



**The Sixth Annual Disability Symposium
University of Pennsylvania
Friday, March 30, 2007**

[Registration / Schedule / Additional Information /
Workshops / Plenary Speakers / Vendor Information](#)

**Plenary Speakers
(Word Version)**

Morning Plenary Address

**It's Time for Extra Time for Dyslexic Students
Sally Shaywitz, M.D**

Extraordinary progress in science has resulted in new, converging data from many sources—epidemiological, cognitive and neurobiological (brain-based)—that now provide irrefutable evidence for the need for extra time for dyslexic undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. These data and their implications will be presented and discussed. The time has come for the criteria for providing accommodations, and for the accommodations themselves, to reflect cutting-edge science rather than dogma or anecdotal hearsay. Not only would our students benefit from such informed policies and procedures, but our universities and society would benefit by not losing the precious resource that dyslexic students represent.

Sally Shaywitz, M.D. is professor of pediatrics and child study at the Yale University School of Medicine, where she co-directs the Yale Center for the Study of Learning and Attention. Dr. Shaywitz also serves as associate editor of the journal *Child Development*. In 2002, Dr. Shaywitz was chosen as “One of the Best Doctors in America” and “One of America’s Top Doctors.” Her research interests include both the development of skilled reading and the study of reading and math disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults. She uses functional imaging to understand brain mechanisms involved in reading and dyslexia and to examine hormonal influences on cognition. She is also principal investigator of the Connecticut Longitudinal Study, an epidemiologic study of the development and outcomes of 445 schoolchildren who have been monitored from kindergarten through young adulthood. Her research provides the basic framework—conceptual model, epidemiology and neurobiology—for the scientific study of learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

Afternoon Plenary Address

**Update on Diagnosis and Treatment of Adult ADHD
Lenard Adler, M.D.**

This presentation will review the signs and symptoms of ADHD, focusing on issues particular to assessment of symptoms and impairments in young adults. Rating scales which can be useful in establishing the diagnosis and breadth of symptoms of ADHD will also be reviewed. As ADHD most commonly travels with other mental health disorders, the literature on co-morbidities in ADHD will be reviewed, along with guidelines about the differential assessments of the two disorders. Finally, the latest data on pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapy will be assessed.

Dr. Lenard Adler is an associate professor of psychiatry and neurology at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine specializing in attention deficit disorder, affective and anxiety disorders, general psychiatry and psychopharmacology. Dr. Adler also sits as the director of the Combined Adult Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Program at NYU School of Medicine, and a staff psychiatrist and director of the inpatient teaching unit at New York VA Harbor Healthcare System. He is an attending psychiatrist at Tisch-University Hospital, Hospital for Joint Diseases and Bellevue Hospital. Dr. Adler is the recipient of several prestigious honors, including the Burroughs Wellcome Fellowship from the American Psychiatric Association and a Travel Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

A graduate of Cornell University with a B.A. in economics, Dr. Adler received his M.D. from Emory University School of Medicine. As a current member of several professional societies, including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, and American Society for Clinical Psychopharmacology, Dr. Adler lends his expertise in mental health as a peer reviewer for numerous scientific journals, including *Biological Psychiatry*, *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, *Pediatrics*, *Archives of General Psychiatry* and *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. Dr. Adler also has published over 50 original peer-reviewed manuscripts in more than 15 well-respected publications.

Dr. Adler has been interviewed numerous times in national media venues, including *60 Minutes*, *Oprah Radio (Dr. Mehmet Oz)* and the *Today Show*, as well as *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and *U.S. News & World Report*. In these interviews, he discussed his treatment methods for adults with ADHD. He is also the author of the book *Scattered Minds: Hope and Help for Adults with ADHD* for the general public, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons in May 2006.