

# ACT's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus on Research Conference What is Research Telling Us About Women and Girls with Autism?

Thursday and Friday,  
**April 5 & 6, 2018**



Dr. William Mandy,  
University College London, UK  
**Improving the Identification  
and Care of Women on  
the Autism Spectrum**



Dr. Rene Jamison and  
Dr. Jessica Oeth Schuttler,  
University of Kansas  
**Girls Night Out: Lessons learned  
from a unique intervention  
for girls with autism**

**Simon Fraser University  
Harbour Centre**  
515 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, Canada

## Goals of ACT's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus on Research Conference

The goal of this conference is to improve access to diagnosis and support for women and girls with autism and to build collaboration between researchers, clinicians, educators, individuals with ASD and their families.

## Why Focus on Women and Girls with ASD?

Historically, research has shown that ASD is much more common in males than females but researchers are increasingly recognizing that autism affects women and girls differently and that diagnosis may well be delayed in females, reducing access to services, with implications for long-term mental health and employment prospects.

While this conference will feature recent research, it will focus on the experience and perspectives of women and girls with autism, in particular, on how future research could better inform the services and resources available to women and girls.

**Live stream:** Watch and participate internationally by registering for web streaming - (All times PST)

## Conference Highlights

- » Two keynote presentations by internationally recognized autism researchers/clinicians: Dr. William Mandy and Dr. Rene Jamison.
- » Three panel presentations, featuring women with ASD, researchers, and a range of community-based professionals.
- » A presentation on the Canadian government's first national autism prevalence survey report.

## The Panels

- » The Experience of Women with ASD – Introduced and moderated by Dr. Rene Jamison, University of Kansas
- » The Special Challenges Faced by Mothers with ASD – Introduced and moderated by Dr. Grace Iarocci, SFU
- » Setting Priorities for Future Research – Introduced and moderated by Dr. Anthony Bailey, UBC

**ACT – Autism Community Training**  
*B.C.'s leading source of evidence-based, community-focused training*

View event details & register at:  
[www.actcommunity.ca/for2018](http://www.actcommunity.ca/for2018)

8:15 - 9:00	SFU Harbour Centre Concourse <b>Registration</b>	All Sessions held at SFU Harbour Centre Fletcher Challenge Theatre - Room 1900 & via web streaming
9:00 - 9:10	<b>Introductions</b>	
9:10 - 10:15 <b>Session 1</b>	Keynote Presentation (part 1) <b>Improving the Recognition of Women and Girls on the Autism Spectrum</b> Dr. William Mandy, University College London, UK	
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Morning break</b> - Refreshments served	
10:45 - 12:00 <b>Session 2</b>	Panel Presentation <b>The Experience of Women with ASD</b> A panel of women with ASD - introduced and moderated by Dr. Rene Jamison	
12:00 - 1:00	<b>Networking paper bag lunch</b> - Segal Centre - Room 1400	
1:00 - 2:15 <b>Session 3</b>	Keynote Presentation (part 2) <b>Understanding the Needs of Girls and Women on the Autism Spectrum</b> Dr. William Mandy, University College London, UK	
2:15 - 2:45	<b>Afternoon break</b> - Refreshments served	
2:45 - 4:00 <b>Session 4</b>	Panel Presentation <b>Special Challenges Faced by Mothers with ASD</b> Introduced and moderated by Dr. Grace Iarocci	

Keynote Details:

*Improving the Recognition of Women and Girls on the Autism Spectrum*

**Presenter:** Dr. William Mandy is a clinical psychologist and senior lecturer at University College London, UK. Dr. Mandy's research aims to improve the recognition of autism, and to develop new interventions to help autistic people. A particular research interest is improving the identification and care of females on the autism spectrum, who are currently at high risk of going unnoticed and underserved by clinical and educational services.

In this talk, Dr. Mandy will share his research about the characteristics of autism in females, how this affects diagnosis, and ways of improving recognition, with a focus on improving clinical and educational practice. He will also discuss research on social camouflaging, eating disorders, and mental health needs.

**Recognizing our Sponsors and Supporters**

As a not-for-profit society, ACT - Autism Community Training depends on support from a wide range of funders and community partners. ACT deeply appreciates the ongoing support we have received from Simon Fraser University's Department of Psychology. We acknowledge key support from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the office of the Vice President of Research at SFU for this conference.

ACT also acknowledges the support of the Ministry for Children and Family Development for funding web streaming and event bursaries in 2017, which allowed greater access for parents and professionals across B.C.

**Special thanks to Dr. Grace Iarocci, Simon Fraser University and Dr. Anthony Bailey, University of British Columbia for their leadership in the planning of this conference.**



9:00 - 9:10	<b>Introductions</b>	See <a href="http://www.actcommunity.ca/for2018">www.actcommunity.ca/for2018</a> for brief biographies of panelists and details of keynote presentations.
9:10 - 10:15 <b>Session 1</b>	Keynote Presentation (part 1) <b>Girls Night Out: Lessons learned from a unique intervention for girls with autism</b> Dr. Rene Jamison and Dr. Jessica Oeth Schuttler, University of Kansas	
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Morning break</b> - Refreshments served	
10:45 - 12:00 <b>Session 2</b>	<b>Autism Prevalence among Youth in Canada - A report of the 2018 National ASD Surveillance System</b> Presented by Professor Anthony Bailey, Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, UBC	
12:00 - 1:00	<b>Networking Paper Bag Lunch</b> - Segal Centre - Room 1400	
12:30 - 1:00	<b>Concert by the Mayday Club Youth Choir</b> - Fletcher Challenge Theatre - Room 1900	
1:00 - 2:15 <b>Session 3</b>	Keynote Presentation (part 2) <b>Sex Matters: The secondary impact of low prevalence for girls and women with autism</b> Dr. Rene Jamison and Dr. Jessica Oeth Schuttler, University of Kansas	
2:15 - 2:45	<b>Afternoon break</b> - Refreshments served	
2:45 - 4:00 <b>Session 4</b>	Panel Presentation <b>Setting priorities for future research</b> Introduced and moderated by Dr. Anthony Bailey, University of British Columbia, BC <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Stephany Berinstein – Occupational Therapist, Gastown Vocational Services, BC</li> <li>» Carly Eirikson – Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders, BC</li> <li>» Dr. Grace Iarocci – Simon Fraser University, BC</li> <li>» Dr. Rene Jamison – University of Kansas, USA</li> <li>» Vivian Ly – Canadian Autistics United, BC</li> <li>» Dr. William Mandy – University College London, UK</li> </ul>	

Keynote Details:

***Girls Night Out: Lessons learned from a unique intervention for girls with autism***

**Dr. Rene Jamison** is an Associate Professor and licensed psychologist in pediatrics at the Center for Child Health and Development (CCHD), University of Kansas Medical Center. Her primary research focus is females with autism, identifying factors that contribute to social competence across development, and interventions to improve social-emotional health.

**Dr. Jessica Oeth Schuttler** is a licensed psychologist and clinical assistant professor also at the CCHD. She is the associate director for the Girls Night Out Program and key collaborator on related research projects, community partnership, and training efforts to create more inclusive communities.

Dr. Jamison established Girls Night Out (GNO) in 2008 to provide socially valid and meaningful interventions designed specifically for females with autism and related developmental disabilities. GNO takes place within the community and during activities that social or self-care care skills would naturally occur, along with trained, peer volunteers to ensure authentic opportunities for successful practice within realistic social settings. Part 2 will also feature research on the possible secondary impact on females with autism, of the discrepancy in rates of diagnosis between males and females, in exacerbating social-communication impairments and increasing risk for co-occurring mental health conditions.

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 2018 Focus on Research Conference



Please confirm your registration before booking your flight – cancellation insurance is recommended.

Name:		Home or Cell Phone:	
Organization:		Work Phone:	
Address:			
City:	Province/State:	Postal/Zip Code:	
Email: ACT will be emailing a link to the conference handouts - check your spam folder. Contact us if you do not receive your confirmation of registration within a week.		I wish to: <input type="checkbox"/> Receive periodic updates by post <input type="checkbox"/> Join ACT's confidential email list*	
Registration Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Professional (please specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Para-Professional (please specify): _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student (please include copy of student ID) <input type="checkbox"/> Person with ASD or other Special Need <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family Member of a person with ASD or Special Need	

\* We do not share personal information with any other organization or individual. See [www.actcommunity.ca/privacy-policy](http://www.actcommunity.ca/privacy-policy).

## Payment

**Payment Amount** (total of "My Cost" amounts below): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date registration submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**  Cash     Cheque     MasterCard     VISA    *To use your AFB funds for event payment, please call our office.*

ACT is a not-for-profit society and is not required to charge HST or GST for live events.

Name on Card:	Signature:	
Card Number:	Expiry Date:	CVV Code:

In addition to registering online, you may also register by telephone using a credit card or fax to (604) 205-5345. Registrations are accepted only when accompanied by payment. Refunds for registration, less a \$25 handling charge, are available if ACT is informed in writing one week before the workshop date. Details of the cancellation policy are available at [www.actcommunity.ca](http://www.actcommunity.ca). Cheques that are not honoured will result in a loss of registration status. Bank charges incurred by ACT as a result of a NSF cheque are the responsibility of the registrant. Cheques or money orders should be made out to: ACT – Autism Community Training. Mail to: 204 - 2735 E Hastings St, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5K 1Z8. If you have questions, email [info@actcommunity.ca](mailto:info@actcommunity.ca) or telephone 604-205-5467, toll-free 1-866-939-5188.

## Cost

**Many ACT events sell out – book early to ensure your spot!**

Rates	Both Days (Thursday & Friday)		
	Family members or individuals with ASD	Para-pros & Students	Professionals
Early Bird Rate until March 19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Regular Rate until March 29	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Late Rate starts March 30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Attendance Type	In person <input type="checkbox"/>		Live Web Streaming <input type="checkbox"/>

**Online Registration:** Register when and where is most convenient to you. View and register for events online: [www.actcommunity.ca/events](http://www.actcommunity.ca/events)

**Bursaries:** Bursaries for low-income participants and/or those travelling from outside their home regions to an event are available. Call ACT's office for more information or email [info@actcommunity.ca](mailto:info@actcommunity.ca) with your request prior to registering.

ACT gratefully accepts donations to our bursary fund. See [www.actcommunity.ca/bursaries](http://www.actcommunity.ca/bursaries).

**Autism Funding:** Parents who receive Autism Funding may use 20% of the total for equipment, books, training and travel costs. ACT's live events are considered eligible expenses by the Autism Funding Branch. [www.actcommunity.ca/education/funding-invoice-option/](http://www.actcommunity.ca/education/funding-invoice-option/)

**Group Registrations:** Those who are not receiving other discounts may receive 20% off if three or more register with one payment. See [www.actcommunity.ca/terms-conditions/](http://www.actcommunity.ca/terms-conditions/) for details.

**Are you receiving our emails?** Please check your email spam folder first, and then telephone if you do not receive a confirmation email.

Contact ACT at [info@actcommunity.ca](mailto:info@actcommunity.ca), 604-205-5467 or toll-free 1-866-939-518.

Visit the ACT website for further details including the full schedule, online registration, location, and special hotel rates:

[www.actcommunity.ca/for2018](http://www.actcommunity.ca/for2018)