



Welcome to USAAA News, a weekly newsletter that addresses a range of topics on autism and Asperger Syndrome, the TIP of the week, and USAAA convention updates.

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New Board Member Appointed

Susan Schulman has been appointed to the USAAA Board of Directors. Ms. Schulman is a Certified Clinical Research Associate. She has worked for over thirty years as a medical/technical writer and clinical research coordinator for a variety of academic facilities and private businesses including the University of Utah, University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, University of Chicago and the Huntsman Cancer Institute. She investigated research developments in autism and tutored an autistic child using the Lovaas method. She has written, reviewed and edited numerous clinical trials, manuscripts, and ethics committee submissions. Her publications include over forty articles on cancer therapy and management published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *British Medical Journal*, the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* and other noted publications. Ms. Schulman has taught history taking skills and administered examinations to medical and physician assistant students. She has volunteered for a number of non-profit organizations, including the University of Utah. Her greatest joy is being a mom to her two fantastic children, a 24-year-old son and 21-year-old daughter. Read on...

New Advisory Board Member Appointed

Dr. John Hicks has been appointed to the USAAA Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Hicks has dedicated himself to the practice of medicine with a targeted interest in serving individuals suffering from critical and chronic illness. As CEO of Pathways Medical Advocates (<http://www.pathwaysmed.com/>), and key practitioner serving thousands of children and adults across the United States, Dr. Hicks has emerged as a national authority on systems-based medical care. Targeted expertise in the treatment of children with special needs highlights Dr. Hick's career. Dr. Hick's foundational training at the University of Louisville has been augmented over the years through the integration of cutting edge, alternative therapies reflective of the whole-person principles. Dr. Hicks' systemic approach bridges traditional and non-traditional worlds of medicine, including the application of subtle energy therapies and Vibrational medicine. Read on...



Swimming Lessons for Children with Autism

Swimming lessons for children with Autism helps them feel comfortable in the water, which gives them the ability to prevent drowning. Last year there were 3,847 unintentional drownings in recreational water sites in the United States, averaging about nine people per day. More than 4,000 additional people are treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal drownings. Children are especially at risk; drowning remains the second-leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years.

"Remember that swimming lessons do not drown-proof younger kids and that they should always be supervised in the water, whether or not they know how to swim," said Don Crowley owner of Austin, Texas based AquaKnow Aquatics (<http://www.aquaknowaquatics.org/>). What you can do:

Read on...

TIP of the Week

"Know what you want. When you first approach your pediatrician, have your goals and objectives written in detail." (from the book, *Diagnosis Autism: Now What?, 10 Steps to Improve Treatment Outcomes; A Parent-Physician Team Approach*).

Read On

Quote of the Week

Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate. — John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Park City, Utah is the site of the USAAA National Conference and Retreat scheduled for August 10-13, 2006. The primary focus of the conference will concentrate on family health and sibling issues, adolescence, diet and nutrition, Asperger's concerns, as well as the latest autism research and treatment. With over 20 speakers, USAAA has assembled leading experts that will focus on ways to improve the quality of life for affected individuals, their families and caregivers.

"Parents needed a place to come learn about effective interventions – both biomedical and educational – for their children, while not having to feel stressed about finding childcare. Parents needed how to learn to relax and take care of themselves, too. And families need to have a wonderful vacation to enjoy. The USAAA conference evolved to fill these needs," said Dr. Larry Kaplan, Executive Director.

Families can come together to enjoy beautiful scenery, while also having an opportunity to learn how to rehabilitate/recover children with autism. Parents can choose between a



dip into the mysteries of methylation or a dip in the pool - a fresh breath of mountain air or a lecture on hyperbaric oxygen - a view of the pristine mountains or a new perspective on primitive reflexes. USAAA invites you and your family to a 4-day vacation/retreat at the beautiful Park City Yarrow Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Children 5 and older are invited to Adventure Day Camp at the renowned National Ability Center just down the road from the conference. Registration will be available in December. Reserve your room now at the Yarrow Resort Hotel and Conference Center for only \$69 per room per night. Special rate applies until March 9, 2006. FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 1-800-927-7694.