

## **Biographies of Symposium Speakers**

### **Doreen Granpeesheh, Ph.D., B.C.B.A.**

Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Granpeesheh has devoted over 30 years to the study and treatment of autism spectrum disorder and is recognized as a leading expert in the field. Dr. Granpeesheh earned her PhD in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is a licensed psychologist in California, Texas, Arizona and Virginia, as well as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Dr. Granpeesheh is a pioneer in the field of autism treatment and recovery and also a very active member of the autism community. With endless endurance and a resilient spirit, Dr. Granpeesheh leads educational efforts for parents, teachers, and healthcare providers, takes part in conferences, and joins in walks and other efforts to promote awareness of autism spectrum disorder and the resources available to treat it.

### **Susan Y. Bookheimer, Ph.D.**

Dr. Susan Bookheimer holds the Joaquin Fuster Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and is a Professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Department of Psychology, where she is director of the Staglin IMHRO Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. She is a clinical neuropsychologist whose work has spanned both basic research and clinical practice. Dr. Bookheimer's autism research program uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to try to understand what differences in brain function give rise to the major symptoms of autism, especially in language, social communication, joint attention, and emotion, and integrates imaging with genetics to understand how autism risk genes alter the trajectory of abnormal brain development in autism. Dr. Bookheimer is the Principal Investigator of the UCLA Autism Center of Excellence. Dr. Bookheimer received her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in 1988.

### **Liane Holliday Willey, Ed.D.**

Professor Liane Holliday Willey, who holds a doctorate in psycholinguistics, was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome when she was 35 years old. Since her diagnosis, Liane has focused her academic research on female's with Asperger Syndrome and communication skills for people on the spectrum. Liane is the author of the new book *Safety Skills for Asperger Women: How to Save a Perfectly Good Female Life*, and the author of the international bestselling books *Pretending to be Normal: Living with Aspergers Syndrome*, *Asperger Syndrome in Adolescence: Living with the Ups, the Downs and Things in Between*, *Asperger Syndrome in the Family: Redefining Normal*. She is also the Senior Editor of *Autism Spectrum Quarterly*, a blogger for *Psychology Today* and a consultant with B.R.A.I.N.S. – the Behavioral Resources and Institute for Neuropsychological Services. Liane has been featured in *USA Today*, *The Associated Press*, *The New York Times*, *The LA Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Autism One Radio*, *Oxygen TV*,

several NPR stations and many other media outlets. Professor Willey received her Ed.D. from Mississippi State University in 1988. Though Professor Willey loves helping others understand Asperger Syndrome, her professional employment happens at Kirkshire Farm, an equestrian facility she owns and operates.