



The Melissa Institute
For Violence Prevention and Treatment

10th Annual Conference

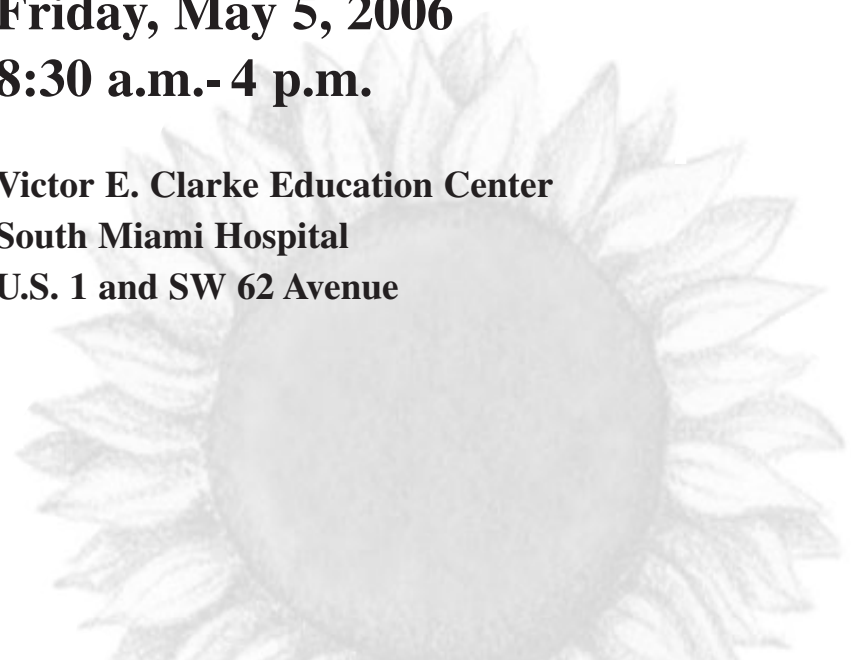
Aggression and Suicide Among Children and Youth:

Focus on Gender Differences

Friday, May 5, 2006

8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

**Victor E. Clarke Education Center
South Miami Hospital
U.S. 1 and SW 62 Avenue**



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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

There is increasing evidence that boys and girls differ in the development, expression and consequences of aggressive behavior toward others, as well as themselves. In this conference, three leading experts in the field of aggression (Drs. Jim Larson, Debra Pepler and Donald Meichenbaum) will address these developmental challenges. In both a conference presentation and accompanying workshops, they will examine how aggressive behavior toward others and self develops, highlighting gender differences. They will demonstrate

how to conduct evidence-based, gender-sensitive interventions. They will discuss how educators, clinicians, social workers and other members of the community (primary care doctors, police and probation officers, parents and foster parents, religious personnel) can work together to prevent violence and to treat youth who show evidence of aggressive behavior. Leonard Pitts, award-winning syndicated newspaper columnist and member of The Melissa Institute's Honorary Board, will give the keynote address.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Educators, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, marriage and family therapists, social agency personnel, judges, law enforcement personnel, pediatricians, primary care physicians and psychiatrists.

OBJECTIVES

As a result of attending this conference, participants should be better able to:

- Recognize gender differences in the development of aggressive and self-injurious behaviors;
- Conduct evidence-based, gender-sensitive interventions;
- Assess for suicidality and provide interventions to treat childhood depression;
- Implement universal, indicated and selected interventions at multiple levels to prevent aggressive behavior.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE: CONSIDERING SOME FACTS

Aggression toward others

- A recent survey indicated that half of teens interviewed reported schools as being unsafe.
- Up to 10% of school-age children show evidence of clinically significant aggressive behaviors, with boys outnumbering girls approximately 3 to 1.
- Chronically aggressive youth drop out or are pushed out of school into lives of crime and substance abuse in the community.
- Boys and girls differ in terms of the form, developmental course, co-morbidity and correlates of aggressive behavior.
- Incidents of physically aggressive behavior among girls have risen dramatically over the decade.
- Childhood aggression is a risk factor for subsequent difficulties.

Childhood depression and youth suicide

- 10% of children experience clinical depression before the age of 14.
- 20% of adolescents experience a clinical depression before they graduate from high school.
- Each year, 8% of high school students in the U.S. attempt suicide.
- 13 of every 100,000 American adolescents ages 15 through 19 commit suicide.
- After the first bout of depression, 50% of students will have at least one and often repeated recurrences in their lifetimes.
- The younger the child is when depression first occurs, the greater the likelihood it will recur.
- Girls attempt suicide three times more often than boys and are more likely to have co-morbid disorders than boys, but boys commit suicide five times more frequently than girls.

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 5

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., President of The Melissa Institute
- 8:45 a.m. **Development of Aggression in Boys: Implications for Interventions**
Jim Larson, Ph.D.
(Examine how aggressive behavior toward others develops in male youth and consider practical implications for multifaceted intervention.)
- 9:30 a.m. **Development of Aggression in Girls: Implications for Assessment and Interventions**
Debra Pepler, Ph.D.
(Examine the form and developmental course of aggression in girls and the need for gender-sensitive intervention.)
- 10:15 a.m. **Comparisons of Aggression in Boys and Girls**
Panel: Drs. Larson and Pepler; Moderated by Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
(Examine the differences and similarities of the frequency, severity, pervasiveness and duration of aggressive behaviors in boys and girls.)
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Aggression Toward Oneself: Suicidality and Gender Differences**
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
(Examine the incidence of depression, suicide and ways to assess and intervene in a gender-sensitive fashion.)
- 11:30 a.m. **How to Conduct an Integrative Intervention Program**
Panel: Drs. Larson, Pepler, Meichenbaum
(Examine practical guidelines for primary, secondary and tertiary interventions — see www.teachsafeschools.org)
- 12:00 p.m. **Buffet Luncheon**
- 1:00 p.m. **Keynote Speaker: Some Observations on Media and Culture**
Leonard Pitts, nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and member of the Honorary Board of The Melissa Institute
- 2:00 p.m. **Critical Elements in the Treatment of Aggressive Behavior in School-age Boys**
Jim Larson, Ph.D.
(Demonstrate how to conduct empirically based training with aggressive males and how to follow Generalization Guidelines. Illustrations will be offered on how to implement the Think First Program and ways to evaluate its effectiveness.)
- 2:50 p.m. **Break**
- 3:05 p.m. **Practical Ways to Intervene with Aggressive Female Children and Youth**
Debra Pepler, Ph.D.
(Examine how to provide gender-sensitive interventions for aggressive females. The role of concurrent difficulties, such as depression and a history of victimization, will be considered. Ways to reduce concurrent risk behaviors will also be discussed.)
- 4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., is President of The Melissa Institute and a psychologist in private practice. She is also affiliated with Baptist Health South Florida. Dr. Keeley has had extensive clinical experience treating victims and perpetrators of violence.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Leonard Pitts joined *The Miami Herald* in 1991 as its pop music critic, and since 1994 he has written a syndicated column of commentary on pop culture, social issues and family life. His book, *Becoming Dad: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood*, was released in 1999. In addition to winning the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 2004, he



Leonard Pitts

has been honored by a variety of organizations, including the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He is a member of The Melissa Institute's Honorary Board.

PRESENTERS

Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D., is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and one of the founders of cognitive-behavior therapy. He has consulted and lectured worldwide on the impact of trauma and has published major clinical handbooks on *Treating Adults with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder* and *Treatment of Individuals with Anger-Control Problems and Aggressive Behaviors* (which often co-occur with trauma reactions). In a survey reported in the *American Psychologist*, he was voted "one of the 10 most influential psychotherapists of the century." Dr. Meichenbaum is Research Director of The Melissa Institute.



Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.

Jim Larson, Ph.D., NCSP, is Professor of Psychology and Director of the School Psychology Training Program at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He is also a member of the Scientific Board of The Melissa Institute. Dr. Larson has more than 25 years' experience with the



Jim Larson, Ph.D., NCSP

study and treatment of anger-related behaviors in children and youth. He was a school psychologist with the Milwaukee Public Schools for 14 years and directed their Violence Prevention Program. He also has extensive experience in the area of parent management training and is the co-author (with Judith McBride, Ph.D.) of *Parent to Parent: A Video-augmented Training Program for the Prevention of Aggressive Behavior in Young Children*; (with John Lochman, Ph.D.) *Helping School Children Cope with Anger: A Cognitive-behavioral Intervention* (2002, Guilford Press); *Think First: Addressing Aggressive Behavior in Secondary Schools* (2005, Guilford Press).

Debra Pepler, Ph.D., C.Psych., is Professor of Psychology at York University, a member of the Scientific Board of The Melissa Institute, a Senior Associate Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children, and holds a Senior Research Fellowship from the Ontario Mental Health Foundation. She leads the Canadian Initiative for the Prevention of Bullying, funded by the National Crime Prevention Strategy. Dr. Pepler edited recent books on international bullying prevention programs and on the development and treatment of girlhood aggression. She heads two research networks and holds several research grants related to understanding and addressing children's aggressive behavior problems.



Debra Pepler, Ph.D., C.Psych.

Registration deadline is April 21, 2006. Space is limited; register early!

REGISTRATION

Tenth Annual Conference — Aggression and Suicide Among Children and Youth: Focus on Gender Differences
Friday, May 5, 2006 ■ Victor E. Clarke Education Center, South Miami Hospital

Registration fee: \$80 \$40 (Student) *Conference proceeds will benefit The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment.*

Payment method:

Check enclosed (Make payable to The Melissa Institute.)

Purchase Order number _____ (Please mail copy of registration to guarantee reservation.)

Credit Card: American Express MasterCard Visa Discover Diners Club

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Mail to: The Melissa Institute
 6250 Sunset Drive, Suite 204, Miami, FL 33143

For information, call 786-662-5210

Cancellations must be sent in writing and postmarked by April 21, 2006, to receive a refund of the registration fee, less a \$10 administrative fee. Cancellations postmarked after April 22 will forfeit the registration fee.

CREDITS

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of Baptist Health South Florida and The Melissa Institute. Baptist Health South Florida is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

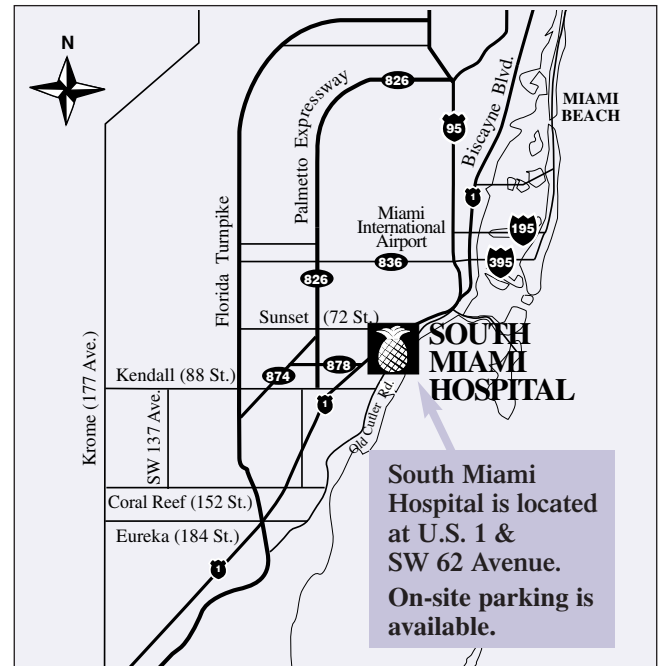
Baptist Health South Florida designates this educational activity for a maximum of 6 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Baptist Hospital of Miami is approved as a provider of Continuing Psychological Education by the Florida Board of Psychological Examiners, provider #50-2467. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6 hours of Continuing Psychological Education credit.

This activity has been approved for 6 contact hours by Florida State Board of Nursing provider #50-182, Baptist Health South Florida Department of Education Services.

Baptist Hospital of Miami's Department of Social Work is approved as a continuing education provider for the Florida Board of Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling. Provider #BAP53, expiration 3/07. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6 contact hours.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools will award 8 master plan points (TEC credits) to participants upon completion of the Home Learning Component.



FOR INFORMATION



The Melissa Institute

For Violence Prevention and Treatment

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<http://www.melissainstitute.org>

<http://www.teachsafeschools.org>

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The mission of The Melissa Institute is to prevent violence and promote safer communities through education and application of research-based knowledge.

Education • Community Service • Research Support • Consultation



The Melissa Institute

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