Celebrating 50 Years of service to Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Region, and the nation
Front cover: Artwork produced by the 5 and 6 year old children at Ellis Elementary School for a project with Simon Duffy, Harkness Fellow at JFK Partners. Along with the help of JFK Partners colleagues, Simon worked to support Hayley, a child with developmental disabilities, to be included in her classroom by exploring the meaning of inclusion – in their own words. Together all of the children shared their ideas about friendship and created images to go along with their words. These images and words were then turned into the posters you can see in the gallery at www.jfkpartners.org/50th.
Message from Corry Robinson

Thank you for joining us this evening in recognition of the 50 years of service, training and research by the faculty, staff and fellows of JFK Partners. It has been our privilege over the years to work in close collaboration with our University and community colleagues, and with parents and self-advocates, in our joint efforts to improve the day-to-day experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. You will see on the sponsorship page the many wonderful partners we have from the University and the community. I especially want to acknowledge the support of the chapters of the Arc. In 1968 The Arc of Colorado, then the Metropolitan Association for Retarded Children was instrumental in securing the community support for the program. Going forward these efforts will be enhanced by the merger of JFK Partners and the Section of Neurodevelopmental Behavioral Pediatrics, with the entire program under the direction of Sandra Friedman, MD, MPH.

Message from Sandra Friedman

It is wonderful to be able to acknowledge the legacy and accomplishments of JFK Partners. The significant achievements and contributions made by prior leaders, faculty, staff, families, self-advocates, and community partners through the years are truly remarkable. Dr. Corry Robinson, in particular, has been on the forefront of so many positive changes through the years. It is humbling to follow in her footsteps. It also is particularly special to have a member of the Kennedy family with us at this celebration, as we honor their legacy as stewards to significant and positive changes to the lives of people with disabilities through the years. I am looking forward to continue to work and collaborate with others to fulfill the shared mission of JFK Partners to promote community integration, contribution, health, and well-being of people with developmental disabilities and their families.
Over its 50 year history, JFK Partners has contributed to the training of hundreds of professionals and provided assessment and intervention services to thousands of individuals and their families. Those trained represent a number of disciplines that contribute to the diagnosis and treatment of persons with developmental disabilities and their families, not only in Denver and Colorado, but nationally and internationally. In 1964, a multidisciplinary clinic was founded within the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado (CU) School of Medicine. When federal funding through PL88-164 became available to assist in building interdisciplinary clinical training and research centers in developmental disabilities, CU with John J. Conger’s leadership successfully applied, with support from Colorado’s governor and legislature, The Arc of Colorado, and the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. The JFK Child Development Center and the B.F. Stolinsky Lab building at 8th and Birch, on the former campus was dedicated in 1968.
The rationale for these centers was the need for community-based, as opposed to institution-based, diagnostic treatment centers for children with intellectual and related disabilities. The training philosophy was grounded in the assumption that children and families would benefit from care delivered by professionals who received their training in an interdisciplinary clinical context.

The center was organized initially under Dr. Donough O’Brien’s leadership. Dr Joseph Rossi was the first Director (1965-1969), followed by John Meier, PhD (1969-1975). William Frankenburg, MD, served as Director (1977 -1985) followed by Bonnie Camp MD, PhD (1985-1991).

In 1993 JFK Partners became an interdepartmental program of Pediatrics and Psychiatry. At that time, Corry Robinson, PhD, RN, was appointed as Director. Also within Pediatrics there was the Section of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics under the direction of Randi Hagerman, MD. The two sections, JFK and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, began to collaborate. Their collaboration made it possible to successfully compete for a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) training grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau.

In 2007, JFK Partners moved to the Anschutz Medical Campus, ED2 South Building, 5th floor. Clinical work however continued at The original Children’s Hospital until the new hospital opened in 2008. In 2009, Sandra Friedman, MD, MPH, was appointed Section Head of Neurodevelopmental Behavioral Pediatrics, as well as Associate Director of the LEND and UCEDD core grants.

For the past year, since Corry Robinson’s announcement of retirement as Director of the program effective June 30, 2015, the combined faculty and staff of the School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital Colorado have been working to create unified clinical, training, research and advocacy programs. As of July 1, 2015 Sandra Friedman, MD, MPH, will become the 6th Director of JFK Partners.
John J. Conger, PhD, was a gifted leader who joined the University of Colorado School of Medicine as a Professor of Clinical Psychology in 1953. He dedicated 24 years of his career serving in varying capacities ranging from Chief of the Division of Clinical Psychology to Dean of the School of Medicine, Vice-President for Medical Affairs, and Acting Chancellor of the Health Sciences Center. Dr. Conger also served as Vice-President and Director of the Health Program at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

A distinguished scholar and researcher, Dr. Conger focused much of his career on Child Mental Health Policy and the overwhelming gap between diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems. He was the co-author of the most influential textbooks on child and adolescent development of his generation and received an award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children from the Society for Research in Child Development.

Dr. Conger received numerous notable awards throughout his career including the University of Colorado Medal in 1986 for outstanding achievement and distinguished contributions to the welfare of the University, the state, and the nation.

In 1992, as Professor Emeritus, he chaired the committee to recruit a new director of the JFK Center, a responsibility which he accepted as a reflection of his continuing commitment to the program he helped to found. In 1998, he again answered a call to assist with JFK Partners 30th anniversary symposium.

A letter from John Janeway Conger at the time of the 30th anniversary.

When the John F. Kennedy Child Development Center was created thirty years ago, our overarching aim - as well as that of members of the Kennedy family - was to focus greater attention than in past years on the challenges and opportunities presented by mental retardation. But we knew that if such an effort was going to have a lasting impact, it would need to be interdisciplinary in nature because of the variety and complexity of skills required. And it would need to involve research, both basic and applied; interdisciplinary training, both of professionals and students; and clinical care and support. This is what the Center set out to do.

While the Center, which we now know as JFK Partners, and its many activities have broadened and expanded beyond anything that could reasonably have been anticipated at its founding thirty years ago, it has remained true to its original aims. In a world of constant change and shifting fads, this is a remarkable accomplishment and a cause for celebration. Our hats are off to all those who through the years have worked to make it possible.

Congratulations!

John Janeway Conger
Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry
Former Chancellor, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
Welcome
Marijo Rymer, Executive Director of the Arc of Colorado

Recognition of Attendees
Corry Robinson, Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry and Marilyn Krajicek, Professor, CU, College of Nursing

Dinner

Introduction of PHAMALy
Performance by members of PHAMALy

Honorary Chair Chancellor Don Elliman
Recognition of John Conger’s role in founding the program

Comments regarding his father
Honorary Chair David Conger

Honorary Chair - Senator Irene Aguilar, MD
Comments by Senator Aguilar

Honorary Chair David Braddock, MD
Senior Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado (CU) system and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities.

Introduction of Former U.S. Congressman Patrick Kennedy
Comments by Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy

Comments by JFK Partners Outgoing Director
Corry Robinson, PhD, RN

Comments by JFK Partners Incoming Director
Sandra Friedman, MD, MPH

Closing Comments
Marijo Rymer, Executive Director of the Arc of Colorado
Tonight’s Menu

Salad
Mixed Greens with Fresh Mozzarella, Heirloom Tomatoes, and Croutons with Basil Vinaigrette

Entrées
Seared Chicken with Meyer Lemon Rosemary sauce on Roasted Potatoes
Crispy Seared Salmon with Tomato Leek Gremolata on Creamy Risotto
Filet Mignon with Mushroom Truffled Jus Lie on Red Roasted Potatoes
Chefs Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert
Sea Salt Panna Cotta with Cara Crakine
Phamaly Theatre Company (formerly known as The Physically Handicapped Actors & Musical Artists League) produces professional scale plays and musicals year-round throughout the Denver Metro region. The cast members are performers with disabilities across the spectrum (physical, cognitive, emotional, blindness, deafness… etc.). Phamaly was formed in 1989 when five students of the Boettcher School in Denver, Colorado, grew frustrated with the lack of theatrical opportunities for people living with disabilities. They decided to create a theatre company that would provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to perform.

Jeremy has been a proud Phamaly member since 1997. In addition to appearing in such roles as Joseph in Dreamcoat, Sancho in Man of La Mancha, Finch and How to Succeed, Dentist in Little Shop of Horrors, Charlie in The Foreigner, and George Bailey in Wonderful Life. He has also served the company as a Board Member, co-head writer of the Vox Phamalia series (5 seasons), and director/head writer of the disLabled series (3 seasons). Disability: 1 lung, artificial heart valve, paralyzed diaphragm.

Jenna has been performing with Phamaly since she was 12. She has gone on to work with theatre companies across Colorado including the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Boulder’s Dinner Theatre and the Aurora Fox. She has been nominated for four Henry Awards. Jenna graduated from DU’s Lamont School of Music in June with a Bachelors in Music in Vocal Performance. She now has her own voice studio where she teaches people of all ages and abilities. www.jennabainbridge.wix.com Disability: Spinal Cord Injury

Lisa has been performing since she was five years old and joined Phamaly in 2012 when she played Ronette in Little Shop of Horrors. Lisa has performed and toured with Imagination Makers in Colorado schools in the spring of 2014, in Fables Old and New. Lisa has a congenital heart defect which caused her to have strokes at an early age (15) and she has chronic asthma. Disability: Stroke and Asthma
Honorary Chairs

Donald M. Elliman Jr., Chancellor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
David Conger, Son of John Conger
Senator Irene Aguilar, MD, Colorado Senate District 32
David Braddock, Senior Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado (CU) system and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities.

50th Anniversary Committee

Marijo Rymer, Executive Director The Arc of Colorado, Chair
Christy Blakely, Parent Leader and Advocate
Renée Charlfue Smith, Senior Instructor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Sarah Davidon, Senior Instructor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Sandra Friedman, Professor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Tracy Price Johnson, Senior Instructor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Betty Lehman, Parent Leader and Advocate
Judy Reaven, Associate Professor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Corry Robinson, Professor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Gerri Steinke, Senior Clinical Instructor, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine

Special Thanks to

Karen Aarestad, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Development, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Mark Groth, Media Specialist, Department of Psychiatry, CU School of Medicine
Dina Johnson, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Karen Ichiba, Fundraising Events, CU Office of the Controller
Jeannie Losh, Project Coordinator, JFK Partners, CU School of Medicine
Kirsten Steinke, Media Specialist, University of Colorado Alumni Association
Our Sponsors

Diamond Level
Chapters of The Arc
(The Arc of Colorado; Advocacy Denver; The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas; The Arc of Pikes Peak Region; The Arc Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties)
Anonymous

Gold Level
Anna and John J. Sie Foundation¹,²
Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities
University of Colorado, School of Medicine, Dean’s office
University of Colorado, Department of Pediatrics
University of Colorado, Department of Psychiatry

Silver Level
Arc Thrift
Blakely Family
Children's Hospital Colorado
Developmental Pathways
Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD)
PASCO
Rocky Mountain Human Services
The Resource Exchange
Thrive Autism Collaborative

Bronze Level
Ability Connection Colorado
Alliance
Ascendigo
Autism Society of Colorado
Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Colorado Access/Access Behavioral Health
Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education
Kempe Center
North Metro Community Services
Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association
Strive Colorado

¹ The Sie Foundation donated $4,000 to be used as scholarships for parents, self-advocates and teachers to attend the Symposium. This generous donation was made in honor of Betty Lehman for her years of advocacy on behalf of individuals with Autism.
² The Sie Foundation designated their table at the Dinner in honor of the Honorable Patrick J Kennedy
$50 plus Donations for 50 More Years

William Campbell, MD
Eben Carsey, MD
John Derrick, MSN, CPNP, Mdiv
Lorraine Kubicek, PhD
James Ledbetter, MD
Elizabeth Lehman
Denise McHugh, JD, Spark Policy Institute
Gerri Steinke, PhD
Mary Young, PhD
Upcoming Conferences

15th Annual Coleman Institute Conference for Cognitive Disability and Technology
October 15, 2015 | Broomfield CO
“Inequality and the Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to Technology and Information Access”

Keynote Speaker: Timothy P Shriver, PhD, Chairman of Special Olympics, co-founder and chair of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and best-selling author of Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most.

www.colemaninstitute.org  Email: colemainstitute@cu.edu

JFK Partners 3rd Annual Autism Spectrum Disorders Conference
Friday, October 2, 2015 | Aurora CO
“Unstuck and On Target: Improving Executive Function, On-Task and Flexible Behavior in Children with ASD”

 Speakers: Lauren Kenworthy, PhD and Laura Anthony, PhD, Children’s National Health Systems, Washington, DC

More info forthcoming at www.jfkpartners.org under Events.
ABILITY CONNECTION COLORADO
Serving People with Disabilities™

ADVOCACY DENVER
providing active voice and supporting civil rights for people with disabilities

ANNA & JOHN J. SIE FOUNDATION

Alliance
Colorado Communities United for People with Developmental Disabilities

The Arc.
Colorado

The Arc.
Arapahoe & Douglas Counties

The Arc.
Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties

The Arc.
Pikes Peak Region

ASCEND AGED
ELEVATING THE SPECTRUM

AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Colorado

Behavioral HEALTHCARE