

From Adult Autism Issues in Waterloo-Wellington, March 2006

RECOGNIZING DR JOAN JORY

Dr Joan Jory, MSc, PhD, Registered Dietitian and Clinical Nutritionist based in Guelph, has made a outstanding professional (and personal) contribution to the health and quality of life of children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Originally from New Brunswick, Joan Jory has a Masters in Nutrition from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK), a Doctorate in Applied Human Nutrition from the University of Guelph, and her dietetic internship from McMaster University. She is a registered DAN! Practitioner (Defeat Autism Now!) and nearly half of her practice is dedicated to children and adults with ASD.

The sibling of a brother with Down Syndrome, Joan has also worked and presented extensively in Down Syndrome, adult and pediatric mental health, and clinical support for psychiatric treatment.

Joan's principal passion is the influence of micronutrient biochemistry on physical and mental health. She specializes in micronutrient requirements and metabolism, and the role they play in growth, development, immunology, and disease treatment and prevention.

Joan's introduction to autism came in the form of a 2 year old girl suffering from significant immunosuppression, gastrointestinal dysfunction, skin affliction, autistic symptomology, and a complete shutdown of her connection with the world around her. Her extremely dedicated parents accepted no obstacles to understanding and addressing all aspects of their daughter's health in a time where autism was a foreign word to many practitioners. Together, practitioner, parents and child began a very long journey of investigation and treatment across multiple provinces, countries, fields of medical expertise and years. Today, this child has become a vivacious, verbally fluent miracle who surpasses her peers academically and musically. This first little miracle has been joined by many other miracles, children and adults, who have undertaken the journey of biochemical intervention in autism. It has truly been an epiphany and a gift for Joan to work with these individuals as they blossom into healthier, happier whole human beings.

In addition to her work with families with autism, Joan lobbies for greater public and professional understanding of the role of biochemical intervention in autism. She has presented to local pediatrician groups; provincial dietitian, home care and naturopathic associations; and regional autism groups in Ontario. She has also been a guest speaker at autism conferences in Quebec and New York, and has just completed a US-funded research study comparing micronutrient status among children with and without autism.

Her professional expertise and warm personality and empathy are valued by people with autism and their families. These are three testimonials:

"Joan Jory has offered untiring, informed and compassionate nutritional and medical advice and advocacy, in support of our son's health and welfare, for many years. She has worked both to empower all those directly concerned - patient, parents, doctors, supporters - and to ensure that they successfully work together as a team. Her personal and professional inputs have had a major positive impact upon the quality of his life. She has demonstrated all that is best in the development of comprehensive professional support for those with complex needs."

"Since my daughter (now 6) was diagnosed with autism four years ago, Dr Jory has advised on diet and the latest biomedical treatments of autism. She even accompanied us when we went to consult a leading US authority. I know she has transformed the health and quality of life of my daughter and many other children with autism."

"We appreciated Joan's understanding and positive attitude toward our son's upset behaviour. She always spoke to him directly with kindness and respect. She is very professional and proactive in handling the nutritional requirements of autistic adults."

As well as her office in Stone Road Mall, Joan works part time for Therapy Partners Inc, and enjoys precious paperwork moments at her home office, bombarded by her two rambunctious boys. She is also a part-time marathoner. Her phone is (519) 829-5514.