Monday 10/5

Creating a Vision  
Michelle Self, Ph.D.; Lisa Portune, LISW

If you don’t know where you are going, how do you define your path? Before every IEP meeting, you and your IEP team should know and understand the importance of the vision to ensure the necessary steps are being taken to achieve the outcome. Learn how to write a vision statement and present it to your team, and how to be an active member of your team to advocate for appropriate services, accommodations and modifications to work toward your vision.

Strategies for Overcoming Developmental Delays in 10 Key Areas  
Beth Boylan, BCBA

Beth has learned a great deal about overcoming developmental delays in her work with young children (ages 3-7) with Williams syndrome. Join her to learn about the strategies that are working to help her young clients minimize and overcome the most common developmental delays for those with Williams syndrome.

Adult Health Issues In WS  
Barbara Pober, MD

Changing medical concerns and increasing neurodevelopmental and emotional concerns are common as individuals with WS age. The most common concerns in each of these areas will be addressed.

Tuesday 10/6

Connecting the ED. Profile to General Ability and Language  
Robin Pegg, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP; Carolyn Mervis, Ph.D.

This session will connect the educational profile for WS to current research on general ability and language skills to help you support your school-age child in their education.

What to Tell/Ask the Anesthesiologist Before a Procedure  
Morgan Brown, MD, Ph.D. Leslie Smoot, MD

Specialists from Boston Children’s Hospital will provide the latest information on anesthesia concerns in WS, what you should tell your child’s anesthesiologist about these issues, and what you need to ask (and he/she should answer) to ensure your child is in the right hands during a procedure.

Understanding the Maze of Government Benefits  
Barbara Bush

Do you have questions about the difference between SSI and SSDI, or how to maximize your SSI benefits with the use of an ABLE trust account? What about when your adult child works – what happens to their benefits? These questions and many more will be discussed in this presentation.

Wednesday 10/7

Q & A - Behavior Concerns for Toddlers and Pre-School-aged Kids  
Karen Levine, Ph.D.; Bonnie Klein-Tasman, Ph.D.

This session will provide strategies to address common behavior issues in children 11 and under, including challenges associated with phobias and anxiety.

Preparing Your Daughter or Son for Employment  
Terry Ebert

Creative Spirit, an organization devoted to creating integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) at the best companies in the world will introduce you to their philosophy and the tools they use to prepare young adults with IDDs for employment.

Gynecological Issues for Girls and Young Women with WS  
Takara Stanley, MD & Carrie Terrell, MD

This session will discuss the special concerns of early puberty, hygiene issues, GYN exams, birth control for girls/women with WS and much more.

Thursday, 10/8

How to Help Your Child Regulate Anxiety  
Marilee Martens, Ph.D.

This session will provide techniques to teach your children how to change their negative thoughts and reduce their anxiety. Helpful information on how to parent a child with anxiety will also be discussed.

Approaches to Common Behavior Challenges  
Bonnie Klein-Tasman, Ph.D.

Dr Klein-Tasman will describe common behavior challenges seen at home and school for children with Williams syndrome and present some ideas for approaching these challenges and supporting positive behaviors.
**Designing Language Arts Instruction**
Robin Pegg, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP; Carolyn Mervis, PhD
This session will focus on how to design instructional experiences to support optimal success for the school-age student with Williams syndrome. We will specifically address the following:
- learning needs regarding language arts (reading & writing) instruction
- important instructional supports and scaffolds
- common accommodations

**Friday, 10/9**

**Gastrointestinal issues in Children and Adults with WS**
Jay Levinson, MD
Diarrhea, constipation, rectal prolapse, diverticulosis, diverticulitis, IBS...the list of possible gastrointestinal issues for those with WS is long. This session will provide an overview of common issues, treatments and strategies for prevention.

**Be Your Child’s Champion: Advocacy Tools and Legal Framework**
Melissa Murphy, Esq
This session will focus on tools and strategies for families to become effective advocates for their children with early intervention programs, schools, professionals, and other community partners. An overview of special education law essentials, programs for family engagement, and top tips for successfully advocating for the placement, supports, and related services your child needs (and is entitled to!) will be provided. Perfect for newly diagnosed families or families with children elementary age and younger.

**Renal Issues in Williams syndrome**
Mark Joseph, MD
The prevalence of significant renal abnormalities in patients with Williams syndrome is high - kidney abnormalities, missing kidneys, renal artery stenosis, hypertension and more can occur. Learn about the screening and prospective follow-up for renal abnormalities.

**Saturday October 10 – Sessions in Spanish**

**Desafíos cognitivos y lectura**
Angela Becerra, Ph.D.
El doctor Becerra presentará una visión general de los desafíos cognitivos y los fundamentos de la lectura.

**Desafíos cognitivos y lectura**
Angela Becerra, Ph.D.
Una continuación de la visión general del doctor Becerra sobre los desafíos cognitivos y las bases para la lectura.

**Monday October 12**

**What Our Genes Tell Us About Health in WS: Lessons from the NIH**
Beth Kozel, MD, Ph.D.
This presentation will focus on how changes in DNA (both within and at a distance from the WS deletion) impact the severity of vascular and developmental features of WS. We will also talk about the work we are doing at the NIH to take the lessons learned from patients’ DNA and cells to guide us toward new therapies for vascular disease in WS.

**Q&A Behaviors in School and Adolescent-aged Children with WS**
Bonnie Klein-Tasman, Ph.D and Karen Levine, Ph.D.
This session will provide strategies to address common behavior issues in children 11 and under, including challenges associated with phobias and anxiety.

**Common Endocrine Issues for Adults with Williams Syndrome**
Takara Stanley, MD
Many adults with WS have issues with obesity, bone health, and glucose. This session will discuss the signs and treatments for each.

**Tuesday 10/13**

**Introducing the Social Skills Training Program for Adults with WS**
Marisa Fisher, Ph.D.
This presentation will describe the Social Skills Training Program for Adults with WS, including the topics the program currently covers, findings from

**What’s Nutrition Got to Do with It?**
Carolyn Russ, Nanci Rogers, RNA
We will examine how nutrition affects the health and performance of individuals with Williams syndrome.
Designing Math Instruction

Robin Pegg, M.Ed., COTA/L, ATP; Carolyn Mervis, PhD

This session will focus on how to design instructional experiences to support optimal success for the student with Williams syndrome. We will specifically address the following:

- Learning needs regarding math instruction
- Important instructional supports and scaffolds
- Common accommodations

Wednesday 10/14

The Heart of WS: Lessons from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Mark Levin, MD

With such a wide range of aortic and pulmonary disease within WS, how diligent should we be? Dr. Levin will review the major cardiac abnormalities seen in Williams syndrome as well as the generalized vascular disease and how that relates to recommending fluids and exercise... and much more.

Estate Planning and Special Needs Trusts

Meredith Greene, Esq

The when, where and how’s of creating a special needs trust, and how they intersect with your ABLE account.

SHAAPEx: What the Research is Telling Us

Barbara Pober, MD

Dr. Pober will present important results regarding body composition (fat + muscle), weight gain, bone density, and more for those with Williams syndrome

Thursday 10/15

The College Search: Tips and Tools for Parents and Students

Cate Weir

This presentation is a demonstration of the College Search resource on www.thinkcollege.net. It will provide a walk-through of critical features families need to know when using this database.

Apply or Troubleshoot Ineligibility Decisions for State Assistance Programs

Laura Chesser, MA

Learn the processes for application and appeal for SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, Medicaid waiver programs, wrap-around services, and how to gain crisis service and planning as well as how to locate local/state resources to help you address appeals or troubleshoot a mistake or wrongful decision.

Anxiety in adolescents and adults with WS

Robyn Thom, MD

Anxiety disorders affect approximately half of individuals with Williams syndrome and can affect social, educational, and occupational functioning. This session will cover how symptoms of anxiety in Williams syndrome manifest across the lifespan, with an emphasis on symptoms that develop during adolescence and adulthood. Treatments for anxiety will also be discussed.

Friday 10/16

Debunking the Myths about Williams syndrome

Martin Levinson, M.D.

All children with Williams syndrome are highly social and friendly... Everyone with Williams syndrome LOVES music (or is musical!); People with Williams syndrome cannot do math; are terrible eaters... the list goes on. Is any characteristic of Williams syndrome truly universal to everyone with WS? Join this session to find out!

Turning Eighteen - The Legal Options for Guardianship and Alternatives

Meredith Greene, Esq.

Learn about the different legal options families should consider when their child becomes an adult at the age of 18. Become familiar with the steps of the guardianship process, Shared Decision Making and much more. Participants will learn how they can stay involved in decision-making with schools, doctors and other professionals

Rising Together: Direction, Determination, Diversity

Terry Monkaba, MBA and Jocelyn Krebs, Ph.D.

As families affected by Williams Syndrome we spend our lives seeking direction, determined to help our children reach their potential while increasing awareness of Williams syndrome to help our communities understand the gifts of a diverse population. The Williams Syndrome Association has shared these same goals for more than 35 years and is determined to adapt to a changing landscape and overcome the challenges as we work to help families ensure a bright future for their children with Williams syndrome.
Saturday October 17 – Sessions in Spanish

WS 101 - Resumen médico       Juan Lozano, MD
A general overview of the medical characteristics common in individuals with Williams syndrome.

Evaluación de habilidades interpersonales y tratamiento en niños en edad escolar con síndrome de Williams.   Meagan Horn, M.A., CCC-SLP
A muchos niños con Síndrome de Williams les gusta iniciar interacciones sociales, pero pueden experimentar dificultades para mantener sus amistades y tener relaciones satisfactorias. Esta presentación discutirá las recomendaciones para evaluar el nivel actual de funcionamiento social / pragmático y las intervenciones de tratamiento para mejorar las relaciones tanto en la escuela como en el hogar.