



Selective Mutism Association Annual Conference Call for Papers October 5 and October 6, 2024 Chicago, IL

Program Overview

The Selective Mutism Association is excited to announce our annual conference designed to disseminate new and beneficial evidence-based information about many aspects of selective mutism (SM). Our in-person conference, cosponsored by Advanced Therapeutic Solutions, will take place in downtown Chicago, IL and will offer innovative content, share advancements in the assessment and treatment of SM, and connect with a wide audience of participants. Please note: SMA is intending to rotate in-person conferences with fully virtual conferences in the coming years. The target audience includes parents and relatives of individuals with selective mutism, mental health professionals, speech and language pathologists, other allied health professionals, educators, and individuals with SM (ages 17 and up). This conference will be primarily conducted live and in-person; however, select talks will be recorded and available for later viewing. SMA will offer this limited virtual option for separate purchase for those who are not able to come in-person. Please note, presentations on the individuals with SM track will only be offered via the pre-recorded virtual format. All presenters submitting talks for the parent and professional track must be prepared to attend the in-person conference in Chicago.

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 applications and advances in assessment and treatment, conceptualization of the disorder, SM in the schools for all audiences, issues of diversity, and strategies for caregivers, teens, and adults with SM. Special consideration will be given to presentations that are derived from empirical evidence, that incorporate generalization of gains to real world settings, and that address strategies to support and encourage individuals with SM.

Presentations submitted, but not accepted, for oral presentations may be considered for poster presentations.

Keynote Address: Jonathan S. Comer, Ph.D.

Dr. Comer is Director of the Mental health Interventions and Novel Therapeutics (MINT) Program, and Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at Florida International University. He is Editor-Elect for the journal *Behavior Therapy*, Past President of the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12 of the American Psychological Association), and a leader in the field of clinical child and adolescent psychology. He is the author of over 200 scholarly publications, including several textbooks, such as *Abnormal Psychology (11th edition)* and *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology (10th edition)*.

Dr. Comer's program of research examines child psychopathology and youth mental health care, placing central emphasis on the nature and family-based treatment of pediatric anxiety disorders, irritability, disruptive behavior problems, and traumatic stress. Much of Dr. Comer's research focuses on telehealth and digital mental health strategies, as well as the broader role of technology and other non-traditional treatment formats for overcoming traditional barriers to care. This work examines novel strategies for expanding the scope, accessibility, acceptability, and responsiveness of children's mental health services. In addition, Dr. Comer studies the psychological impact of disasters, terrorism, and other public health crises on children and families. On this front, he serves as the Director of the Network for Enhancing Wellness in Disaster-Affected Youth (NEW DAY)—a SAMHSA-funded center that provides trauma-informed training and consultation to youth-serving professionals in disaster-prone and disaster-hit regions.

Date and Location

The conference will begin at **9 am on Saturday, October 5, 2024 (Central Time) and conclude midday on Sunday, October 6**. All presenters submitting to the caregiver and professional talks must register for and attend the face-to-face conference in Chicago. Only presenters submitting talks for the individual track are not required to attend the face-to-face conference.

The conference will take place at the following venue:

Embassy Suites, Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile
511 N. Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL 60611
312.836.5900

Abstract and Submission Details

The conference includes three tracks for oral session presentations:

- 1) Professional track
- 2) Caregiver track
- 3) Individuals with SM track

Potential presenters may submit to any track but should designate preference. Please note that all presenters who are speaking live during the in-person program are required to register for the conference in advance; day-of registration is not permitted for presenters.

Additional abstract submission information:

- All abstracts must be received by midnight PST 05/05/2024. Call for Papers abstracts are peer-reviewed and acceptance is based on the quality of the presentation and its relevance to the conference. Notification of acceptance to presenters will be via email in early June 2024.
- Abstracts must include contact information, name, credentials and biography for each author presenting and must identify the primary author.
- Abstracts should be no more than 500 words.
- Abstracts must be submitted through the [Call for Papers submission form](#).
- Abstracts must indicate preference for consideration for the **professional track**, the **caregiver track**, and/or the **individuals with SM track**.

Types of Oral Presentation Submissions:

Focused Address - These 60-90 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 (i.e., professional, caregiver, individuals with SM).

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 and proposed session length.

Clinical Round Tables - These 60-90 minute 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.

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. Posters typically are appropriate for smaller studies or student projects.

Acceptance Criteria

All abstracts will be reviewed blindly by a-review board composed of SMA member professionals, individuals with histories of SM, and parents. Reviews conducted by parents and individuals with SM histories 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 all 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.