

1st Canada-Israel Autism Research Meeting

Synopsis and Goals

March 1-4, 2014

At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Israel

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The 1st Canada-Israel meeting on “Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Impact of Research on Clinical Achievements” is jointly organized by the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Hub of the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada, the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University and the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (“CFHU”).

The Meeting is being organized by Professors Asher Ornoy and Abraham Fainsod from the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada, The Hebrew University, Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum from the University of Alberta and Connie Putterman, ASD research advocate and Board Member of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University.

The program will include symposia in the following areas:

- Genetics and epigenetics of ASD
- Epidemiology as related to the code of criteria in the psychiatric manual for diagnosing autism
- Early diagnostic signs of ASD
- New treatment modalities and animal models for ASD
- Prenatal causes of ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders

To date, ten highly respected Canadian autism researchers have accepted our invitation to attend in Israel and will be presenting along with an equal number of Israeli researchers. The Canadians attending are: Dr. Rosanna Weksberg, University of Toronto, Dr. Wendy Roberts, University of Toronto, Dr. Peter Szatmari, McMaster University, Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, University of Alberta, Dr. Albert Chudley, University of Manitoba, Dr. Jonathan Weiss, York University, Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou, University of Toronto, Dr. Tim Oberlander, University of British Columbia and Dr. Moshe Szyf, McGill University, and Dr. Helene Ouellette-Kuntz, Queens University. At least 100 participants with specialized expertise in Autism are anticipated to attend.

The conference will feature and highlight the latest research in both Canada and Israel in Autism from a bio-medical and clinical perspective with the goal and hope that collaborative relationships will emerge and that cutting edge joint collaborative projects will be explored and will take shape.

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University believes that when Canada’s best and brightest join forces with Israel’s best and brightest, the results will be outstanding. Accordingly, CFHU has committed to fundraising for supporting new collaborative projects in Autism research between Canada and Israel.

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Canada Israel ASD Meeting March 1 to 4, 2014

Scientific Program Committee - Asher Ornoy, Avi Fainsod, Lonnie Zwaigenbaum & Connie Putterman

Tentative Program

Evening of Saturday, March 1st

- Reception - Place and time to be confirmed

Sunday, March 2nd

- 8:45-9:15 am: Opening Remarks
- 9:15-11:45 am: Genetics and Epigenetics of ASD
Chairman: Peter Szatmari, Canada
Speakers: Israel: Sagiv Shifman, Yohav Kohen;
Canada: Moshe Szyf, Peter Szatmari, Rosanna Weksberg
Discussion following presentations
- 11:45-12:00 Coffee break
- 12:00-1:00 pm: Short communications: Chairman: Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Canada
- 1:00-2:00 pm: Lunch
- 2:00-4:15 pm: Lessons for ASD from other Neurobehavioral Disorders
Chairman: Albert Chudley, Canada
Speakers: Israel: Avi Fainsod: models for ASD; Lidia Gabis- Fragile X; Bruria Benzev – Rett syndrome;
Canada: Albert Chudley - Alcohol in pregnancy; additional speaker to be confirmed
- 4:00-4:30 pm: coffee break
- 4:30-6:00 pm: posters
- Dinner for IMRIC Hub and Canadian guests

Monday, March 3rd

- **9.00-11.30 am: Prenatal Causes of ASD:**
Chairman: Rosanna Weksberg, Canada
Speakers: Israel: Asher Ornoy: Drugs and maternal diseases during pregnancy as possible causes of ASD;
Italy: David Mankuta and Filippo Muratori, : Imaging changes of the brain in ASD
Canada: Tim Oberlander: Prenatal SSRI exposure and ASD
- **11:30-12:00 noon: Coffee break**
- **12:00-1:30 pm: Short communications**
- **1:30-2:00 pm: Lunch (on bus)**
- **1:30 -6:00 pm: Organized bus/walking tour of Jerusalem**
- **8:00-11:00 pm: Closing Banquet**

Tuesday, March 4th

ASD- What is new in our understanding and in treatment

This day is primarily for the public

- **8:30-9:00am: Opening comments: Parents of children with ASD including Lihi Lapid, Israel; and Connie Putterman, Canada**
- **09:00-11:00 am: ASD: Overview, Epidemiology and Services in Israel and Canada**
Chairman: Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Canada
Speakers: Canada - Wendy Roberts: Overview of ASD Service Models and Family Experience in Canada; Helene Oulette-Kuntz "ASD Epidemiologic Research in Canada"
Israel - Miki Davidovich – Epidemiology of ASD in Israel; Michael Beenstock - "Behavioral Etiology of ASD recurrence: population evidence from Israel"; Asher Ornoy - "Medical and educational services for children with ASD in Israel"
- **11:00-11:30 am: Coffee break**

- **11.30- 1:00 pm: Early diagnosis of ASD**
Chairman: Nurit Yirmiya, Israel
Speakers: Canada - Lonnie Zwaigenbaum, Early Detection and Diagnosis of ASD: Insights from High Risk Infant Studies
Israel: Cory Shulman, Early diagnosis and DSM5 criteria
- **1:00-2:00 pm: Lunch break**
- **2:00-4:30 pm: New Treatment Modalities and Assessment of Outcomes**
Chairman: Wendy Roberts, Canada
Speakers: Israel: Nurit Yirmiya, Ditza Zachor, Hana Alonim
Canada: Evdokia Anagnostu; Jonathan Weiss
- **4:30-4:45 pm: Coffee break**
- **4:45-6:00 pm: Round table discussion - Ask the experts: discussion between speakers and audience**