

## SPEAKERS

### Katherine E. Robertson RN, C, MSN, LTC® USA

Katherine Robertson is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania (BSN, MSN) and US Army Command and General Staff College. As a Public Health Nurse she has provided services for children with special needs and their families in both military and civilian settings in Philadelphia PA, Oahu, Hawaii, Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, SD, Ft. Knox, KY., Giessen, Germany, Ft. Meade, MD, Frankfurt, Germany and Ft. Drum, NY. She is current Director of Northern New York Clinic in Watertown, NY which treats children with autistic spectrum disorders using a medical approach. Katherine has presented numerous workshops in Europe and United States on sexual abuse of children and has presented in New Zealand and the U. S. on the Biomedical approach to Autism Spectrum Disorder. Katherine has four children, four grandchildren and four grand dogs. She resides in Black River, NY with her husband, 16 year old daughter who is recovering from PDD-NOS and ADHD, her dog, Bradley, and cat, Pretty Kitty.



Douglas Ort presents at conferences throughout Northeastern United States on a range of subjects, including family dynamics of child abuse and systems theory and family/organizational leadership. Mr. Ort has been an acclaimed presenter at the Regional Conferences on Autism and Aspergers Syndrome in 2000 and 2003.

### Mary Siniscarco, MS, OTR/L



Mary Siniscarco is a Registered Occupational Therapist and graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University; she received a Masters in Health Education from SUNY Cortland. Mary is presently employed as Pediatric Therapy coordinator at ARC of Oneida-Lewis County. At ARC she increases awareness of treatment options for families with members on the autism spectrum. Mary initiated her own consulting business, Sensory Solutions and has had extensive experience treating Autistic Disorders over the last 7 years utilizing Sensory Integration, Brain Gym® and Aquatics therapy treatments. Mary has practiced Occupational Therapy in a variety of settings, including Adult Neuro-Rehabilitation, Work Hardening Ergonomics, Aquatic Therapy, Pediatric and Adult Developmental Disabilities. Mary has taught as adjunct instructor at Utica College and lecturer at Dominican College, local colleges, school districts and parent support groups. She is past Chairperson for Central District New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA). She is certified to administer and interpret Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests (SIPT). Mary resides in New Hartford with her husband and their children.

### Douglas Ort, M.Div.

Douglas Ort maintains a private practice in marriage and family counseling in Watertown, NY. Mr. Ort has extensive experience assisting individuals, couples, families and teens with relationship issues. He also consults professionally with staff and leaders of human service agencies, and provides workshops and trainings on practical applications of family systems theory.



## Exploring Autism 2005: Mind, Body and System

### CONFERENCE AGENDA October 1, 2005

- 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.** Registration (*Register early, seating is limited*)
- 8:45 a.m.** Welcome: **Mark Schneider, Ph.D.**  
**Founder**
- 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.** **Katherine E. Robertson, RN, C. MSN: The NIDS Protocol: A Biomedical Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
(CEU's have been applied for.)
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.** 15 minute morning break
- 10:30 - 12:00 a.m.** **Douglas Ort: Leadership Issues for Professionals and Families Struggling with Autism**
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch (*Included*)
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** **Mary Siniscarco, MS, OTR/L: How to Facilitate Learning Through Brain Gym® and Various Sensory Strategies**  
Mary Siniscarco's presentation is CEU accredited ( for 2 hours) for Speech Language Pathologists through the New York State Board of Education and for Physical Therapists as per the New York Society for Continuing Education in Physical Therapy, INC. Sensory Solutions is also considered a Professional Development Provider as per NBCOT for Occupational Therapists.
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.** 15 minute afternoon break
- 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.** Panel Discussion with **Mary Siniscarco, Douglas Ort, Katherine Robertson, Thomas Trivisano, and Jeff Lamicela.**

**This year's conference is a partnership between RCAAS and Otsego County Mental Health Department.**

## Registration Form

### Exploring Autism 2005: Mind, Body and System

**October 1, 2005 Register early, seating is limited**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conference Fees

**Before September 15, 2005:**  
\$70 Family member or Student (*requires proof of full-time student status*)  
\$90 professional per person  
*All fees include lunch.*

**After September 15, 2005:**  
\$80 Family member or Student (*requires proof of full-time student status*)  
\$100 professional per person  
*All fees include lunch.*

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats.**

Make checks payable to: **RCAAS-Exploring Autism 2005**

**Mail to:** Mark Schneider  
Otsego County Mental Health Department  
242 Main Street  
Oneonta, New York 13820  
E-mail: [registration@rcaas.org](mailto:registration@rcaas.org)  
Web Site: [www.rcaas.org](http://www.rcaas.org)

**Please Note:**  
Free bus for parents and professionals will leave Oneonta Bus Lines at 5:30 AM on the day of the conference and return home courtesy of Catskill Regional Teachers Center.

**Room Reservations...**

Please call the Holiday Inn directly for room reservations at the special conference rate of \$89 per night.

**If you must cancel...**

• Cancel by **September 10, 2005** for a full refund less a \$25 administration fee.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Regional Conference on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome is a not-for-profit organization to facilitate the education and sharing of information and available resources on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Its mission is to enlighten professionals and parents to the diversity of autistic individuals and to help facilitate early identification of the disability.

The conference works to validate perceptions and experiences of parents. It also explores options for parents and professionals working with individuals on the autistic spectrum through:

- Encouraging greater sensitivity to, and awareness of, Autism related issues.
- Empowering parents and professionals to advocate for the needs of those on the autistic spectrum and their families.
- Establishing constructive networking between parents and professionals.
- Creating an atmosphere of calm, respectful sharing and learning.

The conference provides an annual "homecoming experience" for parents and professionals and an opportunity to identify issues and develop an action plan to deal with them.

### Who should attend?

- Family members
- Administrators and Teachers
- Clergy
- Psychologists, Health Professionals and Therapists Counselors, Social Workers and Paraprofessionals
- Foster Parents and Service Coordinators
- Anyone working with an Autism and/or Asperger's Syndrome individual

*Past conferences have been extremely well attended and space is limited, so sign up early!*



Regional Conference on Autism  
and Aspergers Syndrome  
220 Highland Terrace  
West Oneonta, NY 13861-6922



## Exploring Autism 2005: Mind, Body and System

**Saturday, October 1, 2005**

Holiday Inn Electronics Parkway  
Liverpool, NY  
(315) 457-1122

For Information or to Register Call:  
Mark at: (315) 264-3790 or Patrick at: (315) 264-9256