

# Autism Research In the UK – *from diagnosis to intervention*

National Conference, 11-12 May 2007, The Open University

## Scientific Programme (Schedule for Day 1)

### Friday 11 May, 2007

08.00 Registration and coffee

09.00 Welcome and introduction – Dr. Ilona Roth and Dr. Payam Rezaie

#### Opening Session

09.10 Medical Research Council – Dr. Gavin Malloch  
(MRC Neurosciences and Mental Health Programme Director)

09.20 Wellcome Trust – Dr. John Williams  
(Wellcome Trust Neurosciences and Mental Health Programme Director)

09.30 Economic and Social Research Council – Michelle Dodson  
(Research Development Leader, ESRC Research and Development Directorate)

09.40 National Autistic Society – Richard Mills  
(Director of Research)

09.50 Autism Speaks – Dr. Jenny Longmore  
(Director of Research and Programmes, Europe)

#### Session 1: Definitions, diagnosis and assessment (Chair: Prof. Anne O'Hare)

10.00 Prof. Ann Le Couteur, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
Early assessment and diagnosis of children with autism  
(ADIR- Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised)

10.30 Coffee and poster viewing

#### Session 2: Aetiology, epidemiology and genetics (Chair: Prof. Anthony Monaco)

11.00 Prof. Tony Charman, Institute of Child Health, London  
The prevalence of autism – recent evidence and future challenges

11.30 Prof. Jean Golding, University of Bristol  
The aetiology of traits contributing to ASD – the role of environmental risk factors in the development of autism and autism spectrum disorders

12.00 Prof. Anthony Bailey, University of Oxford  
Identifying and understanding the actions of susceptibility genes on autism

12.30 Prof. Patrick Bolton, Institute of Psychiatry, London  
Autism and tuberous sclerosis – association of ASD with candidate genes on chromosome 15

13.00 Lunch (Old Lecture Theatre) and poster viewing

#### Session 3: Metabonomics, physiological and biochemical perspectives (Chair: Prof. Anthony Bailey)

14.00 Dr. Sabine Bahn, ARC and University of Cambridge  
Functional genomics and proteomics – applications to autism research

Disease markers in first-onset schizophrenia

14.30 Dr. Gordon Bell, University of Stirling  
Metabolic disturbances in autism, focusing on abnormal phospholipid metabolism

15.00 Coffee and poster viewing

**Session 4: Neurology, imaging and brain pathology  
(Chair: Prof. Steve Swithenby)**

15.30 Prof. Declan Murphy, Institute of Psychiatry, London  
Brain anatomy and imaging studies in autism – neurobiological correlates

16.00 Dr. Martin Bax, Imperial College London  
The relationship between epilepsy and ASD

16.30 Dr. Christoph Schmitz, Maastricht University, and Dr. Payam Rezaie,  
Open University / Institute of Psychiatry  
The neuropathology of autism

17.00 Dr. Elizabeta Mukaetova-Ladinska and Prof. Elaine Perry, University of Newcastle  
Neurotransmission and connectivity in autism - cytoskeletal and neurotransmitter alterations

17.30 Close of meeting (Day 1)

18.00 **Social Event** - Wine Reception (Venue: Berrill ground floor, Open University)

20.00 **Social Event** - Conference Dinner (Venue: Bletchley Park)

Guest Speaker: Dame Stephanie Shirley, "Challenges to Autism Research"

## Scientific Programme (Schedule for Day 2)

### Saturday 12 May 2007

09.00 Registration

**Session 5: Psychological perspectives, language and communication  
(Chair: Prof. Peter Mitchell)**

09.30 Dr. Kate Plaisted, University of Cambridge  
Visual processing abnormalities in children with autism

10.00 Dr. Emma Weisblatt and Dr. José Alcántara, University of Cambridge  
Auditory perception studies in autism and Asperger's syndrome

10.30 Coffee and poster viewing

**Session 6: Psychological perspectives, language and communication  
(Chair: Dr. Ilona Roth)**

11.00 Prof. Peter Hobson, Institute of Child Health, London  
The relationship between social and cognitive inflexibility in autism

11.30 Prof. Jill Boucher, University of Warwick  
Characteristics and causes of language impairment in low functioning autism

12.00 Dr. Ayla Humphrey, Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge  
Neuropsychological profiles in children with autism spectrum disorder:  
a clinic referred case study

- 12.30 Prof. Dermot Bowler, City University, London  
Memory and Asperger's syndrome
- 13.00 Lunch (Berrill ground floor), poster viewing and judging of posters
- Session 7: Education, management and early intervention  
(Chair: Prof. Colwyn Trevarthen)**
- 14.00 Prof. Jonathan Green, University of Manchester  
The Pre-School Autism Communication Trial (PACT). What do parents want from an early intervention?
- 14.30 Prof. Rita Jordan, University of Birmingham  
Managing autism and Asperger syndrome in current education provision
- 15.00 Prof. Patricia Howlin, Institute of Psychiatry, London  
The evidence base for interventions for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders
- 15.30 Coffee
- 16.00 **Conference Discussion**
- 16.30 Announcement of poster prize winners and presentation of awards
- 16.45 **Closing Speaker**
- 17.00 Close of meeting (Day 2)