



Connect to **STEP AHEAD**

SAVE THE DATE



06-09

July 2019

4TH NATIONAL
AUTISM SYMPOSIUM

BOOKINGS:

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North West University, Potchefstroom

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The program is subject to minor changes to accommodate traveling arrangements of the presenters

6 JULY Day 1

Workshop 1	Don't work harder; work smarter! Dr. Carla Groenewald (Specialist Child Psychiatrist) and Dr. Petro Erasmus (Educational Psychologist, NWU)
9:00	Registration
9:15-11:15	A workshop on exploring how the brain works, especially for children with neuro-developmental difficulties, and how to use this knowledge to make learning fun. We will be looking at study orientation, motivation, study habits, and the role of anxiety.
Workshop 2	Learning to use the toilet Antoinette Bruce-Alexander (Educator and mother of an Autistic son)
12:00	Registration
12:15-14:15	This workshop will address the steps, considerations, activities, and routines necessary to support parents in helping their child to learn to use the toilet with confidence
Workshop 3	Re-igniting hope: Creating space for parents Debbie Fewster (Occupational therapist)
15:00	Registration

15:15-17:15	As the primary caregivers of a child with ASD, parents deal with many emotions, stress, juggling family demands, and advocating for the rights of their child. Along the way, they become so focused on the needs of their child that they lose sight of their own needs, which ultimately impacts on their health, wellbeing, and quality of life. The workshop will be interspersed with opportunities for participants to express their needs as well as activities to reflect on their well-being and quality of life, to re-ignite hope and a sense of purpose for the way forward in the management of their wellbeing
Workshop 4	Listening group for parents Prof. Chris Venter (Counselling Psychologist) and Rumando Kok (Clinical Psychologist)
9:00	Registration
9:15-11:15	This listening group is in response to the positive feedback from participants attending a listening group in 2017 and the request of parents of autistic children to have professionals listen to their experiences and what they can importantly contribute to the management of Autism. During this session, a group of parents, an inner group, discuss their experiences of the challenges they face/faced while a listening group, which function as an outsider witness group, reflect on the individuals in the inner group's experiences. Such telling and the reflections of the listening group members may re-author the stories that they have about themselves as individuals.
Workshop 5	ASD and Literacy: What do we know and how do we adapt? Hanlie Degenaar, Linique Hanekom (Speech-language therapists) and Monique de Klerk (Counselling Psychologist)
12:00	Registration
12:15-14:15	Emergent literacy skills develop from infancy and are often neglected by parents and therapeutic interventions. For some children with ASD learning letters and sounds isn't difficult. The challenge is to extract meaning from stories. It is the ability to comprehend the meaning and relate it to experiences that allow a child to learn and progress academically. Strengths in code related skills and weaknesses in meaning should not be assumed for these learners, variability and creating interest could rather be the focus. Adapting shared reading may be the best option to support children struggling with reading. This workshop is building on the presentation last year on the request of parents and educators.
Workshop 6	Listening group for Autistic adults Prof. Chris Venter (Counselling Psychologist) and Rumando Kok (Clinical Psychologist)
15:00	Registration
15:15-17:15	This presentation is in response to the positive feedback from participants attending a listening group last year and the request of autistic adults to have professionals listen to what they can importantly contribute to the knowledge base on Autism. During this session, a group of autistic adults, an inner group, discuss their experiences of the challenges they face/faced while a listening group, which function as an outsider witness group, reflect on the individuals in the inner group's experiences. Such telling and the reflections of the listening group members may re-author the stories that they have about themselves as individuals.

7 JULY Day 2

Workshop 7	Parent Education and Training: What we know and what we don't Dr. John-Joe Dawson-Squibb (Clinical Psychologist and researcher at CARA)
9:00	Registration
9:15 11:15	The World Health Organisation (WHO) acknowledges Autism Spectrum Disorder as a major global public health challenge. One of the logical first steps after a diagnosis of ASD anywhere in the world is the provision of post-diagnostic psychoeducation to parents and carers to help them understand the meaning of ASD, the facts and figures about ASD, what they care to do to support their own child's learning and development, and how to prepare themselves for their journey with a developmental disability. There are many Parent Education and Training (PET) programs delivered around the world. This workshop will outline what PET is, and go over the evidence base in this area – detailing what we know and don't know about this important group of interventions. It will describe some of the key facets of PET using a recently developed evaluation framework. Finally, it will share the findings and conclusions of a recent research study that compared two PET programs in South Africa. The workshop has been designed in a way that also allows parents an opportunity for sharing and reflecting on their own experiences and insights.
Workshop 8	Makaton: Unlocking communication and language Reinette Lombard (Educator)
12:00	Registration
12:15 14:15	All the strategies and resources to support teachers and parents in unlocking communication and language with hand signs and picture symbols
Workshop 9	Perspectives on Behaviour and the SPACED Model Corne Strydom(Director of TIMIAN Training)
15:00	Registration
15:15- 17:15	Within a country where we have 12 official languages and arguably 12 different cultures if not more, we can be sure that the behavior of an individual can be interpreted in various ways. How we interpret the behavior will ultimately determine to how we manage that behavior Autism is often associated with challenging behavior – it has become a stigmatized perception that often leads the exclusion of person with Autism from ordinary services or experiences in society. Timian Training and Development strives to break that stigma by offering a training experience that challenges a person on their perspective of behavior and to empower an individual to manage perceived challenging behavior of a person needing support – in a manner that upholds the person's rights and dignity. For this symposium, we will be looking at perceptions of behavior and ask how you understand behavior. We will then look at our SPACED model as a practical guide on how to deal with a challenging situation. Our workshops will be aimed at care providers, support staff, and professionals that offer support to individuals on the Autism Spectrum, and we openly invite any person with Autism to join.
Workshop 10	Let's eat!: Managing feeding issues Hanlie Degenaar, Liniq Hanekom (Speech-language therapists) and Monique de Klerk (Counselling Psychologist)
9:00	Registration

9:15-12:15	Feeding problems or fussy eating in children with ASD has a serious negative effect on nutritional status, behavior, communication development, and social interaction. Children with ASD experience significantly more feeding problems (46- 89%) than peers without ASD. Management of feeding problems should be individualized and target the components of feeding: sensory experiences, postural adaptation, and formation of a bolus, swallowing, nutritional planning, and behavior. A management plan for feeding difficulties may assist parents and professionals in addressing the problem. This workshop is building on a previous presentation on the request of parents and educators.
Workshop 11	Optimising Autism Tania Melnychuk (Autism Strategies Network)
12:00	Registration
12:15-14:15	Tania takes a systems approach to autism, working from the inside of the body and mind outwards, showing how autism can be optimised in diverse individuals and in society. The workshop is presented in an accessible manner, so that those who do not have a tertiary education (or whose first language is not English) can also benefit from participation.
Workshop 12	DiamondD PROJECT: Research meeting
15:00-17:00	Invited project participants

R150 per person per workshop

Please register for each workshop you plan to attend

The main event on 8 and 9 June is open to all, and you are registered for both days upon your payment of R1950 per person.

Group registration of 10 or more persons and Autism South Africa members pays R1750 per person.

8 JULY - Day 3

8:00	Registration EXHIBITION	
9:00-9:05	Welcoming and housekeeping Prof. Kobus du Plooy	
9:10-9:30	Opening Prof. Pieter Kruger- Head: Institute of Psychology & Wellbeing	
Time	Presenter	Title
9:30-10:30	Dr. Gregory Lamb-Neurologist University of Pretoria	The Pathogenesis of Autism: How the different pathways and brain regions contribute to the autistic phenotype
10:30-11:00	Tea	EXHIBITION
11:00-11:45	Prof Shakila Dada- Speech-language therapist, University of Pretoria	AAC for children with Autism: The effect of AAC input on the understanding of language in children with Autism.
11:45-12:30	Dr. Janine van der Linde University of the Witwatersrand	Let's talk sensory integration
12:30-12:45	Panel discussion	Questions from the audience
12:45-13:45	Lunch	EXHIBITION
13:45-14:30	Reinette Lombard-Remedial therapist and Co-founder of Independent Learning	Enabling a Holistic Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorder: Best international practice = Empirical research
14:30-15:15	Corne Strydom	Timian Training principles: " in this place, and with these people, I feel safe "
15:15-15:45	Comfort break	
15:45-16:30	Nicola Sowah- Director of S2C South African community	Spelling to Communicate
16:30-16:45	Retha Faurie- Autistic self-advocate	The assumptions of allistics make life hard for autistics: How can allistics be more sensitive to the needs of their autistic family members, clients, students and employees
16:45	Please remember to sign the attendance register for the day Enjoy the evening!	

9 JULY -Day 4

8:00	Registration EXHIBITION	
Time	Presenter	Title
9:00-9:45	Dr. Carla Groenewald- Specialist Child Psychiatrist	Autism from tummies to toes!
9:45-10:30	Dr. Ensa Johnson- CAAC, University of Pretoria	Pain and communication and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: a review of the literature
10:30-11:00	Tea	EXHIBITION
11:00-11:45	Dr. Amanda Draper -Northwestern University, Evanston, IL USA	Music Education and Autism Spectrum Disorder
11:45-12:30	Emile Gouws- Autistic adult and Ph.D. candidate at University of Pretoria	Maintain regulation and manage meltdowns
12:30-12:45	Panel discussion	Questions from the audience
12:45-13:45	Lunch	EXHIBITION
13:45-14:15	IPW & Neurada, North West University	Connecting to Step Ahead: An Autism story
14:20-14:50	Dr. Liezl Schlebusch-Social researcher University of Cape Town	Update on the DiamondD project: Caregiver skills training, WHO
14:55-15:35	Prof Chris Venter and Rumando Kok, Psychologists, North West University	The Autism voice: Stories and reflections of Autistic Adults, parents of children with Autism and the professionals that listened
15:40-16:25	Sumaya Babama- Speech-language therapist	'I think, therefore I can?' Philosophical Enquiry as a Provocation to do Education for Autistic Children Differently.
16:30	Closing Keep in touch and travel safe!	

