I have read enough to know that there are still many parents, and, yes, professionals, too, who believe that ‘once autistic, always autistic.’ This dictum has meant sad and sorry lives for many children diagnosed, as I was in early life, as autistic. To these people, it is incomprehensible that the characteristics of autism can be modified and controlled. However, I feel strongly that I am living proof that they can.”

— Dr. Temple Grandin
Emergence: Labeled Autistic
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Munroe-Meyer Institute Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders is developing and expanding research and services in the areas of autism and behavioral genetics. Under the direction of Dr. Wayne Fisher, the Center trains and supervises teams of clinical researchers and therapists to conduct behavioral and functional analyses to better delineate behavioral phenotypes. The Center is developing more refined and specific behavioral interventions for a variety of disorders, including autism, self-injurious behavior, and attention deficit disorder.

MMI offers the services of the MMI/GWR Diagnostic and Consultative Clinic for Autism Spectrum Disorders, a multi-disciplinary clinic which evaluates children between the ages of two and eighteen years, referred by physicians or school districts. This clinic often provides the initial diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, and assists families with recommendations for treatment programs through MMI, other agencies and the schools. The MMI Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders also supports pilot projects for the development of social skills at the early childhood, middle school and high school levels, and is currently adding a post high school component. With the collaboration of families, public schools and MMI, unique opportunities are made available to assist children and youth within the spectrum to develop positive, appropriate social skills in settings with their typical peers.
9:00 am–9:20 am  Welcome—Introductions and Video Presentation

9:20 am–10:45 am  Dr. Temple Grandin  Keynote Speaker
“The Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships”

10:45 am–11:00 am  Break

11:00 am–12:00 pm  Dr. Temple Grandin  (resumes)

12:00 pm–12:45 pm  Box Lunch

12:45 pm–1:30 pm  “Social Skills for Teens with Asperger’s Syndrome”
A Panel of Teens, Parents and Supports
- Play and Learn Sports Club (MS)
- Leisure Connections for Teens Club (HS)

1:30 pm–1:45 pm  Break

1:45 pm–2:30 pm  Sectional I:  “The Link That Makes the Difference: Support Groups for Parents of Children with ASD”
A Panel of Representatives from Local Parent Support Groups

Sectional II:  “Functional Behavioral Analysis”
Dr. Wayne Fisher, Director Munroe-Meyer Institute
Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Sectional III:  “Writing and Implementing Effective IEPs for Children in the Autism Spectrum”

2:30 pm–3:30 pm  “Legislative and Funding Issues in Autism: The Shape of Our Future”
Dr. Jose Cordero, Centers for Disease Control

3:30 pm–3:45 pm  “Nebraska State Legislation for Autism”
A Brief Update on State Legislation

3:45 pm  Summit Concludes