

# Conference Speakers



## 2024 Conference Speakers



### **Melissa Crenshaw, MD:**

I'm the medical director for the Clinical Genetics Program at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and also serve as an assistant professor with Johns Hopkins Medicine. My research interests include congenital heart defects, chromosome abnormalities and Turner syndrome. I have additional expertise in the genetics of congenital heart disease and connective tissue disorders and am board certified in pediatrics and clinical genetics. I am also a TSSUS Scientific Advisory Board member.



### **Mara Gittess, LPC, MA:**

I'm a psychotherapist in private practice in Houston and have TS myself. I work with children, adolescents, and families for needs related to anxiety, depression, eating disorders, ADHD, bipolar disorder, and various behavioral problems and learning disabilities. I speak English and Spanish.



### **Iris Gutmark-Little, MD:**

As a pediatric endocrinologist at the Turner Syndrome Clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio, I've been taking care of girls with Turner syndrome for ~15 years. I also treat general endocrine patients as well. In my research, we are trying to learn why patients with Turner syndrome are at risk for cardiovascular disease. I also research long-acting growth hormone. In my free time, I have three wonderful children who keep me busy and happy. I love to exercise, specifically weight-lifting. I also enjoy good food and drink – especially coffee!



**Dean Mooney, Ph.D., NCSP:**

I am the founder and director of the Maple Leaf Clinic, a licensed clinical and school psychologist in Vermont, and am a nationally certified school psychologist. I have co-authored of several books, including: *Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Guide to School Success* (May 2006), *Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Guide to School Success – The Teacher’s Manual* (Sept. 2007), *A Train Ride to Grandma’s (With NO Chocolate Donut!)* (Sept. 2009), and *A Snapshot of Me – A Student with NLD* (2016). Maple Leaf Clinic provides neuropsychological, educational, and psychological assessments of children, adolescents, and adults, as well as individual, group, and family therapy, and developmental, educational, and clinical consultations by phone, in-person, or through video chat.



**Siddharth Prakash, MD, PhD:**

I am an associate professor at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. I organized the UT Health Adult TS Clinic and coordinate the UT and TSSUS TS Research Registries. I’m board certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine and my clinical interests center on bicuspid aortic valve, thoracic aortic aneurysm, and adult congenital heart disease in patients 17 and older. My research concentrates on the genetic causes of bicuspid aortic valves and related congenital abnormalities involving the left ventricular outflow tract and aorta. I’m a Fellow of the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology and the TSSUS Scientific Advisory Board chair.



**Michelle Rivera, MD:**

I am an adult and pediatric endocrinologist at UT Health Houston. I specialize in Turner syndrome care and lead the TS pediatric clinic in Houston and work closely with the TS adult clinic. I received my medical degree from Ponce School of Medicine and am a member of the TSSUS Scientific Advisory Board.



**Cindy Scurlock, MA, LPC:**

I’ve proudly led the Turner Syndrome Society of the United States as President/ CEO for 17 years. I’m a licensed professional counselor and an expert in TS support and healthcare. I’ve co-authored numerous journal articles alongside amazing TS healthcare providers and researchers. My daughter, Brooke Kaczynski, has TS and is an enthusiastic first-grade teacher and volunteers in the youth program. My husband, Billy, volunteers as well and depending on the hour, he may say he enjoys it!



**Holly Balvin Slonina, LMSW**

I am an outpatient therapist for Community Clinical Services. I was diagnosed with TS at the age of 12. I have been in the mental health field since 2014 and have worked in multiple capacities, school, home, and the community. I work with adults, adolescents, and children in relation to anxiety, depression, mood disorders, trauma, and PTSD. I am a licensed foster parent currently going through the process of adoption. In my spare time I love to read, shop, travel and lay on the beach. I live in Maine with my husband, three-year-old son and two cats. This is my first TS conference, and I am very happy and excited to be a part of it!