



Selective Mutism Association

Annual International Conference

Call for Papers

October 3 and October 4, 2025

Virtual Conference

Program Overview

The Selective Mutism Association is excited to announce our annual conference designed to disseminate new and beneficial evidence-based information about many aspects of selective mutism (SM). Our conference format this year is fully virtual and will offer innovative content, share advancements in the assessment and treatment of SM, and connect with a wide audience of participants from across the world. Please note: SMA plans to alternate yearly in-person and virtual conferences. The target audience includes parents and relatives of individuals with selective mutism, mental health professionals, speech and language pathologists, other allied health professionals, educators, and individuals with SM (ages 17 and up). This conference will be conducted live (no pre-recorded sessions); however, talks will be recorded and available for later viewing.

The conference aims to increase public awareness and understanding of SM. We invite oral session presentations and poster presentations that address all aspects of SM, including, but not limited to: practical applications and advances in assessment and treatment, conceptualization of the disorder, SM in the schools for all audiences, issues of diversity, and strategies for caregivers, teens, and adults with SM. Special consideration will be given to presentations that are derived from empirical evidence, that incorporate generalization of gains to real-world settings, and that address strategies to support and encourage individuals with SM.

Presentations submitted, but not accepted, for oral presentations may be considered for poster presentations.

Keynote Address: Ronald M. Rapee, Ph.D.

Biography

Ron Rapee is Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University where he was the Founding Director of the Centre for Emotional Health. Professor Rapee's research specializes in mental health, especially in anxiety and related disorders across the lifespan. He has created models of the development of mental disorders and has used these theories to produce evidence-based treatment programs. One of his best-known programs, Cool Kids, is used in over 25 countries and translated into more than a dozen languages. Currently, Professor Rapee has been engaged by the Australian Department of Education to develop a tool to identify students across all Australian schools who may be struggling with their mental health. Professor Rapee has been honoured by awards from both scientific and consumer groups, including the Distinguished Career Award from the Australian Association for CBT and the Distinguished Contribution to Science Award from the Australian Psychological Society. He was awarded an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship in 2015 and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012 for his contributions to clinical psychology, especially among young people.

Date and Location

The online virtual conference will begin on Friday afternoon, October 3, 2025 (Eastern Time) and conclude on Saturday, October 4. Presenters should be prepared to present live, and presentations will be recorded for later viewing by conference registrants.

Abstract and Submission Details

The conference includes three tracks for oral session presentations:

- 1) Professional track
- 2) Caregiver track
- 3) Individuals with SM track

Potential presenters may submit to any track but should designate preference. Please note that all presenters are required to register for the conference in advance; day-of registration is not permitted for presenters.

Additional abstract submission information:

All abstracts must be received by midnight EST 05/09/2025. Call for Papers abstracts are peer-reviewed, based on the quality of presentation and relevance to the conference. Notification of acceptance to present will be via email in early June 2025.

- Abstracts must include contact information, name, credentials, and biography for each author presenting and must identify the primary author.
- Abstracts should be no more than 500 words.
- Abstracts/Submissions must be sent to [Call for Papers submission form](#).
- Abstracts must indicate preference for consideration for the **professional track**, the **caregiver track**, and/or the **individuals with SM** track.

Types of Oral Presentation Submissions:

Focused Address - These 60-minute sessions consist of presentations based on a focused topic, although more than one individual may present within that specific topic. Typically, these sessions are lecture format and address the specific target audience (i.e., professional, caregiver, individuals with SM).

Workshops - These 60-minute sessions promote evidence-based clinical skills and hands-on training and application of such skills. May be introductory and moderate level skill. You will be asked to specify primary target audience.

Clinical Round Tables - These sessions include informed discussions (or debates) on a current and/or significant clinical topic. These are organized by one moderator and include between three and five panelists for discussion (may have range of viewpoints for debate). You will be asked to specify primary target audience.

Symposia - These 60-minute sessions typically are data-driven, examining the findings of clinical trials or a compilation of empirical papers based on a similar issue (e.g., minority status and anxiety). These sessions have one chair, one discussant, and 3-4 papers being reviewed. There may be 3-5 presentations.

Poster Sessions - Informal demonstrations by researchers who present the result of their studies, or provide information of interest to the community. Posters typically are appropriate for smaller studies or student projects.

Acceptance Criteria

All abstracts will be reviewed blindly by a review board composed of SMA member professionals, individuals with histories of SM, and parents. Reviews conducted by parents and individuals with SM histories will be limited to readability and interest level, not scientific merit. These blinded scores will constitute the primary acceptance criteria, though final presentation selections are made at the discretion of the SMA Board of Directors. Additional factors to be considered in the final selection include the balance and variety of the content for all tracks, the

evidence basis for proposed topics, as well as diversity of program and organizational representation. Presentations may be invited if a particular topic of interest to conference registrants is lacking in the submission process.

Questions? Please email info@selectivemutism.org.