

UC SANTA BARBARA

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UCSB AUTISM CONFERENCE THIS FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

A conference on autism for health professionals, educators, and families will be held this Friday, Sept. 24, at the Fess Parker Double Tree Resort beginning at 9 a.m. Approximately 300 participants are expected to attend the all day conference titled "Autism 2000: Focus on Solutions."

According to conference organizers, an increasing number of children are receiving a diagnosis of autism---a developmental disability that severely affects communication and social skills. The conference's objectives are to: clarify the diagnostic implications of the increase in numbers, explain research advances, emotional support strategies for families and caregivers, help families and patients access needed services and intervention procedures, and present current California educational laws and legislative proposals.

Featured speakers include:

California State Senator Jack O'Connell on "Education Trends in the Year 2000"; UCSB autism researchers Robert and Lynn Koegel, 1998 recipients of the Sesame Street Children's Television Workshop Sunny Days Award; B. J. Freeman, UCLA professor of medical psychology, on "What We Know about Autism"; lawyer Christopher E. Angelo from the firm Mazursky, Schwartz & Angelo on "A Lawyer's Guide to Insurance Coverage and a Parent's Call to Organize"; and Princeton University Professor of Chemistry Clarence E. Schutt, executive vice president and

secretary of the National Alliance for Autism Research, on "Because of Alex--- Scenario for a Future without Autism."

Conference information, call (805) 652-0162. For more information about UCSB's Autism Research Center, call (805) 893-2176. Web site is

<http://www.education.ucsb.edu/autism/>

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.