

## 2017 Autism Society of Iowa Fall Conference Speakers

### **Keynote Speakers**

#### **Luke Y. Tsai, M.D.**

Luke Y. Tsai, M.D. is Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nebraska College of Medicine; Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, University of Michigan Medical School; Research Scientist Emeritus of Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Visiting Professor, Beijing Medical University, China; Visiting Professor (2009-2011) of Education, Oakland University School of Education and Human Services, Michigan; Diplomate in Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Editorial Board member of Research in Autism Spectrum Disorder; Editorial Board member of Journal of Mental Health Research in Developmental Disabilities; Guest Editorial Board member of Formosan Medical Journal; Guest Editorial Board member of Journal of Taiwanese Psychiatric Association; American Psychiatry Association DSMIV Contributor (Disorders Usually First Diagnosed During Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence- Pervasive Developmental Disorder s); American Psychiatry Association DSM-5 Clinical and Public Health Review Committee Peer Reviewer; Former Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division at the University of Kansas Medical Center as well as at the University of Michigan Medical Center; Former Founder and Director of Developmental Disorders/Autism Program of University of Kansas Medical Center and University of Michigan Medical Center; Former Co-Chair and current member of Panel of Professional Advisors of Autism Society of America.

Dr. Tsai received his medical degree from Taipei Medical University in Taiwan and completed his residency training in general psychiatry and fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals. He has held academic and professional appointments at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, the University of Kansas School of Medicine, the University of Michigan Medical School and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and Oakland University School of Education and Human Services.

Dr. Tsai is a scholar, a researcher, a teacher, a father of a young man with autism, and a friend of individuals with Autism and related disorders. He has received awards and honors for his work with individuals with neuropsychiatric disorders. He has been selected by his professional peers as one of the Best Doctors in America. He is much sought after nationally and internationally as a speaker, consultant, and researcher. He is widely published and his publications include more than 93 articles and 46 books author of Taking the Mystery out of Medication in Autism/Asperger Syndromes and Raising our son with Autism – A family's 40-year journey which has been translated into both the traditional and simplified Chinese editions and published in Taiwan and China.

His research interest includes: diagnosis and classification of Pervasive Developmental Disorders/Autism Spectrum Disorder, genetic, neuroimaging, and psychopharmacological studies of developmental disorders including autistic and Asperger disorders.

## **Steve Silberman**

Steve Silberman is an award-winning science writer whose articles have appeared in Wired, the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Financial Times, the Boston Globe, the MIT Technology Review, Nature, Salon, Shambhala Sun, and many other publications. He is the author of *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity* (Avery 2015), which Oliver Sacks called a “sweeping and penetrating history...presented with a rare sympathy and sensitivity.” The book became a widely-praised bestseller in the United States and the United Kingdom, and won the 2015 Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction, a California Book Award, and a Books for a Better Life award. It was chosen as one of the Best Books of 2015 by The New York Times, The Economist, The Financial Times, The Boston Globe, The Independent, and many other publications, and is being translated into 13 languages. The feature film rights have been acquired by Paramount Studios and Lorne Michaels.

In April 2016, Silberman gave the keynote speech at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day. He has given talks on the history of autism at Yale, Harvard, MIT, Oxford, the National Academy of Sciences, Queen Mary University, Apple, Microsoft, Google, the 92nd Street Y, Imperial College London, the MIND Institute at UC Davis, and many other major institutions. His TED talk, “The Forgotten History of Autism,” has been viewed more than a million times and translated into 25 languages. His article “The Placebo Problem” won the 2010 Science Journalism Award for Magazine Writing from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Kavli Foundation, and was featured on The Colbert Report. His writing on science, culture, and literature has been collected in a number of major anthologies including The Best American Science Writing of the Year and The Best Business Stories of the Year. Silberman’s Twitter account @stevesilberman made Time magazine’s list of the best Twitter feeds for the

## **Breakout Session Speakers**

### **Erin Enyart**

Erin Enyart is a busy wife to husband, Jerrod, and mother to two amazing children, Harper who is 13-years-old and Gibson who is 11-years-old. After Harper received an autism diagnosis in 2006 and Gibson in 2008, Erin became involved in the autism community first as the Field Coordinator for Autism Speaks Iowa and now in her current position as Associate Director of Autism Society of Iowa. Erin also serves as the Treasurer of the Autism Society of Iowa Board of Directors. In her spare time, Erin enjoys cheering on her alma mater, Iowa State University Cyclones, working on home improvement projects, and spending time with her family and new puppy, Olive.

### **April Greene**

April Greene, from Ruthven, IA, is a parent of three children with disabilities, one of which has autism. She has encountered many obstacles in treatment and education of her son with autism who exhibits severe and challenging behavior.

### **Heather E. Hanzlick-Jaacks M.S.**

Heather is an Autism Spectrum Disorder consultant with Tanager Place and has been consulting with the agency for over 3.5 years. Heather pursuits and passions in the ASD community come from her lived experience as a sibling and family member. Heather is a member of the Autism Society of Iowa, is family adviser with the Regional Autism Assistant Program, and is a mentor with the Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute. Heather has had the privilege of working on many community and statewide projects in Iowa related to ASD and community safety planning, Autism insurance reform and ASD and voting.

Heather completed her graduate work at the University of Kansas' Autism Asperger Program and her ABA certificate at Penn State University. Heather previously served as an Autism Resource Specialist for over 14 years in southern MN, was a member of the state of MN statewide Autism network and served on the state of MN Evidence Based Practice team (affiliated with the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder) as a TA/Coach/Trainer. Prior to this, Heather served as an Asperger Specialist for the State of South Dakota's Center for Disabilities.

### **Glenda Koehn**

Glenda Koehn lives outside of Elgin, Iowa and she and her husband Kelly have 4 children, 2 of which are diagnosed with Autism. Sam, the oldest with Autism is 25 years old, and their youngest son Kyle, who has Autism, is 22 years old. She is a baker and has been an active member of the Autism Society of Iowa for over 20 years. Her interests include: trying new recipes, quilting, weaving baskets, and most anything artsy and crafty. She is a staunch advocate for her children, along with any other child that may need it.

### **Todd Kopelman Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Dr. Todd Kopelman is an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He is the co-director of the University of Iowa's Autism Center. Dr. Kopelman co-directs an interdisciplinary autism team and works with children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities who are engaging in challenging behaviors. Dr. Kopelman has served as the project coordinator for three federally funded projects that have evaluated the use of telehealth to conduct behavioral assessments and treatments with young children with autism. He has also been actively involved in a statewide training project focused on improving the quality of behavioral services provided in schools.

### **Jake Michaelson, Ph.D.**

Dr. Jake Michaelson is an assistant professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Iowa. His lab studies the effect of genetic variations on the development in the brain, with specific applications in autism and language impairment. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in biological engineering at Utah State University before earning his PhD in computational biology at the Technische Universität Dresden in Germany in 2010. After his time in Germany, he joined the lab of noted psychiatric geneticist Jonathan Sebat at UC San Diego, where he completed his postdoctoral training and published several important papers dealing with genome informatics and the genetics of autism. In 2013, he joined the faculty at the University of Iowa, and his current research is supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Simons Foundation, and the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.

### **Emily Monahan, OTR/L**

Emily Monahan, OTR/L earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2011 and her Masters of Occupational Therapy in 2012, from Saint Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. She began her career as an Occupational Therapist at Central Rehabilitation in West Des Moines, IA. While there, she had the opportunity to work with a variety of clientele in their homes and daycare settings. In 2013, Emily followed her passion of working with children and joined the outpatient pediatric rehabilitation team at ChildServe in Johnston, IA. She is currently the Outpatient Autism Team Lead and involved with various Autism programming including; intensive treatment in the Autism Day Health Program, organizing and conducting Project ImPACT parent education course for families of young children with Autism, social and life skills groups for children with Autism and she joins a multi-disciplinary team to conduct an Autism Diagnostic Clinic. As a member of the ChildServe's Autism Team, Emily enjoys sharing her knowledge about Autism Spectrum Disorder and her experience working with children on the Autism Spectrum.

### **Matthew O'Brien, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Matthew O'Brien, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. He completed his doctorate in Psychological and Quantitative Foundations from the University of Iowa and completed postdoctoral fellowships in neuropsychology and behavioral psychology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. O'Brien currently directs the Biobehavioral Day Treatment Clinic, which serves individuals with severe and challenging behavior. His research interests include functional analysis of severe and challenging behavior in individuals with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

### **Lauren Poeppe, OTR/L**

Lauren Poeppe, OTR/L graduated from the University of Missouri with her Bachelor of Health Sciences in 2009 and her Master of Occupational Therapy in 2011. She has worked at ChildServe, a non-profit organization focusing on pediatric rehabilitation, since 2011 and has been on ChildServe's Autism Team since 2012. Lauren participates in multi-disciplinary Autism Diagnostic Clinics, Project ImPACT parent education program for young children with Autism, social/peer groups for children with Autism, provides occupational therapy for children in the Autism Day Health program which serves children with Autism from 2-6 years of age, and fulfills management duties in ChildServe's Autism Intensive program. Lauren has attended numerous Autism trainings and conferences, including certification in administering the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2), the gold standard in diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders, the STAR Institute Level 1 Advanced Mentorship: Diagnosis & Treatment of Sensory Processing Disorder, and implementing the STAR (Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research) curriculum. Lauren shares her passion for working with children with Autism, and experience on the Autism Team at ChildServe by providing education and mentorship to staff and students regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders and Sensory Processing.

### **Monica Ryan-Rausch, MSW, LMSW**

Monica is an Autism Consultant with Grant Wood AEA (Area Education Agency). As a consultant with AEA, Monica supports school districts, classroom teachers, students, and parents in understanding the Autism Spectrum in the classroom and school settings. Specifically, Monica assists educational teams in the development and implementation of evidence base practices to ensure success of students on the Autism Spectrum in educational settings.

In addition, Monica has acted as a program director of the community based social skill program for youth in 4th/5th grade, middle school, and high school youth with ASD for the past 14 years with Four Oaks Inc. This program will start again in the community at Tanager Place in January 2018. This social skills program will continue to offer services after school and in summer day camp format.

Monica has a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa and has obtained a graduate level certificate in Autism from Penn State University.

### **Mary Roberts**

Mary Roberts is a Behavioral Health Consultant and the Autism Center Coordinator at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She is also the parent of two young adults, both of whom are significantly affected by autism, and the President and Co-founder of The Village Community, a 501c3 disability service provider located in Johnson County, which works to provide a cooperative model of learning and working for young adults with developmental disabilities.

### **Peggy Swails, MSW, LMSW**

Peggy L. Swails, MSW, LMSW, is a Program Manager with the Division of Child and Community Health, Child Health Specialty Clinics at The University of Iowa. She has worked on various projects related to Iowa's children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN), including the Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. Peggy has a background in program development and program evaluation with a strong emphasis in strengthening inter-agency and inter-organizational partnerships to address the needs of CYSHCN and their families and to enhance systems of care. Peggy is also a parent of an adolescent with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy.

### **Judith Ursitti, CPA**

Judith Ursitti is director of state government affairs at Autism Speaks. She has worked with stakeholders across the country over the past decade to pass, implement enforce and expand meaningful legislation requiring autism insurance coverage for evidence based therapies. She also is actively involved in the implementation of Medicaid coverage in multiple states. She has been working on these issues in Iowa since 2009 and is thrilled to see the broadening of coverage. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two children. Her son Jack is diagnosed with ASD.