

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Päivi Danner

OTR, M.A.

Occupational therapist in pediatrics 40 years. Master's degree at the University of Southern California. SI training at Dr. Ayres' clinic. Organized SI training in Finland according to her personal advice. Former and first president of Finnish sensory integration association (SITY), which was organized to give SI-training for experienced OTs.



Sharon Cermak

EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Sharon Cermak received her Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from The Ohio State University, her Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Boston University, Graduate Program, and her doctoral degree in Special Education at Boston University. Dr. Cermak is renowned for her expertise in Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder, a long-standing interest of hers. She co-edited a leading text, "Developmental Coordination Disorders," and more recently served as a member of an NIH Task Force on Childhood Motor Disorders.



Erna Imperatore Blanche

Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA. Professor of Clinical Practice, Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Southern California

Graduated from the University of Chile with a degree in occupational therapy and also holds a MA Degree in Special Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and a PhD in Occupational Science from the University of Southern California. Erna trained with Dr. Ayres in 1984, since then she has taught extensively around the world and has authored and co-authored multiple publications in the areas of evaluation and intervention of children with developmental disabilities, play, and occupational science. Erna is also co-owner and a co-founder of Therapy West, Inc., a treatment facility serving children with developmental disabilities in Southern California. In her multiple roles of professor, international lecturer, and clinician, Dr. Blanche crosses the borders between clinical practice and academic research.



Roseann C. Schaaf

PhD., OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor, Thomas Jefferson University

CV Pending



Zoe Mailloux

OTD,OTR/L,FAOTA

CV Pending



Stefanie C. Bodison

OTD, OTR/L

Stefanie Bodison is a graduate of the University of Southern California and has been specializing in sensorimotor and neurodevelopmental intervention techniques with children for more than 20 years. The populations with which she has particular interest include typically developing children and those with autism, developmental dyspraxia, sensorineural hearing loss, prenatal alcohol exposure, developmental coordination disorder, and learning disabilities. Dr. Bodison's current research focuses on the use of multimodal imaging techniques (MRI, fMRI and DTI) to investigate the neural mechanisms of sensorimotor integration in typically developing children and those with a variety of neurodevelopmental conditions.



Gustavo Reinoso

Ph.D., OTR/L

Gustavo has been a clinician for +20 years assessing and treating children and youth with disabilities in a variety of government, clinical, university and community settings. He is an expert in sensory processing and integration and regularly delivers education and services to clinicians and families in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. His research interests include sensory integration and processing, autism, children and youth, disability studies and the development of assessment tools. He is an associate professor at Nova Southeastern University (NSU).



Virginia Spielmann

MSOT, is the Executive Director of STARInstitute for SPD, Colorado

Virginia is certified in the SIPT with advanced training in Sensory Integration at post-professional and PhD level. She is currently at the dissertation stage of her Ph.D. in Infant and Early Childhood Development with an emphasis on mental health, with Fielding Graduate University, in Santa Barbara. Virginia is a clinical consultant with the International Council for Development and Learning, a primary DIR/Floortime training body.



Shelley Mulligan

PhD., OTR/L

Shelley Mulligan received her Doctor of Philosophy, Special Education, University of Washington, in 1997; Master of Science, Occupational Therapy, Colorado State University, 1990, and Bachelor of Science, Occupational Therapy, University of Western Ontario, CAN, 1985. She currently is Associate Professor, and Chairperson, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of New Hampshire. Dr. Mulligan is also a course instructor for the Comprehensive Program Leading to Certification in Sensory Integration Evaluation and Treatment, sponsored by University of Southern California/Western Psychological Services. She has published extensively in the area of sensory integration, and her program of research involves the evaluation of sensory motor functions in children.



Lucy Jane Miller

PhD, OTR/L

Dr. Lucy Jane Miller Ph.D., OTR/L founded the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder in Colorado in 2005, after 12 years on the faculty of CU, Denver Medical School, department of pediatrics. STAR (Sensory Therapies And Research) and is the premier center for treatment, research, education, and advocacy for SPD. She currently serves as Emeritus Executive Director, widely known for fostering collaborative research projects.

For over 45 years, Dr. Miller has devoted herself to the study and treatment of Sensory Processing Disorder and for 18 years spearheaded the effort to get SPD recognized as a diagnostic entity separate from other disorders in the DSM-5. She is a prolific author, with over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Her first book, *Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD)* has become the definitive source of information on SPD; the revised edition recently published. Dr. Miller's other book, *No Longer A SECRET: Unique Common Sense Strategies for Children with Sensory or Motor Challenges*, offers on-the-spot problem-solving tips to use for children with sensory issues. She directed the STAR PROCESS, a Treatment Model that incorporates elements of Ayres Sensory Integration (ASI) and Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-based (DIR), which research demonstrates to be effective in the treatment of sensory-related challenges.

Dr. Miller has also developed nine norm-referenced standardized assessments that are in use worldwide, starting with the Miller Assessment for Preschoolers (1982, 1988) and completed with the Goal-Oriented Assessment of Lifeskills (GOAL) (2013). Her 10th scale, the Sensory Processing Three Dimensions Scale (SP3D) will be standardized nationwide starting in January 2019.



Sarah Schoen

PhD, OTR

Sarah Schoen PhD, OTR, is Director of Research at the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD). Dr. Schoen is an Occupational Therapist with over 30 years of clinical experience and a doctorate in Occupational Therapy from New York University (2001). She is also an Associate Professor at the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Dr. Schoen is a co-author of the Sensory Processing Three Dimensions Scale. She is nationally recognized for her research, educational programs and clinical expertise. In 1997, Dr. Schoen received the Recognition of Achievement Award from and the Virginia Scardina Award of Excellence in 2011.



Aylet Ben-Sasson

Assistant professor, at the Occupational Therapy Department, University of Haifa

Her research interests are in sensory symptoms, anxiety disorders, digital screening, and autism. She completed her doctoral studies at Boston University, and post-doctoral fellowship at the Psychology Department at UMASS Boston. Ben-Sasson is also the co-founder of babyTRACKS, an app for crowd-based developmental screening.



Eynat Gal

OTR, Ph.D, University of Haifa, Israel

Dr. Eynat Gal is a faculty member of Social Welfare and Health Studies in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Haifa. Dr. Gal is a co-director of the Autism Laboratory of University of Haifa. Her research focuses on investigation of underlying mechanisms that stand at the base of autistic behaviors, such as sensory deficits, repetitive behaviors and social interaction, as well as functional aspects of ASD such as eating disorders and vocational rehabilitation. She is a member at LIRT (Laboratory for innovations in Rehabilitation Technology) at the University of Haifa where she applied her clinical and research skills to develop and evaluate various innovative applications for the training of sensory processing, social competence and vocational abilities in children and adolescents with ASD. She has developed and validated a few instruments for assessing developmental disorders and is the author of numerous papers and book chapters addressing ASD.



Elisabeth Sochting

OTR, PhD (c)

Elisabeth is Occupational therapist and psychologist based in Vienna, Austria. She is specialized in Sensory Integration since 1990, having gained her training in the USA through the University of Southern California (USC). She is the president of the Austrian Sensory Integration Organization GSIOee.V., and was the originator of the 1st European Sensory Integration Congress in Vienna, as well as the previous ESIC in 2017. She is Head of Spiel Studio, a clinic specialized in Ayres' SI. Conducted the first non US standardization of the SIPT in 1997/98 and is involved in the current normative data collection for the Evaluation in Ayres' Sensory Integration (EASI). Developed curricula for SI training, translated and wrote books, published many articles on SI, one of them being a systematic review of the effectiveness of SI therapy. Working on a neuropsychology doctorate on proprioception in autism.



Helen Lynch

University College Cork, UCC Department of
Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy

CV Pending



Panagiotis Siaperas

OTR

Dr. Panagiotis Siaperas is Occupational Therapist and Psychologist, graduate of Occupational Therapy Department of the TEI Athens and Psychology department of the University of Kent in the UK. He has worked in units for children and young adults with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities and in school settings. He also worked at the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London (King's College), where he received with scholarship from a UK foundation master's degree (MSc), and specialized in the diagnosis and intervention of children and adolescents with developmental disorders. In 2008, with a scholarship from the Greek Government, he received a doctorate from the University of Cambridge researching Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Coordination Disorder. He has publications in refereed journals and contributions in handbooks of Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Special Education. He has teaching experience on postgraduate and undergraduate level from Homerton College-University of Cambridge, University of Athens, University of Peloponnese and TEI of Athens. Recently, he was approved as a member of the Occupational Therapy Europe Register of Experts in the area of Children and Adolescents, Teaching/Pedagogy, Education and Intellectual Disability. Participates in various research projects and teaches at undergraduate and graduate university programs. He has a constant presence in International and Greek scientific conferences either as speaker or as member of a Scientific Committee. From 2012 he is Academic Link Person and Programme Leader at the BSc. Occupational Therapy program that is delivered in Greece by Metropolitan College and Queen Margaret University of Edinburgh. From 2016 he is an elected board member of the European Network of Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (ENOTHE <http://enothe.eu/>) and an elected member of the board of directors of the Municipal Nursery Organization of the Municipality of Athens (<http://www.dbda.gr>)



Emmanouil Manakas

MA, OT, Metropolitan College, Athens,
Greece

CV Pending



Clare Giuffrida

PhD, MS, OTR/L, C/NDT, FAOTA, Clinical Assistant
Professor, Ruth University, Chicago

Clare Giuffrida is an adjunct clinical assistant professor with the Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Ill. Also, Clare acts as a resource liaison between early intervention programs and community pediatric practices within Chicago while also providing direct community based pediatric interventions to children in Early Intervention and through clinic based services. For more than thirty years Clare has been engaged in hospital and university administration, university and continuing education teaching, direct service delivery and research in the occupational therapy departments at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, University of Florida Gainesville, Florida, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mt Nittany Medical Center, State College, Pa and Kennedy Child Study Center, Santa Monica, Ca. Her scholarly contributions include national and international presentation and publications within occupational therapy, rehabilitation medicine (neurorehabilitation) and exercise science/motor learning. Using practice based evidence (PBE) methodology as a core foundation for her research, Clare is focused on extending PBE methods to examine efficacious pediatric practices. In her early practice years she had the opportunity to support the dissemination of Dr. Jean Ayres' theory and research as an instructor of sensory integration theory with Dr. Ayres, as well as, with other nationally designated occupational therapy - sensory integration faculty.

Clare participated in both the SIPT normative data collection and developed a construct validity study supporting SIPT usage. Within Clare's primary role as an educator she coordinated several sensory integration, USC-WPS, continuing education certification courses, at different universities to support further the dissemination of sensory integration practices with the hopes of integrating this approach within mainstream occupational therapy graduate education. Clare has also been active within the state and national occupational therapy associations in the United States serving in multiple Board positions, as President of the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association and as a member of the Professional Development and Continuing Competency Committee of AOTA. Currently Clare is active with ILOTA as cochair of the EI committee.



Mary Hallway

OTR/L SWC, C/NDT, NDTA OT Instructor

Mary Hallway received her BS degree with honors in occupational therapy from Western Michigan University and has thirty nine years of experience specializing in pediatrics in medical, educational and community-based settings. Mary is certified in Sensory Integration and Neuro-Developmental Treatment. She is an internationally recognized educator, clinician, and consultant who teaches the OT week for the NDTA 8 week Pediatric course, NDTA advanced courses (baby course, upper extremity course) as well as a variety of short courses including Blending Approaches in Pediatrics extensively throughout the United States and internationally.

Areas of expertise include; clinical assessment and intervention, development and distribution of training materials, family training and professional development, consultation, therapy program development and implementation. Mary has published several articles including Handling with Care or Handling Carefully in Parent Articles about NDT and has co- authored the book Combining Neuro- Developmental Treatment and Sensory Integration Principles: An Approach to Pediatrics.