



Selective Mutism Association Annual Conference Call for Papers September 15-16, 2018 Chicago, IL

Program Overview

The Selective Mutism Association, in conjunction with our co-sponsor Advanced Therapeutic Solutions, located within the Chicago area, is hosting their annual 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. Presentations submitted, but not accepted, for oral presentations may be considered for poster presentations.

Keynote Address: Helping Your Child to Grow Up Out Loud and Just Fine, by Karen Cassiday, Ph.D., ACT

Overview:

Parenting a child with selective mutism can be very complicated. Parents walk the knife-edge of trying to promote exposure while simultaneously showing their child that they are loved just as they are. Dr. Cassiday will speak from her experience parenting her child with selective mutism and from her years of treating kids and adults with selective mutism. She will discuss how you can cultivate the qualities that help your child and family thrive while overcoming selective mutism. She will describe how to help families live a life full of purpose, joy, friendship and good humor despite their challenges.

Date and Location

The conference will begin on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 9:00 am and conclude on Sunday, September 16 by 1:00 pm at the [Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile](#) Hotel Chicago, IL. The conference program is only a half day on Sunday. Interested parties are encouraged to reserve hotel rooms soon.

Among the many nearby hotels within walking distance to the conference site include the [DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago Magnificent Mile](#), the [Sheraton Grand Chicago](#), and the [Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile](#).

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 05/11/2018. 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 05/28/2018.
- Abstracts must include contact information and title for each author presenting and must identify the primary author.
- Abstracts 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”.

Acceptance Criteria

Applicant abstracts will be reviewed via a blind analysis by a peer review board composed of SMA parents and professionals. These blind scores will constitute the primary acceptance criteria, though final presentation selections are made at the discretion of the SMA Board of Directors in collaboration with the conference co-sponsor. Additional factors to be considered in the final selection include the balance/variety of the available content for both parent- and professional-tracks, the evidence-base for proposed topics, as well as program/organization professional representation. Presentations may be invited if a particular topic of interest to conference registrants is lacking in the submission process.

Questions? Please email info@selectivemutism.org.