

# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual

## Developmental Disabilities Conference

April 15-16, 2025  
East Lansing, MI

### General Information

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities Conference  
April 15 - 16, 2025  
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, MI  
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48824

### Overview

The Annual Developmental Disabilities Conference focuses on issues related to healthcare, social, community, and educational services which are of critical importance to the future of persons with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. The program will provide an overview of issues related to the spectrum of services currently available as well as strategies for enhancing these services. This educational program is designed for physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists, educators, nutritionists, home care providers, and other professionals interested in the delivery of care and services to persons with developmental disabilities.

This conference is co-sponsored by MDHHS and Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

### Types of Credit Offered

- Physicians - *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>
- Nurses - ANCC
- Social Workers - ACE CE Credits
- Psychologists - APA CE Credits
- Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians - ACPE
- Dietitians – CPEU
- Interprofessional Continuing Education - IPCE
- Other Learner Attendance\*

\*Other Learner Attendance might be claimed for individuals wanting a certificate of completion for PDU's that differ from the current credit offerings. It is the responsibility of individuals to ensure that the completion of a WMed activity meets their state training requirements for licensure.

### Accreditation

In support of improving patient care, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit amounts subject to change.

Credits: *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup> (10.00 hours), Other Learner Attendance (10.00 hours), ACE CE Credits (10.00 hours), General Attendance (10.00 hours), Continuing Nursing Credit- ANCC (10.00 hours), IPCE Credit (10.00 hours), Continuing Pharmacy Education ACPE (10.00 hours), APA CE Credits (10.00 hours), Dietician CPEU Credit (10.00 hours)



## Conference Schedule

### Pre-Conference Check-in – Monday, April 14, 2025

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Registration

### Day 1 - Tuesday, April 15, 2025

7:30 AM – 8:15 AM Registration & Breakfast

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM Welcome

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Plenary Address**

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Break/Wellness Stations/Exhibitors

**9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Breakout Session 1**

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Break/Wellness Stations/Exhibitors

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Breakout Session 2**

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM Lunch & Exhibitors

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM Optional Session: Claiming CE & Obtaining Your Certificate

**1:15 PM – 2:15 PM Breakout Session 3**

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Exhibitors & Snacks

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Breakout Session 4**

3:45 PM Adjourn

### Day 2 - Wednesday, April 16, 2025

7:30 AM – 8:15 AM Registration & Breakfast

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM Welcome

**8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Plenary Address**

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Break/Wellness Stations/Exhibitors

**9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Breakout Session 5**

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Break/Wellness Stations/Exhibitors

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Breakout Session 6**

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM Lunch & Exhibitors

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM Optional Session: Claiming CE & Obtaining Your Certificate

**1:15 PM – 2:15 PM Breakout Session 7**

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Exhibitors & Snacks

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Breakout Session 8**

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM Final Comments

4:00 PM Adjourn

## Sessions | Day 1 - Tuesday, April 15

### Keynote: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

#### Autism Spectrum Disorder: Diagnostic Challenges



*Roger W. Apple, Ph.D.*

**Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine**

*Licensed Psychologist*

*Chief, Division of Pediatric Psychology*

*Director, WMed Pediatric Autism Center*

*Associate Professor, Department of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*

*Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry*

Roger Apple, PhD, is a Licensed Psychologist and Associate Professor in the Division of Pediatric Psychology at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BS in Psychology in 1997. He received his MA in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University in 2000. He completed a Predoctoral Internship at Oakland University in 2008. He received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University in 2009. Dr. Apple serves as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Psychology, as well as Director of the WMed Pediatric Autism Center.

### Session 1: 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

*Choose One*

1. Beyond Stereotypes: Advocacy Rooted in Respect and Inclusion

*Ashley Nance*

*ReVoice, LLC*

In today's intensely critical online world, advocacy work can be especially intimidating. With humor and candor, we'll explore how IDD and other disabilities are depicted in the media over time, and discuss how to discern fact from fiction so we can express our thoughts and experiences in respectful ways that build everyone up without leaning on outdated and harmful stereotypes in this session.

2. Using Enabling Technology to Support People with IDD in Independent Living Environments

*Emily Betz, MPA, LMSW and Ousman Fofana*

*Emily - Director of Programs, MOKA*

*Ousman - Residential Coordinator, MOKA*

This presentation focuses on the transformative role of enabling technology in supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who traditionally would be supported in licensed residential settings. The session explores how integrating technology can significantly improve the quality of life for residents while enhancing the effectiveness of care provided by staff.

3. Access to Dental Care for Marginalized Populations via New Dentist Graduates

*Jennifer Kerns, BS, RDH*

*Director of Health Initiatives, United Way of Northwest Michigan*

*Fellow, Michigan Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (MI-LEND), Wayne State University*

*Adjunct Faculty, University of Michigan School of Dentistry*

*Disabilities Dentistry Clinician Expert, Delta Dental Foundation Centers of Inclusive Dentistry*

*Most Valuable Provider, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute*

Learn how one innovative clinic model has taken on the challenges of caring for marginalized populations to improve access to care long term for these unserved populations by targeting future generations of dental providers and teaching them simple skills for everyday practice.

## **Session 2: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Choose One*

1. **Introduction to Dementia**

*Claudia Drossel, PhD*

Associate Professor, Interim Clinic Director, Psychology, Eastern Michigan University

Neurocognitive disorder (also termed "dementia") is a diagnostic category that describes skill loss in adulthood, i.e., a decline from a person's baseline severe enough to interfere with activities of daily living. The presentation will introduce the diagnostic category, discuss rule-outs, describe a phenomenon termed excess disability in the dementia literature, and review the current state of dementia research in the context of developmental disabilities. Attendees will obtain essential information and practice recommendations.

2. **Eating Differently Can Change your Life – Part 1**

*Susan Katz-Scheinker MBA, RD, CLT*

Cambium Nutrition LLC

What does food do for you? This 2-part session can awaken your perspective on the value of food and what it does to support your physical energy, cravings, life pattern and even your sleep. You will learn about food patterns, food partnering and powerful side effects of eating differently.

3. **Law Enforcement**

*Inspector Sarah Krebs*

Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Michigan Department of State Police

## **Session 3: 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM**

*Choose One*

1. **Domestic Violence Prevention and Advocacy for Victims with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

*Amy Smekar*

2. **Eating Differently Can Change your Life – Part 2**

*Susan Katz-Scheinker MBA, RD, CLT*

Cambium Nutrition LLC

What does food do for you? This 2-part session can awaken your perspective on the value of food and what it does to support your physical energy, cravings, life pattern and even your sleep. You will learn about food patterns, food partnering and powerful side effects of eating differently.

3. **TBA**

*Price Pullins, MA*

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## **Session 4: 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**

*Choose One*

1. **Developing Trusting Relationships 2.0 - How to Nurture, Maintain and Rebuild Broken Trust in Agency-Family Partnerships**

*Beth Kohler*

Outreach Coordinator, Special Education Mediation Services

Back by popular demand! Originally introduced in 2022, this session will once again highlight the vital connection between trust and family engagement. We will focus on the importance of trusting family-partner relationships for improved outcomes. Participants will learn to define, build, maintain and repair trust – even with the most challenging personalities. New examples of effective and ineffective strategies will be shared along with the chance to practice techniques presented.

2. **Humane Diagnosis**

*Emily Marble*

Coordinator, Center of Humane Diagnosis

### 3. Living a Good Life with Alternatives to Guardianship

*Tonnio Graves and Jan Lampman*  
*Jan - Owner, Community Drive*

Historically in Michigan, Guardianship has been utilized to support people with Developmental disabilities. Over 27 years ago, the Michigan Supreme Court determined that guardianships are often overutilized and that we need to look at alternatives. The truth is that guardianship is a form of substitute decision making, moving rights of the individual to a guardian. Participants will learn about strategies for arranging Supported Decision-making arrangements as an alternative to Guardianship.

## Sessions | Day 2 - Wednesday, April 16

### Keynote: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

#### Busting Down Barriers Despite a Disability



*Thomas Moon*

*Author, Blogger, Motivational Speaker and Advocate/Life Coach*

Thomas Moon is a young adult who had to overcome tremendous obstacles in his life. He is a college graduate, small business owner and speaker. Despite having cerebral palsy and being a product of the foster system, he was determined to succeed. He was abandoned, neglected and abused as a baby. Placed in foster care and continued to suffer neglect and abuse. Being a child in the foster care system is hard enough. Being a disabled child in foster care makes it even harder.

Thomas comes from the perspective of having lived in foster care and lives each day with a disability. He speaks from real life experience and brings a dose of reality to any speaking engagement. Thomas has been to the State Capital advocating for both children's issues and for people with disabilities. He speaks at parent groups, professional organizations, conferences and other venues.

### Session 5: 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

#### *Choose One*

#### 1. Bent Out of Shape: Autism, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and Masking our Disabilities

*Eliot Carter, LLMSW*

*MI-LEND, Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston*

Eliot Carter is an adult on the autism and hypermobility spectrums, but they did not get identified with either of these developmental disabilities until adulthood. Some researchers have called the process by which autistic people learn to repress atypical behaviors to avoid detection "masking," and Eliot argues that we can understand Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and other Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders in a similar way. They draw on their own experience and a review of emerging literature about the overlap of these conditions and how to recognize the dysfunction that can underlie what appears to be exceptionalism.

#### 2. Lifestyle Changes to Prevent and Remedy Caretaker Burnout

*Mark G. Goetting, MD*

*Associate Professor*

*Division Head, Pediatric Neurology and Sleep Medicine*

*Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*

*Department of Medicine*

*Center for Clinical Research*

*Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine*

3. Community Living Supports (CLS)/Respite & Family/Friend Hires

*Justin Shounia, LLBSW, and Ranin Karoumi, LMSW*

*Justin - COO of Pro Care Unlimited*

*Ranin - Clinical Director of Pro Care Unlimited*

**Session 6: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Choose One*

1. Preventing and Responding to Behaviors in People with DD & Dementia

*Kristi Davis, CTRS*

*DDSSP Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association*

Behavior change is a common symptom of dementia and may require different interventions than responding to behaviors caused by DD. This program is designed to help attendees learn more about common behavior changes in those with DD and dementia, including training to help decipher the root cause of the behavior and how to prevent and respond to common behavior changes.

2. Supported Decision-Making in Medicine

*Ariel Cascio, PhD and Amy Bailey, LMSW*

*Ariel - Assistant Professor, Center for Bioethics and Social Justice, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine*

*Amy - Clinical & Macro, Advance Care Planning Specialist, MyMichigan Health*

Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship. In medicine, supported decision-making focuses on making decisions *with* the patient, *not for* the patient. In this presentation, Ariel Cascio will provide an overview of patient decision-making and how it interfaces with supported decision-making. Amy Bailey will describe the details of patient advocate designations in Michigan and how they interface with supported decision-making. Together, the presenters will provide tools for successfully organizing supported decision-making in medicine.

3. TBA

**Session 7: 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM**

*Choose One*

1. Sexual Health Care for Women and Adolescents with Disabilities: Boundaries, sexual self-advocacy, safety, pap smears, STI prevention, and more

*Mary Milkey, CNM*

*Advanced Practice Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife, Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinic, University of Michigan Health*

2. Person-Oriented Autism Research Ethics

*Ariel Cascio, PhD*

*Assistant Professor, Center for Bioethics and Social Justice, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine*

This workshop addresses day-to-day ethics in research studies involving autistic people. I will present strategies for enabling safe, accessible, and meaningful participation, identified in collaboration with autistic people, parents, and researchers. I will focus on emerging opportunities and challenges of online recruitment and interviewing. This workshop will be of interest to potential researchers, research participants, and professionals or family members who might be asked to facilitate connections between researchers and potential research participants.

3. Nutritional Supplements for Autism Spectrum Disorder

*Teresa M. Bailey, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, FCCP*

*Professor, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy*

Supplements can be an effective way to bridge nutritional gaps in autistic children who are not getting enough nutrients due to food intolerances or who have issues metabolizing nutrients because of gastrointestinal problems. Dietary restrictions are common in the autistic population both due to selective food preferences and prescribed limited diets.

Supplements are most beneficial in children with documented deficiencies. Supplementation with certain essential vitamins and nutrients has been studied in recent research and shows potential benefits. Specific vitamins and supplements, such as omega-3 fatty acids, iron, magnesium, probiotics, alpha lipoic acid, and melatonin will be discussed in terms of safety and efficacy.

## Session 8: 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Choose One

1. Care That Counts: Advancing Inclusive and Culturally Competent Care for Patients with IDD

*Tierra Jolly and Natalie White and Dilip Patel, MD*

Tierra – Medical Student, Class of 2025, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

Natalie – Medical Student, Class of 2026, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

Dilip – Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

When it comes to providing responsive health care to patients with IDD, doctors don't have to re-invent the wheel. This session will examine successful, already existing institutional programs designed to improve healthcare experiences for patients with IDD, and how we can improve care by implementing similar programs in Michigan.

2. Building Bridges: Effective Advocacy and Community Support for Individuals with Disabilities

*Misty Gray-Kluck*

Work and Play Disability Resource Center

This session will focus on practical strategies for advocating on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, while fostering a supportive and inclusive community. Participants will learn how to navigate systems of care, engage with community resources, and empower families and individuals through effective advocacy. The presentation will also explore the importance of collaboration between families, caregivers, and professionals to create strong, sustainable support networks. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to strengthen their advocacy efforts and enhance support within their communities.

3. Working with Young Adults with Higher Behavioral Needs

*Brody Cavanaugh, MA, BCBA, LBA*

Enhanced Behavior Supports Program Behavior Analyst, Residential Opportunities, Inc. (dba Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research; Enhanced Behavior Supports Program)

Using an applied behavior analytic and trauma informed approach can be extremely beneficial in reducing challenging and dangerous behavior and improving independent living skills for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The presenter will discuss current programs, approaches to working with young adults with severe challenging behavior, and challenges that they have faced while working in an adult residential setting. Case studies will also be reviewed to highlight program successes and areas that require additional problem solving in order to more effectively work with young adults that engage in challenging behavior.

## Learning Objectives

From attending this conference, professionals in developmental disability care will be able to:

- Organize and prioritize responsibilities to provide care that is safe, effective, and efficient
- Develop and carry out patient management plans
- Set learning and improvement goals
- Demonstrate sensitivity, honesty, and compassion in difficult conversations, including those about death, end of life, adverse events, bad news, disclosure of errors, and other sensitive topics
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation
- Advocate for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems
- Use the knowledge of one's own role and the roles of other health professionals to appropriately assess and address the health care needs of the patients and populations served
- Participate in different team roles to establish, develop, and continuously enhance interprofessional teams to provide patient- and population centered care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable
- Identify effective methods for the practical application of concepts related to improving the delivery of services for persons with developmental disabilities
- Identify advances in clinical assessment and management of selected healthcare issues related to persons with developmental disabilities
- Recognize the ethical issues related to persons with developmental disabilities
- Identify and emphasize attitudes that enhance the opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities to achieve their optimal potential
- Develop strategies to promote community inclusion in meeting the needs of persons with developmental disabilities
- Identify and perform learning activities that address one's gaps in knowledge, skills, and/or attitudes
- Provide appropriate referral of patients including ensuring continuity of care throughout transitions between providers or settings, and following up on patient progress and outcomes

## Planning Committee

Teresa Bailey, PharmD

Laura Counterman – **Coordinator**

Tonnieo Graves

Evilia Jankowski, MSA, BSN, RN, NCSN

Tierra Jolly

Susan Katz-Scheinker, MBA, RD, CLT

Jean Koerber, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA Diane

McCall, RN, MSN

Dilip Patel, MBBS, MBA, MPH, FAAP, FACSM, FAACPDM, CPE – **Co-Chair**

Price Pullins, MA – **Co-Chair**

Charlyss Ray, OTR-L

Mary Shehan, MS, QSE

Sally Steiner, LMSW

Jane Turner, MD

Natalie White

Sarita Witherspoon, LLMSW



## Accreditation

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and MDHHS. Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit amount subject to change.

## Continuing Education

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 10.0 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

## Physicians

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Nurses

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine designates this activity for 10.0 contact hours for nurses. Nurses should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine designates this activity for 10.0 contact hours for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Social Workers

As a Jointly Accredited Organization, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 10.0 general continuing education credits.

## Psychologists

This program is co-sponsored by the American Psychological Association for continuing education credit. The American Psychological Association retains responsibility for the program. This activity is designated for 10.0 APA CE Credits.

## Dieticians

Completion of this RD/DTR profession-specific or IPCE activity awards CPEUs (One IPCE credit=One CPEU).

If the activity is dietetics-related but not targeted to RDs or DTRs, CPEUs may be claimed which are commensurate with participation in contact hours (One 60 minute hour = 1 CPEU).

RDs and DTRs are to Select activity type 102 in their Activity Log. Sphere and Competency selection is at the learner's discretion.

