

0705

## **Reframing Autism: Authentic Partnerships with Autistic Self Advocates to Guide Research, Teaching and Service Delivery**

Kristie Patten Koenig<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Shore<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*New York University, New York, New York, USA,* <sup>2</sup>*Adelphi University, Garden City, New York, USA*

**Introduction:** OT practitioners can be at the forefront of integrating strength-based frameworks in their teaching, research, and practice with autistic individuals by developing authentic partnerships. For example, this workshop's title is informed by identity first vs. person first language by this collaboration.

**Approach:** Dr. Stephen Shore, a well known international autistic self advocate, and Dr. Kristie Patten Koenig, PhD, OT/L, FAOTA, who has a long history of engaging in authentic collaboration with autistic individuals, will share how Interprofessional practice can improve meaningful outcomes in OT research, teaching, and practice. A 1.5 hour workshop will be presented using lecture, discussion and a commitment to action.

**Learning Objectives:** • Articulate the importance and opportunity of interprofessional partnerships between OT practitioners and Autistic individuals in reframing interventions using a strength-based frame

- Describe initiatives in research, teaching, and practice using strength-based frameworks
- Apply key concepts for embedding a strength-based framework into your own practice

**Practice Implications:** By reframing the work done with autistic children, youth and adults we recognize the power of shifting focus from a deficit based model to one utilizing a strength based framework. People do not build lives on remediated weaknesses and neither should those with autism. We have the opportunity to be leaders by partnering with autistic self-advocates to ground practice in truly meaningful occupations.

**Conclusion:** It is time to validate our listening by imbuing all aspects of occupational therapy education, practice and research as informed by autistic individuals and their families.