



The Melissa Institute  
For Violence Prevention and Treatment

Fourth Annual Conference

# Preventing Violence

A Life-Span Perspective

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**Thursday, May 4, 2000  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

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

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### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This annual conference is dedicated to the memory of Melissa Aptman, a charming and gifted young woman who was tragically murdered on May 5, 1995. In her name, family and friends founded The Melissa Institute, turning their grief into social action.

The focus on "Preventing Violence: A Life-Span Perspective" is designed to examine what can be done to identify high-risk children and youths and intervene on a preventive basis. The need for such prevention programs is underscored by the finding that from 1985 to 1995 there was a 141 percent increase in the rate of teenage killing; by 2005, the rate of teenage violence may be even higher, given a 17 percent increase in the adolescent population.

The conference will examine a number of specific preventive programs across the life-span. There is increasing evidence that what goes on in the early years can affect brain development and have effects on subsequent learning, behavior and health. The conference will

examine several specific preventive intervention programs ranging from community-based to family-based approaches. Given the importance of early literacy and school readiness programs, these will also be critically examined. How these programs can be coordinated and implemented at the state level will be considered.

In April 1999, two teenagers at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, killed 12 classmates, one teacher and themselves. Since Columbine, there have been bomb scares in schools around the country and copycat school crimes. These school shootings indicate that a different form of prevention practice is required. A preventive Prosocial Schools Model Program that establishes standards of care for at-risk youths will be offered and critically examined. But any such preventive approaches must be sensitive to gender differences and sensitive to both legal and practical concerns. These issues will be considered.

### THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE:

- Plenary sessions and panel discussions.
- Descriptions of local and Florida state preventive initiatives.
- Discussion of current efforts to establish national standards-of-care preventive efforts for at-risk youths.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, marriage and family therapists, judges, nurses, pediatricians, family physicians and psychiatrists.

### OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this conference, participants should be able to:

- Critically evaluate preventive practices.
- Formulate guidelines for preventive programs that are developmentally and gender sensitive.
- Conduct preventive programs with at-risk youth.
- Consider local preventive initiatives.

## **SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, May 4, 2000**

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. **Opening Remarks**  
Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., president of The Melissa Institute
- Introduction: The Need for a Life-Span Perspective**  
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
- 9:00 a.m. **Why Prevention and Early Intervention?**  
Joy D. Osofsky, Ph.D.  
(*To review the "state of the art" on early childhood interventions: Implications for identification, assessment and intervention.*)
- 9:30 a.m. **The Need for a System of Mental Health Service for 0-5-year-olds in Florida**  
Sandra Adams, Ph.D.  
(*To review current efforts to develop a statewide early readiness program: Lessons from the Sarasota Model.*)
- 10:00 a.m. **Early Prevention Efforts in Juvenile Court**  
Judge Cindy Lederman  
(*To describe a local initiatives program.*)
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Early Literacy Programs**  
Barbara Wasik, Ph.D.  
(*To review the "state of the art" and provide guidelines for children and parent literacy programs.*)
- 11:15 a.m. **Panel Discussion and Question-and-Answer Period**  
Moderator: Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.  
Presenters and the Scientific Board of The Melissa Institute
- 12:00 noon **Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Lessons from Littleton: Implications for Preventive Programs**  
Elaine Blechman, Ph.D.  
(*To consider a systems-based analysis of school violence: A proposal for a tailored intervention program and standards of care for at-risk youth.*)
- 2:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion and Response Period**  
Moderator: Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.  
Clifford O'Donnell, Ph.D., Jim Larson, Ph.D., and Debra Pepler, Ph.D.
- 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 p.m. **Female Aggressive Behavior: An Overlooked Population**  
Debra Pepler, Ph.D.  
(*To consider the incidence, expression and implications of gender differences for intervention programs.*)
- 3:15 p.m. **Adolescent-based Interventions: Practical Advice**  
James Larson, Ph.D.  
(*To offer useful, experience-based suggestions for group and individual interventions with aggressive adolescents.*)
- 3:45 p.m. **Miami-based Prevention Interventions: Working with "High-risk" Populations**  
Peter Mundy, Ph.D.  
(*To describe local interventions directed at "high-risk" populations.*)
- 4:15 p.m. **Question-and-Answer Period**
- 4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

## **CONFERENCE DIRECTOR**

**Suzanne Keeley, Ph.D.**, is president of The Melissa Institute and a psychologist in private practice. She is also affiliated with Baptist Health Systems of South Florida.

## **SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF THE MELISSA INSTITUTE**

**Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.**, is distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and research director of The Melissa Institute. He is one of the founders of cognitive-behavior therapy and, in a survey reported in the *American Psychologist*, he was voted "one of the 10 most influential psychotherapists of the century."

**James Larson, Ph.D.**, is a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and coordinator of the School Psychology Training Program. He is a leader in the area of violence prevention in school and has developed videotape training programs for children and adolescents. He is also an expert in parent management training.

**Clifford O'Donnell, Ph.D.**, is professor of psychology at the University of Hawaii and director of the Community Studies Program. He is an authority on childhood aggression and community-based interventions. He has extensive experience in cross-culturally-based interventions.

**Joy Osofsky, Ph.D.**, is professor of pediatrics and psychology at Louisiana State University Medical Center, and professor of public health, pediatrics and psychiatry at Louisiana State University. She is editor of the *Infant Mental Health Journal* and *Children in a Violent Society*.

**Debra Pepler, Ph.D.**, is a professor of psychology at York University, Toronto, Ontario, and director of the Judy LaMarsh Center for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution. She is a leader in the area of gender differences in the development of aggression and the role of bullying. She has consulted internationally in the development of school-based programs.

**Barbara Wasik, Ph.D.**, is a professor of education at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is a leading authority in the area of family-focused home-visiting programs and in the role of early childhood interventions, including early literacy programs.

## **GUEST FACULTY**

**Sandra Adams, Ph.D.**, was executive director of the Developmental Center in Sarasota, Florida, a community-based early intervention program. She has served as chair of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, and recently was elected vice-chair of Governor Bush's Committee for School Readiness. She consults widely in the area of early intervention.

**Elaine Blechman, Ph.D.**, is professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is an authority on school-based prevention programs. She has been involved in the aftermath of the shooting in Littleton, Colorado, and has led a national committee to establish standards of care for at-risk youth. She has also developed a manual of family therapy interventions with a focus on working with the juvenile offender.

## **LOCAL FACULTY**

**Judge Cindy S. Lederman** is the administrative judge of the Miami-Dade Juvenile Court. She is a member of the Board on Children, Youth and Families, of the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. Zero to Three, the National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, has selected Judge Lederman as a Fellow in its Leaders of the 21st Century initiative.

**Peter Mundy, Ph.D.**, is professor of psychology at the University of Miami and director of the child division. He is also principal investigator of the outcome studies conducted at the Linda Ray Intervention Center.

## **REGISTRATION**

**Fourth Annual Conference**

### **Preventing Violence: A Life-Span Perspective**

**Thursday, May 4, 2000**

#### **Registration fee:**

\$50       \$25 (Student)

*Conference proceeds will benefit The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment.*

#### **Payment method:**

Check enclosed (Make payable to The Melissa Institute.)

(Please mail copy of registration to guarantee reservation.)

Purchase Order number \_\_\_\_\_

A registration confirmation notice and parking instructions will be mailed to you. **For information, call 305-668-5210.**

#### **Specialty professional credits required:** LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Board of Psychological Examiners

Florida State Board of Nursing

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Florida Board of CSW, MFT and MHC

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LIST MEDICAL SPECIALTY, PROFESSION, OR GRADE LEVEL IF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Registrar, Medical Education Department  
Baptist Health Systems of South Florida  
8900 North Kendall Drive, Miami, FL 33176

*Cancellations must be sent in writing and postmarked by April 20, 2000, to receive a refund of the registration fee, less a \$10 administrative fee. Cancellations postmarked after April 20 will forfeit the registration fee.*

## CREDITS

Baptist Hospital of Miami is approved as a provider of Continuing Psychological Education by the Florida Board of Psychological Examiners, provider #P-258-00. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6.5 credit hours of Continuing Psychological Education credits.

This activity has been approved for 6.5 contact hours by the Florida State Board of Nursing, provider #27H0046.

Baptist Hospital of Miami's Social Work Department is approved as a continuing education provider by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling, provider #CM376, expiration 1/01. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6.5 contact hours.

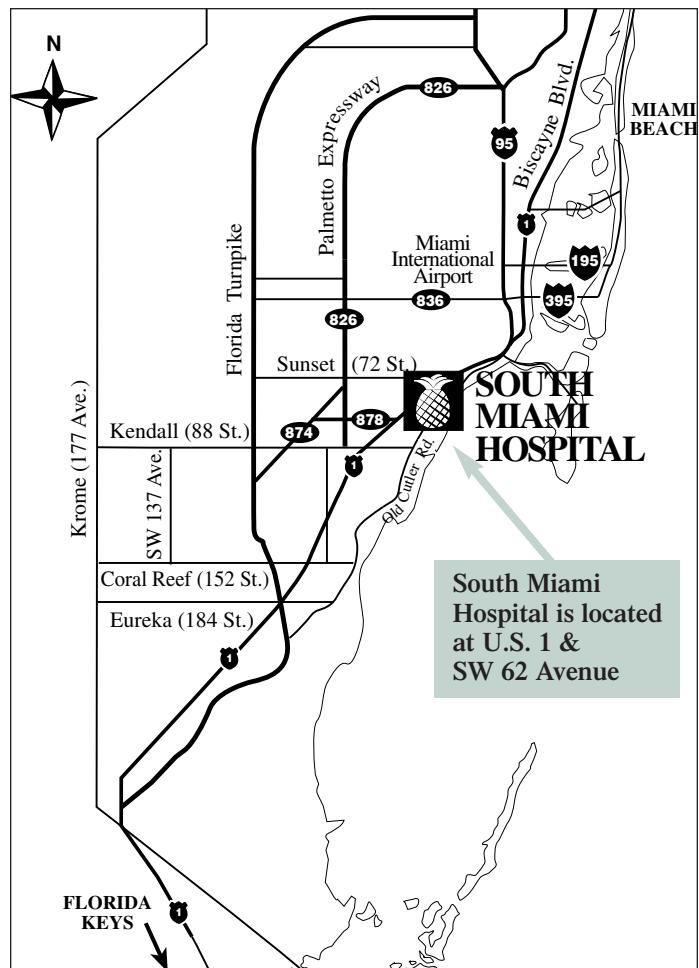
Miami-Dade County Public Schools will award master plan points (TEC credits).

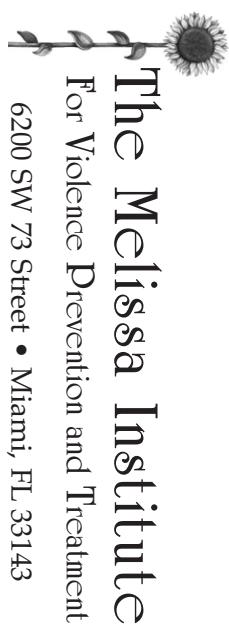
## FOR INFORMATION



The Melissa Institute  
For Violence Prevention and Treatment  
**305-668-5210**

*We thank American Airlines, Baptist Health Systems of South Florida, The Biltmore Hotel, SmithKline Beecham and Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center for their support.*





The Melissa Institute  
For Violence Prevention and Treatment  
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