



## Special Session

# “Language Deprivation Syndrome: Identifying a Clinical Entity”

**Thursday, January 28, 2016**

12:30 – 1:30 pm Presentation, Reception to follow  
Tosteson Medical Education Center, Room 250  
260 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA



**Sanjay Gulati, MD**

Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Deaf Service, Cambridge Hospital; Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, Boston Children’s Hospital

**Sanjay Gulati, MD** is a child psychiatrist who works at Cambridge Hospital and Boston Children's Hospitals. The son of two physicians, he grew up in a medical environment where "cure" of medical "disease" was the only goal. Experience in the disability community, however, offers an alternative way to look at pathology. Deafness, for example, can be experienced as a mode of human existence just as valid as being "hearing."

Dr. Gulati's research interest is in one type of deafness which unquestionably is experienced as disability: deaf people who were never exposed to adequate language, signed or spoken, to develop fluency. The needs of this population are rarely recognized. All too often, in fact, medical and educational practices worsen their "language deprivation" rather than ameliorating it.

Before becoming deaf himself, Dr. Gulati intended to be a physicist. The experience of hearing loss pushed him to look inwards at the subjective world, leading him to an interest in psychiatry. He attended medical school in Virginia, residency in New York, and child psychiatry fellowship at Cambridge Hospital, where he founded the Deaf Service in 1994. This clinic has since provided twenty thousand communication and culturally accessible patient visits. Since 1993 he has also been a member of the multidisciplinary team at Boston Children's Hospital's Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program, in the Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Enhancement, which provides educational placement evaluations for deaf children.

Dr. Gulati's talk will examine the outcome of what Professor Roger Shattuck called "the Forbidden Experiment"--children deprived of language exposure now struggling to survive as adults. Suffering from what he terms "Language Deprivation Syndrome," they have much to teach linguists, cognitive scientists, philosophers, and physicians about the role of language in being human.

*American Sign Language interpretive services provided | Assistive Listening Devices available upon request via RSVP.*



RSVP by Monday, January 25, 2016: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHKYS6Y>

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