

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**F-12**

### **Autism Spectrum Disorders & Sexuality: Best Practices in Identifying Risky Sexual Behavior**

Kim Spence, PhD

UCF Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

Eric A. Imhof, PsyD

Specialized Treatment and Assessment Resources

Drawing on years of collective experience, the presenters will begin with an overview of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and typical sexual development at different stages from birth to adolescence. The presenters will identify clinical differences between clients with ASD who engage in normative sexual behaviors versus those who engage in inappropriate sexual behavior(s) of concern. Detailed information will be provided to assist attendees with the identification of maladaptive behavior frequently demonstrated by those with ASD that is a manifestation of their limited interest areas and/or restricted and repetitive behavioral characteristics, versus those with ASD and comorbid paraphilic disorder(s). Various case examples will be offered to assist participants in recognizing and differentiating between dangerous maladaptive sexual behavior(s) of concern versus behavior that is more likely a misunderstood expression of ASD. A particular emphasis will be placed on offering targeted suggestions to best educate parents, teachers, and treatment providers regarding these diagnoses and misperceptions related to risk, dangerousness, and effective intervention. Recommendations for thorough forensic assessments of individuals with ASD, including appropriate assessment tools to aid in differential diagnoses, risk assessment, and the identification of individual client needs will be discussed utilizing case examples.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Participants will recognize commonly identified sexually maladaptive behavior(s) by individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD); often related to the manifestation of limited interest areas and/or restricted and repetitive behavioral characteristics commonly associated with ASD.
- Participants will identify two highly-regarded, standardized assessment tools for the assessment and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders (ASD).
- Participants will learn how to effectively make diagnostic and treatment determinations for clients with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who demonstrate sexually maladaptive behavior related to the manifestation of limited interest areas and/or restricted and repetitive behavioral characteristics commonly associated with ASD versus those with ASD who also have a comorbid paraphilic disorder(s).

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Dr. Kim Spence** has served as the *Coordinator of Educational and Training Programs* for the *Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)* at the *University of Central Florida (UCF)* since 1999. In 2000, Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized sexuality education training for parents, teachers, and care providers of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. She has lectured nationally about creating visual supports, discriminating between maladaptive sexual behaviors versus mental health issues, and specialized educational and behavioral interventions to support healthy sexual knowledge for individuals with ASD across the life-span. In 2001, Dr. Spence developed and began providing specialized training about autism and intellectual impairments with an emphasis on inappropriate social and sexual behaviors for emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, the criminal justice system, and public defender's offices across Florida. She has trained numerous law enforcement officers from all 67 districts within the state of Florida; provides training for the Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Schools in all regions of Florida; and has provided training nationally regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Cognitive Impairments for the federal public defender's office, mitigation specialists, and capital defense teams. Dr. Spence is an appointed Advisory Board Member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Advisory Board and has served as a national consultant and expert witness to state and federal public defenders regarding autism spectrum disorders and sexual behavior problems. In addition to her job at the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities, Dr. Spence is a member of the Project Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Grant Advisory Committee at UCF; an adjunct instructor for both the College of Education and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at UCF; serves as a consulting editor for the journal *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)*; and serves on the editorial review board of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation (JVR)*.

**Dr. Eric Imhof** began treating, evaluating, and studying typologies of sexual offenders in 1993 as a therapist/case manager in a large juvenile sex offender treatment program in Virginia. In 1996, he received his doctorate in clinical psychology and was certified as a Sex Offender Treatment Provider in 1998. In 1999, Dr. Imhof accepted a position as the director of a Juvenile Justice Level 8 program for sexual offenders in Florida and one year later established *Specialized Treatment and Assessment Resources*. For the past 18 years Dr. Imhof has served as a forensic examiner and expert witness for the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Program and federal and local courts with a specialty focus on internet and child pornography offenders. In 2013, after having undergone extensive training in the assessment of ASD, including the ADOS-2, Dr. Imhof began working on specialized cases involving comorbid cases of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Paraphilias. He has previously maintained an appointment as an Assistant Professor with Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia and has served as a consultant to a number of mental health organizations. In 2005, he was appointed by Florida's Governor Bush to the Task Force on Juvenile Sexual Offenders and their Victims and, in 2007, he served as chair of the Department of Juvenile Justice Sex Offender Workgroup which focused on implementing

## ***BETTER TOGETHER***

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

the recommendations of the Task Force. He has lectured to legislators, judges, attorneys, probation officers, and mental health professionals on topics including sex-offender diagnosis, treatment, and risk assessment and advocates for empirically-based sex offender laws and policies with Florida legislators, particularly regarding child pornography offenders. Dr. Imhof is a member in good standing with the American Psychological Association (APA), the Florida Psychological Association (FPA), and the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), having served as the co-chair of the 2008 annual ATSA conference. He has served on the board of the Florida ATSA (FATSA) chapter since February 2004, serving as the President from 2007 to 2010 and was reelected to serve an additional two terms from 2013 to 2019.