

**XXIX International Conference
of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers**

‘The Person with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Animating Hope’

Vatican City, 20-22 November 2014

Thursday 20 November

Morning Session

7.30 Celebration of Holy Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Altar of the Chair

His Eminence Cardinal George Pell

Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy (Holy See)

9.00 Opening Address

The Solitude of Pope Francis for the Sick and the Suffering

H.E. Msgr. Zygmunt Zimowski

President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (Holy See)

Chairman:

Dr. Mary Healey Sedutto

Founder and Executive Director Hope for a Healthier Humanity Foundation (USA)

9.30 Greetings of Authorities

10.00 Proclusion

Autism Spectrum Disorders in Childhood: a ‘Challenge’ for Pastoral Care of the Family

Prof. Stefano Vicari

Head of Child Neuropsychiatry Unit, Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, Rome (Italy)

10.30 The Anthropology of the Perception of Pain in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Prof. Christian Flavigny

Director of the Department for Children and Adolescents, CHU Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière, Paris, (France)

11.00 Break

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND HEALTH-CARE POLICIES

Chairman:

Dr. Roberto Bertolini

Scientific Director and Representative of the WHO (World Health Organization) at the European Union (Belgium)

11.30 The Historical and Epistemological Background to Autism Spectrum Disorders

Prof. Francesca Happé

Professor in Cognitive Neurosciences at the University of London (United Kingdom)

11.50 Global and Coordinated Efforts to Manage Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Shekhar Saxena

Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO (Geneva)

12.10 Autism Spectrum Disorders: European Policies and Strategies

Prof. Fabrizio Oleari

Past President of the Higher Institute for Health Care (Italy)

12.30 End of Session

Afternoon Session

15.00 Health Policy Strategies Adopted by the World Health Organization in Favour of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Chairman:

Prof. Romano Marabelli

General Secretary of the Ministry of Health (Italy)

• **BANGLADESH**

Dr. Saima Hossain

Chair-National Advisory Committee on Autism

• **MALAYSIA**

YB Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam

Minister of Health

• **ITALIA**

Prof. Romano Marabelli

16.00 Discussion

17.00 Break

RESEARCH, PREVENTION AND THERAPIES

Chairman:

Prof. Kang-E Michael Hong

*Professor Emeritus at the National University of Seoul, Faculty of Medicine,
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Korea)*

17.30 Advances in Genetic Research

Prof. Daniel H. Geschwind

*Director of the Neurogenetics Programme at the Centre for Research and Treatment of the
University of California, Los Angeles (USA)*

**17.50 The Role of Environmental Exposures in the Aetiology of Autism: a Retrospective
View of the Last Decade – New Results and New Frontiers for the Future**

Prof. Irva Hertz-Picciotto

*Professor and Director of the Environmental and Work Health Division UC Davis M.I.N.D.
Institute (USA)*

18.10 Autism and the First Hormonal Environment

Prof. Simon Baron Cohen

*Professor of the Psychopathology of Development at the Department of Experimental
Psychiatry and Psychology and Director of the Centre for Research into Autism at the
University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)*

18.30 The Brain and Behaviour

Prof. Filippo Drago

Full Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Catania (Italy)

18.50 The Role of Early Medical and Rehabilitation Therapies in the Area of Prevention

Prof.ssa Marina Gandione

Professor of Child Neuropsychiatry at the University of Turin (Italy)

19.10 End of Session

Friday 21 November

THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Morning Session

Chairman:

Dr. Maurizio Brighenti

Director of the Centre for Autism Diagnosis, Treatment and Research, Verona (Italy)

9.00 The BASIS Network – a British Study on the Autism of Children amongst their Siblings

Prof. Mark Johnson

Director of the Centre on the Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck College, University of London (United Kingdom)

9.20 Non-invasive Instruments for the Early Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders: the NIDA Project

Prof. Maria Luisa Scattoni

Coordinator of the Project for the Early Recognition of Autism of the Higher Institute of Health Care (Italy)

9.40 Predictive Behavioural Markers of ASD in Neonates at High risk

Prof. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum

Professor at the Department of Paediatrics and Director of the Centre of Research on Autism at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB (Canada)

10.00 Break

PHARMACOLOGICAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND INNOVATIVE TREATMENT

Chairman:

Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea

Full Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Messina (Italy)

10.30 Evidence-based pharmacological and rehabilitative therapies: current status and prospects

Prof. Antonio M. Persico

Professor of Neuropsychiatry at the Bio-medical Campus University of Rome (Italy)

10.50 Complementary and Supporting Medicine: an Overall Vision

Dr. Catherine Doyen

Psychiatrist at the Sainte-Anne Hospital Centre of Paris (France)

11.10 **The Treatment of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: the Role of Non-Specialist Treatment Providers**
Dr. Mashudat A. Bello-Mojeed
Psychiatrist at the Centre for Children and Adolescents at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital of Lagos (Nigeria)

11.30 **The Ethical and Legislative Aspects of Research and Treatment**
Prof. Roberto Dell’Oro
Director of the Institute of Bioethics at the Loyola Marymount University (USA)

11.50 **The Contribution of Art, Religion and Communication in the ‘Treatment’ of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders**
Dr. Marina Norsi
Director of the Rehabilitation Center for Child Neuropsychiatry at the Beer Sheva Hospital (Israel)

12.10 **Discussion**
DISCUSSANT
Prof. Massimo Aliverti
Child Psychiatrist, Medical Director at the St. Anna Hospital of Como (Italy)

13.10 **End of Session**

SOCIO-CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL ASPECTS
--

Afternoon Session

15.00 **ROUND TABLE: the Contribution of the Various Figures Involved in the Accompanying and Education of People with ASD**

Chairman:

Dr. Richard Mills

National Autistic Society (United Kingdom)

- **PARENTS**

Dr. Francesca Malaffo

Systematic Family Psychotherapist at the Child Neuropsychiatry of the ULSS 20, Verona (Italy)

- **EDUCATORS**

Prof. Carlo Hanau

Lecturer in Medical Statistics and the Planning and Organisation of Social and Health-care Services, the Department of Education and Human Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)

- **PASTORS**

H.E. Msgr. Nicolas Djomo

Bishop of Tshumbe, President of the National Bishops' Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and former Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Kinshasa (DRC)

- **SOCIO-PSYCHO/HEALTH-CARE WORKERS**

Prof. Salomé Recio

Pedagogue and Professor of Childhood Education (Spain)

- **VOLUNTEERS**

Dr. Liz Feld

President of Autism Speaks Association (U.S.A.)

16.15 The Theological Foundations of Religious Education in People with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Rev. Prof. Andrzej Kiciński

Director of the Institute of Catechetical and Pastoral Theology, Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)

16.35 Break

17.00 The Pastoral Accompanying of Families with People with ASD

Msgr. Pierangelo Sequeri

Member of the International Theological Commission (Italy)

17.20 Experiences from some Christian Communities

Chairman:

Rev. Prof. Telesphore Malonga

Professor of Ecclesiology and Public Law, the Catholic University of Graben-Butembo (DRC)

- **AFRICA**

Dr. Charles Masulani Mwale

Director of Services, St. John of God Hospitaller Service, Mzuzu (Malawi)

- **AMERICA**

Mrs. Janice Benton

Executive Director National Catholic Partnership on Disability – NCPD (USA)

- **EUROPE**

Prof. Arndt Büssing

Professorship on Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping; Center for Integrative Medicine; Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University (Germany)

18.20 **Discussion**

18.40 **Presentation of the Conclusions and Recommendations**

Dr. Rosa Merola

Psychologist, Psychotherapist

Expert Consultant Prison Psychologist of the Ministry of Justice (Italy)

Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers

Prof. Massimo Petrini

Dean of the International Institute of the Pastoral Theology of Health Care, Camillianum (Italy) and Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers

Msgr. Tony Anatrella

Psychoanalyst and Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (France)

19.30 **End of Session**

Saturday 22 November

10.00 Moment of Prayer and Testimonies with People with ASD, their families and Associations of the Sector in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

12.00 General Audience with the Holy Father Francis

**During the International Conference, works
of a Taiwan artist Mr. Leland Lee will be exhibited**