



**Cerebral Palsy Associations  
of New York State**

*Real people. Realizing potential.*

## **Clinical Conference Attracts Medical Professionals From Across The State To Saratoga Springs**

Despite the region's first major snowfall of the season, more than 70 medical professionals from across the state travelled to Saratoga Springs on November 16 to attend the first ***Multi-Disciplinary Clinical Care For Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*** conference. The event was conducted by the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) Medical Directors' Council and was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

The conference began with a Keynote Address by **Dr. Steven Perlman**, a Clinical Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine. For the past 40 years, he has devoted much of his private practice and teaching, to the treatment of children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Dr. Perlman founded Special Olympics Special Smiles, an oral health initiative for the athletes of Special Olympics International active in more than 100 countries. In his remarks, Dr. Perlman discussed the disparity in available healthcare for people with developmental disabilities and encouraged the medical professionals in attendance to continue to work to provide equal medical care for people with disabilities.



*Dr. Steven Perlman*

Four sessions followed Dr. Perlman's Keynote Address. The first was presented by Dr. Maria Kansas, Chief Medical Officer at the Center for Disability Services, who discussed co-occurring conditions in people with developmental disabilities.



*Dr. Maria Kansas and Dr. Vincent Siasoco address attendees at the conference on November 16.*

A session on swallowing difficulties in patients with I/DD was conducted by Dr. Ruth Alejandro, a pediatric Physiatrist at Blythedale Children's Hospital, Diankah Eligon, a physical therapy supervisor at Metro

Community Health Centers and Elizabeth Foglia, a speech language pathologist at Aspire of Western New York concluded the morning.

The afternoon began with a presentation on oral manifestations and complications related to treating patients with complex diagnoses from Rita Bilello, DDS, Metro Dental Director at Metro Community Health Centers. The day's final session was a discussion on the variable presentations of mental illness in people with developmental disabilities conducted by Richard Cohen, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health at Metro Community Health Centers and Jessica Hebrank, MD, a Psychiatrist at the Center for Disability Services.

The 2019 conference is scheduled for Friday, November 15 at the same Embassy suites Hotel in Saratoga Springs.