

Preface

This book represents the proceedings of a conference held in January 2015 entitled: *Evidence and Rationales for Comprehensive Models of Autism Spectrum Disorder Treatment: Divergence and Convergence*. The conference was a collaboration between the Council on Autism Services and the Autism Partnership, conceived to move forward a critical dialog on the state of autism services. The project spanned 2 years from inception to planning to execution. The conference was very successful and filled to capacity. Thus this was the motivation to bring the proceedings to those who were not fortunate enough to attend.

We have kept the language and tone of the proceedings faithful to the actual presentations. Some adjustment was required because video examples were used in some cases. We also have inserted references into the text although these were not all part of the actual presentations. We did this to allow the reader further resources as a substitute for the conversations that took place at the conference when attendees wished further information.

Of note, the presenters all shared their knowledge gratis—there were no speaker stipends or honoraria. They spoke because of their commitment to the field of autism spectrum disorder which in turn allowed us to produce a conference that did not present a financial barrier to those many individuals who wanted to attend. The detailed, innovative, evidence-based, and collegial presentations and discussions presented here represent a unique and much needed addition to the professional and consumer literature.

I wish to thank all of my colleagues at the Council on Autism Services (recently had a name change to Council of Autism Service Providers—CASP) and the Autism Partnership for supporting this effort, our speakers who gave so graciously of their time, knowledge, and expertise, and I also want to thank Dr. Rachel Cavalari who worked tirelessly with me to make the conference and the proceedings come to fruition.

Binghamton, NY

Raymond G. Romanczyk

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Treatment

Points of Divergence and Convergence

Romanczyk, R.G.; McEachin, J. (Eds.)

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