

## **Spectrum Services Fall Presentations**

*A series of morning workshops by Mary Riggs Cohen, Ph.D  
Licensed Psychologist and Author of Social Literacy*

### **9/30/10 9am-12pm Internet Use and ASD: Perils, Pitfalls & Prevention**

*The internet can be a wonderful tool or a minefield of danger to those on the spectrum who are particularly vulnerable. Problematic behaviors including cyber-bullying, gaming addiction, pornography addiction, file sharing and child pornography, internet scams and social networking safety will be addressed. The presentation will include identification of problem behavior and prevention strategies.*

### **10/14/10 9am-12pm Using Neuroscience to Improve Social Skills\***

*Specific brain structures are involved in social behavior and the development of empathy. Observation, imitation and generalization of social behavior are critical to improve socialization skills and social relatedness. This workshop provides practical information to those working with ASD individuals on how they can facilitate social awareness and social skills acquisition. Software and new technologies will also be presented, particularly addressing its use in building social skills as well as providing framework from which to understand one's own mind as well as the thoughts and feelings of others.*

### **11/18/10 9am-12pm The ASD College Experience**

*College students with ASD face a number of challenges in postsecondary education. Independent living, the loss of structure, dorm life, and social pressures can be extremely stressful. While many colleges and universities are providing specialized support programs, it is important to consider the campus climate, program philosophy, and accommodations available when choosing a school. This presentation will discuss identifying and obtaining appropriate documentation of disability. Strategies to decrease stress and find social networks on campus will be discussed.*

## **12/16/10 9am-12pm Learning Differences and the ASD Student\***

*The ASD brain processes information differently and consequently requires an understanding of this unique learning style for educational programming. This workshop provides a neuropsychological approach to issues frequently seen in ASD students including nonverbal learning disability, weak central coherence, superior rote memory, executive functioning deficits and poor contextual integration. Many students on the spectrum are artistic or musically gifted and may learn best using nontraditional modalities. Suggestions for implementation of learning strategies based on neuropsychological results will be presented.*

**\* Workshop is designed for mental health professionals and educators**

**LOCATION:** *Spectrum Services 303 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 1003,  
New York, NY*

**COST:** **\$ 100 per workshop (Please call 267-242-8097 to register)**

**Mary Riggs Cohen, Ph.D.** has thirty-two years of experience working with children, adolescents, adults and their families. She has worked in the field of autism spectrum disorders for fourteen years and specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Currently licensed in Pennsylvania and New York, she provides individual therapy, family therapy and social skills training groups for adolescents and adults. Her additional training is in neuropsychological assessment and she provides neuropsychological evaluations for ASD individuals to better understand their unique cognitive profile and assist in educational and vocational planning. Dr. Cohen is a consultant to several schools/autism programs and assists with the special educational programming needs of ASD students. She is a clinical consultant to the Coffeehouse Center of Bucks County which provides support for young adults with Asperger's and Pervasive Developmental Disorder/NOS. As an Associate Professor in the Social Learning Disorders Program of the Penn Psychiatry Department, she developed the Social Skills Seminar for adults with autism spectrum disorders. It has been featured in the NY Times and on National Public Radio. Dr. Cohen has been a faculty member of Holy Family University in the graduate counseling psychology program and the University of Pennsylvania Department of Psychiatry. She is a frequent presenter at autism organizations, colleges and universities, and conferences in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. She is the author of *Social Literacy: A Guide to Social Skills Seminars for Young Adults with ASD, NLD and Social Anxiety* (available in November, 2010). Dr. Cohen is an associate of Spectrum Services, a cooperative of independent practices in Manhattan.