

THE 2011 HEMISPHERECTOMY FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND FAMILY  
REUNION

HOPE • ACHIEVE • THRIVE  
IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Register now  
at  
[Hemifoundation.org](http://Hemifoundation.org)



Adults		\$129
Children	13-17	\$80
	3-12	\$55
	<3	\$20

Discounted room rates are available on a limited basis.

PARADISE PIER HOTEL  
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA  
JULY 7 – 10, 2011

The International Conference and Family Reunion provides families of children who have had hemispherectomy surgery with the unique opportunity to meet one another, share stories, build new friendships, and learn the latest information from the medical and therapeutic communities about appropriate post-surgical interventions and treatments.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

**Welcome!**

**Thursday, July 7th**

Arrive, register, and attend a brief orientation session. Grab a bite in Downtown Disney and enjoy the fun.

**Speakers and Fun**

**Friday, July 8th**

Listen to the latest information on legal, speech/AAC, and other panels, enjoy the pool, go to the luau!

**Expert Panels**

**Saturday, July 9th**

Physicians and medical experts answer your questions about hemispherectomy surgery and recovery.

## Conference Speakers and Topics

### Accessing The Potential Of Limited and Non-Verbal Communicators

*Dr. Tami Katzier*

*Stella De Bode, PhD*

*Sharon Hensel-Cohen, M.S., CCC-SLP*

This presentation will review acquisition of language and literacy post-hemispherectomy, including therapeutic and educational strategies for optimizing the learning potential of non-verbal children. Specific case studies will be discussed. Review of present perspectives, expectations for curriculum access, and, current trends for educating the limited and non-verbal individuals. Alternative perspectives and methods for accessing optimal growth will be presented. Attendees will leave with new ideas and possible pathways, and increased expectations for helping the limited and non-verbal population move towards independence and take their place in society.

### Behavior Interventions for Young Children

*Michael Cameron, Ph.D.*

*Elizabeth Fraines, M.A.*

Applied Behavior Analysis is the science of controlling and predicting human behavior. By functionally assessing the relationship between a targeted behavior and the environment, the methods of ABA can be used to change that behavior. Research in applied behavior analysis ranges from behavioral intervention methods to basic research which investigates the rules by which humans adapt and maintain behavior. ABA interventions are best known for treating people with developmental disabilities.

### Navigating The Educational System

*Valerie Vaneman, Esq.*

*Lisa Branham*

*Yolanda McAlpine*

A state's public educational system can be a maze for parents of children with special needs. This presentation will cover what you and your child have a right to expect from the public school system. Learn about the proper way to prepare for an IEP meeting, what occurs at a resolution session, mediation, and a due process hearing, and what specific issues should be address for a child who has had a hemispherectomy.

## Special Needs Trusts and Life Planning

*Mark Schulman*

Today, many persons with special needs are enjoying a normal life expectancy. The result is that they will likely outlive their parents or other primary care givers. As a result, planning is no longer an option, it is a necessity. Families have come to this realization and are now, more than ever, seeking professional assistance. They must resolve their concern about, “Who will care, when they are not there?” This panel will provide an outline of the necessary estate planning tools needed to ensure a successful estate plan.

## Physical Therapy Techniques and Strategies

*Stella De Bode, PhD*

*Joy Huguet, M.A.*

*Jill Masutomi, PT, DPT, PCS*

This session will focus on state-of-the-art techniques and strategies used in physical therapy rehabilitation post-hemispherectomy, including body weight supported treadmill training and constraint-induced use therapy. Practical applications and case studies will be presented, as well as physical and ethical considerations of using the cerebral palsy model with children post-hemispherectomy.

## Hemispherectomy Surgery and Outcomes

*Dr. William Shields*

*Dr. Raman Sankar*

*Dr. Gary Mathern*

*Dr. Anna Haddal*

*Stella De Bode, Ph.D*

*Sue Yudovin, NP*

This expert panel will discuss several issues surrounding hemispherectomy surgery and outcomes, including but not limited to: functional v. anatomical hemispherectomy; types of seizures and their effects; pharmaceutical interventions; common side effects of surgery, including migraines and precocious puberty; and recovery methods.

## Teen and Young Adult Sessions

*Ladonna Holtom, MFT*

*Sabrina Solemani*

Sessions for teens and young adults will focus on what it's like to be different from your peers and the unique challenges faced by many of our children. Siblings can also discuss what it's like growing up with a differently-abled family member. These moderated sessions will allow kids to discuss what's on their mind with others their own age.



## Kid Camp

### July 8 – 9, 2011

### 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

An indoor kid camp will provide you with childcare while you attend important sessions, hang out by the pool, or sneak off to a quiet lunch with your spouse or significant other.

The camp is located a mere steps away from the speaker venues, so you can peek in at any time to see how your child is doing, provide a special snack, or just grab a quick hug.

Friday promises to be an exciting day. The award-winning hula team from this year's sweepstakes-winning Dole float at the 2011 Rose Parade, Hana Hou Polynesia, will be onsite to teach the children how to hula dance.

They will also be visited by the dance team from Alisa Niguel high school, which recently won a national dance competition.

Who knows. Maybe we'll get a special performance at the luau later that evening?

Saturday the children will get a visit from the adorable dogs of Canine Companions as well as some musical entertainment.

Throughout the camp, children will be provided with arts, crafts, toys, and other age- and cognitively-appropriate activities.



## Professional Photos For You

**Make sure to say "cheese" to the roving professional photographer on Friday and Saturday.**

*Bella Baby Photography has donated the time of one of their professional photographers to document this extraordinary event. A complimentary CD of all conference photographs will be mailed to you a few weeks after the conference.*



## What To Do

### *Luau*

Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Join your fellow “hemi” families, friends, and professionals at a festive dinner luau at the Pier Side Pavilion located near the hotel’s pool. Live performances by Hana Hou Polynesia and delicious food will highlight the evening. Remember to bring a hula skirt and Hawaiian shirt so you blend in with the locals!



### *Free time*

A few hours every afternoon will be designated for free time. This is a great opportunity to connect with other families, enjoy the pool, or take a stroll through Downtown Disney. If you miss an expert session or two, no worries: materials provided at the session will be uploaded to the foundation’s website for you to review later.

### *Most meals included*

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to you and your family on Friday and Saturday of the conference, and a dinner luau will be hosted Friday night. Make sure to sit with a family you’ve never met before and you’re sure to make a connection that will last a lifetime.

