



May 1, 2, 3, 2008  
Thompson Rivers University  
Campus Activity Centre  
Kamloops, B.C.

# AUTISM 2008

*An International Conference addressing treatment strategies in autism for parents, professionals and para-professionals.*

## Stephen Shore, Ph.D



Diagnosed with “Atypical Development with strong autistic tendencies” Dr. Shore was viewed as “too sick” to be treated on an outpatient basis and recommended for institutionalization. Nonverbal until four, and with much help from his parents, teachers, and others, Stephen completed his doctoral dissertation at Boston University focused on matching best practice to the needs of people on the autism spectrum. In addition to working with children and talking about life on the autism spectrum, Stephen presents and consults internationally on adult issues pertinent to education, relationships, employment, advocacy, and disclosure as discussed in his books, *Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome*, *Ask and Tell: Self-advocacy and Disclosure for People on the Autism Spectrum*, and the newly released *Understanding Autism for Dummies*. President emeritus of the Asperger’s Association of New England, Dr. Shore serves in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, for the Board of Directors for Autism Society of America Unlocking Autism, the Autism Services Association of Massachusetts, MAAP, and the College Internship Program.

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## Liane Holliday Willey, Ph.D



Dr. Liane Holliday Willey is an inspirational speaker who helps her audience truly understand the importance of accepting people with differences. All her life, Liane knew she was different, but only after one of her family members was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome did Liane realize the reason behind her own differences; she too was diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome. Liane rose to the challenge of life as it comes to you - as she puts it - through the broken glass of autism to a place where she is happy, healthy, and well balanced. Today, she is a successful writer, editor, consultant, motivational speaker, mother, and wife. Her audiences say she is also one of the most captivating, entertaining, and genuinely funny presenters they know! Dr. Willey has authored several internationally best selling books including *Pretending to be Normal: Living with Asperger Syndrome* (forward by Tony Attwood), *Asperger Syndrome in Adolescence: Living with the Ups, the Downs, and Things in Between*, and *Asperger Syndrome in the Family: Redefining Normal*. Liane has contributed to many additional books and journals, and is currently the senior editor for Autism Spectrum Quarterly, a unique magajournal published by Starfish Specialty Press. In addition to her numerous interviews on national and international television and radio, Liane’s life story is the inspiration of two documentary films currently in production, as well as the focus of the video “Asperger Syndrome: Crossing the Bridge” with Dr. Tony Attwood. Liane has heard it said that she is unusual for one with Asperger Syndrome and she is dedicated to making sure her successes are not the exception to the rule for those with an ASD, but rather, the norm.

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## Cindy Schneider, B.S, M.Ed



Cindy Schneider earned a B.S. in Education from West Chester State University and is dually certified in Elementary and Special Education K-12. She has done extensive graduate work at several universities, earning a Communication Specialist certification from Temple University and an Autism Specialist Certification from Penn State University. She holds a Masters in Educational Leadership from Immaculata University. A Special Education teacher of 20 years, she then spent 7 years as an Autism Consultant for the Chester County Intermediate Unit, focused on doing research, teaching professionals, and supporting teachers in implementing appropriate strategies for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders throughout Chester County, Pennsylvania. She has also spoken at the “Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children” conference, and has done private consultative work in Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland. Additionally, Cindy has acted and directed in community theatre for 25 years. Having directed a children’s theatre program for 20 years, Cindy developed a theatre program called ACTING ANTICS for students diagnosed with HFA and Asperger Syndrome. Cindy has run theatre workshops for this population in Delaware, Chester, Berks, and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania. She also directed a theatre program for the Children’s Institute at the National Autism Conference at Penn State University during the past two summers. She was a speaker at the national conference at Penn State University in the summers of 2006 and 2007.

Registration: 7:30 – 8:30

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Session 1 Friday 8:30 – Noon

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**A Chantal Sicile-Kira: *Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum***

Adolescence is a difficult time for everyone - neurotypical or not - as a person transitions from being a child to a young adult. Adolescent issues and practical strategies to help teenagers are discussed. This workshop can be tailored for school strategies, or home strategies, or both. Whether a child is more able or less able, puberty brings about many changes and particular areas of concern. What to expect when a child on the spectrum develops into a 'tween' and then a 'teenager' are covered. Practical strategies on how to help the teenager and what to teach him are given. Important areas covered include puberty and hygiene, self-care, sexuality, bullying, relationships, self-esteem, self-regulation, and self-advocacy.

**B Dr. Stephen Shore: *Comparative Approaches for Educating Children with Autism: Matching Best Practice to Student Needs***

Noting that there has been no true comparison between educational/behavioural/developmental approaches for working with children on the autism spectrum, qualitative research was initiated to investigate Applied Behavioural Analysis, TEACCH, Daily Life Therapy, Miller Method, and DIR. The developers of these varied approaches were queried on how they define autism, think about children with autism, and would handle carefully designed case studies representing the spectrum of autism. Some preliminary findings suggest that current definitions of autism are lacking and a more multidimensional approach is needed, some techniques are applicable across approaches, and a general sense that people with autism have something valuable to contribute to the community as a whole. Additional topics include, developing educational accommodations for children on the autism spectrum as well as teaching music to youth with autism.

**C Dr. Liane Holliday Willey: *Asperger Syndrome: Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs***

A look at what AS is and how it effects the Aspies language, cognitive processing, sensory systems, emotional life and social world. In addition, this presentation suggests practical ways to help the individual with AS learn to cope with his/her unique needs and challenges. In the end, this presentation should make it clear that individuals with AS can be fabulous contributors to a variety of life's situations. The target audience is teachers, counselors, psychologists, caregivers, parents, and people with AS. *Continues in Session 2C.*

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Session 2 Friday 1:00 – 4:30

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**A Mary Lynch Barbera: *Getting Started with the Verbal Behaviour Approach***

Drawing on her experience as both a parent of a son with autism as well as a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), Mary Lynch Barbera will provide participants with information to help children with autism learn language and other important skills. Mary will highlight strategies from her book: *The Verbal Behaviour Approach: How to Teach Children with Autism and Related Disorders*, and provide guidance using the scientifically proven strategies of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) specifically utilizing B.F. Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behaviour. Parents and professionals will be empowered with information regarding ABA/VB programming for children with autism and other developmental disorders.

**B Cindy Schneider: *Setting the Stage for Social Success***

This presentation will be a highly interactive session in which parents and professionals will learn the theory and practice behind using theater techniques with students diagnosed on the spectrum to help with their social cognition and self-esteem while developing a viable leisure time activity. Participants will learn and participate in introductory theater activities, improvisation games and scenes, while learning how each activity addresses skill deficits in Asperger Syndrome/HFA. Finally, participants will view ACTING ANTICS in action, by watching an adolescent group of Antics actors perform in DVD format. This program is appropriate for parents, special educators, inclusion educators, counselors, therapists, speech and language clinicians, etc.

**C Dr. Liane Holliday Willey: *Asperger Syndrome: Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs* (Continuation of Session 1C)**

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Registration: 7:30 – 8:30

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Session 3: Saturday 8:30 – Noon

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**A Mary Lynch Barbera: *Getting Started with the Verbal Behaviour Approach* (Repeat of Session 2A)**

**B Dr. Stephen Shore: *Comparative Approaches for Educating Children with Autism: Matching Best Practice to Student Needs* (Repeat of Session 1B)**

**C Dr. Vikram Dua: *The Psychiatry of Autism***

This workshop will provide an outline of the psychiatric syndromes frequently present in children and youth with ASD. Accurately identifying these psychiatric syndromes is very relevant to understanding the complex profiles of these children and youth. Appropriate treatment of mental health conditions - which can include both psychotherapy and medications - often results in substantial improvements in functioning and development. A review of the unique symptoms and treatment needs of specific disorders will be provided.

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Session 4: Saturday 1:00 – 3:30

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**A Chantal Sicile-Kira: *Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum* (Repeat of Session 1A)**

**B Cindy Schneider: *Setting the Stage for Social Success* (Repeat of Session 2B)**

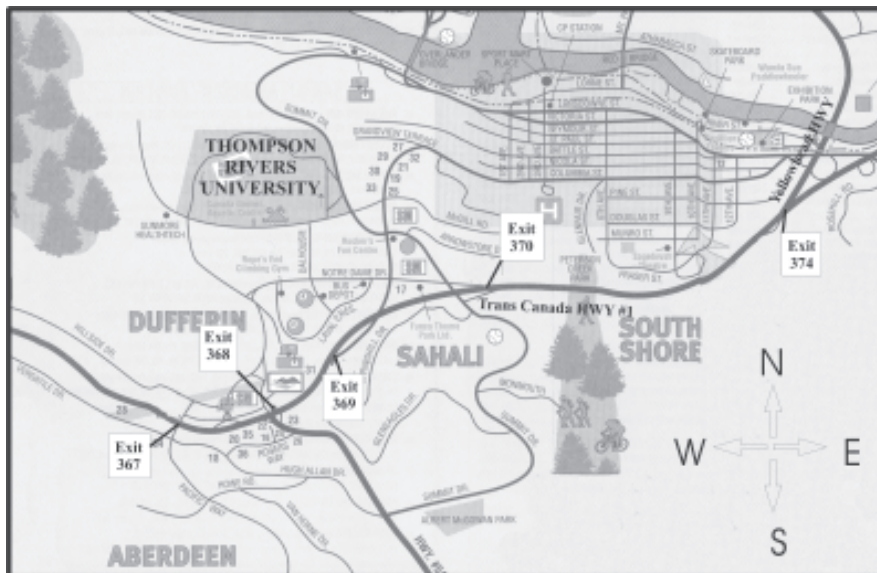
**C Dr. Vikram Dua: *The Psychiatry of Autism* (Repeat of Session 3C)**

**CHRIS ROSE THERAPY CENTRE FOR AUTISM**  
**Autism 2008 Conference**  
at  
**Thompson Rivers University**  
**900 McGill Rd., Kamloops, B.C.**  
**May 1, 2, 3, 2008**

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Phone: (250) 376-6494**  
**Fax: (250) 376-2265**  
**e-mail: crtca@ocis.net**

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**Overland Press (1990) LTD.**



*Accommodation available at Thompson Rivers University Residence and Conference Centre 1-877-225-8664*

**Pre-Conference Workshop**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2008**  
**8:30 - 4:00** (registration 7:30 - 8:30)



***The "SCERTS" Model: A Comprehensive Educational Approach for Children with ASD***  
Barry M. Prizant, PH.D., CCC-SLP

This seminar will offer an overview of The SCERTS MODEL, a comprehensive educational model for children with ASD and related disabilities and their families. The SCERTS MODEL directly addresses the core developmental areas of Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, and Transactional Support. It is an individualized approach based on extensive research in child development and disabilities, and is not exclusive of other approaches in the practices and strategies from other approaches can be included in a SCERTS model program for a child. The SCERTS MODEL is designed to address the varied needs of children and families across school, home, and community setting. Videotapes will be used to illustrate principles and practices with children and their families. This seminar will offer up to date information for supporting children with ASD and their families in educational settings and everyday activities, utilizing a child and family-centered approach that respects and integrates knowledge and practice from a variety of disciplines. The target audience is for early intervention staff, educators, SLPs, OTs, paraprofessionals, social workers, psychologists, parents, program administrators, and others supporting the development of children and their families.

**Friday, May 2, 2008**  
***A Special Dinner with Dr. Stephen Shore***  
***featuring a Keynote Address***



***Life on and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum: Observation on Success***

Join Stephen in his autobiographical journey from the nonverbal days as he relates his life to the many challenges facing people on the autism spectrum. Some of the areas discussed include classroom accommodation, teaching of musical instruments, as well as issues faced by adults such as relationships, self-advocacy, higher education, and employment.

Join us for a deluxe buffet catered by the locally renowned chefs at Thompson Rivers University. Enjoy a wonderful selection of salads, vegetables and desserts with carved Baron of Beef and Vegetarian Lasagna.

## Registration Form

**No pre-registration necessary for individual sessions!**

Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Special Dietary Needs (Please Specify): _____ _____ _____	<b>Pre-Conference Workshop</b> <i>(Thursday, May 1, 2008)</i> <b>Conference Only</b> <i>(Fri./Sat. May 2/3, 2008)</i> <b>One Day Only</b> <i>(May 2 or 3)</i> <b>Conference and Workshop</b> <i>(all three days)</i> <b>Dinner (Friday May 2, 2008)</b>	Early Bird 175.00  300.00  150.00  390.00  35.00	After Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup> 225.00  350.00  175.00  445.00  35.00	Parent & Student Early Bird 145.00  270.00  135.00  345.00  35.00	Parent & Student After Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup> 195.00  320.00  160.00  399.00  35.00	\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
					<b>Method of Payment:</b>	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	
					<input type="checkbox"/> Visa: Name as it appears on card: _____	
					<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard   Card No. _____   Expiry Date: _____	
					<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

\*Please note that when credit card payments are processed, they will indicate Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way on statement.

**Bonus! Lunch Included May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

Please send cheque or money order to the CHRIS ROSE THERAPY CENTRE FOR AUTISM, 1111 Tranquille Rd., Kamloops, B.C., V2B 3J8. **Payment must be received to be registered.** You will receive confirmation of your registration by mail upon receipt of funds. We can accept cancellations up to April 25, 2008 but will retain a \$35.00 administration fee.

**Parents receiving MCFD Autism funding can spend up to 20% of their funding annually on travel, training (workshops), equipment and materials.**

### Mary Lynch Barbera, RN, MSN, BCBA



Mary Lynch Barbera offers a unique perspective as both a parent of a child with autism as well as a professional. Since her son's diagnosis one day before his third birthday, Mary has focused her attention and research on autism and related disorders. In 2000, she was the Founding President of the Autism Society of Berks County. She became a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst in 2003 and has since been working as the Lead Behaviour Analyst for the Pennsylvania Verbal Behaviour Project. Through the PAVB Project as well as through her private consulting business, Mary has had the privilege of working with hundreds of children on the autism spectrum and has assisted in providing training to thousands of professionals and parents. Mary is a frequent speaker at workshops and conferences at the local, state and national levels and is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Leadership.

### Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D, CCC-SLP



Dr. Prizant has more than 30 years experience as a clinical scholar, researcher and international consultant to children and adults with ASD and related communication and developmental disabilities and their families. Dr. Prizant has published more than 90 articles and chapters on autism spectrum disorders and pediatric communication disabilities, serves on the advisory board of six professional journals, and has presented more than 500 seminars and numerous keynote addresses at national and international conferences. He is co-editor of the book *Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Developmental, Transactional Perspective* (Wetherby & Prizant, 2000) and the two volume manual, *The SCERTS Model: A Comprehensive Educational Approach for Children with ASD* (Prizant, Wetherby, Rubin, Laurent, & Rydell, 2006). Dr. Prizant served on the NIH Committee on the Screening & Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and has received numerous awards, as well as widespread recognition for his clinical and scholarly work, including the Princeton University-Eden Foundation Career Award "for improving the quality of life for individuals with autism." Dr. Prizant is the Director of Childhood communication Services, Adjunct Professor, Center for the Study of Human Development at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

### Chantal Sicile-Kira, BA



Chantal Sicile-Kira's twenty years of experience with autism includes teaching functional and community living skills at a state hospital, case management at a regional center, on-site coaching for in-home tutors and caretakers, consulting on adolescent issues and transition to adulthood and developing curriculum for self-employment for high school and adult day programs. Chantal is the founder of Autism Making a Difference, Inc. and currently serves on the Taskforce on Transitional Services & Supports reporting to the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism and hosts a radio show on Autism One Radio. For more information visit [www.chantalsicile-kira.com](http://www.chantalsicile-kira.com).

### Vikram Dua, MD



Vikram Dua is a child and adolescent and forensic psychiatrist. He completed his medical school training at McMaster University in Hamilton and then went on to do a residency at Harvard Medical School, and a fellowship at the University of Massachusetts. He is an associate clinical professor at UBC. Dr. Dua is co-director of the BC Autism Assessment Network and the Provincial Autism Resource Center. He served as the primary research and writer for the Ministry of Health policy paper: *Standards and Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Assessment of Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Dr. Dua's clinical practice is specialized in children and youth with developmental disabilities. In addition to work at the Provincial Autism Resource Center, he is a member of the Neuropsychiatry Clinic at the BC Children's Hospital.