

# 15TH ANNUAL **DISABILITY** SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

## **APRIL 8, 2016**

### **THINKING AND FEELING**

MATTERS OF THE BRAIN AND HEART

## **SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE**

**7:45 SYMPOSIUM OPENS; BREAKFAST AVAILABLE**

**8:15 WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**8:30 – 9:45 MORNING PLENARY**

Presenter: **Frances E. Jensen, M.D.**

### **The Teenage and the Young Adult Brain: The New Neuroscience**

Data is only recently emerging regarding the neurobiology of the adolescent and young adult brain, and how different their brains still are from those of the adult. As a mother, neuroscientist, and neurologist, Dr. Jensen has gathered together data from both experimental and human clinical studies that explain critical differences in the brain at these ages. The new science of the adolescent and young adult brain is applicable to parenting, teaching and counseling teenagers, as well as useful information concerning their unique strengths as well as vulnerabilities to stress, substance abuse, and mental illness. This is the first generation of teenagers for whom there is access to such information to help them navigate the challenges of our modern environment.

**10:00– 11:30 CONCURRENT MORNING SESSIONS**

**11:30 LUNCH**

**12:15 – 1:30 NOON PLENARY**

Presenter: **Matt Fuller**

### **Directing *Autism in Love*— a look into making the feature length documentary that examines adults with autism and their romantic lives**

In recent years, the rate of autism spectrum disorder diagnosis has increased at an alarming rate making some question whether an epidemic is imminent. Regardless of this disorder's origin, what is seldom found are stories about what happens once children who have been diagnosed grow up; what happens after the sleepless nights, years of therapies, special schooling and exhaustive treatments? What happens when children with autism become adults with autism and want to have lives of their own?

In his directorial debut, *Autism in Love*, Matt Fuller has captured those yet unexplored experiences of adults on the autism spectrum in search of meaningful romantic connection. In this presentation, Matt will share his experiences and insights into what it took to capture this personal and critical perspective on the most important aspect of the human condition... love.

**1:45 – 3:15 CONCURRENT AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

**3:15 – 4:30 AFTERNOON SNACK AND CHAT**