



Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2009

A Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders

SYDNEY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
20-22 AUGUST SYDNEY - AUSTRALIA

Connecting Today - Inspiring Tomorrow



APAC 09 will *connect and inspire* people with autism spectrum disorders, families and carers, and professionals, including educators, researchers, service providers and practitioners from across Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

APAC 09 has differentiated the vast range of topics concerning autism spectrum disorders into four broad streams:



Stream 1: Epidemiology, Causes and Diagnosis

Latest developments and issues for practitioners.

Stream 2: Life Span: Early Childhood to Adults

Focusing on the individual, exploring autism spectrum disorders and intervention strategies.

Stream 3: Family life, family functioning and family resilience

Strengthening families.

Stream 4: Autism in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region

Exploring culture, intervention and policy responses in care, education and health.

Plenary Keynote Speakers



Dr Eric Fombonne (Canada)

Head of the Division of Child Psychiatry, McGill University; Director of the Department of Psychiatry, Montreal Children's Hospital.

Dr Eric Fombonne heads a research program that looks at environmental risk factors, immunological factors and genes in autism. He has conducted epidemiological investigations of child psychiatric disorders and of the risk factors associated with them, with a particular focus on the epidemiology of Autism.



Dr Francesca Happé (United Kingdom)

Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

Dr Francesca Happé's research interests centre on autism and Asperger Syndrome. She has conducted research into the nature of the social and communication problems in these conditions, and the neural basis of 'theory of mind'. She is also actively engaged in studies of abilities and assets in people with autism, and their relation to detail-focused cognitive style.



Professor Patricia Howlin (United Kingdom)

Professor of Clinical Child Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

Professor Patricia Howlin's principal research interests focus on autism and other developmental disorders. She has conducted evaluations of a variety of different intervention programs, including comparative studies of home and school based treatments; control trials of communication training programs, and longer term studies of the impact of early interventions.



Professor Tony Attwood (Australia)

Adjunct Professor, Griffith University, Queensland.

Tony Attwood is a clinical psychologist who has specialised in autism spectrum disorders since he qualified as a clinical psychologist in England in 1975. He works in private practice in Brisbane, but is also adjunct professor at Griffith University, Queensland. His book *Asperger's Syndrome – A Guide for Parents and Professionals* has sold over 300,000 copies and has been translated into twenty languages.



Thorkil Sonne (Denmark)

Founder of 'SPECIALISTERNE' (The Specialists)

Thorkil Sonne has a background within IT in the private sector. Thorkil's son was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. In 2004 Thorkil founded 'SPECIALISTERNE', as a company where people with autism are given the understanding and support needed to perform highly specialist tasks at market terms for customers like CSC, Cisco and Microsoft. The ambition is to establish at least 1000 jobs internationally for people with autism based on 5 years of operational know-how from SPECIALISTERNE.

Special Guests



Judy Brewer

Judy Brewer has become a regular speaker and writer on issues relating to families caring for family members with special needs. As a parent of a child with autism spectrum disorder, she has been actively involved in a number of autism and carer advocacy organisations including having served on the Autism Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders, as a co-patron of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) and with Autism Asperger's Advocacy Australia (Founder and initial Convenor).



John Doyle

Respected dramatist, writer, actor and broadcaster. John is better known as his alter ego Roy Slaven, one half of the comedy sports duo Roy & HG. His adult sister was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder at the age of 11. John is the current patron of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

Visit the blog page at www.apac09.org to contribute to discussions on the APAC Conference

Symposium Keynote Speakers

A series of keynote symposia will be held during the Conference. Each will focus on a major conference theme, serving as a forum for discussion and debate on a key issue in ASD. Leading thinkers, researchers, practitioners and academics will be invited to participate in each symposium.

Dr Manya Angley

University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA

Merry Barua

Director National Centre for Autism, India

Richard Belton

Autism NZ, New Zealand

Professor Verity Bottruff

Flinders University, Adelaide, SA

Professor Anita Bundy

University of Sydney, NSW

Dr Trevor Clark

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Sydney, NSW

Associate Professor Cheryl Dissanayake

La Trobe University, Melbourne, VIC

Professor Stewart Einfeld

University of Sydney, NSW

Dr Kylie Gray

Monash University, Melbourne, VIC

Julie Hook

Australian Education & Training Consortium Positive Partnerships Initiative, NSW

Associate Professor Deb Keen

Griffith University, QLD

Joan McKenna Kerr

Autism Association of Western Australia, WA

Wendy Lawson

Autistic adult & educator. Psychology, Deakin University, Warrnambool, VIC

Dr Kenneth Poon

National Institute of Education, Singapore

Associate Professor Jacqui Roberts

University of Canberra, ACT

Anita Russell

Autism Resource Centre, Singapore

Dr Natalie Silove

The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) Sydney, NSW

Professor Bruce J. Tonge

Monash University, Melbourne, VIC

Dr Tom Tutton

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect), Sydney, NSW

Dr John Wray

State Child Development Centre, Perth, WA

Associate Professor Robyn Young

Flinders University, Adelaide, SA

Hosted By:



autism spectrum
AUSTRALIA

and

Australian Advisory Board on
Autism Spectrum Disorders

For more information on the Plenary Keynotes Speakers, Symposium Keynote Speakers and the general program, please visit www.apac09.org

Conference Office: Think Business Events P: +61 2 8251 0045 F: +61 2 8251 0097 E: apac09@thinkbusinessevents.com.au