

First Annual Down Syndrome: A Day with the Experts

“Advancing Knowledge about Down Syndrome Across the Life Course”

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. (Complimentary coffee & bagels at 8:30 a.m.)

Friends of the Waisman Center Auditorium

1500 Highland Avenue, Madison WI 53705

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING • EVERYONE WELCOME • PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

This event offers participants an opportunity to learn about research related to Down syndrome at the Waisman Center and to hear from a panel of experts, including an individual with Down syndrome and family members.

- **9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.**
“Welcome and Introduction to the Waisman Center ” — Marsha Mailick Seltzer, PhD
- **9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m.**
“Using Human Stem Cells to Study Down Syndrome” — Anita Bhattacharyya, PhD
Human stem cells that have trisomy 21 provide an unparalleled way to study how the formation of the brain is different in Down syndrome. What we learn from studying how Down syndrome stem cells make brain cells will help us better understand Down syndrome, explain the reasons for the specific deficits found in Down syndrome, and ultimately lead to better treatments.
- **10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m.**
“Language and Communication Challenges Facing Youth with Down Syndrome: Research Findings and Strategies for Supporting Development” — Len Abbeduto, PhD
Individuals with Down syndrome have especially serious challenges in speech, language, and communication. Findings will be presented from several studies designed to provide more specific, clinically useful information about the extent, nature, and causes of speech, language, and communication problems, with an emphasis on later childhood and adolescence. In addition, some strategies for fostering development will be described briefly.
- **11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.**
“What is the Madison Area Down Syndrome Society?” — Kristi V. Thorson, co-chair, MADSS Board of Directors
- **11:15 p.m.–12:00 p.m. LUNCH** — Optional, \$5 box lunches (Cousins Subs) available for purchase.
- **12:00 noon–12:45 p.m.**
“How Brain Imaging Can Be Used to Understand Down Syndrome” — Brad Christian, PhD
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) are widely used to study the function of the brain in medical research. Past research has shown there is a higher incidence of Alzheimer’s disease among individuals with Down syndrome (DS). Research with PET and MRI scans is ongoing to see if there is increased amyloid plaque in the brain of individuals with Down syndrome, which may be an early risk factor for Alzheimer’s Disease.
- **12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m.**
PANEL DISCUSSION — A panel of experts, including an individual with Down syndrome and family members.

Please pre-register since capacity is limited. Pre-registrants receive priority seating. For additional details or to register, call (608) 263-5837 or send an email to palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu with the following information:

- name • organization (if applicable) • status (e.g., professional, educator, student, parent, individual with Down syndrome)
- mailing address • email address • phone number • **Please indicate if you plan to purchase a boxed lunch.**