



SPEAKER BIOS



Brief Biography-Mary Claire Heffron, PhD

Mary Claire Heffron is the clinical director of the Early Childhood Mental Health Training Programs) in the Early Intervention Services (EIS) Unit at Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. In that capacity she is involved in supervision, teaching, and program development. She is the clinical director of Oakland's Fussy Baby Program and is active as a trainer in the national Fussy Baby Network of programs. In addition she provides leadership for the Irving B. Harris Early Childhood Mental Health Training Program. Dr. Heffron is a former Zero To Three Mid-Career Fellow and a recipient of the Infant Development Association of California's Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Heffron is a co-author of *Reflective Supervision and Leadership in Infant and Early Childhood Programs* published by Zero to Three press, December 2010 and a DVD series on *Reflective Supervision* entitled *Finding the Words, Finding the Ways* 2012 (cacenter-ecmh.org). Dr. Heffron has worked closely with the California Center in the development and dissemination of the *Infant Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Training Guidelines and Personnel Competencies* and the accompanying endorsement system. She is currently involved in a county wide infant mental health training program in Monterey County.

Connie Lillas, PhD

Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN is a National Graduate Zero to Three Leadership Fellow and an infant mental health and early intervention specialist with a background in maternal-child nursing, family systems, and developmental psychoanalysis. With a specialty in birth-to-five year olds and their parents, she runs a full-time private practice and sees clients across the lifecycle. Dr. Lillas' specialty is in complex cases of co-morbidity from both mental health and developmental delay domains. In addition, she trains locally, nationally, and internationally on the Neurorelational Framework (NRF, 2009) based upon her co-authored book. Connie, in her pro bono community work, serves as the Court Team Liaison for a birth-to-three Fostering Family Partnerships pilot in South Central Los Angeles, holding the most high-risk population of infants and parents in LA.

Valerie A. Batts, PhD

Dr. Batts is the Executive Director and Co-founder of VISIONS, Inc. She leads the consultation and training components of the company. Author of *Modern Racism: New Melody for the Same Old Tune*, and *Is Reconciliation Possible: Lessons from Combating Modern Racism*, Dr. Batts has written extensively on modern racism and multicultural organizational change strategies. She is the originator of the VISIONS training model and experiential workshops.

Dr. Batts earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Duke University and is a licensed clinical psychologist. She earned a BA in psychology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2006, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Ma. Since 1976, she has provided multicultural education and change strategies to human service providers, educators, community leaders, youth, young adults and managers in a

variety of settings. Working both nationally and internationally, Dr. Batts supports people and organizations in developing and maintaining environments that recognize, understand, respect, appreciate and utilize differences.

Robert W. Block, MD, FAAP

Dr. Robert Block is Professor and Daniel C. Plunket Chair, Department of Pediatrics, The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Tulsa Campus. He specializes in child abuse pediatrics. Dr. Block received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and completed his pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has been a member of the O.U. College of Medicine faculty since 1975. As a faculty member, Dr. Block has been nominated for the Aesculapian teaching award six times, winning on three occasions. Dr. Block has been awarded the prestigious Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award, a University of Oklahoma Presidential Professorship, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Parker J. Palmer "Courage to Teach" Award, the Ray E. Helfer Award, in recognition of his work in the field of child abuse, and the Award for Outstanding Service to Maltreated Children by the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2001 and subsequently, he has been named one of the "Best Doctors in America." He was appointed the first Chair of the newly formed sub-board on Child Abuse Pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics in 2006.

Dr. Block is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a past president of the Oklahoma Chapter, and former member and chair of the Academy's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. He is a former member and chair of the United States' Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines. Dr. Block is the current President Elect for the relatively new national organization focused on increasing health care professionals' education, and academic research, on the health effects of violence and abuse, the Academy on Violence and Abuse(AVA).

Dr. Block was appointed Oklahoma's first Chief Child Abuse Examiner in 1989, and he continues to serve in that capacity. He is a member and past Chair of the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board. He is a member of the medical team for the Tulsa Children's Justice Center, and serves as a past president and continuing member of the board of directors for the Child Abuse Network, Inc. Dr. Block is a member of the Tulsa County District Attorney's Task Force on Crimes against Children.

Dr. Block has authored several papers and a textbook, and has delivered over 1,000 public presentations.

Rosemary White, OTR/L

Rosemary is the owner and director of Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy Services. Rosemary's work empowers parents in their interactions with their child using the DIR®/Floortime model with emphasis on understanding the individual profile of the child including sensory processing, emotional regulation and postural organization. The focus of her work is on how these factors impact relationships.

Rosemary is very invested in wooing therapists to work with her who have a desire to embrace this style of treatment. She is very active in mentoring therapists while at the same time encouraging them to continue to grow and broaden their areas of expertise.

Rosemary lectures nationally and internationally, provides consultation and mentoring.

Ruby Salazar, L.C.S.W., B.C.D. – Clinical Social Work

Ruby Salazar is the Director and Senior Clinician at Salazar Associates in Clarks Summit and Philadelphia offices in PA. She serves as faculty at Marywood University and Keystone College; the Institute for Children and Infants, and The Napa Valley Infant Mental Health Program, the DIR[®] Institute which she joined in 1999, and now the Profectum Foundation. Ms. Salazar has dedicated her efforts to infants and children in PA at every front. She is the Pennsylvania Coordinator for Touchpoints; Founding Member of the Pennsylvania Autism Taskforce and on the Pennsylvania's Autism Diagnosis and Assessment Workgroup ~ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Ms. Salazar also serves as a consultant to the Bucks County Assessment Model Project and to The Arc of Montgomery County Children's Services Early Intervention DIR[®] Model Project. In addition, she consults to various Pennsylvania and New Jersey Public School Districts.

Kristie Brandt, CNM, MSN, DNP

Dr. Brandt is an internationally known teacher, trainer, clinician, and consultant. She is Director of the Parent-Infant & Child Institute in Napa, CA that provides clinical services for children age 0-5, consultation for parents and providers, and professional training. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at U.C. Davis School of Medicine where she works in clinics for children with feeding disorders and mental health symptoms. Dr. Brandt was Chief Public Health Manager for Napa County Public Health and retired after 25 years of overseeing Maternal-Child Health and other public health services. She developed the Napa Therapeutic Child Care Center, has implemented and researched nurse home visiting models, and co-developed and directs the 15-month UMass Boston Infant-Parent Mental Health Post-Graduate Certificate Program in Napa, CA that has been training IFECMH professionals since 2002. She is a Child Trauma Academy Fellow with Dr. Bruce Perry, and lectured nationally and internationally with Dr. Berry Brazelton on the National Seminar Series for 15 years. Dr. Brandt is author of the book *“Facilitating the Reflective Process: An Introductory Workbook for the Infant-Parent & Early Childhood Mental Health Field”* and lead editor of *“Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health: Core Concepts & Clinical Application”* published by the American Psychiatric Press, 2013. She coordinates the Napa Touchpoints Project, is an NCAST Instructor, a reflective practice trainer and facilitator, certified nurse-midwife, and a nurse practitioner. She holds both a Masters in nursing and a Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Brandt is endorsed in California as an Infant-Family & Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and as a Reflective Practice Facilitator III/Mentor.

Barbara Stroud, Ph.D.

Dr. Stroud is a licensed clinical psychologist, ZERO TO THREE Graduate Fellow, an infant mental health specialist, and a private trainer and consultation. She holds endorsement status in California, under the Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health, as a Mental Health Specialist and a Reflective Practice Facilitator Level III. Dr. Stroud received her Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology from Nova Southeastern University and has over 20 years of experience providing training in the early childhood, child development, and mental health arenas. Her professional path has included Preschool Director, Non-Public School Administrator, Director of Early Intervention Programs, Early Intervention Training Program Manager, Faculty and Lecturer at the Graduate University level, and Reflective Supervision Trainer. She has worked closely with and/or provides trainings across multiple professional sectors that support children and families including: Primary Care, Mental Health, Early Care and Education, Early Intervention (part C), Head Start and Early Head Start, Child Protective Service, Dependency Court Lawyers, and Caregivers. Annually Dr. Stroud provides training for up to 1,500 professionals that touch the lives of children and families.

Dr. Stroud is an accomplished speaker, trainer, and program consultant. She has presented or has been accepted to present at numerous local, state, national, and international conferences with organizations such as American Psychological Association, Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health Conference, Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference, Western Psychological Association, American Evaluation Association, ZERO TO THREE's National Training Institute, and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Most notably, in September 2007, Dr. Stroud was invited to speak in Cape Town, South Africa on her innovative models to address the needs of at-risk infants through home-based attachment promotion models.

Dr. Stroud is highly regarded for her innovative service delivery models, which have won national awards. She has been a key player in the inception and implementation of cutting edge service delivery to children 0-5 and their families. For more the 15 years, Dr. Stroud has worked largely with severely emotionally disturbed children in largely urban communities. She is highly outspoken regarding the unique needs of children of color in the mental health and foster care systems. She has worked in conjunction with the Los Angeles County's mental health department to create service programs that support the infant mental health goals of relationship-based services, honoring cultural difference and supporting community based work, all within the context of a government contract system. Embedded in all of her trainings, service models, and consultation practices are the principles of reflective supervision and honoring cultural uniqueness.

Dr. Stroud is the author of *"How to Measure a Relationship: A Practical Approach to Dyadic Interventions"*, published in 2012.