



Selective Mutism Association Annual Conference Call for Papers October 12 and 13, 2019 Las Vegas, NV

Program Overview

The Selective Mutism Association, in conjunction with our co-sponsor University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, is hosting our 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 *practical application and strategies for treatment and parenting, conceptualization of the disorder, assessment, and advocacy*. Special consideration will be given to presentations that are derived from empirical evidence, and approaches that directly address or incorporate generalization of gains to real world settings, and approaches that directly address useful parenting strategies for the child with SM. Presentations submitted, but not accepted, for oral presentations may be considered for poster presentations.

Keynote Address: How the Science of Parenting Leads to Effective New Treatment for Childhood Anxiety Disorders, Eli Lebowitz, Ph.D.

Overview: Anxiety disorders are exceedingly prevalent in children and adolescents. Anxious children rely heavily on their parents for help in coping with anxiety and parents frequently become entangled in their children's symptoms through the process of family accommodation. This talk will review cutting-edge research on neurobiological systems that drive these patterns of interactions between parents and anxious children, including the chemistry and circuitry of

the brain. The talk will introduce SPACE, a novel and efficacious parent-based treatment for childhood anxiety disorders focused on reducing accommodation and increasing supportive responses to childhood anxiety symptoms. The talk will briefly review the principles and components of the SPACE treatment using clinical vignettes to illustrate the therapeutic process and will present data from clinical trials of SPACE demonstrating its efficacy.

Date and Location

The conference will begin on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 8:00 am and conclude on Sunday, October 13 by 1:00 pm at the [Renaissance Las Vegas hotel](#). The conference program is only a half day on Sunday. Interested parties are encouraged to reserve hotel rooms soon. There are many hotels nearby.

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 05/24/2019. Call for Papers abstracts are peer-reviewed and based on quality of presentation and relevance to the conference. Notification of acceptance to present will be via email on or before 06/12/2019.
- 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. You will be asked to specify primary target audience of parents or professionals.

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). You will be asked to specify primary target audience of parents or professionals.

Symposia - These sessions typically are data driven, examining the findings of clinical trials or a compilation of empirical papers based on a similar issue (e.g., minority status and anxiety). These sessions have one chair, one discussant, and 3-4 papers being reviewed. There may be 3-5 presentations. Symposium can be either 60 or 90 minutes. Please note the 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

Abstracts will be reviewed blinded by a-review board composed of SMA member professionals and parents. Parent reviews will be limited to readability and interest level, not scientific merit. These blinded scores will constitute the primary acceptance criteria, though final presentation selections are made at the discretion of the SMA Board of Directors. Additional factors to be considered in the final selection include the balance and variety of the content for both parent- and professional-tracks, the evidence-base for proposed topics, as well as diversity of program and organizational 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.