



Don't miss early registration (April 15) for the 24th annual "Together We Are Better" conference **May 23-26, 2008** in **Chicago**. Hosted downtown at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel, you will have the opportunity to learn all you ever wanted to know about Rett syndrome. Where world-class speakers match the world-class location, this one-of-it's-kind national conference is **a must for parents, physicians, teachers, and therapists of all children and adults with RTT**. With over 30 educational sessions to choose from, a keynote address by Bill Keegan, author of *Closure: The Untold Story of the Ground Zero Recovery Mission* and Rett syndrome parent, exhibitor displays, Bookstore, Silent Auction, and Tribute Dinner, there is something to learn, something to look at, or someone to talk to every minute of this fast-paced weekend.

If you're in need of answers, just want to hear the latest, or in the mood to make new friendships or renew some old ones, join us May 23-26 in Chicago. IRSF Scholarships are available, and there are many local resources such as ARC and various service groups that can help you make it happen. You can't afford not to come! Program and registration form can be found on the backside of this letter, on the website www.rettsyndrome.org, or by calling 1.800.818.RETT.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Fairmont Hotel either by calling toll free 1-800-810-5551, or online at http://www.fairmont.com/EN_FA/Reservations/ReservationAvailability?hc=CHI&pc=GRRSF1. Please provide IRSF's promotional code GRRSF1.

Register now and make your hotel reservations at the Fairmont Hotel soon, because **"Together We Are Better"**!



Paige Nues
Director of Family Support



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IRSF
INTERNATIONAL
RETT SYNDROME
FOUNDATION



TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER

24th Annual Conference Chicago, IL | Fairmont Hotel | May 23-26, 2008

TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER

| DAY | TOPIC | SPEAKER | SESSION |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Friday, 5/23 | Registration –12:00 noon until 8:00 pm | | |
| | Evening Welcome Reception – 5:30 pm | Sponsored by the Rett Syndrome Association of Illinois | |
| | Keynote Speaker – 7:00 pm | | |
| | Crackerbarrels | Kids under 7 yrs | Concurrent |
| | | Kids 8-16 yrs | Concurrent |
| Saturday, 5/24 | | Kids 17+ yrs | Concurrent |
| | | Professionals (Teachers, therapists, etc) | Concurrent |
| | | Rettnetters | Concurrent |
| | Continental Breakfast | | |
| | RS101 | Alan Percy, M.D. | General |
| | Keynote | Bill Keegan, Author Closure: The Untold Story of the Ground Zero Recovery Mission and Parent | General |
| | Neurology | Daniel Glaze, M.D. | General |
| | Nutrition/GI | Kathleen Motil, M.D., Ph.D. | General |
| | Importance of Therapies | Alan Percy, M.D. | General |
| | “Let’s Get Together and Communicate!” | Susan Norwell, M.S. Ed | General |
| | Lunch/AGM | Kathryn Kissam/Chuck Curley | |
| | Neurology Q&A | Daniel Glaze, M.D. | Concurrent A |
| | GI Q&A | Kathleen Motil, M.D., Ph.D. | Concurrent A |
| | Issues of Womanhood | Jane Lane, RN, BSN | Concurrent A |
| | Day-to-Day Care | Judy Barrish, B.S.N., RN | Concurrent A |
| | Simple How To’s + Q&A of Communication | Susan Norwell, M.S. Ed | Concurrent A |
| | Physical Therapy | TBA | Concurrent B |
| | Issues of Womanhood | Jane Lane, RN, BSN | Concurrent B |
| | Accessing Communication: the OT’s role | TBA | Concurrent B |
| | Communication Devices | Susan Norwell, M.S. Ed | Concurrent B |
| | Literacy | TBA | Concurrent B |
| | Physical Therapy | TBA | Concurrent C |
| | Day-to-Day Care | Judy Barrish, B.S.N., RN | Concurrent C |
| | Literacy | TBA | Concurrent C |
| | Access for Communication: the OT’s role | TBA | Concurrent C |
| | Fundraising 101 | TBA | |
| | Socializing and Networking | Hospitality suite open – evening hours | |
| Sunday, 5/25 | Continental Breakfast | | |
| | Genetics101 | Carolyn Schanen, M.D., Ph.D. | General |
| | Direction of Research: Translational, Therapeutic, Gene, Stem cell, etc | Carolyn Schanen, M.D., Ph.D. | General |
| | Break | | General |
| | Clinical Research review | Jeffrey Neul, M.D., Ph.D. | General |
| | Lunch | | |
| | School program options: from self-contained to inclusion and what’s in-between | Val Owen, Special Educator | Concurrent A |
| | Adult program options: jobs, programs, sheltered workshops | Professional panel discussion | Concurrent A |
| | IEPs – what can, and should, legally be included | Matthew Cohen, attorney | Concurrent A |
| | Planning for the Future: Gov’t Benefits, Financial Planning | Steve Medlin, Financial Planner and Parent | Concurrent A |
| | TBA | TBA | Concurrent A |
| | The Continuum of Services and the Continuum of Supports: The process and options for determining the best classroom placement for your daughter | Val Owen, Special Educator | Concurrent B |
| | Adult program options: jobs, programs, sheltered workshops | Professional panel discussion | Concurrent B |
| | IEPs – what can, and should, legally be included | Matthew Cohen, attorney | Concurrent B |
| | Planning for the Future: Govt Benefits, Guardianship, Financial Planning | TBA | Concurrent B |
| | TBA | TBA | Concurrent B |
| Monday, 5/26 | Tribute Dinner – 7:00 pm | | |
| | Continental Breakfast | | |
| | Sibling Panel | | General |
| | Dad’s Panel | | General |
| | Farewell/Closing – 10:30 am until 11:15 am | | General |