FACULTY

Meher Banajee, PhD, CCC-SLP, is an associate professor and program director of the Speech-Language Pathology Program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. Her areas of expertise include working with children and adults with autism spectrum disorder and working in the field of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with clients of all ages and with a variety of disorders. Banajee teaches a course on special populations, which includes half a semester of instruction on autism spectrum disorder. She also is responsible for coordinating and setting up a diagnostic clinic for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASDID). She has worked in a variety of educational and hospital settings, including Metropolitan Developmental Center, Children’s Hospital, Prentke Romich Company, Human Development Center, and Assistive Technology Coordinator for Region 1. Banajee is the coordinator of ASHA’s Special Interest Group 12 (AAC), site visitor for CAA, and AAC Topic Chair for ASHA Convention 2018 in Boston. She also chairs ASHA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Facilitated Communication and the Rapid Prompting Method.

Financial Disclosures:

- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:

- No nonfinancial relationships to the content of this presentation

Tom Buggey, PhD, worked in the field of special education as a teacher and supervisor in the U.S. and Canada prior to receiving his PhD in early intervention from Penn State in 1993. He then spent 14 years as a professor at The University of Memphis. While in Memphis, he was the primary investigator on numerous grants, most of which provided technical assistance to schools and families in the areas of inclusion, assistive technology, positive behavior supports, early intervention, and school reform. He also was instrumental in establishing the Access Center for Technology, the first ATA-accredited assistive technology center located on a university campus. In 2007, he was appointed Siskin Chair of Excellence in Early Intervention at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he focused on his line of research in video self-modeling (VSM) with children with autism. He has conducted research on this very promising technique since 1993 and has published numerous research papers on the topic. In 2009, he published the first book on VSM, Seeing is Believing. He is currently on the editorial board of Focus on Autism. He retired in 2014 and now serves as Chief Science Officer for Invirtua.com.

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Teresa Cardon, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCBA-D, has worked with individuals with autism spectrum disorder for almost 25 years. She is the director of the Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism at Utah Valley University. She is currently conducting research on autism in the workplace, autism in the media, as well as pre-service teacher outcomes for special education students who take courses in autism studies. Cardon has designed curriculum in autism studies, speech-language pathology, and applied behavior analysis.

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Christina R. Carnahan, EdD, is an associate professor of special education within the School of Education in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services at the University of Cincinnati, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the field of moderate to intense disabilities. She is also the director of Advancement and Transition Services within the School of Education. Carnahan's research interests include building communication and literacy for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities, and creating efficient and effective instruction and support practices across the life span. Carnahan has published in journals such as Exceptional Children, Journal of Special Education, and Focus on Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

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Donna S. Murray, PhD, CCC-SLP, is Vice President of Clinical Programs and head of the Autism Treatment Network (ATN) at Autism Speaks and Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital/University of Cincinnati. At Autism Speaks, Murray oversees the activities of the ATN and other clinical programs. Prior to joining Autism Speaks, she worked as the clinical director for the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and co-director of the Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Murray's current interests include examining the use of quality improvement methodology to improve clinical care and outcomes for children with ASD. She received her PhD from the University of Cincinnati in the Department Communication Sciences and Disorders, where she focused on the neurosensory aspects of communication, language, and social skills in autism spectrum disorders. Murray has more than 30 years of experience in program development,
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diagnosis, and treatment of individuals with ASD. Her research includes studies examining language, social skills, diagnosis, and intervention in ASD.

Financial Disclosures:

- Employed as Vice President of Clinical Programs for Autism Speaks
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Nonfinancial Disclosures:

- Program committee for this conference

Pamela Williamson, PhD, is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has experience working with individuals with autism and their teachers in the area of reading intervention and instruction. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles related to reading and autism in journals such as Exceptional Children, Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, the Journal of Special Education, Intervention in School and Clinic, and Teaching Exceptional Children. In addition, she is the co-editor of an award-winning textbook, Quality Literacy Instruction for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and has educated in-service educators, related service personnel, and families across the U.S. on this topic.

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Nonfinancial Disclosures:

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