

# PWANY GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Janice Agarwal, PT**, has 18 years of Pediatric Physical Therapy experience with emphasis on children and adults with PWS and birth-to-three year old children. She uses and combines Sensory Integration (SI) techniques with Neurodevelopmental Training (NDT certified by the Bobath Centre in London, England in 1995). She was part of the Neurodevelopmental Evaluation team at Boston City Hospital from 1992-1996 and the Early Intervention team at St. Mary's Hospital for Children in NY from 1996-2000. Janice is also the mother of 10 year Alex with PWS.

**Moris A. Angulo, MD**, is the Director of Medical Genetics and Assistant Director of Pediatric Endocrinology at Winthrop University Hospital. He is also Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, SUNY at Stony Brook School of Medicine. Dr. Angulo follows more than 200 children and adults with PWS at his practice in Mineola, NY, and is a member of the PWSA(USA) Clinical Advisory Board.

**Tina Beauparlant**, is a Program Assistant and Educational Advocacy Specialist with the Capital District office of Parent to Parent of NYS. Tina is the former Vice President of the Parents and Professional Special Education Advocacy Council and currently serves on the Planning Committee for the Special Education Taskforce Committee and Annual Special Education Advocacy Training Conference.

**Merlin Butler, MD, Ph.D.** Since 1998, Dr. Butler has been Chief of the Section of Medical Genetics and Molecular Medicine at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, recipient of the William R. Brown/Missouri Chair in Medical Genetics and is Professor of Pediatrics, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. He is currently Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board for PWSA, (USA).

**Janice Forster, MD**, is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in private practice in Pittsburgh, PA who specializes in Developmental Neuropsychiatry. She has over 25 years of clinical experience in the evaluation and treatment of individuals with Developmental Disabilities. She is a consultant to the PWSA (USA) where she serves on the Clinical Advisory Board and the IPWSO where she was recently appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee.

**Mary Cataletto, MD**, is the Associate Director of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology and Director of Children's Sleep Services at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY. Additionally, she serves as Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Stony Brook University on LI. She has vast experience caring for people with PWS.

**Jeff Covington, BA**, is the Director of Residential Services for Catholic Charities Disabilities Services in Albany, NY. He has worked with individuals with PWS for over 10 years and in the field of developmental disabilities for over 15 years. Jeff is a member of the PWS associations of New York, New Jersey, and New England, and is also a member of the PWSA(USA) Provider Advisory Board.

**Steve Drago, B.S.**, Associate Director of the Arc of Alachua County since 1996. Steve has worked with adults and children with disabilities for over thirty years Steve has authored one chapter in the reference book "Management of Prader-Willi Syndrome", Third Edition.

**B.J. Goff, Ed.D.**, is an Associate Professor of Education at Westfield State College in MA. She is also a disabilities consultant, specializing in PWS. Dr. Goff has first-hand experience opening and operating PWS group homes. She serves as educational crisis consultant for PWSA(USA).

**Linda Gourash, MD** is a Developmental Pediatrician who graduated from Georgetown University Medical School in Washington DC. As the Medical Director of the Prader-Willi Syndrome and Behavioral Disorders program of the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, she worked for more than five years almost exclusively with children and adults with PWS.

**Mary Jo Hebert** is the Regional Coordinator with the Capital District office of Parent to Parent of NYS. She is an instructor of Training and Development Programs for OMRDD. Mary Jo is past president of the NYS chapter of the American Association on Intellectual Disabilities and a member of the Capital District DDSO's Family Support Council. As the parent of a child with developmental disabilities, she is a frequent contributor of articles on the challenges faced by parents of children with special needs

**Janalee Heinemann, MSW**, is the parent of an adult son with PWS and has her Masters in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. She is the former executive director of PWSA(USA) and presently serves as the Director of Research and Medical Affairs.

**Michael Marchese, M.A., LMHC**, is the Director of Adult Services at Latham Centers Inc., and has been responsible for managing Latham's Prader-Willi Syndrome services since joining Latham in 2003. A licensed mental health professional, he has 30 years of clinical, supervisory and program management experience in the mental health and developmental disabilities.

**John Porcella, PhD**, is the Executive Director of Community Living Corporation. He has operated a residential program for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome since 1991. He has more than 25 continuous years of experience with PWS and was responsible, in 1980, for developing the first residential school program in New York for children with PWS.

**Jonathan Smith, LICSW**, is the Director of Children's Services at Latham Centers. He has over 30 years of experience working with parents and individuals with PWS as well as host of other issues, in residential, hospital, and community based programs. He has extensive experience working with "aging out youth" and the transition challenges that they and their families encounter.

**Edward Wilcenski, Esq.** is a co-owner and co-manager of the law firm of Jones & Wilcenski PLLC in Clifton Park, New York. He practices in the areas of Special Needs Estate Planning, Elder Law and Trust and Estate Administration.

**Mary K. Ziccardi** is on the Board of Directors of the PWASA(USA) and the Administrator of the northern region of REM Ohio, a residential provider agency supporting people with ID/D. In 1994, Ms. Ziccardi developed and opened the first residential treatment program in Ohio for people with Prader-Willi syndrome .