Biographical Information
Deborah Fein, Ph.D. is currently Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Rutgers University and her training in neuropsychology at BU and the Boston VA Medical Center, under the mentorship of Drs. Edith Kaplan and Allan Mirsky. She is a Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology (American Board of Professional Psychology) and is currently on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology. She was named Outstanding Graduate Teacher for 1998-1999 by the Alumni Association of the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Fein’s main research interests have involved the neuropsychology of Autistic Spectrum Disorders, as well as issues in child and adult neuropsychological assessment. She has published over 100 articles and chapters, mostly on autism-related topics, focusing on language, memory, attention, social interaction, and early detection, as well as some biological studies (evoked potentials, oxytocin blood levels), and a recent book on educating children with autism in mainstream classrooms. She is currently investigating early detection of autism and conducting a neuropsychological and fMRI study of language in children whose autism has resolved.

Presentation Abstracts
Can Children with Autism ‘Recover’? (4 pm)
Autism is considered to be a lifelong condition, and in most cases, does significantly affect the individual throughout life. In a minority of cases, however, individuals clearly affected by autism in early childhood appear to achieve normal cognitive and social functioning. Evidence of such cases will be presented and questions concerning predisposing characteristics and possible mechanisms of such recovery will be discussed.

Early Detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders: State of the Science (6 pm)
Ample evidence indicates that early detection of autism can promote better outcomes. I will review some of the latest work on early detection, including ethical and clinical issues, accuracy of early screening, reliability of early diagnosis, implications of the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics for early screening, and best age and procedures for accurate screening.