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## FASD CENTER NEWS

### FASD Web Site Enhanced with New Look, Feel, and Facts

Finding information on FASD, especially about State systems, is easier and more colorful and attractive, thanks to recent enhancements to the Center for Excellence official FASD Web site.

Now, visitors will find a refined interactive search map that links to a list of FASD experts and resources known to be available within a State. Web site visitors will get to that map from an improved and restructured home page that features:

- Easier site navigation, such as streamlined navigation bars, new color schemes, and additional sections
- New links to “In the News”, “Announcements”, “Funding Opportunities” and other current data
- A rolling banner that highlights readily available FASD products and resources

The CFE continuously works to make the Web site more useful and usable, and welcomes user comments and suggestions. Presently, the CFE is investigating user suggestions on popular Internet social marketing methods, such as RSS, podcasts, and viral marketing through established sites, to raise awareness among younger audiences and increase real-time interaction. Web site users will be informed as potential tools are researched and approved!

Visit the FASD Web site at <http://www.fascenter.samhsa.gov/>.

## FASD-RELATED LITERATURE

### **Interventions for Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Overview of Findings for Five Innovative Research Projects**

*Research in Developmental Disabilities* September-October 2009; 30(5):986-1006

Bertrand J, Floyd RL, O'Connor MJ, Frankel F, Paley B, Coles CD, Kable J, Taddeo E, Dent D, Chasnoff I, Wells A, Bailey G, Gurwitsch R, Mulvihill J, Chaffin M, Grim M, Olson HC, Astley S

Prenatal exposure to alcohol causes damage to the developing fetus, resulting in fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), which are serious lifelong disabilities, especially when they result from damage to the central nervous system. Until recently, information and strategies for interventions for an FASD have been gleaned from those used with other disabilities and from practical wisdom gained by parents and clinicians through trial and error or shared through informal networks. Such interventions have been implemented without systematic or scientific evaluation.

This article provides a framework for general intervention for persons with an FASD and the methods and general findings of five intervention research studies conducted within this framework. The studies evaluated these interventions in diverse locations in the United States with different segments of the FASD population. Nonetheless, all participants showed improvement in the target behaviors or skills, and four studies achieved statistical significance in treatment outcomes. Three important lessons may explain this success: parent education or training, teaching children specific skills usually learned by observation or abstraction, and integration into existing treatment systems. A major implication for families dealing with an FASD is that new interventions can address the needs of children with an FASD and that these interventions can be presented as scientifically validated and efficacious to intervention agents, such as schools, social services, and mental health providers.

In the field of FASD research and clinical service, a common theme reported by families has been that clinicians and professionals have been reluctant to diagnose an FASD because no effective treatments were available. Results of these five studies dispel that concern by demonstrating several interventions shown to improve the life of a person with an FASD and his or her family.

### **Social Cognitive and Emotion-Processing Abilities of Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: a Comparison With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder**

*Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* October 2009; 33(10):1656-1670

Greenbaum RL, Stevens SA, Nash K, Koren G, Rovet J

Although children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are at high risk of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), direct comparisons have shown distinct cognitive phenotypes in those with the two diagnoses. However, these groups have not been directly compared for social problems or social cognition, nor has social cognition been directly examined in FASD. This study compared performance on social cognition tasks of 33 children with an FASD, 30 with ADHD, and 34 normal control children. The object was to determine whether deficiency in social cognition and emotion processing can be used to predict behavioral problems and social skills in children with an FASD.

In this study, children with an FASD demonstrated significantly weaker social cognition and emotion-processing ability than did those with ADHD or normal control children. Regression analyses identified social cognition as a significant predictor of behavioral problems and emotion processing as a significant predictor of social skills.

The researchers reported a distinct behavioral profile for children with an FASD and concluded that difficulties in social cognition and emotion processing may contribute to the high incidence of social behavioral problems in these children.

### **Magnetic Resonance Imaging Outcomes From a Comprehensive Magnetic Resonance Study of Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**

*Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* October 2009; 33(10):1671-1689

Astley SJ, Aylward EH, Olson HC, Kerns K, Brooks A, Coggins TE, Davies J, Dorn S, Gendler B, Jirikowic T, Kraegel P, Maravilla K, Richards T

Magnetic resonance technology offers noninvasive methods for in vivo assessment of neuroabnormalities. In this study, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) provided further validation that neurobehavioral disorder/alcohol exposed (ND/AE), static encephalopathy/alcohol exposed (SE/AE), and fetal alcohol syndrome/partial FAS (FAS/PFAS), as defined by the FASD 4-Digit Code, are three clinically distinct and increasingly affected diagnostic subclassifications under the umbrella of FASD. Neurostructural abnormalities were present across the spectrum. Progressing across the three study groups, the mean absolute size of the total brain, frontal lobe, caudate, putamen, hippocampus, and cerebellar vermis and the length of the corpus callosum decreased incrementally and significantly. The FAS/PFAS group had disproportionately smaller frontal lobes relative to all other groups. The FAS/PFAS and SE/AE groups, who had the most severe central nervous system (CNS) dysfunction, also had disproportionately smaller caudate regions. Significant correlations were observed between size of brain regions and level of prenatal alcohol exposure, magnitude of FAS facial phenotype, and level of CNS dysfunction.

The investigators concluded that MRI could substantially augment diagnosis of conditions under the FASD umbrella once population-based norms for structural development of the human brain are established.

### **Alcohol and Pregnancy**

*Archives of Pediatrics* October 2009; 16(10):1364-1373 [Article in French]

Seror E, Chapelon E, Bué M, Garnier-Lengliné H, Lebeaux-Legras C, Loudenot A, Lejeune C

Alcohol consumption during pregnancy is a major cause of mental retardation in Western countries. Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is mainly characterized by prenatal and postnatal stunted growth, neurocognitive disorders, and facial dysmorphism. This disorder compromises the intellectual and behavioral prognosis of the child. Improved dissemination of better information to health professionals about optimal care of women at high risk for alcohol use before, during, and after pregnancy would decrease the incidence of FAS.

### **Voxelwise and Skeleton-Based Region-of-Interest Analyses of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Young Adults**

*Human Brain Mapping* October 2009; 30(10):3265-3274

Li L, Coles CD, Lynch ME, Hu X

Although fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are among the most common developmental disorders, understanding of these conditions is incomplete. Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), which is sensitive to microstructural organization in white matter of the brain, may provide a relevant measure to elucidate incompletely characterized pathology of white matter in this population. This study used the tract-based spatial statistics (TBSS; Voxelwise) routine and skeleton-based region-of-interest analyses to detect differences in DTI-derived metrics in young adults with fetal exposure to alcohol and an unexposed control group. Participants included 28 with dysmorphic features associated with FAS, 29 who were prenatally exposed to alcohol but did not show physical effects, and 25 with the same low socioeconomic status who were not exposed. TBSS analysis revealed a statistically significant decrease in fractional anisotropy at the isthmus of the corpus callosum and its connected callosal fibers in persons with dysmorphic features relative to the control group (clusterwise  $P < 0.05$ ). This finding was consistent with that of the follow-up, skeleton-based, region-of-interest analysis ( $F = 3.256$ ,  $P = 0.044$ ). The researchers reported that patterns of change in axial and radial diffusivity suggested association of demyelination with the degraded integrity of white matter observed in the group with dysmorphic features.

### **Altered Frontal-Parietal Functioning During Verbal Working Memory in Children and Adolescents With High Prenatal Alcohol Exposure**

*Human Brain Mapping* October 2009; 30(10):3200-3208

O'Hare ED, Lu LH, Houston SM, Bookheimer SY, Mattson SN, O'Connor MJ, Sowell ER

This study used functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to evaluate the neural basis of verbal working memory (WM) function in a group of 20 children and adolescents with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and 20 control participants with typical development. Both groups showed prominent activation in the frontal-parietal-cerebellar network known to be important for verbal WM. Despite equivalent behavioral performance, alcohol-exposed persons showed greater activation in left dorsal frontal and left inferior parietal cortices and bilateral posterior temporal regions during use of verbal WM than control persons did, even when group differences in IQ were statistically controlled.

The investigators concluded that this pattern of greater activation coupled with equivalent behavioral performance in persons with an FASD suggests that they recruit a more extensive network of brain regions during use of verbal WM than do persons with typical development and that frontal-parietal processing during use of verbal WM is less efficient in persons with an FASD.

## **Many With FASD Suffer for Years Before Diagnosis**

*Billings Gazette*, October 10, 2009

Mark McManus was shot in the leg by a store robber he pursued in his car. Some thought McManus was a hero, and others found his actions foolish. The 49-year-old Billings man received a diagnosis of FASD about 8 years ago, after struggling with new tasks at work. Due to his disability, he has spent a lifetime trying to understand social cues. McManus now works at the police department and as a chaplain at Rimrock Foundation, where he was treated for alcoholism two decades ago.

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article\\_95290ef8-b603-11de-a6e2-001cc4c03286.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_95290ef8-b603-11de-a6e2-001cc4c03286.html)

## **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Create Lifelong Problems**

*Billings Gazette*, October 10, 2009

Michelle Ford has served 8 years of a 30-year prison sentence for her role in the murder of a hiker in Glacier National Forest by a man she was living with in the wilderness. After her arrest for that crime, Michelle received a diagnosis of alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder, a condition related to fetal alcohol syndrome. Ford accepts her responsibility for the crime but says prenatal alcohol exposure is a mitigating factor.

Michelle's mother, Deb Ford, drank heavily before and after Michelle was conceived. Deb didn't realize she was pregnant until 10 weeks into the pregnancy. She has been sober for 25 years. "There's a big difference between guilt and responsibility...I didn't know how [alcohol] caused damage, but I do feel responsible," Deb said. "It directly resulted from my irresponsible actions."

The Fords now know that Michelle's struggles in school and with friends were caused by brain damage. Deb was accused of being a bad parent, and Michelle was accused of being defiant. "There are still some people who think I'm making excuses for her," Deb said. "It's hard to tease out what is brain damage and what is willful behavior."

Michelle does not blame her mother. "I know if my mom hadn't [drunk] when she was pregnant with me, I wouldn't be this way," Michelle said, "but she didn't know she was pregnant, and she was an alcoholic. It's my mom's fault, but I don't blame her."

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article\\_4c6626d4-b602-11de-9220-001cc4c03286.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_4c6626d4-b602-11de-9220-001cc4c03286.html)

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article\\_323f9Cf6-b605-11de-911b-001cc4c03286.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_323f9Cf6-b605-11de-911b-001cc4c03286.html)

## **Woman With Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Acts As Advocate**

*Billings Gazette*, October 10/11, 2009

Lissie Clark has fetal alcohol syndrome. She realizes that because of this disorder, she is vulnerable to exploitation and does not have the skills to judge situations or people. "It's pretty...scary," said Clark. "It'll be something I always work on."

Johannele Howanach adopted Clark as a child. Howanach said, "The public doesn't understand that these are people with alcohol-related birth defects, and [the damage] is permanent. Their brains just don't function like the average brain."

Clark and Howanach have become outspoken advocates for people with alcohol-related brain damage. Clark uses her dog biscuit business, Lissie's Luv Yums, as a platform for public education. Every package of homemade biscuits contains a fact sheet about fetal alcohol syndrome.

[http://m.billingsgazette.com/mobile/article\\_91a24848-b604-11de-991a-001cc4c03286.html](http://m.billingsgazette.com/mobile/article_91a24848-b604-11de-991a-001cc4c03286.html)

## **Miss North Ogden Getting the Word out**

*Standard.net*, October 4, 2009

Pageant winner, Kaleigh Saunders, is using her position as Miss North Ogden to educate people in Utah about fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). She has focused on educating teen girls about the dangers of drinking while pregnant. Saunders' adopted younger sister has an FASD.

Kaleigh remembers the alarm bells that went off in her head when she heard the symptoms of FASD in a class presentation taught by Pat Smith from Weber/Morgan Human Services. Kaleigh and Pat became friends, and Smith helped Saunders and her family to obtain a diagnosis of FASD and help for her sister.

Five years later, Saunders hasn't stopped learning about FASD. Kaleigh, who will represent her city in the Miss Utah pageant in June, is using her platform to get the word out about FASD. In September, Saunders spoke to more than 2,000 city representatives at the meeting of the Utah League of Cities and Towns and was instrumental in having September 9 declared National FASD Awareness Day.

Kaleigh had competed in other pageants, but being Miss North Ogden is different. "I didn't do it to be queen. I did it to push my platform, and I knew I could get it out there more with the title," Saunders said. She was thrilled to learn the competition required a platform she was passionate to advance. "It was something I was already doing," Kaleigh said.

Jenny Saunders is proud of her daughter for doing something that has been so helpful to their family. She said some children don't always show outward signs of FASD. Learning disabilities, impulsiveness, poor judgment, and memory deficits are common to FASD, but they are often classified as symptoms of attention-deficit or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

"[Kaleigh] is so good at doing this... because it hits close to home for her," Jenny said of her daughter's passion to educate people about FASD.

<http://www.standard.net/topics/news/2009/10/04/miss-north-ogden-getting-word-out>

### **Northwest Territories Team To Offer FASD Diagnoses, Support**

*CBC News*, October 5, 2009

The Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife is setting up a diagnostic team of neuropsychologists, pediatricians, social workers, and family support workers. The team will identify and support children who have a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and develop plans for their future. Physicians or nurses will refer children up to age 16 years, and families across the territories will have access to the services. Training is expected to begin in March.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/10/05/nwt-fasd.html>

### **High Court Won't Review Death Penalty for Woman With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Louisiana**

*Sign On San Diego*, October 5, 2009

The U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review whether the death penalty in Louisiana is arbitrarily imposed on some defendants while others in similar circumstances are given a life sentence. The high court rejected an appeal by a woman with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) who was convicted of first-degree murder for her role in a brutal New Year's Day attack on a retired minister. Brandy Holmes, who has FAS, and codefendant Robert Coleman were convicted of a 2003 murder in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The lawyer for Holmes argued that enforcement of the death penalty on a person with FAS violates the eighth

amendment. <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/oct/05/us-supreme-court-death-penalty-100509/?nation>

## **Department of Community Services Books Baby Into Rehabilitation With Mother With Alcoholism**

*News.com.au*, October 8, 2009

"Jake," a 7-week-old baby, could be placed with his mother, who has alcoholism, in a rehabilitation facility. The baby was the fifth child to be removed from the mother's care. He was placed in foster care, and his foster parent thinks Jake is being sent to rehabilitation so the Department of Community Services (DOCS) can avoid the costs and staff time required to take him to three weekly visits with his mother. Jake's foster parent, who fears for the infant's safety, said the baby's mother drank throughout her pregnancy.

"If the baby is to stay with the mother at Odyssey House, he will be placed in a nursery and receive 24-hour care from specialist staff," a DOCS spokeswoman said. "At Odyssey House, the mother's parenting skills will be assessed over a 4- to 6-week period, and Community Services will use this assessment to inform future decisions about his care. No decision has been made about the long-term care of the baby."

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,26185506-421,00.html>

## **Growing up With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

*Newswise*, October 16, 2009

Saint Louis University researchers are the recipients of an \$880,000, three-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The grant will help persons with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) transition into adulthood by providing funds to develop and test the Partners for Success Program. The program, which will combine personal mentors and therapeutic home visits to provide one-on-one support, will focus on teaching life skills and minimizing disruptive behaviors that can lead to job loss and trouble with the law.

According to Leigh Tenkku, PhD, assistant professor of family and community medicine at Saint Louis University, although the effects of FASD are lifelong, there are very few support systems in place to help persons with an FASD and their families as they get older.

"The brains of individuals with FASD are not fully developed, which affects their ability to handle emotions, problem solve, and pick up on social cues," Tenkku said. "As they get older, these problems affect their ability to maintain a job, their relationships, and their parenting abilities."

"We want our program to be practical and easily replicated by other agencies that provide FASD services. We're creating the tool, but they have to be able to use it. That's how we'll help the greatest number of people," Tenkku explained. "Ultimately, we'd like to prevent FASD,...but the sad reality is that 1 percent of children and young adults...suffer with the lifelong effects of drinking during pregnancy. It's imperative that we find better ways to support these individuals," he said.

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/growing-up-with-fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders>

## **Irish Medical Organization Calls for Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages**

*Irish Medical News*, October 19, 2009

The Irish Medical Organization (IMO) is calling for "explicit Government health warnings" on alcoholic beverages and curtailment of alcohol advertising and cost promotions. The organization recommends warning about the dangers of drinking and driving and of drinking alcohol during pregnancy with specific reference to fetal alcohol syndrome. IMO also wants labeling to indicate

alcohol and calorie content. <http://www.imn.ie/index.php/current-issue/news/2482-imo-calls-for-alcohol-warnings>

### **University of Arizona Researcher Receives Grant To Study Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

*EV Living.com*, November 3, 2009

Pediatric geneticist Christopher Cunniff, MD, a professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and researcher with the Steele Children's Research Center, is the recipient of a 5-year, \$1.25 million surveillance grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Cunniff's project, the Arizona Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance Network, will study the prevalence of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in children in Arizona and Nevada. Arizona is one of three awardees; the other two are Colorado and Western New York State.

"We will partner with the Nevada State Health Division to obtain a combined surveillance population of almost 140,000 births per year," said Dr. Cunniff. "The objective is to integrate FAS surveillance into the existing population-based surveillance programs in each state...[including] a program that identifies and reports cases of autism spectrum disorders and mental retardation in Maricopa County; one that conducts surveillance in Arizona for Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy; and the surveillance programs for birth defects in Arizona and Nevada."

"The goal of this multistate project is to provide case workers with better tools to diagnose FAS sooner. This will result in earlier referrals for treatment that will ultimately improve outcomes for the children suffering the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome," he explained.

<http://www.eviving.com/2009/11/03/fetal-alcohol-syndrome-grant/>

### **Position of European Economic and Social Committee on Harm of Alcohol Abuse in European Society**

*European Public Health Alliance*, November 6, 2009

The European Economic and Social Committee have proposed stricter controls on marketing and pricing of alcoholic beverages. These policies focus on reducing alcohol consumption and the associated problems. Other goals are to protect children who are vulnerable to the problems caused by alcohol abuse, to raise awareness about the risk of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and to reduce the societal costs of alcohol abuse, such as those related to health care and loss of productivity.

<http://www.eph.org/a/3668>

### **Examining Mathematical Abilities in Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**

*Eureka Alert*, November 19, 2009

In a new study, the left parietal area of the brain was observed to be significant for mathematical abilities in 21 children age 5 to 13 years old with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). The study uses diffusion tensor imaging to examine the relationship between mathematical abilities and white matter in the brain of children with an FASD.

"Our findings demonstrate a link between brain structure and cognition that provides insight into how the FASD brain works," said one investigator, "and also helps [in understanding of] mathematical processing in a larger population, because of the similarities to [findings in] previous studies. Ultimately, a better understanding of the underlying cause[s] of the various cognitive deficits in FASD may lead to better treatment and improved quality of life."

The results of this study are expected to be published in the February 2010 issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2009-11/ace-ema111209.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-11/ace-ema111209.php)

### **Play Group for Children With Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Cut From Budget**

*Maple Ridge News*, November 19, 2009

The Ridge Meadows Child Development Center plans to reduce its services due to government-imposed budget cuts. A play group for children with fetal alcohol syndrome is the latest service to be cut from the program. The center is losing \$38,000 in funding this year.

The center serves children from birth to age at entry to school who have neurological, orthopedic, and other developmental disabilities. As of October, the active caseload was 629 children and there was a 1-year wait list of 256 with 226 younger than age 5 years.

[http://www.bclocalnews.com/tri\\_city\\_maple\\_ridge/mapleridgenews/breaking\\_news/70566917.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/tri_city_maple_ridge/mapleridgenews/breaking_news/70566917.html)

### **Book Tells FASD Kids' Stories: Students Learn To Cope, Triumph Over Disability**

*Winnipeg Free Press*, November 21, 2009

*Living and Learning With FASD: Jilly's Story* is a book about kids living with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Students at the David Livingston School in Winnipeg are authors of this book, in which they talk about what FASD is, how they got it, and how they cope.

Theresa Larabie is raising her granddaughter, Kaitlin, age 14 years, who is an author of the book. "You need a lot of help and resources," Larabie explained. She said not enough is known about FASD. She's grateful her granddaughter had the Bridges program to help her learn how to cope -- and to teach her grandma.

"She taught me how to work with her disability," Larabie explained. "Simple things like colors, lights, and activities and noises" can be problems for people with the disorder, she said. "I couldn't take her to Wal-Mart." At home, Kaitlin wouldn't stay in her room. "It had wallpaper that was full of flowers," said Larabie. Colors and patterns can be too much for those with an FASD, she said. "They can't relax."

More than 100 copies of the book were shipped to the Northwest Territories, and another 250 copies were sold at \$20 a copy.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/book-tells-fasd-kids-stories-70689977.html>

### **Woman in Advanced Pregnancy Drove Drunk**

*The Daily Post*, November 27, 2009

Kylie Wilson faces charges for driving while drunk when she was 26 weeks pregnant. She had two previous charges of drunk driving and was banned from driving for 9 months. Since her arrest, she is receiving counseling for her problem with misuse of alcohol, is having regular checkups with a physician, and is taking parenting courses.

<http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz/local/news/heavily-pregnant-woman-drove-drunk/3906973/>

## **FASD EVENTS**

### **Child Welfare League of America's Children 2010: Leading a New Era**

Washington, DC, January 24-27, 2010

This comprehensive child welfare conference has three workshops that address parental substance abuse. For additional information, please download the conference brochure at [http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2010\\_RegProg1.pdf](http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2010_RegProg1.pdf).

**31st Annual Training Institute: Behavioral Health and Addictive Disorders**

Clearwater, Florida, January 25-28, 2010

The 31st Annual Training Institute will cover behavioral health and addictions by using an integrated approach that considers the complex emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of each person. Issues that will be explored include trauma, neuroscience and therapy, anxiety and panic disorders, prescription drug abuse, sexuality, depression, nutrition and recovery, humor in recovery, ethics, and medical errors. For additional information, contact Lorrie Keip by telephone at (800) 851-9100, extension 220 or by e-mail at [lorriek@hcibooks.com](mailto:lorriek@hcibooks.com) or visit <http://www.usjt.com/bhad10>.

**Promising Practices, Promising Futures - Alberta Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Conference**

Calgary, Alberta, February 8-9, 2010

In this conference, representatives of the Government of Alberta will address conditions under the umbrella of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and their impact on persons, families, communities, and society. Special attention will be given to managing the stress of caregivers and professionals. The conference features Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire, Dr. Bruce Perry, and Dr. Mark Gold. For additional information, please contact Amanda Amyott at (780) 422-6494.

Approximately 23,000 Albertans are living with an FASD, and each year, an estimated 360 children are born with an FASD. That's why the Government of Alberta has invested nearly \$16.5 million in 2008-2009 for FASD programs and services. These funds support FASD-related initiatives across Alberta, including awareness and prevention, assessment and diagnosis, research, and support for individuals and caregivers.

A unique made-in-Alberta plan on FASD focuses on developing and delivering community-based solutions to make it easier for those affected by FASD to get the help they need, at any point in life. The goals are to help those affected by an FASD and to lower the number of babies born with an FASD.

The Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee was formed in 2002 from a partnership of government ministries and provincial and community organizations. This committee cooperates with provincial and community organizations and regional groups to provide a comprehensive coordinated provincial response to the challenges of FASD.

<http://www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca>

**Maternal Drug and Alcohol Misuse: Lasting Effects From Childhood to Adulthood**

London, England, February 9, 2010

This conference, which is sponsored by the National Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome of the United Kingdom, offers a number of expert international speakers. Professor Peter Hepper, Queens University, Belfast, will explain his film of the fetus under the influence of alcohol. Dr. Shane McKee, Belfast City Hospital, will discuss diagnosis of alcohol-related disorders. Professor Denis Viljoen, leading expert on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) from South Africa, where the incidence of FASD is the highest in the world, will discuss psychological behaviors in adolescents with an FASD. Dr. Therese Grant, from the Fetal Alcohol Unit at the University of

Washington will discuss interventions for adults with an FASD. Dr. Raja Mukherjee, the United Kingdom's expert on FASD, will review the psychology of FASD through the ages. For additional information, contact Chantel D'souz at 0208-458-5951 or visit <http://www.nofas-uk.org>.

**FASD: Into Action -Three-Day Training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**  
Portland, Oregon, February 25-28, 2010

This training provides information about FASD and the effects of alcohol and other drugs on the behavior of children, adolescents, and adults. Participants can learn about the status of research and an evidence-based, best practices approach. Case examples of successful diagnosis, treatment, and accommodation are central to this training. Diane V. Malbin is the training facilitator.

<http://www.nofas.org/events/event.aspx?ID=1724>