



2nd Annual New York Conference

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment Research, Clinical and Parent Perspectives*



Sunday, October 21, 2012

New York's Hotel Pennsylvania
401 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10001

GUEST PRESENTERS

Connie Kasari, PhD
UCLA Center for Autism Research & Treatment

Joanne Gerenser, PhD
Eden II Programs, New York

PROFECTUM FOUNDATION FACULTY

Serena Wieder, PhD
Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH
Richard Solomon, MD
Ron Balamuth, PhD
Gilbert M. Foley, EdD
Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC
Christie Virtue, PhD

*DIR[®] - Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship Based Model
ABA - Applied Behavioral Analysis*

Welcome to Profectum™

Profectum comes from the Latin for “advancement or progress,” and Profectum Foundation is dedicated to advancing the development of all children, adolescents and adults with autism and special needs.

We believe that a person’s growth and development depend on incorporating new learning and experiences to get to the next stage of development. Similarly, we believe that the intervention approaches that parents and practitioners use to help individuals with special needs also must advance and evolve to incorporate new ideas, new knowledge and reflect the most up-to-date research – they should never be static.

Profectum recognizes the reality that parents, early intervention programs and schools currently use a number of different intervention approaches – each of which has its own strengths and weaknesses in addressing an individual’s needs. Our Foundational Capacities for Development™ (FCD™) provides an integrative framework to help parents and practitioners determine how to integrate different approaches to help an individual with special needs address his/her barrier/challenge at specific stages of development.

Profectum embraces the Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship (DIR®/Floortime™) model at its core. Our faculty of nearly 60 professionals (including Serena Wieder who co-created the DIR® model with Stanley Greenspan and started ICDL’s DIR® Institute) collectively has over 1000+ years of experience working with individuals with special needs invested over 300+ hours over the past 6 months to create the FCD™ to bring DIR®/Floortime™ to its next level. Our DIR®-FCD™ approach provides the basis for parents, multidisciplinary professionals and paraprofessionals working with individuals on the autism spectrum to identify an individual’s needs and bring to bear the best tools and approaches to help address such needs – be it DIR®/Floortime to build the foundational skills or ABA, visual-spatial work, EDSM (Early Start Denver Model) or others

We welcome parents, clinicians, educators, early intervention specialists and others interested in broadening their understanding of how to use the DIR®/Floortime™ model with other integrated treatment approaches to address real life challenges and how parents and professionals use real world solutions to realize each child’s potential.

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Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*

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(Clinical Director and FCD Working Group Chair)

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*

OVERALL DESCRIPTION

This conference aims to expand the scope of ASD intervention by exploring the common ground and complimentary relationship between DIR[®] and ABA approaches.

At the heart of engaging autism is developing reciprocal relationships and communication between parent and child that paves the way for the future. DIR[®] introduced a major paradigm shift to intervention focused on the role of affect and relationships in development, emotional thinking and symbolic play in cognition, and intervention tailored to the individual differences in sensory processing and regulation in each child. ABA emphasizes the child's capacity to learn new behavior as a function of its consequences and acquire skill sets that promote function in the real world, reducing behaviors that interfere with learning. Other methods also strive to improve outcomes. An objective of this conference is to initiate the dialogue needed to improve and enhance outcomes across a greater number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

At Profectum, intervention focuses on building foundational competencies needed across the life span and a refreshing openness to exploring integrative models of intervention. As the importance of developmental approaches is recognized by clinical and evidence based research, this ground breaking conference opens new doors and innovative possibilities.

During this unique day of presentations on research, clinical and parent perspectives participants will learn about:

- Considering effective practices for improving developmental outcome in autism.
- Integrating developmental approaches and ABA programs.
- Evidence for joint attention and symbolic play improving outcomes in school settings with verbal and non-verbal children.
- Evidence for the DIR[®] Model improving child parent interactions and outcomes that impact diagnoses.
- The Unmet Challenge: Discovering barriers to progress and experiences to activate progress.
- Making decisions along the intervention path with parents.
- Clinical reasoning and intervention integrating a case presentation.
- Raising the bar of expectations as children transition into adulthood.



Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR® and ABA – Implications for Treatment

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST - CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:30 am	Registration Opens
8:30 am to 9:30 am	Welcome Pathways to Progress: Essential Experiences to Advance Development <i>DIR® and the Foundational Capacities for Development (FCD)</i> Serena Wieder, PhD
9:30 am to 10:30 am	Engaging Autism: Developmental Implications for Intervention Connie Kasari, PhD
10:30 am to 10:45 am - Break	
10:45 am to 11:45 pm	Intensive Developmental Interventions for Young Children with Autism: The Evidence Richard Solomon, MD
11:45 am to 12:45 pm	Integrating ABA and Developmental Approaches Joanne Gerenser, PhD Including Panel Discussion with morning speakers: Exploring Complimentary Approaches to ASD Intervention
12:45 pm to 2:00 pm - Lunch on Your Own	
The Dialogue Continues: Broadening the Scope of Intervention with Profectum Faculty: Ron Balamuth, PhD, Gilbert Foley, EdD, Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC, Christie Virtue, PhD and Guest Parents	
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Clinical Case Study Presentation
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Parent Panel: The Parent Perspective
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	How to Create a Meaningful Life for Every Child Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH
5:00 pm to 5:30 pm	Questions and Answers

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR® and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

8:30 am – 9:30 am | Pathways to Progress: Essential Experiences to Advance Development DIR® and the Foundational Capacities for Development (FCD)

Serena Wieder, PhD

Activating development for children on the spectrum requires models of intervention that embrace the complexity of each child's individual trajectory and provide experiences that build the foundation for learning, competence, friendship and relationships to prepare for the future. Understanding the DIR® structure and the building blocks needed to move from skills to competencies can help close the gaps and barriers impeding development. Presentations of children with different profiles will focus on prioritizing goals and integrating related intervention approaches.

9:30 am – 10:30 am | Engaging Autism: Developmental Implications for Intervention

Connie Kasari, PhD

Engaging with others is often a key area of difficulty for children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Engagement encompasses several developmental skills including the ability to play with others, to share attention and affect, and to communicate with gesture and spoken language. This talk will focus on the application of targeted interventions for these core deficits of children with an ASD across the early developmental period with a distinction between children who are preverbal versus nonverbal. Developmental change will be highlighted with a particular focus on research directed toward underserved, under-represented and under-resourced children with autism, and interventions carried out in natural environments of home and school.

10:30 am – 10:45 am | Break

10:45 am – 11:45 am | Intensive Developmental Interventions for Young Children with Autism: New Evidence

Richard Solomon, MD

Evidence from the NIMH multisite RCT study of the P.L.A.Y. Project, based on Greenspan and Wieder's DIR® Model, support Intensive Developmental Interventions (IDI). These are evidence-based practices for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) that offer a distinct alternative to Intensive Behavioral Interventions (IBI). While individual IDI programs differ in some methodological details, they all focus on addressing the core deficit in autism namely impairments in social relating and communicating. IDI focuses on the foundational developmental capacities of social relating and communicating, strengthening parent-child relationships, and considering a child's individual capacities in a comprehensive way. Whereas IBI is programmatic and adult directed, IDI is playful and child directed. Emerging findings and implications for practice and further research will be discussed.

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*

11:45 am – 12:45 pm | Integrating ABA and Developmental Approaches

Joanne Gerenser, PhD

Effective use of applied behavior analysis in young children with ASD requires both a good understanding of the principles of ABA as well as knowledge of typical early childhood development. It is clearer than ever that collaboration across disciplines as well as across treatment approaches is necessary to achieve optimal outcomes in greater numbers of children with ASD.

Including: Exploring Complimentary Approaches to ASD Intervention - Panel Discussion with Morning Speakers

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm | Lunch on Your Own

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | The Dialogue Continues: Broadening the Scope of Intervention

Profectum Faculty: Ron Balamuth, PhD; Gilbert Foley, EdD, Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC, Christie Virtue, PhD, Avital Balsam, MA, CCC, SLP along with Guest Parents

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Clinical Case Study Presentation

This ground breaking conference for clinicians and parents explores forging a common ground and a new relationship between DIR[®] and ABA. A case dialogue with both DIR[®] and ABA clinicians will explore complementary strategies to overcoming the hurdles and challenges to forming reciprocal relationships between children and parents, the necessary foundation for developmental progress. This session will provide the practicing clinician and parents with an expanded perspective and armamentarium to both understand and treat ASD.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Parent Panel: The Parent Perspective

A discussion of the challenges and priorities in identifying intervention approaches that meet the changing needs of their children and their families. Parent reflections on what worked most and what else was needed to guide the ongoing process of supporting development as children grow older. This session will highlight parent perspectives and insights from their journeys.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm | How to Create a Meaningful Life for Every Child

Ricki G. Robinson, MD, MPH

Every parent has hopes and dreams for their child. When a diagnosis of autism is received, parents often find these hopes and dreams shattered – yet individuals with ASD can live meaningful lives! In this presentation Dr. Ricki will help parents and professionals use FCD[™]/DIR[®] principles to understand and identify steps required to support a child with ASD develop the foundational capacities and skills he needs as he matures to help him realize his hopes and dreams. Inspiring cases will describe how to implement changes that will foster independence for individuals with ASD from childhood through adolescence to adulthood and how to match an educational program to meet the interests of a child with ASD to support movement up the developmental ladder.

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm | Questions and Answers

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*

GUEST PRESENTERS



Connie Kasari, PhD

Psychological Studies in Education and Psychiatry
University of California, Los Angeles
Semel Institute UCLA - Center for Autism Research & Treatment

Connie Kasari, PhD is Professor of Psychological Studies in Education and Psychiatry at UCLA, where she is the Principal Investigator for several multi-site research programs, including the Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health funded by HRSA and the Characterizing Cognition in Nonverbal Individuals with Autism Intervention network by Autism Speaks. She is a founding member of the Center for Autism Research and Treatment at UCLA and has been actively involved in autism research for the past 25 years. Her current research focuses on developing targeted interventions for early social communication development in at risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers with autism, and peer relationships for school aged children with autism. Dr. Kasari currently receives funding from: National Institute for Mental Health, Autism Speaks, Autism Intervention Network for Behavioral Health, and Health Resources and Services Information.



Joanne Gerenser, PhD, CCC-SLP

Executive Director
Eden II Programs

Dr. Joanne Gerenser is the Executive Director of the Eden II Programs. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Organization for Autism Research, the Co-President of the Council on Autism Services as well as the Past President of the New York State Association for Behavior Analysis. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on language disorders in children with ASD and related disorders. She is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis. Dr. Gerenser is also an adjunct Assistant Professor at Brooklyn College as well as Penn State University. She sits on a number of Professional Advisory Boards for several programs serving children and adults with autism in the US and abroad. She has received numerous awards for her work with children and adults with autism.

PROFECTUM FOUNDATION FACULTY



Serena Wieder, PhD

Clinical Director, Profectum Foundation
Co-Author – Engaging Autism, The Child with Special Needs, and the forthcoming Vision and Space: The Building Blocks of Emotional and Intellectual Development

Dr. Wieder is a well-known clinical psychologist who has pioneered the foremost approaches to diagnosing and treating infant mental health and developmental disorders. She is now the Clinical Director of the new Profectum Foundation, whose mission it is to train professionals and parents to meet the needs of individuals with special needs across the life span. She was the Co-Founder and past Associate Chair of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL) and the Director of the DIR[®] Institute. Dr. Wieder has published extensively including Engaging Autism, as well as The Child with Special Needs, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, co-authored with Stanley Greenspan. They also chaired the ICDL Diagnostic Manual for Infants and Young Children and Zero to Three Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy. Dr. Wieder has lectured extensively, both nationally and internationally, on the DIR[®] Model, Autism Spectrum Disorders, emotional and symbolic development, and is now focusing on integrated intervention models for developmental disorders. Currently she is working on a new book with Dr. Harry Wachs called Hidden in Plain Sight: Visual Spatial Challenges in Autism and Learning Difficulties.

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR[®] and ABA – *Implications for Treatment*



Ricki Robinson, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Profectum Foundation

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics

Keck School of Medicine at USC

Author of *Autism Solutions: How to Create a Healthy and Meaningful Life for Your Child*

Ricki Robinson is co-director of Descanso Medical Center for Development and Learning in La Canada, California. She is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Keck School Medicine at USC and Senior Attending Physician at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles. She has been in private pediatric practice for over 30 years, specializing in children with developmental delays for over twenty years. Dr. Robinson received her M.D. degree in 1973 from the University of Southern California. She trained in pediatrics at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, having served as Chief Pediatric Resident for CHLA in 1976. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics. In 1988 she received her MPH from the University at Berkeley School of Public Health. She has been actively involved in the field of autism since 1990, developing multidisciplinary educational and medical programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and devoting endless hours in education, legislation and research efforts on a national level. She was a founding board member of Cure Autism Now (now Autism Speaks) and the Floortime™ Foundation, co-chaired the annual ICDL Conferences (Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders) and served on the DIR[®] Institute Faculty. Currently, Dr. Robinson serves on the Scientific Review Panel of Autism Speaks, the world's largest autism advocacy organization and she organized and chaired the first nationally recognized task force to define the standard of care for clinical trials in autism. The results of this outstanding effort were published in *CNS Spectrums* (January 2004, Vol. 9, #1). She now brings her extensive experience to Profectum. A nationally sought-after expert, she has appeared on the Today Show, The Talk, Larry King Live and Good Morning America Health in support of the needs of children and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is the author of the just published *Autism Solutions – How to Create a Healthy and Meaningful Life for Your Child*.



Richard Solomon, MD

Medical Director of The P.L.A.Y. Project - www.playproject.org

NIMH Funded Researcher Evaluating DIR Developmental Intervention

Richard Solomon is the Medical Director and founder of The P.L.A.Y.[™] Project (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters), The Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. He is Board Certified in Pediatrics, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and has nearly 20 years of experience working with thousands of children with autistic spectrum disorders as a developmental and behavioral pediatrician. The P.L.A.Y. Project's mission is to train agencies and families in play-based interventions for young children with autism. P.L.A.Y. Project centers are now serving families in twenty three states. In 2008, Richard published a pilot study of P.L.A.Y. Project entitled, "Evaluation of a Parent Training Program for Young Children with Autism: The P.L.A.Y. Project Home Consultation Program". Solomon R, Necheles J, Ferch C, Bruckman D, (2007) *Autism* Vol 11(3) 205-224. In 2005, he was awarded a Phase I NIMH Grant for a controlled study of The P.L.A.Y. Project. It was completed in 2007. He was then awarded a Phase II, 3-year, \$1.85 million NIMH randomized controlled trial in 2009. 'Professional of the Year' ARC Pennsylvania (1998) for work in the field of autism while at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Allegheny General Hospital Campus 1989-1998. He is on the Editorial Board for the following journals: *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* and the *Journal of Developmental and Learning Disorders*. Certified DIR[®] Faculty. Colleague of Stanley Greenspan, MD and Serena Wieder, PhD. Member, Children with Disabilities Committee, Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor, University of Michigan.

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Ron Balamuth, PhD

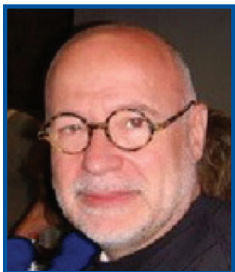
Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst

Supervisor, Columbia University Teacher's College Clinical Program in Psychology Faculty and Supervisor

William Alanson White Institute Program In Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy

Private Practice New York City

Ron Balamuth is a Clinical Psychologist and Psychoanalyst and a graduate of the New York University Post Doctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. He is on the faculty and a supervisor at the William Alanson White Institute Child and Adolescent Training Program, the National Institute for the Psychotherapies and Columbia University Teacher's College Program in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Balamuth has been involved in the DIR®/Floortime™ method for twenty years, serves on the faculty of the DIR® Institute and conducts DIR® workshops both nationally and internationally. Dr. Balamuth has written, presented and published numerous articles on topics ranging from Psychoanalytic approaches to the body, parenting, immigration and the integration of spirituality and psychoanalysis. Dr. Balamuth is in private practice in New York City, where he consults with individuals, couples, families and children. He also leads study groups and case consultations for professionals.



Gilbert M. Foley, EdD

Associate Professor of School-Clinical Child Psychology

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University

Co-Author of *The Cognitive Observation Guide*, *The Supportive Play Model* and *Mental Health in Early Intervention*

Gilbert Foley is an Associate Professor of School Clinical-Child Psychology at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology of Yeshiva University and Coordinator of its Infancy and Early Childhood Track. He consults to the New York Center for Child Development where he developed and directed the psychology internship program. While serving as the Chief Psychologist in the Pediatric Department of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, he trained in psychoanalysis and also completed a fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center with the late, Sally Provence. Dr. Foley writes and lectures widely and teaches in the major parent-infant programs in the New York area and served as Faculty and supervisor at the DIR® Institute since its founding in 1999.



Sima Gerber, PhD, CCC-SLP

Professor

Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders

Queens College, CUNY

Profectum Senior Faculty, Sima Gerber is an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders of Queens College, City University of New York. Dr. Gerber has over 35 years of clinical experience, specializing in the treatment of young children with autistic spectrum disorders. Dr. Gerber is on the Advisory Board of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL), the faculty of the DIR® Training Institute, the faculty of the ICDL Graduate School, the faculty of Profectum and the Board of Directors of the New York Zero-to-Three Network. Dr. Gerber has presented nationally and abroad on the topics of language acquisition and developmental approaches to intervention for children with challenges in language development. Dr. Gerber is the recipient of the award for Outstanding Service to the field of Speech-Language Pathology given by the New York City Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Louis DiCarlo Clinical Achievement Award from the New York State Association. Dr. Gerber has received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Engaging Autism: Exploring a Common Ground between DIR® and ABA – Implications for Treatment



Christie Virtue, PhD

Clinical Psychologist

Director

Early Intervention and Preschool Services at Hudson River HealthCare in Peekskill, NY

Christie Virtue, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist and for fifteen years has been the Director of the Early Intervention and Preschool Program at Hudson River HealthCare in Peekskill, NY which provides comprehensive multi-disciplinary developmental assessments and home-based services to children from birth through five. She is a member of the Westchester Autism Advisory Council. Dr. Virtue has a private practice specializing in the assessment and treatment of children with neurodevelopmental differences. She is the facilitator of the Northern Westchester DIR® collaborative study group, and is a mentor for candidates working towards certification in DIR®.

GENERAL CONFERENCE & PARENT SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR



The FAR Fund is a private grant-making fund established in 2001 and located in New York City. The Fund awards grants to a diverse range of non-profit organizations that are working toward far-reaching goals in their efforts to support the social and emotional well-being of the people they serve.

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Profectum Foundation is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for .75 ASHA CEUs

(Intermediate level, Professional area).

PROFECTUM'S BASIC COURSE DIR[®]-FCD CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Professional Certificate in DIR[®]-FCD is a one-year program for licensed and credentialed professionals in Speech and Language, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Education, Mental Health (Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy), Medicine, Developmental Optometry, Creative Arts, and others who want to integrate the Profectum DIR[®]-FCD model into their practice. A new systematic interdisciplinary curriculum provides the theoretical knowledge and applied clinical and educational foundations for integrated assessment and intervention competence. Participants are required to share their work in assessment and intervention and demonstrate competency in applying DIR[®]-FCD principles. This intensive one-year program offers a combination of required webcast courses, online interactive class participation, and reflective tutoring.

The goal of this program is to provide participants with initial expertise in working developmentally with children who have challenges in relating, communicating and thinking while honoring individual differences utilizing a relationship-based approach.

This dynamic program offers:

- **Weekly lectures from our interdisciplinary faculty that you can watch at your convenience.**
- **Model cases presented by senior clinicians to support the participant's ability to conceptualize cases within the model.**
- **Monthly on-line, small group classroom discussions on content of the lectures and the presentations of brief video vignettes.**
- **Group and individual tutoring on individual cases with faculty within your discipline.**
- **Presentation of a final case vignette in the on-line classroom discussion group.**

Over the next year Profectum Academy will add a range of diploma and certificate tracks for parents, paraprofessionals and professionals from introductory to faculty levels.

Visit www.profectum.org for more information on our training program and upcoming conferences.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

New Jersey Educators Conference

in Collaboration Celebrate the Children

January 10 - 12, 2013

COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH

CSE ANNUNCIATION CENTER

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Morristown, New Jersey

South Florida Conference

in Collaboration with Casa Blanca Academy

February 2, 2013

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West Coast Regional DIR[®] Training Conference

April 12 - 14, 2013

PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER

300 East Green Street

Pasadena, California



www.profectum.org

Profectum Foundation

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