

SPEAKER BIOS

Mary Claire Heffron, PhD

Dr. Heffron is the Clinical Director of the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Program in the Early Intervention Services Unit at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. She is the director of the Irving B. Harris Early Childhood Mental Health Training Program and other consultation and internship training programs in the Early Childhood Mental Health Program. Dr. Heffron also directs The Fussy Baby Program. Author of numerous articles and chapters on aspects of early mental health services and program development, Dr. Heffron has recently published a book on reflective supervision and leadership for infant and early childhood programs. Also working in private practice, she speaks frequently on the importance of local systems of care for infants and very young children. Additional interests include the impact of culture on development and intervention, relationship-based intervention approaches, and the support and development of clinicians and interventionists working with infants, young children, and their families.

Monica Mathur-Kalluri, OTD

Dr. Mathur-Kalluri is an Early Childhood Development Specialist at WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention and received a clinical doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Dr. Mathur-Kalluri's work focuses on personnel development and research activities to improve the quality of services provided to infants, toddlers and their families in California. She coordinates face-to-face and web-based training content for the Part C Comprehensive System of Personnel Development and the California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health website. Dr. Mathur-Kalluri presents at local and national conferences in the areas of family-centered practice, writing functional outcomes, evidence-based practice, sensory integration, and professional development systems. She is an active graduate fellow of the Zero to Three Fellowship program.

Deborah A. Bremond, PhD, MPH

Deborah Bremond has worked in the field of infant and early childhood mental health for the past 28 years. She has a broad range of experience conceptualizing, developing and implementing integrated service delivery models for young children birth to age 5. She has sought to integrate the importance of early social and emotional development into pre-school special education sites, neonatal follow-up programs, primary pediatric care settings and community-based organizations serving families and young children. Dr. Bremond is the former Director of Family Support Services for First 5 Alameda County and is currently employed part-time as a clinician in the Early Intervention Services program at Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland. Dr. Bremond received her doctorate from the Wright Institute in clinical psychology in 1992 and in 1999 she received a Masters in Public Health from U.C. Berkeley in maternal and child health. Dr. Bremond believes that the challenge is to develop blended funding models that embrace service integration and also focus on the continuum of family need from primary prevention to treatment.

Chandra Ghosh Ippen, PhD

Chandra Ghosh Ippen is Associate Research Director of the Child Trauma Research Program at the University of California, San Francisco and a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). She is a clinician, researcher, and trainer. She is co-author of a randomized trial documenting the efficacy of child-parent psychotherapy (CPP), co-author of *Guidelines for the Treatment of Traumatic Bereavement in Infancy and Early Childhood* (2003), which describes CPP treatment for childhood traumatic grief, author of four chapters related to diversity-informed practice, and has over 7 years of experience conducting trainings in CPP and diversity-informed

practice. As a first generation East Indian/Japanese American who is fluent in Spanish and past co-Chair of the Culture Consortium of the NCTSN, she is committed to examining how culture and context affect perception and mental health systems.

Connie Lillas, PhD

Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN is a National Graduate Zero to Three Leadership Fellow and an infant mental health and early intervention specialist with a background in maternal-child nursing, family systems, and developmental psychoanalysis. With a specialty in birth-to-five year olds and their parents, she runs a full-time private practice and sees clients across the lifecycle. Dr. Lillas' specialty is in complex cases of co-morbidity from both mental health and developmental delay domains. In addition, she trains locally, nationally, and internationally on the Neurorelational Framework (NRF, 2009) based upon her co-authored book. Connie, in her pro bono community work, serves as the Court Team Liaison for a birth-to-three Fostering Family Partnerships pilot in South Central Los Angeles, holding the most high-risk population of infants and parents in LA.

Valerie A. Batts, PhD

Dr. Batts is the Executive Director and Co-founder of VISIONS, Inc. She leads the consultation and training components of the company. Author of *Modern Racism: New Melody for the Same Old Tune*, and *Is Reconciliation Possible: Lessons from Combating Modern Racism*, Dr. Batts has written extensively on modern racism and multicultural organizational change strategies. She is the originator of the VISIONS training model and experiential workshops.

Dr. Batts earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Duke University and is a licensed clinical psychologist. She earned a BA in psychology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2006, she received an Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Ma. Since 1976, she has provided multicultural education and change strategies to human service providers, educators, community leaders, youth, young adults and managers in a variety of settings. Working both nationally and internationally, Dr. Batts supports people and organizations in developing and maintaining environments that recognize, understand, respect, appreciate and utilize differences.

Joshua D. Feder, MD

Dr. Joshua Feder is the Director of the Department of Research in the Graduate School of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders, and a voluntary assistant professor at UCSD School of Medicine. Dr. Feder specializes in neurobehavioral medicine and application of DIR/Floortime with families and in schools. He co-chairs the DIR/Floortime Coalition of California, and co-chairs the South Counties Autism Regional Taskforce (SCART) of the California Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders. Dr. Feder helped write the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Practice Parameter for Assessment and Treatment of Autism and Related Disorders. He reviews grants for the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) and the National Foundation for Autism Research (NFAR), is a primary clinical investigator for National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) and privately funded research in pharmacogenetics with the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Trials Network (CAPTN). Dr. Feder serves as medical director for SymPlay developing interactive technology and distance learning systems to support relationship based interventions. He is involved in advocacy for family choice in evidence-based practice, and he is a frequent commentator and speaker for ValeriesList and for Autism College. Dr. Feder has a full-time child and family psychiatric practice in Solana Beach, California.

Kristie Brandt, CNM, MSN, DNP

Dr. Brandt is an internationally known teacher, trainer, clinician, and consultant. She is Director of the Parent-Infant & Child Institute in Napa, CA that provides clinical services for children age 0-5, consultation for parents and providers, and professional training. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics V.F. at U.C. Davis School of Medicine where she works in clinics for children with feeding disorders and mental health symptoms. Dr. Brandt was Chief Public Health Manager for Napa County Public Health and retired after 25 years of overseeing Maternal-Child Health and other public health services. She developed the Napa Therapeutic Child Care Center, has implemented and researched nurse home visiting models, and co-developed and directs the 15-month UMass Boston Infant-Parent Mental Health Post-Graduate Certificate Program in Napa, CA that has been training IFECMH professionals since 2002. She is a Child Trauma Academy Fellow with Dr. Bruce Perry, and lectured nationally and internationally with Dr. Berry Brazelton on the National Seminar Series for 15 years. Dr. Brandt is author of the book *“Facilitating the Reflective Process: An Introductory Workbook for the Infant-Parent & Early Childhood Mental Health Field”* and lead editor of *“Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health: Core Concepts & Clinical Application”* to be published by the American Psychiatric Press in 2013. She coordinates the Napa Touchpoints Project, is an NCAST Instructor, a reflective practice trainer and facilitator, certified nurse-midwife, and a nurse practitioner. She holds both a Masters in nursing and a Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Brandt is endorsed in California as an Infant-Family & Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and as a Reflective Practice Facilitator III/Mentor.