



Selective Mutism Association Annual Conference Call for Papers October 14-15, 2017 Boston, Massachusetts

Program Overview

The Selective Mutism Association in conjunction with our co-sponsor the Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders (CARD) at Boston University is hosting a conference designed to disseminate new and beneficial evidence-based information about many aspects of selective mutism (SM). The target audience includes parents and relatives of children with selective mutism, mental health professionals, speech and language pathologists, other allied health professionals and educators.

The conference aims to increase public awareness and understanding of SM. We invite oral session presentations and poster presentations that address all aspects of SM, including but not limited to *conceptualization of the disorder, assessment, treatment, parenting issues and advocacy*. Special consideration will be given to presentations that are based on empirical evidence, newly collected data, multi-trait/multi-method assessment procedures, cognitive and behavioral assessments and treatments, approaches that directly address or incorporate generalization, treatments for adolescents, treatments that strategically combine behavioral and psychopharmacological components, approaches that directly target home---school---therapist partnerships, and approaches that directly address useful parenting strategies for the child with SM. Although poster presentations may emphasize works in the early stages of development, for all sessions (oral and poster), preference will be given to evidence-based information.

Keynote Address: Helping Children to Grow Up Brave: Evidence-Based Strategies for Helping Youth Overcome Fear, Stress and Anxiety, Donna Pincus, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Boston University; Director,

Child and Adolescent Fear and Anxiety Treatment Program Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders at Boston University; author of *Growing Up Brave: Expert Strategies for Helping Your Child Overcome Fear, Stress, and Anxiety*

Overview

Anxiety problems are one of the most prevalent mental health issues that children and adolescents face today. From academic struggles and test taking anxiety to social pressures and peer difficulties, there are many aspects of children's daily life that can be anxiety provoking. Youth who are anxious may avoid daily activities, may appear inattentive or oppositional, may be reluctant to speak or socialize, or may frequently report to the school nurse with complaints of stomachaches or headaches. Anxiety problems remain largely under-identified and undertreated, yet there are a number of concrete, evidence-based strategies that parents, caregivers, school staff and clinicians can implement to both identify and treat youth with anxiety and related disorders.

In this talk, Dr. Donna Pincus will discuss the nature and developmental progression of anxiety and fears in youth. She will also teach how to identify and assess anxiety, as well as how to distinguish between normal and clinical levels of anxiety in youth. Dr. Pincus will also offer a summary of evidence-based treatment strategies that can be utilized in multiple settings for helping youth develop critical coping skills for handling negative emotions. Finally, she will describe research efforts focused on treating youth with early separation anxiety using modified Parent Child Interaction Therapy. She will also describe ongoing research efforts to integrate evidence based anxiety treatments into public school settings.

Date and Location

The conference will begin on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 9:00 am and conclude on Sunday, October 15 by 1:00 pm at the [Omni Parker House](#) hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference program is only a half day on Sunday. Interested parties are encouraged to reserve hotel rooms quickly. October is a busy month in Boston!

Abstract and Submission Details

The conference includes two tracks for oral session presentations: one designed primarily for professionals and one designed principally for parents and family members. Potential presenters may submit to either track, but should designate preference (professional or parent). Please note that all onsite presenters are required to register for the conference in advance; onsite registration is not permitted for presenters.

Additional abstract submission information:

- All abstracts must be received by midnight 06/05/2017. Call for Papers abstracts are peer-reviewed and based on quality of presentation and relevance to overall theme of the conference. Notification of acceptance to present will be via email on or before 06/19/2017.
- Abstracts must include contact information and title for each author presenting and must identify the primary author.
- Abstract should be no more than 500 words.
- Abstracts must be sent to [Google docs submission form](#).
- Abstracts must indicate preference for consideration for the **professional track** and/or the **parent track**.

Types of Oral Presentation Submissions

Focused Address - These 60-minute sessions consist of presentations based on a focused topic, although more than one individual may present within that specific topic. Typically, these sessions are lecture format and address the specific target audience (parents or professionals).

Workshops - These 60-90-minute sessions promote evidence-based clinical skills and hands on training and application of such skills. May be introductory and moderate level skill.

Clinical Round Tables - These sessions include informed discussions (or debates) on a current and/or significant clinical topic. These are organized by one moderator and include between three and five panelists for discussion (May have range of viewpoints for debate).

Symposia - These sessions typically are data driven, examining the findings of clinical trials or a compilation of data papers based on a similar issue (e.g., minority status and anxiety). Typically, these sessions have one chair, one discussant, and 3-4 papers being reviewed. There may be three to five presentations. Symposium can be either 60 or 90 minutes. Please note length of symposium at end of your abstract.

Poster Sessions - Informal demonstrations by researchers who present the result of their studies, or provide information of interest to the community. Poster sessions allow for maximum interaction between presenter and both lay and professional audiences. Posters typically are appropriate for smaller studies or student projects. Tables will be provided for posters. Presenters must provide their own presentation boards limited to 48".

Questions? Please email info@selectivemutism.org.