, 2011, 4-7 pm, at Marcus Autism Center

Social entrepreneurs in Autism related fields

Presenters: **Garret Westlake** (Arizona State Univ.): founder, STEM Force Technology; **Michael Darden**: founder, A Deeper View; **Karl Smith**: founder, Accelerations Educational Software; **Gailynn Gluth**: founder & CEO, Wynsum Arts; **Ron Oberleitner**: Co-Founder, Behavior Imaging Solutions (formerly Caring Technologies); **Nicki Wilson**: Director, Easter Seals Southern Georgia Family Support Services and Statewide Coordinator, Champions for Children program; **Cecilia Camp**: Executive Director, enAble of Georgia, Inc.; **Sheryl Arno**: disability awareness trainer, The Kiss Foundation; and **Jeffrey Cary**: founder, Gateway Center for Social and Cognitive Development

December 14, 2011, 4-6 pm, at Marcus Autism center

Adaptive functioning in ASD: from research to practice

Presenters: Celine Saulnier, Ph.D. (Marcus Autism Center); Sheila Wagner, M.Ed., Opal Ousley, Ph.D. and Joseph Cubells, MD (Emory Autism Center); David Nelson and Elana Himmelfarb (The Community School, Decatur); and Minna Levine (SymTrend).

2012:

January 27, 2012, 4 – 6 pm, at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Synergy Center)

Screening

Presenters: Laura Schieve, Camille Smith and Julia Richardson, CDC; Audrey Blake, Babies Can't Wait; Diana Robins, GSU; Lisa Wiggins, CDC; Opal Ousley, Emory University; and Ami Klin, Emory University and Marcus Autism Center.

February 22, 2012, 1 - 2:30 pm, at Georgia State University

Language development

Cosponsored by AAC and Learning & Language Initiative and CRADL, Georgia State University.

Presenters: Helen Tager-Fluesberg, Ph.D., Florida State University, “Exploring predictors of spoken language development in children with ASD”.

March 23, 2012, 3 – 5 pm, at Children’s Tullie Circle Learning Center

Educating Individuals with Autism in School: Challenges and Opportunities

Event sponsored by AAC

Presenters: **Barbara Dunbar**, Ph.D., Developmental Psychologist; **Karen Barineau**, Autism Specialist, DeKalb County School District; **Elizabeth Dulin**, M.Ed., The Lionheart School; Tris Gilland, Autism Specialist, Douglas County School District; **Elana Himmelfarb**, MA, The Community School; **Steven Benson**, Autism Specialist, Cobb County School District; **Diane Prindle**, Briggs and Associates, Project SEARCH Coordinator; **Patti Solomon**, Family Engagement Specialist, GaDOE, DSESS, parent of an adult daughter with autism; **Susie Eckhart**, Speech and Language Therapist, Specialization in ASD and related disorders, Forsyth County School District, previously GaDOE, DSESS SLP Specialist and Program Consultant; **Elise Lynch**, GaDOE, DSESS Professional Learning Expert, Related Services Specialist, OT and PT Services Coordinator for Georgia; **Lysanne Matthews**, Autism Specialist and Administrator, Gwinnett County School District; and **Cindy Terry**, Occupational Therapy Specialist and District-wide Coordinator, Gwinnett County School District. Moderator: Dave Nelson, LPC, The Community School, Decatur

April 19, 2012, 5:30 – 8 pm, at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Tom Harkin Global Communications Center, Clifton road)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness Month: Special CDC public event

Event co-sponsored by CDC and AAC and other autism-related local organizations

Keynote Speakers: John Elder Robison and Paul McAuliffe, two individuals with Asperger and artistic talents.

April 20, 2012, 11 am – 1 pm, at Children’s Tullie Circle Learning Center

SPECIAL EVENT: Conversation with John Elder Robison and Paul McAuliffe

Keynote Speakers: John Elder Robison and Paul McAuliffe, both individuals with Asperger and artistic talents.

May 24, 2012 – 3:30 – 7 pm, at the Georgia Institute of Technology

SPECIAL EVENT: AAC Annual Research Symposium

Event Content: 1) Presentations and Review of the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) by AAC members/researchers and 2) Symposium on Kennesaw State University Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth.

September 20, 2012, 4-7 pm at Marcus Autism Center

Organizational Overviews

Organizations and Presenters: SPECTRUM: Claire Dees (Founder and President.); Emory Autism Center: Sheila Wagner, Ph.D.; ABLE: GSU Student Disabilities organization: Scott Bales (president)

October 26, 2012, 4 – 6 pm at Marcus Autism center

Organizational Overviews

Organizations and Presenters: Floortime / The Community School / the Lionheart School: Dave Nelson; GA Department of Education: Lysanne Matthews; GA LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities) program at Georgia State University: Mark Crenshaw.

Autism and the public schools education

Presenters: Emily Rubin, MS, CCC-SLP, Educational Outreach Specialist, Marcus Autism Center.

November 8, 2012, 3 – 5:30 pm, at Yerkes NPRC-Emory University

Organizational Overviews:

Organizations and Presenters: Marcus/Emory fellow program: Celine Saulnier; Georgia Inclusive Post-secondary Consortium: Suzanna Miller; Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Tangye P. Teague.

Autism and the College Education:

Presenters: Michael McManmon Ed.D., Founder College Internship Program, Massachusetts; Matt Segall, Ph.D, Emory Autism Center; Wolfeh Shimmel, high school graduate from Brunswick, self-advocate and fellow from the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

December 13, 2012, 4 – 7 pm, at GA Institute of Technology, TSRB

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Community Holiday Reception and Silent Auction (fundraising)

2013:

February 22, 2013, 2 – 4 pm Marcus Autism Center

Adult employment

Presenters: Aspiritech (Chicago-based Company): Chet Hurwitz; STEM Force Technologies (Arizona-based not-for-profit organization): Garret Westlake; WOW In-Sync, Inc. (Atlanta-based not-for-profit organization): Priscilla Madigan and Jaime Hutchinson; Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Paige Tidwell.

Panelists: Toni Thomas and Dr. Lauren Castriota (Emory Autism Center Adult Program); Dave Nelson and Beth Camp (The Community School, Decatur); Jason Rosenblatt: autism self-advocate and physical trainer. Panel Moderator: Elana Himmelfarb, MA LCC (Autism Spectrum Consultant and Neurodevelopment Specialist)

March 15, 2013, 2 – 4 pm, HIS-GATech

Feeding, Nutrition, and GI Concerns in Autism: Practical Guidelines and Recommendations based on the Current Research

Presenters/ Panelists: William Sharp, Ph.D. (Behavioral Psychologist, Feeding Disorders Program, Marcus Autism Center & Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Emory School of Medicine); Rashelle Berry, MPH, MS, RD, CSP, LD. (Nutritionist, Feeding Disorders Program, Marcus Autism Center); Barbara McElhanon, M.D. (Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta & Emory University School of Medicine).
Successful story: Jason Rosenblatt, Physical trainer, on "Opiate addiction, Asperger's and diet".

April 25, 2013, 6 – 8 pm, Autism Awareness Month at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Tom Harkin Global Communications Center, Clifton road)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness Month: Special CDC public event

Special event cosponsored by CDC, AAC and other local autism-related organizations.

Keynote Speakers: **Stephen Shore**, Ed.D., College Professor and writer as well as autism self-advocate; **Dwayne Ballen**, Journalist, writer and father of an individual with autism;

Autism through the Arts segment presented by: Shenanigans, Applied Theater for Autism company.

April 26, 2013, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Marcus Autism Center

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness and Education Through the Arts 2013

A Conversation with Stephen Shore, Ed.D., and Dwayne Ballen

Presenters: Stephen Shore, Ed.D., College Professor and writer as well as autism self-advocate; Dwayne Ballen, Journalist, writer and father of an individual with autism;

Art Improvisation sequence presented by Shenanigans, Applied Theater for Autism company.

May 20, 2013, 4:30 – 7pm, TSRB-GATech

SPECIAL EVENT: Holliday Reception and Silent Auction fundraising

September 20, 2013, GA State University (Sun Trust Building Annex)

Early development and detection of communication/ language/ speech.

Presenters: Lama Farran, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (University of West GA); Seyda Ozcaliskan, Ph.D. (GSU); Hrishikesh Rao (Graduate student, GAtech).

October 18, 2013, 3 – 5 pm, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle.

Perspectives on the new DSM 5 Criteria for ASD and SCD

Presenters: **Cathy Rice, Ph.D.**, Behavioral Scientist and Developmental Psychologist (CDC; Prevention Research Branch, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities) and Adjunct Assistant Professor (Emory University, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences department); **Celine Saulnier, Ph.D.**, Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Director for Research (Marcus Autism Center), Assistant Professor (Emory University School of Medicine, Division of Autism and Related Disorders, Pediatrics) and Associated Assistant Professor (Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Psychology).

November 14, 2013, 7 – 9 pm, First Baptist Church / Community School, Decatur

Family Support

Support groups and Presenters: 1) *Local Family Support Groups:* North Fulton Autism Support Group for Parents & Professionals (Debbie Dobbs); Southside Support Incorporated (Raissa Chandler); Dekalb County Family Support Group (Donna Johnson); SPECTRUM (Claire Dees; Julia Massey); 2) *Adult Support:* Emory Autism Center (Charlie Coleman); Focus (Lucy Cusick); 3) *Community Family Support:* GCSS (Nicole Brickouse); AADD (Kathy Keeley); Marcus Autism Center (Cheryl Rhodes); Autism Speaks (Kimberly Dick).

December 13, 2013, Marcus Autism Center

Faith, Values and Autism

Co-sponsored by AAC and Marcus Grand Rounds

Keynote speaker: Dr. Alfiee M. Breland-Noble, Ph.D., MHSc, Child Psychologist, Director of The AAKOMA (African American Knowledge Optimized for Mindfully-Healthy Adolescents) Project, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (Georgetown University Medical Center) and Developer of the Faith Based Mental Health Promotion approach.

Panelists: Meenakshi Lambha, Psychometrist, Marcus Autism Center (Hindu faith); Norma Harris, MA, PhD, MA, CCC-SP, Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist (Buddhist faith); Rev. Jamie Butcher, Associate Pastor, Alpharetta Presbyterian Church and Jeff Moen (Christian faith); Moshe Manheim, MSW, LCSW in GA, Psychotherapist (Jewish faith); and Samuel Fernandez-Carriba, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Marcus Autism Center (secular approaches).

Moderator: Anne-Pierre Goursaud, Ph.D. (Atlanta Autism Consortium and Emory University)

November 21, 2013, 6 – 9 pm, Institute for People and Technology-GATech

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Community Holiday Reception and Silent Auction (fundraising)

AAC specific Community involvement 2013:

April 27, 2013, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Dekalb County Autism Resource Fair, downtown Decatur (Manuel Maloof Admin. Building)

Sponsored by Center for Leadership in Disability, GA State University and One Dekalb.

October 5, 2013,

Race for autism, Gwinnett County

Sponsored by Spectrum, and co-sponsored by AAC and other local organizations.

2014:

January 17, 2014, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle.

Minimally Verbal Children with Autism: Some Challenges, Some Reasons for Hope

Presenter: Ann P. Kaiser, PhD, Susan W. Gray Professor of Education and Human Development, Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University.

March 21, 2014, 1 – 3 pm, Emory Hospital at Johns Creek

How to deal with autism in the suburbs?

Presenter: Jen Zubler, M.D., Pediatrician, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

April 17, 2014, Autism Awareness Month, at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Tom Harkin Global Communications Center, Clifton road)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness Month: Special public event

Co-sponsored by CDC, AAC and other local autism-related organizations: Autism Foundation of GA, Autism Speaks and Autism Society of GA.

Keynote speaker: Alexis Wineman, Miss Montana 2012

Panel Discussion with young autistic adults: Zach Zaborny (from Overland Park, Kansas) and Michael Haigwood Goodroe, Asher Newman and Daniel Todd (from Atlanta, Georgia)

Autism through the Arts segment presented by: Gymnastics for Autism Achievement Program, Atlanta Gymnastics Center

April 18, 2014, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle.

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness and Education Through the Arts 2013

A Conversation with Alexis Wineman

Presenters: Alexis Wineman, Miss Montana 2012, and young adults on the autism spectrum and self-advocates, including Zach Zaborny (from Overland Park, Kansas) and Michael Haigwood Goodroe, Asher Newman and Daniel Todd (from Atlanta, Georgia)

Art presentation by: Gymnastics for Autism Achievement Program, Atlanta Gymnastics Center.

May 14, 2014, 10 – 4 pm, GA Institute of Technology, TSRB

SPECIAL EVENT: IMFAR Pre-Conference - Community Events

Co-sponsored by AAC and other local and national autism-related organizations

Keynote Presenters: Sally Rogers, Ph.D. (early childhood); Emily Rubin, M.S., CCC-SLP (supporting students); James Melville-Corey and Susan Harrell (transition to adulthood and employment).

June 20, 2014, 1 – 3 pm, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle.

Socio-Cultural Disparities in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presenters: Celine Saulnier, Ph.D. (Marcus-Emory); Samuel Fernandez-Carriba, Ph.D. (Marcus-Emory); Cathy Rice, Ph.D. (CDC); Christy Hall, Ph.D. (Marcus); Brian Barger, Ph.D. (CDC).

August 22, 2014, 1 – 3 pm, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle.

Individualized Behavioral Supports for Students with Persistent Challenging Behaviors

Presenters: Jason Cavin, MA, MS, BCBA, Director of Behavior Support and Consultation, Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), School of Public Health / Georgia State University; Daniel Crimmins, Ph.D., Director, Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) and Clinical Professor, School of Public Health / Georgia State University; Emily Graybill, Ph.D, Clinical Assistant Professor, Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), School of Public Health / Georgia State University, and Program Evaluator and Course Director, Georgia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (GaLEND), GSU.

September 19, 2014, 1 – 3 pm, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park on Tullie Circle

Autism Insurance Reform in GA: Updates

Presenters: **Randy Grayson**, Attorney, DelCampo Weber & Grayson Atlanta (private practice) and Leader of AAC SIG on Autism Insurance Reform; **Anna Bullard**, Director, Community Outreach and Advocacy, Early Autism Project (EAP), Atlanta, mother of Ava and advocate for Ava's law; **Judith Ursitti**, CPA, Director, State Government Affairs, Autism Speaks, Boston, MA.

November 10, 2014, 7 – 8:30 pm, Academy of Medicine, Atlanta

SPECIAL EVENT: The social brain, social robotics and Autism Spectrum Disorders

Presenters: Brian Scassellati, Ph.D. (Yale University, Computer & Cognitive Science, and Mechanical Engineering); Larry Young, Ph.D. (Emory University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences).

Moderator: Gregory D. Abowd, D.Phil., (Atlanta Autism Consortium and Georgia Institute of Technology)

December 12, 2014, 1 – 4 pm, TSRB-GATech

Technology updates in Autism Diagnostic, Treatment, Daily Functioning and Research

Presenter: Gregory D. Abowd, D.Phil., (Georgia Tech)

Live Demos by GATech researchers and students

2015:

January 23, 2015, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, at Yerkes / Emory University

Presentation of the AAC “PreK-12 Education” Special Interest Group

Presenters: **Scott Bales** (SIG co-leader, AAC Vice-president); **Meghan Burke-Abowd, D.Phil.** (SIG co-leader, Professor Kennesaw State University); **Deborah Gay** (Director for Special Education Services and Supports, Georgia Department of Education); and **Pamela H. Smith, Ed. S.** (Director of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction, Georgia Department of Education)

February 26, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, at Agnes Scott College, Rebekah Scott Hall

SPECIAL EVENT: Autistic Leadership: Lessons from the Neurodiversity Movement

Co-sponsored by Agnes Scott College, Submit LeaderStories and Hirsch Academy as well as local autism organizations such as AAC

Presenters: **Landon Bryce** (autistic mentor and advocate, New Leaves Clinic, Portland, Oregon); **Laura Nadine** (violinist, dancer, author, composer, director and autistic advocate, Atlanta, Georgia)

March 13th, 2015, 12 – 2 pm, at Marcus Autism Center

Bioethics in early detection of autism symptomatology

Co-sponsored by AAC and Marcus Autism Center Grand Rounds

Keynote Speaker: **Paul Wolpe**, Ph.D., Professor and Director Center for Ethics, Emory University

Panelists: **Larry Scahill**, Ph.D., Marcus Autism Center and Emory University; **Celine Saulnier**, Ph.D., Marcus Autism Center and Emory University; **Anna Bullard**, Community Outreach Director, Director of Early Advocacy, Early Autism Project Inc. and Mother of two children on the Autism Spectrum; and **Cathy Rice, Ph.D.** Director, Emory Autism Center

March 14, 2015, 1 – 4 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Atlanta

SPECIAL EVENT: Public forum: The social brain: from the chemistry of relationships to Autism Spectrum Disorders

Co-sponsored by AAC and American Society for Neurochemistry, 2015 Annual Conference

Presenters: Ami Klin, Ph.D. (Director, Marcus Autism Center and NIH Autism Center of excellence in Atlanta); Celine Saulnier, Ph.D. (Clinical Director, Marcus Autism Center); Larry Young, Ph.D. (Director, Emory Center for Translational Neuroscience); Gregory D. Abowd, D.Phil. (President, Atlanta autism Consortium)

April 16, 2015, 5 – 8 pm, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Tom Harkin Global Communications Center, Clifton road)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness Month: Special CDC public event

Co-sponsored by CDC, AAC and other local/ national autism-related organizations: Autism Speaks, Autism Society of GA and Autism Foundation of GA

Keynote Speakers: **Jonathan Izak**, Entrepreneur and Founder of SpecialNeedsWare

Panel discussion: The sibling perspective, with several pairs of neurotypical and autistic siblings

Autism through the Arts segment presented by: Christopher Duffley, Singer and multi-instrumentalist, Autism self-advocate

April 29 - 30, 2015, Two-day event at the Macon Marriott city Center Hotel

Autism Conference & Exposition of Georgia

(Statewide public conference part of the implementation of the Autism Plan for GA)

Co-sponsored by many Autism agencies and organizations, including the AAC, and self-advocates and family members

Presentations by autism experts and open discussions on the 10 critical areas of the Autism Plan for GA (Early Identification & Screening; Referral & Diagnosis; Medical, Behavioral Health & Dental Service; Family Supports; Early Intervention & Preschool Services; Elementary & Secondary Education; Community Services & Supports; Transition from Youth to Adult Services; Adult Services & Supports; and Emergency Preparedness & First Responders)

Poster presentation and reception of the winners of the 2015 Autism Young Leader Travel Award Competition (Program Director: Anne-Pierre Goursaud, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Atlanta Autism Consortium, Affiliate Scientist, Yerkes/ Emory University)

September 24, 2015, 4:30 – 8 pm, Emory University (DUC- Winship Ballroom)

SPECIAL EVENT: 2015 Autism Research Symposium & Scientific Posters Presentation

A scientific event featuring the major Autism-Related Research Programs and Topics in Atlanta

Co-sponsored by the Atlanta Autism Consortium and the Emory Conte Center

Keynote Speakers: Lisa Wiggins, Ph.D. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Michael Zwick, Ph.D. (Emory University, Genetics Dpt.), Lauren Adamson (GA State University, Psychology Dpt.)

December 4, 2015, 11:30 am – 2 pm, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Lunch and Learn: “Circles” Film Screening and Panel Discussion Life Through Another Lens – featuring “Circles” a short film by Jesse Cramer followed by an educational and interactive discussion with autism experts

Co-sponsored by Atlanta Autism Consortium, CDC and Autism Improvised

Presenters: **Anne-Pierre Goursaud**, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Atlanta Autism Consortium and Affiliate Scientist, Emory University); **Lisa Wiggins**, PhD (Developmental Psychologist, CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities)

Panelists: **Jesse Cramer**, BA (film-writer and co-director), **Samuel Seidel** (Cast Member ‘Ollie’, teen with autism); **George Barham** (Cast Member ‘Cam’, teen with autism); **Laura Nadine** (Cast Member ‘Ms. Laura’, autistic adult); **Debbie Reagin**, EdD (Education Program Specialist, GA Dpt. of Education); **Matt Segall**, PhD (Assistant Professor and Monarch School-Age Program Director, Emory Autism Center); **Karla Wade**, PhD (Leadership & Program Development Coordinator, Kennesaw State University, Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth); **Lisa Wiggins**,

PhD (Developmental Psychologist, CDC's National Center on Birth Defects & Developmental Disabilities); **Jennifer Zubler**, MD (Pediatrician, Consultant to CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early" program); Moderator: Robert Lowe, BA (Founder and Former CEO, Improvisation, Inc)

2016:

February 26, 2016, 6 – 8 pm, at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Office Park, Learning Center

The importance of autism self-advocacy

Panel composed of young adults with autism from Atlanta area: Sean D. Perkins; Eren Denburg-Niederhoffer; Bennett Gaddes; Sunny Donnellan; Miyah R. Sundermeyer; and Brittany Daniels.

Moderator: Laura Nadine (violinist, dancer, author, composer, director, actor and autistic advocate, Atlanta, Georgia)

2016 - Upcoming AAC events and meetings:

April 14-15, 2016, Two-day event at Wyndham Hotel in Peachtree City

Autism Conference & Exposition of Georgia

(Statewide public conference part of the implementation of the Autism Plan for GA)

Co-sponsored by many Autism agencies and organizations, including the AAC, self-advocates and family members

Presentations by autism experts and open discussions on the 10 critical areas of the Autism Plan for GA (Early Identification & Screening; Referral & Diagnosis; Medical, Behavioral Health & Dental Service; Family Supports; Early Intervention & Preschool Services; Elementary & Secondary Education; Community Services & Supports; Transition from Youth to Adult Services; Adult Services & Supports; and Emergency Preparedness & First Responders)

Poster presentation and reception of the winners of the 2016 Autism Young Leader Travel Award Competition (Program Director: Anne-Pierre Goursaud, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Atlanta Autism Consortium, Affiliate Scientist, Yerkes/ Emory University)

April 21, 2016, 6 – 8 pm, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

SPECIAL EVENT: Autism Awareness Month: Special CDC public event

Co-sponsored by CDC, AAC and other local/ national autism-related organizations: Autism Speaks, Autism Society of GA and Autism Foundation of GA

Keynote Speakers: Ed Asner and Matt Asner

Panel discussion: The father perspective with several father of individuals with autism from Atlanta

Autism through the Arts segment presented by: Laura Nadine and her students

May 2016 (date, time and location to be added)

SPECIAL EVENT: Relationships and autism: from dating to ... more; How to be successful!

Presentation of the film "Bumblebees", **Winner of the 2015 Disability Film Challenge**

Keynote speakers: Jenna Kanell, film-writer and director; Vance Kanell, actor and autistic individual

Panel discussion will include clinicians and researchers specialized in relationships

September 2016 (date, time and location to be added)

SPECIAL EVENT: 2016 Autism Research Symposium & Scientific Posters Presentation