

Meet us in MIAMI!

CHADD Conference Preview
by Patricia L. Harman



CHADD'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE brings together members of the scientific community, educators, physicians and researchers, as well as parents of children with AD/HD and adults with the disorder. It provides a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, gather insights into treatment advances and learn about the latest developments involving AD/HD worldwide.

Sam Goldstein, Ph.D., has addressed every conference for the past 13 years. He is a psychologist specializing in the areas of school psychology, child development and neuropsychology, and a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Adjunct Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah. *Attention!* recently had a chance to ask him for his insights on how the conference has changed, why it's important for people to attend and the major issues facing individuals with AD/HD.

What major changes have you seen?

The conference has gotten larger, more international and now has a lifespan focus. The more germane question, however, is what changes haven't I seen? What I haven't seen happen is for the

Opposite. Serving as conference headquarters, the Fontainebleau Hilton (shown in the foreground) sits on 20 lush tropical acres along the Florida shoreline. Miami Beach is more than just sandy beaches and sparkling ocean. It is the nation's largest historic district, with first-rate cultural venues and an international mix of residents and visitors.

One-on-One with Dr. Sam Goldstein



Dr. Sam Goldstein

conference to become obscure, obtuse and to lose its focus of what a conference that brings together parents, professionals and affected individuals can do to share ideas and contribute to the efficient transmission of scientific knowledge on AD/HD to clinical practice.

What are the major reasons individuals with AD/HD or parents of children with AD/HD should attend?

My philosophy has always been that if I, as a parent, attend a meeting or read a book, and can take away one good idea I can begin using with my children, my time is well spent. In my experience, parents of children with AD/HD who attend this national conference take away many, many practical ideas.



How does this conference differ from some of the others offering information on AD/HD?

This conference is directed at parents, as well as professionals. It is the only national conference that brings parents and professionals together in the same room. It is beneficial for both parties.

What speaker or conference-related event has made the most unforgettable impression?

Bob Brooks' keynotes are my most memorable experiences at the conference.

What do you find most beneficial in attending each conference?

I always learn something new, even given my background and level of experience.

What should attendees expect from a CHADD conference, and what can they do to prepare for the event?

Participants should expect to hear new information, as well as information with practical utility. If they plan on attending more advanced conferences, they should do some reading on the subjects before they attend.



Are there other topics you would like to see covered?

I would like to see an increased and continuing interest in a strength-based model to treat AD/HD [in addition to] simply focusing on symptom relief.

Do you find that each conference offers new and updated information?

Each conference offers something new. That's why I keep attending.

What is your overall view of the CHADD conference?

It is my opinion that the CHADD National Conference internationally represents the most respected conference on the subject.

What do you project will be the biggest draw to the conference or what's the "buzz" about AD/HD in both the medical and political arenas?

The buzz at the conference this year will be concerns about how services for children with AD/HD will be affected by changes in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in the United States [see related article on page 17]. Another topic is how the field is going to deal with the increase in the advertising of stimulants to the general public, which at this point is causing a backlash in effectively treating the condition. To say the least, it is confusing [for] parents. ■



CHADD Conference Preview

Practical Suggestions for Navigating the Conference



CHADD's 14th Annual Conference will be held from October 17–19, 2002, in Miami Beach, Florida, at the Fontainebleau Hilton. Here are just a few of the highlights planned for this fall's event, as well as suggestions for how you can maximize your time at the conference.

Plenary speakers

■ Plenary speakers include Peter Jensen, M.D., Karl Dennis and Thomas Brown, Ph.D.

New sessions this year

- Support for Single Parents of Children with AD/HD.
- New Medication Update will focus on one of the most successful treatments for AD/HD.
- Advice from the Real Experts on AD/HD—a panel of teenagers with AD/HD will discuss how AD/HD has affected their lives and will provide strategies that have helped them to compensate for this challenging condition.
- Some sessions will be presented in Spanish.
- Some of the most popular sessions that are presented in English will be translated into Spanish.

Special Events

- Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Reception*
 - Lunch with CHADD's Board of Directors*
 - Taste of Miami Reception
 - Tour of Miami
- * indicates complimentary with paid registration

Why you should attend

■ Education—You will learn about the newest treatments and the most recent findings in the fields of medicine, psychi-

atry and education. The sessions are designated for parents, teachers, physicians, educators, psychologists, nurses, social workers and attorneys.

- Opportunity—You will have many opportunities for support and to network with peers.
- Location—It's a great opportunity to visit Miami Beach.

Breakout sessions and topics

This year's focus will be on the collaboration of professionals and families. Many of the sessions will reflect the partnership between healthcare providers, educators and families. It will also include a celebration of CHADD's 15-year anniversary—a retrospective view from then until now.

There will be more than 100 sessions; topics on life span issues ranging from preschoolers through adulthood; multi-modal treatments; coexisting conditions; cultural diversity; pre-conference institutes designed for healthcare professionals, educators, attorneys, legal advocates, pharmacists, parents and adults with AD/HD.

In addition, over 100 exhibits are expected with products and services to support the AD/HD community. Attendees will see product demonstrations, meet suppliers who will offer their best rates and other incentives and, the CHADD Shoppe will offer educational materials, including tapes of previous conferences, current conference tapes, books and much more!

Advance preparation

Select your first and second choices for each time slot prior to the conference. Program descriptions are available in the preliminary program (see the insert in the center of this issue of *Attention!*).

While attending the conference, if a session does not meet your expectations, feel free to leave and attend another. If sessions conflict with others of interest to you, audio and videotapes will be available for purchase. The program book distributed on site will include the speakers' handouts. Please refer to these explanations as you attend the sessions, and bring a pen for note taking.

Take the opportunity to meet with other attendees at the networking sessions, during breaks and lunches, and at social events. Your peers often have great tips that work for them.

Reduce time spent in registration lines by picking up your registration packet upon arrival at the hotel, rather than the morning prior to the sessions. Pre-registering will also reduce waiting time in the registration line. Familiarize yourself with the hotel layout (included in the program book) and know the locations of your sessions. For the best seats, plan to arrive a little early. ■

Additional information is included in the insert located in the center of this issue or by visiting the CHADD website at www.chadd.org.