

## **2012 AUTISM CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON LINK BETWEEN AUTISM AND MERCURY IN VACCINES**

**CHICAGO, IL (5/24/12)** --- Imagine learning that your son has been diagnosed with autism. Now, imagine discovering that the autism resulted from mercury poisoning caused by certain routine childhood vaccines.

That is the story Rev. Lisa K. Sykes, a United Methodist minister and the President of the Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs (CoMeD), will convey when she addresses the 2012 AutismOne/Generation Rescue Conference, being held May 23-27 in Chicago, IL.

Sykes – who will speak at 8 a.m. this coming Friday, May 25 – will discuss the hurt and healing both she and her son, Wesley, experienced because of the mercury in his Thimerosal-preserved vaccines, which triggered Wesley's autism. She will also describe her personal journey from learning the cause of Wesley's autism to advocating that other children must be protected from avoidable harm caused by vaccines containing the mercury-based compound Thimerosal.

Thimerosal, which is 49% mercury by weight, continues to be used as a preservative in vaccines and other drugs worldwide, despite the fact that it is a human neurotoxin and that safer, less toxic alternatives are readily available.

Joining Rev. Sykes at AutismOne will be her CoMeD colleagues, Dr. Mark R. Geier and David A. Geier, who will speak at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 25. The Geiers will discuss how environmental exposures, particularly mercury, are associated with autism and how targeted therapies can be used to treat autism.

The Geiers recently returned to the United States from Chile, where they worked with Alejandro Navarro Brain, Vice President of the Chilean Senate, to have legislation adopted that made Chile the first developing country to curtail the use of mercury in vaccines.

According to CoMeD, numerous scientific studies and extensive peer-reviewed scientific and medical papers have all concluded that Thimerosal poses a significant health risk. Thimerosal manufacturers also acknowledge that it can cause mild to severe mental retardation in children.

The AutismOne/Generation Rescue Conference will focus on the bigger picture of how so many children are receiving a diagnostic label of autism and how autism can be treated. Conference participants also will discuss biomedical and other strategies that can be implemented to help children move forward and rise above the autism label.

The 2012 AutismOne/Generation Rescue Conference will be held at The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center (70 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL). For more information, contact the conference organizers at 712-732-0704 or visit the conference site online at [www.autismone.org](http://www.autismone.org).

For additional information about CoMeD and its [worldwide](http://www.mercury-freedrugs.org) work to ban mercury from drugs, including vaccines, visit [www.mercury-freedrugs.org](http://www.mercury-freedrugs.org).

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