

VIRTUAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

April 21-24, 2021



Presented by:

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autism society of minnesota

www.ausm.org

AUTISM SOCIETY

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Greater Wisconsin

www.autismgreaterwi.org

The Autism Societies of Minnesota and Greater Wisconsin are pleased to announce a second year of partnership in combining both the Minnesota and Wisconsin annual autism conferences to a virtual event in 2021. The virtual conference, “Inform, Influence, Innovate Together,” will be held online April 21- 24, 2021, and will feature dozens of livestream breakout sessions, virtual exhibit booths, an autism resources bookstore, and keynote speakers.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

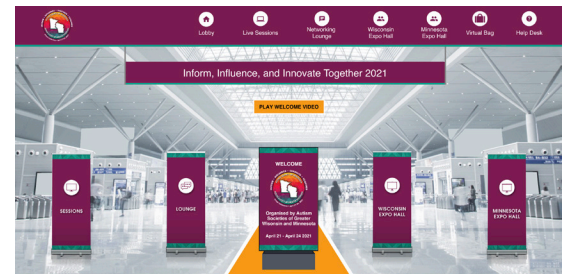
Experts, parents, caregivers, educators, paraprofessionals, mental health professionals, service providers, autistic individuals, and anyone who works closely with autistic individuals.

AT THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Live Keynote and Breakout Sessions



This event will feature five keynote presentations and 30 livestream breakout sessions on cutting-edge topics. Get real-time access to all and the ability to watch recordings of sessions for up to one month following the conference. Find complete session details online at www.autismgreaterwi.org.



Explore the Minnesota and Wisconsin Exhibit Halls



Exhibitors will offer products and services for individuals with autism, caregivers, educators, and other professionals through online booths. Set time to chat with exhibitors and explore their virtual resources.



Virtual Autism Resources Bookstore

Shop the online AuSM Bookstore for support resources including books and fidgets.



Continuing Education/Professional Development

Participants will be given a certificate of attendance. We also are working with several licensing boards to obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Additional information is available on www.autismgreaterwi.org.



Connect in the Networking Lounge

Topic-specific, moderated sessions will be offered for real-time interaction on Thursday and Friday of the conference.

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.autismgreaterwi.org

Keynote Speakers



Lydia X.Z. Brown (they/them or no pronouns)

Lydia X. Z. Brown is a disability justice advocate, organizer, educator, attorney, strategist, and writer whose work has largely focused on interpersonal and state violence against multiply-marginalized disabled people living at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and language. They are Policy Counsel for the Privacy and Data Project at the Center for Democracy and Technology; Adjunct Lecturer in Disability Studies for Georgetown University; and Director of Policy, Advocacy, & External Affairs at the Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network.



Peter Vermeulen, PhD (he/him)

Peter Vermeulen has an MSc and PhD in Psychology and Educational Sciences and has worked with people with ASD and their families for more than 30 years. He is the founder of “Autism in Context,” where autism is understood in context. Dr. Vermeulen is a senior lecturer at Autisme Centraal, a training and education center for autism spectrum disorders. He is an internationally respected lecturer and trainer and he presents throughout Europe and beyond. Dr. Vermeulen has written more than 15 books and several articles on autism.



Neurodivergent Teacher, McAlister Greiner Huynh (she/her)

McAlister Greiner Huynh is a special educator in Raleigh, N.C. She has been working with and learning from autistic individuals professionally for 10 years. She is a Nationally Board Certified Exceptional Needs Specialist. McAlister is the educator behind “The Neurodivergent Teacher” pages on Facebook and Instagram, where she connects with families, professionals, and neurodivergent folks across the globe to share philosophies around teaching, self-advocacy skills, accessibility, and coping strategies.



Temple Grandin, PhD (she/her)

Temple Grandin, PhD, is a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University where she researches and teaches. Dr. Grandin’s popular books include *Thinking in Pictures*, *Emergence Labeled Autistic*, *The Way I See It*, and *The Autistic Brain*. Dr. Grandin is a past member of the board of directors of the Autism Society of America. In 2010, Dr. Grandin was honored on Time Magazine’s list of “The 100 Most Influential People in the World.”



Wale Elegbede, MBA, PMP (he/him) and Audrey Elegbede, PhD, ACC (she/her)

Wale Elegbede is a TED motivational speaker, social justice leader, and director of strategy management services at Mayo Clinic. Described as a community servant leader, Elegbede is president of NAACP Rochester Branch, Rada Distinguished Alumni of University of Wisconsin La-Crosse, and President of La Crosse-Rochester Project Management chapter.

Audrey Elegbede is Curriculum Development and Assessment Manager at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, former Professor of Ethnic and Racial Studies, and active autism advocate. She is an educator, speaker, and professional coach, and she serves on state and local boards supporting the autism community.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

3-5 p.m. State Services Navigation: Free Interactive Session

Spend time with representatives from Wisconsin state agencies to learn about accessing available services.

6:30 p.m. Conference Orientation – Navigating the Event Lobby and Features

Learn how to navigate the conference, find sessions, explore the exhibit halls, and open your virtual bag.



7-9 p.m. KEYNOTE: Lydia X.Z. Brown (they/them or no pronouns)

Disability Justice is the Future of the Neurodiversity Movement

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During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Disability Justice offers urgent and vital interventions for addressing and ending the myriad harms of eugenics; the medical/carceral industrial complex; and capitalist oppression, all of which disproportionately harm autistic and other neurodivergent and disabled people. Disability Justice enables us to understand and examine interpersonal, systemic, structural, and institutional ableism and its impact on disabled people of color, queer and trans disabled people, and other disabled people at the margins of the margins.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22



9-10:30 a.m. KEYNOTE: Peter Vermeulen, PhD (he/him)

Autism and Happiness: from Neurodiversity to Neuroharmony

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It is time to make a U-turn in our approach and change the focus from a clinical and medical approach to happiness in people with autism toward a shared and positive focus – we all want to be happy. Let's move from neurodiversity to neuroharmony. Explore how we can increase the well-being of autistic people. While recognizing the many ways a brain can operate is a big step toward autism acceptance, it is only the first step in our commitment to a better world and more well-being for people with autism.

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Breakout Sessions 1

1. Untangle the Strategies for Working with a Student with Higher Impact Needs: *Katie Berg, MA, Ed*
2. AAC for Beginners: Exploring Communication for All: *Sonya Emerick and Lydia Dawley*
3. Building a Culture of Allyship in the Autism Community: *Zephyr James and Jillian Nelson*



12:30-1:30 p.m. KEYNOTE: Neurodivergent Teacher, McAlister Greiner Huynh (she/her)

The Power of Accessibility: What Happens When We Change the World to Fit the Person Instead of Changing the Person to Fit Into the World

In our efforts to prevent autistic people from failing in this world, we have ignored the ways the world is failing them. From a neurodivergent educator, who has more than a decade of professional experience working with autistic individuals, learn how an acceptance of differences and a focus on accessibility can make all the difference.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 (cont.)

1:30-2:30 p.m. Networking Lounge Session: Neurodivergent Teacher - Continuing the Discussion

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Join the Neurodivergent Teacher for a chance to ask questions, discuss her presentation, and chat with other community members.

2-3 p.m. Breakout Sessions 2

1. Prevent-Teach-Reinforce: *Emily Bedford, MA and Lynn Stansberry-Brusnahan, PhD*
2. Addressing Sensory Challenges Throughout the Lifespan: *Carrie Einck, MS, OTR/L*
3. Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Modern Strategies to Support Young Autistics: *Jules Edwards*

3:30-4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions 3

1. Motivational Interviewing: Empowering Progress Toward Personal Goals: *Greg Burton, MFA and Gretchen Robb, MA*
2. Autism and Sleep Disturbances: Causes, Consequences, and Interventions: *Jerrod Brown, PhD*
3. Regulated You, Regulated Me: A Sensory-Informed Attachment Model: *Jen Bluske, OTR and Jenna Mao, LPC, BC-DMT*

4:30-5:30 p.m. Networking Lounge Session:

Allyship Workshop with Zephyr James and Jillian Nelson

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Join Zephyr James and Jillian Nelson for a chance to discuss their presentation, ask questions, and chat with community members.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23



9-10:30 a.m. KEYNOTE: Temple Grandin, PhD (she/her)

Helping Different Kinds of Minds Be Successful

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Temple Grandin will provide a look into her personal experiences, including intervention, problems with sensory and over-sensitivity. She also will discuss her thinking process and the importance of developing strengths. Obtain practical tips for parenting, teaching, and learning from individuals with autism.

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Breakout Sessions 4

1. Strategies and Supports Promoting Safety in the Home and Community: *Rebecca Thompson, PhD, BCBA-D*
2. First Justice, Then All: *Allie Tasche and Katy Hayes*
3. Trauma, Exposure, and Self-Care: *Thomas Szewczyk, EdS*

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 (cont.)

12:30-1:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions 5

1. Supporting Neurodiversity at the High School: Balancing Social-Emotional Needs with Academic: *Gail Wilke, MS*
2. Building a Parachute for the Transition Cliff: *Abbie Wells Herzog, MS, CRC, ACRE*
3. Yes and...Social Emotional Learning Through Improvisation: *Michael Bruckmueller, MFA and Kelly Kautz, MEd, NBCT*

2-3 p.m. Breakout Sessions 6

1. Telehealth as a Modality to Deliver Services to Children With Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: *Jessica Simacek, PhD; Adele Dimian, PhD; Muna Khalif, LSW, SPMI, CM; and Nicole Berning, BCBA*
2. Building Bridges: How Parents of Diverse Neurologies can Learn from Each Other: *Maren Christenson Hofer; Sonya Emerick; Elizabeth Scheel-Keita; Jean Bender; and Delia Samuels, PhD*
3. Dating, Relationships, and Sex: *Stacy Luther, PsyD, LPC*

3:30-4:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions 7

1. Autism: Pathology vs. Personality: *Zephyr James*
2. Supporting East-African Families Where Intergenerational Trauma is Present: *Hamdi Ahmed, Ashwak Hassan, and Aida Ibrahim*
3. Who is In Control? Supporting Autistic Individuals Experiencing Dysregulation: *Kelly Mahler, OTD, OTR/L; Amy Laurent, PhD, OTR/L; Jacquelyn Fede, PhD; and Chloe Rothschild*

4:30-5:30 p.m. Networking Lounge Session: Autistic Adult Discussion Group

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Join autistic adults and share insights, favorite sessions, and questions. This lounge session will be moderated by Barb Luskin, PhD, an AuSM Counseling and Consulting Services psychologist.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24



9-11 a.m. KEYNOTE: Wale Elegbede, MBA, PMP (he/him) and Audrey Elegbede, PhD, ACC (she/her)

Rising to the Challenge – Unleash Your Superpower for Social Justice

The autism community with its focus on inclusion, neurodiversity, self-empowerment, and genius is poised to make a significant contribution to social justice efforts. Go on a journey of new ideas and get inspired to actively engage in social equity efforts.

11:30-12:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions 8

1. Turning Ideas into Action - A Fireside Chat: *Wale Elegbede, MBA, PMP and Audrey Elegbede, PhD, ACC*
2. Suicidality and Autism: *Megan Farley, PhD*
3. Looking Ahead: Financial Planning for the Future: *Bob Johnston, LUTCF®, AIF®*

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 (cont.)

1-2 p.m. Breakout Sessions 9

1. Parenting, Autism, and the Era of George Floyd: *Wale Elegbede, MBA, PMP and Audrey Elegbede, PhD, ACC*
2. How to Forgive in an Unforgiving World: *Timothy Markle, MA, MA/CS*
3. Preparing Teacher and Caregivers to Support Autistic Young Adults in Sexual Health: *Leah Bauman-Smith and Kim Rossow*

2:30-3:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions 10

1. AAC and Its Role in Socialization: *Nicholas (Cole) Cooper*
2. What About Me? Tips for Raising Siblings of Children with Autism: *Harriet Redman, MS, Ed.*
3. Mindful or Mind Full: *Kerry Hoops, MA, BCBA; Karen Konop, MA, BCBA; and Brittany Schumacher, MS, BCBA*

FUNDING OPTIONS

Families enrolled in the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver or Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) may be able to use these funds to pay for conference registration fees. The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin is an approved provider in all 72 Wisconsin counties and will work with your service coordinator or case manager to determine if your registration fee can be billed using CLTS or COPP funds. Visit www.autismgreaterwi.org or contact Amber LeFevre at alefevre@autismgreaterwi.org for more information.

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For more information about advertising, exhibiting, and sponsorship, visit www.autismgreaterwi.org or contact Amber LeFevre, Education & Outreach Coordinator, at alefevre@autismgreaterwi.org.

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