FACULTY

**Meher H. Banajee, PhD, CCC-SLP**, is an associate professor at LSUHSC Communication Disorders Department. She has worked as an AT Coordinator (Region I), Regional Consultant (Prentke Romich Company), AAC coordinator (Children’s Hospital), and Department Head (Metropolitan Developmental Center). Her areas of interest include AAC, autism spectrum disorder, early intervention, and complex communication disorders as well as AAC and degenerative neurological disorders. She has published articles on core vocabulary, AAC within the classroom, ASD, and early intervention. She runs several social groups for adolescent and adults with ASD. Meher is the coordinator for Special Interest Group 12 (AAC).

Financial Disclosures:
- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:
- No nonfinancial relationships to disclose

**Timothy P. Kowalski, MA, CCC-SLP**, is an internationally known expert on Asperger’s syndrome and high-functioning autism. He has worked in a variety of psychiatric health care delivery systems, including inpatient and outpatient psychiatric hospitals, sex-offender units, and school-based settings. Kowalski is the author of six books on the topic. He is a member of ASHA, Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Behavior Disorders, and Autism Society of America. He is the recipient of the 2010 Clinician of the Year Award from the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and the TEAMS 2000 Speech-Language Pathologist of the Year award for his work with autism in the four-countywide greater Orlando, Florida, metropolitan area and has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Orlando Chapter of the Autism Society of America, Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, and Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Financial Disclosures:
- Intellectual property for six books
- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:
- No nonfinancial relationships to disclose

**Kim Murza, PhD, CCC-SLP**, received her doctorate in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Central Florida, where she specialized in language and literacy with a focus on autism spectrum disorder. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in language and literacy, evidence-based practice, and phonetics. Murza has worked privately and in the public school system as an SLP with children and adolescents in preschool through high school and more recently with adults with autism spectrum disorder. She is currently the University of Northern Colorado Scottish Rite Program Director and a member of the Colorado Department of Education Speech-Language Advisory Council. Murza has
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participated in numerous research projects and co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and presentations. She has been an invited author and presenter for several topics, including autism spectrum disorder and adolescent language and literacy. Her main research area is pragmatic language intervention and vocational support for individuals with high-functioning forms of autism spectrum disorder. Additional research interests include systematic review and meta-analysis, strategic learning, inference generation, disciplinary literacy, and the delivery of high-quality professional development.

Financial Disclosures:
- Salary from the University of Northern Colorado
- Currently in discussion with Medbridge about providing online courses
- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:
- Member of the Colorado Speech-Language Advisory Council for the Department of Education

Michelle Garcia Winner, MA, CCC-SLP, is the founder of Social Thinking, a methodology that specializes in developing treatment frameworks and practical strategies for individuals with social communication challenges, including those with ASD and/or ADHD as well as twice exceptional students. She continues to be clinically active, has authored numerous books and articles, and speaks routinely in the U.S. and abroad. Her work challenges professionals and parents to understand the critical relationship between social thinking and related social skills and the impact social learning has on academic, vocational, and community success. She was featured as a Social Thinking therapist and SLP in the 2016 Sundance Premiere Documentary “Life, Animated.” She was honored with a Congressional Special Recognition Award in 2008.

Financial Disclosures:
- Owner of Think Social Publishing, Inc. and the Social Thinking Center, Inc.
- Created a treatment methodology that has been broken down into different topics and is sold through self-published books
- Speaking fees for talks given around the world
- Runs a very small clinic and provides clinical training to a variety of professionals from around the globe
- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:
- No nonfinancial relationships to disclose