

## **Dental Diagnosis and Treatment for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Presenter:** David Fray D.D.S.

**Intended Audience:** Individuals with autism; Families and caregivers of individuals with autism; Staff and administrators of agencies that work with children and/or adults with autism; Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants, and Dental Office administrators; Undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate students working in psychology, medicine, social work or allied fields.

### **Session Description**

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder often present behavioral challenges such as aggression or unusual behaviors that prevent effective diagnosis and treatment by the dental team. Dentists and dental staff members are capable of addressing anxiety and behaviors with many patients and may not be aware of the effective adaptation of their existing skills, office policy and procedures to effectively treat behaviors in persons with autism.

Dentists and families need to understand issues of communication or adaptive functioning underlying an individual with DD and the appropriate response in a dental setting. Families can educate and recruit dental teams to understand and effectively treat their family members. Participants will be given examples of dental system changes that have occurred in California that have resulted in improved oral health.