

Conference Program

17th Biennial National Conference on OI Living Well with an Unbreakable Spirit

Each National Conference brings together the OI community to share, learn and enjoy life. Attendees are as diverse as OI itself – parents, grandparents, kids with OI, siblings, teens, adults of every age, spouses, people with a new diagnosis and people who are conference veterans. Planning is well underway for the 2010 Conference. While details are not complete the conference will feature:

- Opportunities to meet medical experts,
- A celebration of the OI Foundation's 40 years of service,
- Chances to learn from each other and from professionals in many fields,
- Fun social activities each evening,

Conference Outline

Thursday, July 8: Medical Consultation Day

- The day before the official opening will feature opportunities for appointments with a medical expert. These appointments are a one-on-one conversation with different specialists. Information about these experts and how to make an appointment will be posted by February 1, 2010. The Registration & Information Center will be open all day.
- Welcome Reception from 6-8 pm. Over finger food meet old friends, make new friends and enjoy being together.

Friday, July 9

- The conference opens at 8:30 am with a session celebrating the OI Foundation's 40 years of service to people with OI. Gemma Geisman will lead a group of speakers who will remember the people who started the foundation, salute those who make up today's foundation and recognize the young people who are the future.
- Workshops 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Sharing Sessions 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- Talent Show 7-8:30 pm
- Birthday Party 8:30 pm

Saturday, July 10

- A session on Living Well with OI opens the day at 8:30 am.
- Workshops 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
- Awards Dinner 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The final event of the conference will begin with a reception and include dinner, presentation of several awards and an entertaining speaker.

Other Features

- Teen center providing a place to hang out and selected speakers,
- Child Care for children age 1-12
- Orientation Team at the Information Center all day July 7 to answer questions about the conference program, activities and Portland's attractions,
- Continental Breakfast on Friday and Saturday
- Social Activities for adults with OI will include an optional dinner-out and a late night activity on July 8.

Workshop topics and speakers are still being selected from a list of over 300 suggestions but it is expected that sessions will be offered on the following:

- Medical Topics: managing Type 1 OI, aging with OI, rodding surgery, spine issues, hearing issues, treating malocclusions, women's health,
- Wellness Topics: exercise for adults, recreation choices for children, family planning, intimacy, purchasing and maintaining equipment, home modifications,
- Social Topics: managing finances, toolkits for working with schools, parenting to encourage self-confidence, transition to adult care,
- Research Topics: update on recent studies, bisphosphonates, report on musculoskeletal health from OIF spring science meeting, health care reform, genetics,