



PRISMS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DoubleTree Bloomington Minneapolis South
Thursday, July 30, 2026 – Saturday, August 1, 2026

**Program and times are subject to change*

**Blue text denotes childcare, PRISMS Pack or Sibling sessions*

Thursday, July 30, 2026

12:00pm Childcare check-in
11:00am-5:00pm Conference Registration
11:00am-4:30pm PRISMS Pathway Open
11:00am-4:30pm PRISMS Merchandise Store Open
1:00pm-5:00pm Childcare
1:00pm-5:00pm PRISMS Pack Program
8:30pm-10:00pm Sibling hangout

1:15pm-2:45pm **First Steps Session, “Navigating the PRISMS Conference and Finding Support Along the Way.”**

Facilitators/Speakers: Allison Stephanouk, Charlene Michaud

Parent Ambassadors: Tristan & Melanie Griffin, Heather Sievers

This is a closed session for first- or second-time conference attendees. No children in the session please.

1:30pm-2:45pm **Concurrent Workshops**

A) Teacher and Support Staff Training /Part 1

Speakers: Barbara Haas-Givler, MEd, BCBA, Cora Taylor, PhD, Megan Zieber, MS, MPH, LGC

*Closed session for teachers, residential and support staff

B) Adult Living: Residential and Vocational Options/Shared Living Collaborative

Speaker: Daniela Morse, Executive Director

2:45pm-3:00pm **Break**

3:00pm-4:15pm Concurrent Workshops and Breakout Session

Attendees may feel free to move between sessions.

A) Teacher and Support Staff Training Session/Part 2

Speakers: Barbara Haas-Givler, MEd, BCBA, Cora Taylor, PhD, Megan Zieber, MS, MPH, LGC

*Closed session for teachers, residential and support staff

B) Adult Living: Engaging in a Self-Directed, Meaningful Life / Building Community

Speaker: Daniela Morse, Executive Director

C) Understanding the Genetics of SMS

Speaker: Rachel Franciskovich, MS, CGC

D) “Obesity and Metabolic Health in Smith-Magenis: A Holistic Approach”

Speakers: Sarah Elsea, PhD, John Berens, MD

E) Neurological implication in SMS

Speaker: Andrea Gropman, MD, CNMC, Division Chief, Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics and Neurogenetics Washington, DC

3:00pm-3:30pm First Steps: Siblings (for ages 7-17)

Facilitators/Speakers: Michaud Family

*We kindly request that attendees be between the ages of 7-17 and that individuals with SMS **do not** attend.

3:00pm-3:30pm PRISMS Pack – Check-in/Welcome

3:45pm-4:15pm Glow Party T-Shirts: [Siblings/PRISMS Pack] (for ages 7+)

4:30pm-5:00pm Merlin, the Therapy Dog [Siblings/PRISMS Pack] (for ages 7+)

5:00pm Childcare & The PRISMS Pack Program closes for the day

5:00pm-6:30pm Welcome Reception (DJ, hors d’oeuvres, non-alcoholic drinks, temporary tattoos, face painting)

8:00pm 17p11.2 Society meets: All are welcome!

8:30pm-10:00pm Sibling Hangout Room Open (no supervision)

Friday, July 31, 2026

7:00am Registration check-in continues

7:00am-8:15am Continental breakfast

7:45am-12:00pm **Childcare opens**
12:45pm-5:15pm **Childcare reopens**
9:00am-10:00pm **Sibling Hangout Open**
1:00pm-5:00pm **The PRISMS Pack Program**
8:00pm-10:00pm **Childcare**

8:00am-9:15am General Session

8:00am-8:15am Welcome & Opening Remarks, Video

Speaker: Michelle Larscheid, PRISMS Executive Director

PRISMS Executive Director welcomes conference attendees to the 13th International SMS Conference.

8:15am-8:20am President's Address

Speaker: Percy Houston, PRISMS President

8:20am-8:35am Positive Exposure: The Spirit of Difference

Keynote Speaker: Rick Guidotti

8:35am-8:55am Keynote

Featured Speaker: Nate Noble, DO, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician, Clinical Geneticist Unity Point Health, Blank Children's Hospital

8:55am-9:15am From Discovery to Understanding: The History of SMS

Special Presentation: Ann C.M. Smith, MA, DSc (Hon), CGC

9:15am-9:30am Closing

Speaker: Michelle Larscheid

9:30am-10:15am Siblings Program: Paint Your Partner (ages 7-12)

9:30am-9:45am Break, (coffee & tea)

9:45am-11:30am PRISMS Is

An overview of some of the successful PRISMS programs that serve the global SMS community.

Highlight of PRISMS Resources (webinars, Regional Reps, Advocacy Partners)

Speakers: Designated speakers from PRISMS and the SMS global community

PRISMS Program Spotlight - PCRC: PRISMS Clinic and Research Consortium

Moderators: Ann C.M. Smith, MA, DSc (Hon), CGC, Gail Reiner, DNP, FNP-C

11:15am-11:30am Q & A

10:30am-11:30am Siblings Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Supporting Your Sibling: Navigating Puberty, Boundaries, and Relationships (for ages 13-17)

Facilitator: Dr. Mirian Ofonedu, PhD, LCSW-C

Session B: Art Activity - Dreamcatcher (for ages 7-12)

11:30am-12:45pm Lunch Buffet

1:00pm-2:15pm Concurrent Sessions

A) Supporting Your Child's Sexual Health: Navigating Boundaries, Safety, and Relationships

Speaker: Dr. Mirian Ofonedu PhD, LCSW-C

B) Early Childhood Development in Smith-Magenis Syndrome

Speaker: Sinan Turniacioglu, MD, Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician, Children's National Hospital, Washington, DC

C) Medical Management of SMS (Transition to Adulthood)

Speakers: Ann C. M. Smith, MA, DSc, (Hon), Gail Reiner, DNP, FNP-C

D) From Language to Literacy: Helping Individuals with SMS Become Readers

Speaker: Christine Brennan, PhD, CCC, SLP

E) Obesity and Metabolic Health in Smith-Magenis: A Holistic Approach

Speakers: Sarah Elsea, PhD, John Berens, MD

1:00pm-2:00pm Siblings Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Minute to Win It – Stress Management Style (for ages 13-17)

Facilitator: Karen Canada, LCMHCS, MS

Session B: Music Therapy (for ages 7-12)

Facilitator: Alliance Music TBD

1:00pm-2:00pm PRISMS Pack - Pub Trivia

Facilitator: Nakita Kometani and Lilli Cahill

2:00pm-3:00pm Pub Trivia for Siblings (for ages 7-17)

Facilitator: Nakita Kometani and Lilli Cahill

2:00pm-3:00pm PRISMS Pack - Music Therapy

Facilitator: Alliance Music TBD

2:15pm-2:30pm **Break**

2:30pm-3:45pm **Concurrent Sessions**

A) Caregiver/Family Considerations in SMS

Speakers: Timothy Vollmer, PhD, Kerri Peters, PhD, BCBA-D

B) An SMS Parent’s Perspective on Guardianship and Estate Planning

Speaker: Randy Beall, Parent, Former PRISMS President

C) Medical Management of SMS (From newborn to early adolescence)

Speakers: Ann C. M. Smith, MA, DSc, (Hon), Gail Reiner, DNP, FNP-C

D) From Diagnosis to Clinical Trials: The Cycle of Research in SMS

Speakers: Sarah Elsea, PhD, Chris Vlangos, PhD

3:00pm-3:45pm **Siblings Program TBD**

3:00pm-3:45pm **PRISMS Pack: TBD**

3:45pm-4:00pm **Break**

4:15pm-5:15pm **Field Trip – Dairy Queen Treat [Siblings/PRISMS Pack] (for ages 7+)**

4:00pm-5:15pm **Concurrent Sessions**

A) Parent to Parent Series - Exploring Adult Living

Facilitators: Barclay Daranyi, Mary Beall

B) Multiple SMS Behavior Case Reports: Challenges and Interventions

Speakers: Timothy Vollmer, PhD, Kerri Peters, PhD, BCBA-D, Janae’ Pendergrass, MS, BCBA, Arielle Marshall, MS, BCBA

C) How to Navigate Puberty for Girls

Speaker: Cora Taylor, PhD

D) Speech-Language Development, Challenges with Communication in SMS, & Strategies to Improve Communication

Speaker: Christine Brennan, PhD, CCC-SLP

5:15pm-6:00pm **Curbside Consults**

5:15pm **Childcare closes**

Dinner on your own & Light Up the Night Fundraiser at 8:00pm to 11:30pm

7:00pm-10:00pm Sibling Hangout Room Open (no supervision)

Evening Sessions

8:00pm-10:00pm Childcare

8:00pm-11:30pm PRISMS Light Up the Night a Celebration and Conference Fundraiser

Join us for an unforgettable evening of connection, compassion, and celebration at ***Light Up the Night***, a glowing fundraiser in support of PRISMS. Dress Code: Black and gold — formal, casual, or something perfect in between. Let your style shine as we light up the night together!

Saturday, August 1, 2026

7:00am-8:00am Continental Breakfast

7:45am-12:00pm Childcare opens

12:15pm-12:45pm Childcare is closed for lunch

12:45pm-5:15pm Childcare reopens

8:00am-5:00pm Sibling Hangout

1:00pm-4:45pm The PRISMS Pack Program

General Session

8:00am-8:15am Housekeeping Remarks

8:15am-10:00am SMS Research Updates

Panel will present critical SMS research updates from various research disciplines.

Moderators: Sarah Elsea, PhD, Christopher Vlangos, PhD, FACMG, Christine Brennan, PhD
CCC-SLP

10:00 am-10:30am Q & A

10:30am-10:45am Break

9:30am-10:30am Siblings Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Express Yourself: Finding Joy and Meaning through Expression, Connection, and Choice (for ages 13-17)

Facilitator: Karen Canada, LCMHCS, MS

Session B: Sibling Workshop Session (for ages 7-12)

Facilitator: Sharyn DeZelar

11:15am-12:00pm Sibling Session Heredity and YOU: for the Sibs: Understanding Genetic Traits (for ages 7-14)

Speaker: Rachel Franciskovich/Megan Zieber

***For siblings only!**

10:45am-12:00pm Concurrent Sessions

A) VANDA Pharmaceuticals: Sleep, SMS, and Hetlioz

B) Practical Applications of Stress Management for Caregivers

Speakers: Karen Canada, LCMHCS, MS, Shannon Duval, parent

Practical application of stress management for caregivers.

C) How to Navigate Puberty for Boys

Speaker: Cora Taylor, PhD

D) Building Bridges and Navigating Adult-based Healthcare for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Speaker: John C. Berens, MD

E) Setting The Stage for Success for Students With SMS: From the Clinic to the Classroom

Speakers: Barbara Haas-Givler, MEd, BCBA, Thomas Challman, MD

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch Buffet

1:00pm-1:45pm

A) First Steps Regroup

Speakers/Facilitators: Allison Stephanouk, Charlene Michaud

B) Regional Rep Meeting

Speakers: Michelle Larscheid, Denien Rasmussen

C) Teacher & Support Staff Meet-up

Facilitators: Sylvia Farber, MEd, Mary Beall, MEd

1:45pm-2:45pm “The Sibling Experience” (for ages 7-17)

Speaker: Avery Zemlak

1:45pm-2:30pm PRISMS Pack - Art Activity – Dreamcatchers

1:45-3:00pm Concurrent Sessions

A) Parent to Parent Series: Prioritizing Your Relationship

Speakers: Nancy Cordrey, David Cordrey

B) SMS Feeding Challenges: Impact of Addressing Feeding Disorders Early to Promote Positive Outcomes

Speaker: Vivian Ibanez, PhD, BCBA-D

Panel: Christine Brennan, PhD, CCC, SLP

C) HELP WANTED! Medication Guide for SMS

Speakers: Kerry Boyd, MD, Ann C.M. Smith, MA, DSc (Hon), CGC, Andrea Gropman, MD

D) What a Parent Must Know about Education Options?

Speaker: Sylvia Farber, MEd

2:45pm-3:15pm Sibling Program: Cookie Decorating (for ages 7-17)

2:45pm-3:15pm PRISMS Pack: TBD

3:00pm-3:15pm Break

3:15pm-4:30pm Concurrent Sessions

A) Parent to Parent Series: Parenting Siblings

Facilitator: Alicia Miller

B) Beyond Childhood: Social Communication in Teens and Adults with SMS (focus would be on ways to improve social communication for vocational and recreation needs)

Speaker: Christine Brennan, PhD, CCC-SLP

C) Epilepsy challenges in Smith-Magenis Syndrome

Speakers: Andrea Gropman, MD, Sinan Turnacioglu, MD

D) Behavioral assessment and intervention: the need to translate to SMS

Speakers: Timothy Vollmer, PhD, Kerri Peters, PhD, BCBA-D

3:30pm-4:30pm Glow Party! [Joint Event: Siblings/PRISMS Pack] (for ages 7+)

4:30pm-4:45pm Break

General Session

4:45pm-5:10pm Slideshow, Awards & Celebration of the PRISMS SMS Community!

Speakers: Michelle Larscheid, PRISMS Executive Director, Percy Houston, PRISMS President

5:10pm-5:25pm Brian Periera Memorial Scholarship Announcement (video)

Brian Periera Memorial Scholarship 2025 Recipient, SMS Sibling Avery Zemlak

5:30pm Final Words

Amy Pereira and Jason Michaud, Conference Co-Chairs

5:45pm-6:30pm Ice Cream Social

4:30pm PRISMS Pack Program closes

4:30pm Siblings Hangout Room closes

5:15pm Childcare closes

****Conference Concludes & Dinner On Your Own****