

Half Day Research Conference

**Families of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism: Reflections, and Current Issues**

School of Psychology, Bangor University  
in association with  
the Learning Disabilities and Autism Research Network in Wales

Thursday 8 May 2008, 1.30-5.00pm,

Venue Cymru, The Promenade, Llandudno, North Wales LL30 1BB

This half day conference is designed to showcase research about families of children with learning disabilities or autism that has been carried out in Wales. Dr Stuart Todd (Cardiff University) will describe results from his programme of research about parents' caring careers, and members of the research team from the School of Psychology at Bangor University will describe results from some of their latest family research. We are also delighted to welcome Dr Laraine Glidden, Professor of Psychology at St Marys College Maryland USA, who has conducted a 20-year long study of parents who adopted children with disabilities.

The conference will be useful for people from a variety of backgrounds, including parents and other family members, service managers and commissioners, psychologists, health professionals, workers in education and employment, social workers, voluntary sector workers, health visitors, and researchers.

## Programme

1.30 Arrival and registration

1.50 Welcome

Richard Hastings, School of Psychology, Bangor University

2.00 **When does it begin and when does it end? Caring careers of parents of individuals with intellectual disabilities**

Stuart Todd, Welsh Centre for Learning Disabilities, Cardiff University

Dr Todd will describe the results of his programme of research on parents' caring career, with a focus on the development of caring over time including the issues associated with the end of the caring role when an individual with intellectual disabilities dies.

2.45 **Psychological processes and parental well-being**

Tracey Lloyd, School of Psychology, Bangor University

Tracey will describe results from her current research, which is focused on why or how some parents may struggle to cope with the demands of raising a child with significant disabilities. Her research includes study of variables including acceptance, locus of control, and hope.

3.10 Refreshment break

3.35 **Children and adolescents' experiences of living with a sibling with autism**

Michael Petalas, School of Psychology, Bangor University

Mike will describe results from interview-based research with siblings in middle childhood and also in adolescence. These siblings were asked to describe what it is like growing up with an individual with autism.

4.00 - 5.00 **Predicting Resilience and Vulnerability in Adoptive and Birth Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities**

Laraine Glidden, St Mary's College, Maryland, USA

Dr Glidden will describe a 20-year longitudinal study of parents who have adopted or birthed children with developmental disabilities, focusing on family characteristics that lead to resilience or vulnerability. Her results indicate that adjustment and adaptation over time are the result of many factors, both parent and child. This is a major parenting study based in the USA, with a unique focus on adopting parents.

To book a place, please complete and return this booking form with the fee of £5 for family members of individuals with learning disability or autism, and £15 for all other bookings. Send to: Susie Nash, School of Psychology, Bangor University, Bangor LL57 2AS, email [s.nash@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:s.nash@bangor.ac.uk), tel. 01248 388798, fax 01248 382599.

Directions for getting to Venue Cymru can be found at [http://www.venuecymru.co.uk/home.php?/Contact/How\\_to\\_Find\\_Us](http://www.venuecymru.co.uk/home.php?/Contact/How_to_Find_Us)

Please reserve my place for the Families Research Conference. I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Bangor University.

Title -----

Forename -----

Job title -----

Organisation -----

Address -----

-----

-----

Post code -----

Tel -----

Email -----

The venue is suitable for wheelchair use. Please advise of any particular requirements.

-----

-----