



T R I S O M Y 2 1
Down Syndrome in the 21st Century

2010 SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

2010 T21 SPEAKERS

Anne Bernay



Ms. Bernay is President and Co-Founder of Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome (GCLFEDS), a non-profit organization founded in 2007 that provides support to individuals with Down syndrome and their families and promotes inclusion, acceptance and understanding of individuals with Down syndrome in the community. Ms. Bernay joined the Board of Directors of the Down Syndrome Association of Houston shortly after the birth of her son, Peter, who has Down syndrome and served as a Director and Officer for four years. She founded GCLFEDS with three other parents in 2007 to provide support and resources on the south and east sides of Houston. Ms. Bernay speaks to parents, medical professionals, churches, educators and community organizations to educate them on topics in the areas of special education, delivery of diagnoses, and social inclusion. She holds a B.S. in Engineering (Chemical Engineering) from the University of Michigan. Ms. Bernay has authored several articles and assisted in producing a DVD in association with Father's Joy entitled *Living with Down Syndrome: Turning Fear into Hope*.

Bridget Brown



Miss Brown is a young woman with Down syndrome who inspires everyone she meets. She is a popular keynote speaker because she encourages people to DWELL IN THE POSSIBILITIES. She was the first person with a disability included in her school district and is a strong advocate of inclusion. She works

for a grant through the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities and works with high school students with disabilities teaching self determination and self directed IEPs. Bridget has been trained as a PATH/MAP facilitator with Managing the Art of Living and she is a graduate of the STARS advocacy program through the ARC of Illinois. Bridget is a National Public speaker and has her own advocacy organization called Butterflies for Change. She also presents many workshops with her mother, Nancy Brown, specializing in self directed IEPs, adaptations and accommodations, diversity & disability awareness and advocacy. Bridget just received the Association of University Centers on Disabilities 2009 National Leadership in Advocacy Award in recognition of her contributions to the Association and the disabilities field.

Nancy Brown



Ms. Brown is an inclusion consultant for the Illinois State Board of Education and a private consultant with PATHFINDERS consulting services. She is a strong advocate of inclusion and has worked with many school districts to help facilitate district wide systems change. She provides technical assistance to districts, schools, teachers, and families. Nancy has worked with persons with disabilities for over 30 years in many different arenas. She co-presents with her daughter Bridget, who has Down syndrome, and was the first person to be included in her school district. Nancy was an active facilitator of her daughter's inclusive education. Nancy specializes in inclusive education; person centered planning, adaptations and accommodations, parent issues, inclusive models of supports in schools and in the community, organizational development, transition and access and equity for all students. Nancy's training includes: Cognitive Coaching, the Green Circle Program, Character Counts, MAPS & PATHS, and The National Coalition Building Institute training.

Ellen M. Friedman, MD, FAAP, FACS



Dr. Friedman is Chief of the Pediatric Otolaryngology Service, the Speech Pathology Section, and the Otolaryngology Clinic. She is a Pediatric Otolaryngologist and a Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. Her specialties include audiology and otolaryngology (ears, nose, throat). Dr. Friedman is certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and in Head & Neck Surgery. Her degrees include a B.S. from Boston University and a M.D. from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She holds the following positions/memberships: President 1998-1999 - American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology; Member - American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery; Program Committee – Women in Otolaryngology – Triological Southern Section; Director – American Board of Otolaryngology; Representative for Otolaryngology – RRC; Associate Editor for Pediatric Otolaryngology – Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Journal.

Joanie Garro, MA, BCBA, CT



Ms. Garro has worked with individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities for over 23 years. She holds a Master's degree in psychology from the Applied Behavior Analysis program at the University of Houston Clear Lake and a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. Joanie has worked as a special education teacher in public school, an early intervention specialist with ECI, a rehabilitation specialist for adults with head injuries, a consultant to schools and corporations, a private therapist and family coach. She received Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2005 and Clear Creek ISD Special Ed. Teacher of the Year in 2007. She is the creator and director of Film Club--an inclusive social skills training program—and on the Board of Directors for Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome. As a

sibling of 2 brothers, one with autism and one with Down syndrome, she enjoys sharing her passion about educating and advocating for individuals with different abilities.

Nirupama Madduri, MD



Nirupama Madduri, M.D, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Developmental Medicine at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. She previously served as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Developmental Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She received her medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in Missouri. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Marshall University School of Medicine, in Huntington, West Virginia and a fellowship in developmental pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

George B. Mallory, Jr., M.D.



Dr. Mallory is Assistant Director of the Pediatric Lung Transplantation Program. He is a Pediatric Pulmonologist and Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. His specialties include asthma, cystic fibrosis, lung transplant, and pulmonary medicine. Dr. Mallory is certified by the American Board of Pediatric Pulmonology, the American Board of Pediatrics, Subspecialty in Pediatric Pulmonology, and the National Board of Medical Examiners. His degrees include a B.A. from Harvard College and a M.D. from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Mallory is a member of the American Thoracic Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation.

Kathryn K. Ostermaier, M.D., F.A.A.P.



Dr. Ostermaier is Clinic Chief for the Down Syndrome Clinic of Houston as well as the Texas Children's Spina Bifida Clinic. She is a Developmental Pediatrician and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Ostermaier is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. Her degrees include a B.S. from Texas A&M University and a M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine.

Jeanine Pinner

Ms. Pinner is the Training & Outreach Coordinator for Texas Parent to Parent, a nonprofit organization created by parents for families of children with disabilities, chronic illness and other special needs throughout the state of Texas. Ms Pinner provides training to parents and professionals on health care issues and other topics through the Family to Family Health Information Center. Jeanine and her husband have two children. The youngest has autism.

Christopher Scott



Mr. Scott is a graduate of Houston Community College and has been a teaching assistant at the Rise School of Houston for the past seven years. Mr. Scott, who has Down syndrome, has risen to a position in life that exemplifies dedication and passion and he uses his position at Rise daily to inspire fellow staff members, parents, and children with and without disabilities. In 2007, Mr. Scott co-starred in the movie "My Brother", playing the part of an adult with Down syndrome who inspires his adult brother to "do the right thing." The film won the juried award for best picture at the Black Film Festival and Mr. Scott was awarded the Founders Award for Outstanding Achievement in Independent Cinema for his role in the film. Mr. Scott was also honored by the Robert Horry Foundation as a "Hero" for his work at Rise, in

the community, and in film. Recently, Mr. Scott has filmed public service announcements for the National Down Syndrome Congress.

Brian Skotko, MD, MPP



Dr. Skotko is a clinical fellow in genetics at Children's Hospital Boston, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Brigham & Women's Hospital. He has dedicated his professional energies toward children with cognitive and development disabilities. He is one of the specialists in the Down Syndrome Program at Children's Hospital Boston. In 2001 he co-authored the national award-winning book, *Common Threads: Celebrating Life with Down Syndrome* and, most recently, *Fasten Your Seatbelt: A Crash Course on Down Syndrome for Brothers and Sisters*. He is a graduate of Duke University, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Skotko recently authored major research on how physicians deliver a diagnosis of Down syndrome to new and expectant parents. He has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The L.A. Times*, NPR's *On Point*, and ABC's *Good Morning America*. Brian serves on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, the National Down Syndrome Society, and Band of Angels Foundation. He further serves on the Professional Advisory Council to the National Down Syndrome Congress.

Jan Stailey



Ms. Stailey is Director of The Rise School of Houston. She has a Bachelors degree in Early and Middle Childhood Education from Ohio State University and a Masters degree in Education with a certification in special education from The University of Houston at Clear Lake. Additional certifications include: Educational Diagnostician, Supervision in both regular and special education and mid-management. She has experience in education as a teacher, educational diagnostician, director of an early childhood

center, and central office administrator, facilitating staff development sessions in early literacy education and technology for students with special needs.

Kristin K. Tassin



Ms. Tassin is Director and Co-Founder of Father’s Joy, a charitable organization that provides positive support and information to parents and prospective parents of children with disabilities, and is Managing Member of Dry & Tassin, P.L.L.C. Ms. Tassin has been an attorney for over 13 years, specializing in intellectual property litigation and special education law and advocacy.

In 2003, after her first daughter, Abigail, was born with Down syndrome, Ms. Tassin and her husband, Shannon, founded Father’s Joy in an effort to offer positive support and information to families. Ms. Tassin provides legal clinics, CLE presentations, and advocacy and education workshops for parents, attorneys, medical professionals and educators in the areas of special education law and advocacy, delivery of diagnoses, inclusive education and the IEP process. Her degrees include a B.S. in Quantitative Business Analysis – Computer Science and a J.D., both from Louisiana State University. She is licensed in Texas and Louisiana and is a member of several professional associations including the Houston Bar Association, Houston Intellectual Property Law Association, Texas Women Lawyers Association, Professional Women’s Fellowship, Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), and she is a graduate of Texas Partners in Policymaking. Ms. Tassin has authored and co-authored several publications related to her workshops and produced a DVD in association with Greater Clear Lake Families Exploring Down Syndrome entitled *Living with Down syndrome: Turning Fear into Hope*.

Lori S. Wyatt



Ms. Wyatt is a graduate of the University of Houston, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. After working in the communications field for one year, she decided to pursue her teaching certification. She began teaching in 1994 and held several leadership positions as a classroom teacher. While teaching, she also worked for a national publishing company as a consultant and presenter. Desiring to build on her strength of leading people, she obtained her Masters in Educational Administration and is currently an administrator in the Alief Independent School District. Ms. Wyatt also has a sibling with Down syndrome.