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Gazi Azad, PhD, LP, NCSP, is a clinical psychologist at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Her faculty position is pending at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Azad is a licensed psychologist and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. Prior to her current role, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Columbia University. Azad received her PhD in school psychology and her BA in psychology. The goal of her research is to enhance family-community partnerships for underserved children who live in urban settings and have psychiatric and developmental disabilities. To that end, she has developed and tested an innovative consultation model to improve parent-teacher communication and collaboration surrounding the use of evidence-based interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder in public schools. Azad’s research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the Autism Science Foundation (ASF), and the McMorris Autism Initiative.

Financial Disclosures:

- Employee of Center for Autism and Related Disorders at the Kennedy Krieger Institute
- Formerly employee of University of Pennsylvania for postdoctoral fellowship
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Nonfinancial Disclosures:

- No nonfinancial relationships to the content of this presentation

Billy T. Ogletree, PhD, CCC-SLP, is professor and head of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western Carolina University. His professional interests include the communication abilities and needs of persons with severe disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. Ogletree also has significant interests related to interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice. He has enjoyed a 34-year career as a speech-language pathologist and has worked in a variety of settings, including public schools, residential facilities for persons with intellectual impairments, hospitals, and universities. Ogletree has published more than 70 products (articles, chapters, books, manuals, etc.) and has made more than 100 professional presentations at state, regional, national, and international conferences. He chairs the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities and is an ASHA Fellow.

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Betty Yu, PhD, CCC-SLP, earned her doctorate in special education from the Joint Doctoral Program at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University, her MA in speech-language pathology from New York University, and her BA in linguistics from UC Berkeley. Her research focuses on issues of social communication, heritage language, and bilingual development in children with autism spectrum disorder. She teaches courses related to language development, serving culturally and linguistically diverse families, and counseling in communicative disorders. The emphasis of her clinical instruction is on the provision of family-centered services to support communication development in children with autism. She is the co-director of Project Common Ground, funded by the U.S. Department of Education to prepare speech-language pathologists to work effectively with diverse children with autism.

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