

Supporting Children with Disabilities: Lessons from the Pandemic, A Workshop

Committee

Amy Houtrow

Chair

Amy Houtrow, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. (Chair) is a professor of physical medicine & rehabilitation and pediatrics and the Endowed Chair for Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where she also serves as the Vice Chair for Quality. She is the director of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program at the University of Pittsburgh. For the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Dr. Houtrow serves as the Chief of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine and Neuropsychology. Her research focuses on health care access and outcomes for children with disabilities with special emphasis on health equity. She has authored over 130 manuscripts, written and edited textbooks, developed training programs for physicians and other health care professionals, and serves as a leader for numerous foundations and academic societies. In 2018 she was elected into the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Houtrow was honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children with Disabilities with their lifetime achievement award in 2019, by the Academic Pediatric Association with their Health Care Delivery Award in 2020 and by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine with their Women in Rehabilitation Award, also in 2020.

Emily Hotez

Member

Emily Hotez, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and developmental psychology researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. She currently serves on the leadership team of the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health, a 15-million-dollar HRSA award focused on promoting the physical health of autistic individuals. In this role, she designed and recruited the first-ever Autistic Researcher Review Board in a national research network. Dr. Hotez's research focuses on chronic stress: persistent and cumulative stressful experiences over the life course, including lifelong stigma and marginalization across interpersonal, educational, and healthcare contexts. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified health disparities for individuals with disabilities due to chronic stress and much of her work over the past year responded to these disparities. She served as the Principal Investigator on two consecutive AUCD-CDC-funded grants to understand these disparities and identify strategies for supporting those with multiple marginalized intersectional identities. Dr. Hotez received her B.A. in psychology from George Washington University and her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. As a sister of an autistic adult, she is committed to research that ameliorates disparities for individuals with disabilities.

Chanda Jones

Member

Chanda Jones serves as the Senior Case Coordinator for the Jacksonville Health and Transition Services program at UF Health Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida. Chanda has the honor and privilege daily to serve youth and young adults with special health care needs. The opportunity fuels her ongoing passion for advocacy for disability policy and social justice and welfare. Her primary role is to support, educate and identify non-medical services to assist youth and young adults with special health care needs and their families. Chanda has executive committee membership roles with two statewide initiatives that support empowering youth and young adults with special health care needs and their families (Florida Family Leadership Network and Children's Medical Services Transition Work Group). In, April 2018 she completed her Bachelor of Art in Sociology (concentration in Social Welfare), minor in Psychology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, FL.

Yetta Myrick

Member

Yetta Myrick is the mother of a young adult diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability. She is the Founder and President of DC Autism Parents, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the District of Columbia (DC), where she oversees daily operations and has created programs for children and youth diagnosed with autism and their families. Ms. Myrick has served as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Act Early Ambassador to Washington, DC, since 2016. She is leading the DC Act Early COVID-19 Response Team Project funded by the CDC and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. In 2019, she was appointed by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser to serve as a member of the DC Developmental Disabilities Council and is a member of the Got Transition® National Family Health Care Transition Advisory Group. Ms. Myrick holds a B.A. in Communication Studies from the Catholic University of America.

Natasha M. Strassfeld

Member

Natasha Strassfeld, Ph.D., J.D. is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the Department of Special Education at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research examines the ways in which parents navigate the special education and accommodations processes via legal and policy mechanisms, racial/ethnic disparities in how students are (mis)identified for special education placements and services, and special education and related services within the juvenile justice system. Her work has been generously funded by the Spencer Foundation and by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She obtained her J.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Law and her Ph.D. in Special Education from Pennsylvania State University.

Marc J. Tassé

Member

Marc J. Tassé, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Department of Psychology and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at The Ohio State University. He is also the Director of the Ohio State Nisonger Center, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Tassé has more than 30 years of experience in conducting research and providing clinical services in the field of intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, and related neurodevelopmental disorders, with a focus on the assessment and intervention of co-occurring mental/behavioral health concerns, supporting individuals with disabilities and their families, and diagnostic issues. His publications include 165+ articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and books. He has been recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Exceptional Service Award: 2021, 2011, 2009 & 2007), the American Psychological Association (Division 33: 2017 John W. Jacobson Award for “meritorious contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities in an area related to behavioral psychology, evidence-based practice, dual diagnosis or public policy”), and for his contributions to the field of IDD in the U.S. (National Historic Recognition Project: 2000-2020). Dr. Tassé is a past President of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (2012-2013).

Amanda Grigg

Staff Officer