



WAISMAN CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

15th Annual

In-Person and Online

Waisman Center Day with the Experts: Down Syndrome

Learn about advances in research and clinical services and hear from a panel of experts—individuals with Down syndrome and family members.

Saturday, March 8, 2025 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Coffee & Connections at 8:30 a.m. for in-person attendees. Virtual via Zoom.

8:30-9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Connections:

If you are attending in person, please join us for Coffee & Connection prior to the start of the presentations. Representatives from the Waisman Center's Down Syndrome Clinic and the Children's Resource Center – South, along with DSAW and GiGi's Playhouse will be available for conversation and to answer questions. Coffee and refreshments provided.

9:00 - 9:05 a.m. Welcome *Maria Stanley, MD, Director, Waisman Center Clinics*

9:05 - 9:30 a.m.

"Building Research Collaborations to Understand Co-Occurring Medical Conditions in Children and Adults with Down Syndrome"

Maria Stanley, MD, Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, Director, Waisman Center Clinics

This presentation discusses the common co-occurring medical conditions experienced across the lifespan by people with Down syndrome and highlights a new National Institutes of Health (NIH) long-term study to observe and track health data of people with Down syndrome from birth to adulthood. Researchers from the University-Madison are part of this global effort.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

"Language Development in Young Children with Down Syndrome"

Audra Sterling, PhD, Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Many children with Down syndrome struggle with language development, which has implications for how children communicate with their families, peers, teachers, etc., as well as important skills like reading and overall academic achievement. However, research and clinical practice has focused a lot on weaknesses, and not necessarily the strengths within communication. We examine both in our studies and how parents and caregivers support language development. This talk will provide a brief update on our findings related to communication development, and how caregivers are supporting language development, alongside different methods for providing naturalistic assessments.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

"Associations between Hearing and Cognition in Individuals with Down Syndrome"

Ruth Litovsky, PhD, Oros Family Chair & Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Surgery, Division of Otolaryngology

The ability to hear, understand speech, and localize important sounds in our environment is critical to socializing, learning and communicating in everyday situations. At the Waisman Center, a group of labs is now studying hearing abilities in young adults and in children with Down syndrome. This talk will share our recent findings on hearing loss and association with cognition. Our long-term goal is to work more closely with families and clinicians to promote assessment and treatment of hearing loss.

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION** that includes individuals with Down syndrome and family members.

Please register at www.waisman.wisc.edu/event/experts-down-syndrome-2025/

*Hosted by the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW)- South Central, GiGi's Playhouse, and the
Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sponsored by the Friends of the Waisman Center*

Waisman Center | 1500 Highland Avenue | Madison, WI
EVERYONE WELCOME

For additional details, call 608.263.5837 or email palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu