



# ISRAELI MEETING FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

## 26.02.2020



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Yosef Ben David  
Ohayon Auditorium, Abraham Ben  
David Ohayon Behavioral Sciences  
Complex (Room 1, Building 98)

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08:30–09:00

### Gathering and light breakfast

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09:00–09:30

### Greetings

**Prof. Raz Jelinek**, Vice-President and Dean for Research and Development Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Dr. Jacob Dreier**, Deputy Director General at Soroka Medical Center

**Prof. Mahmoud Huleihel**, Deputy Dean for Research of the Faculty of Health Sciences

**Prof. Nathaniel Laor**, Treatment and Research Center-Association for Children at Risk

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09:30–09:45

### The National Autism Research Center of Israel: 2020 update

**Prof. Ilan Dinstein**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

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09:45–10:30

### Keynote Lecture

#### Gene discovery and precision in autism

Prof. Joseph Buxbaum, Seaver Autism Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY

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10:30

### Coffee break

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11:00

### Scientific lectures

#### Session A: Risk Factors

**Moderator:** Dr. Shlomo Wagner, University of Haifa

#### Gestational age and the risk of autism

Prof. Raz Gross, Tel Aviv University

#### Sex-hormone predictors of autism

Dr. Florina Uzefovsky, Ben-Gurion University

#### Whole exome sequencing reveals complex genetic architecture of ASD in Israel

Dr. Idan Menashe, Ben-Gurion University

#### A predictive model for autism risk using perinatal factors

Dr. Lidia Gabis, Sheba Tel Hashomer

#### The bidirectional association between genetic syndromes and autism spectrum disorder

Prof. Doron Gothelf, Sheba Tel Hashomer

#### Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) for genetic abnormalities associated with ASD

Prof. Dalit Ben-Yosef, Sourasky Medical Center

#### Session B: Mechanisms

**Moderator:** Prof. Illana Gozes, Tel Aviv University

#### Do minimally verbal individuals with autism have hidden cognitive abilities?

Prof. Yoram Bonneh, Bar Ilan University

#### Pain in ASD: the interplay between central pain processing and sensory modulation dysfunction

Dr. Tami Bar-Shalita, Tel Aviv University

#### Mechanisms of comorbidities in autism

Dr. Evan Elliott, Bar Ilan University

#### Desynchronized development of GABA pathway in ASD mice model is induced by parental Mthfr deficiency

Prof. Hava Golan, Ben-Gurion University

#### How young adults with ASD spontaneously attend to real-world scenes: change blindness paradigm and eye-tracking

Dr. Michal Hochhauser, Ariel University

#### CD38 and oxytocin role in pathogenesis and treatment of ASD

Prof. David Mankuta, Hebrew University

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13:00

### Lunch break

#### Posters:

Risk factors, Mechanisms, Diagnosis & Development, Treatments

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14:30–16:30

### Scientific lectures

#### Session C: Diagnosis & Development

**Moderator:** Dr. Orit Stoler, Assaf Harofeh Medical Center

#### Toddlers' characteristics, comorbidities, birth and medical factors in relation to better outcome in adolescence: a long-term follow-up study

Prof. Ditzza Zachor, Tel Aviv University

#### Lexical semantics and linguistic profiles of Hebrew speaking children with ASD

Dr. Nufar Sukenik, Bar Ilan University

#### Autism Symptom Questionnaire: a new clinical tool for Israeli speech language pathologists

Prof. Esther Dromi, Tel Aviv University

#### Employment outcomes after a birth of a child with ASD or hearing loss: a national nested case-control study

Dr. Raanan Raz, Hebrew University

#### Peripheral blood mononuclear cell oxytocin and vasopressin receptor expression positively correlates with social and behavioral function in children with autism

Prof. David Gurwitz, Tel Aviv University

#### Clinical and demographic characteristics of youth with ASD admitted to general psychiatric inpatient unit

Dr. Polina Perlman, Geha Mental Health Center

#### Session D: Treatments

**Moderator:** Dr. Judah Koller, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

#### Work performance of people with ASD: person occupation and environment predictors

Prof. Eynat Gal, University of Haifa

#### Integrating the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) into Israeli ASD preschools

Dr. Tali Gev and Yana Sinai, Bar Ilan University, Autism Treatment and Research Center-Association for Children at Risk

#### How does parental support promote the social communication of adolescents with ASD?

Prof. Ofer Golan, Bar Ilan University and Bait Echad ASD Treatment and research Center, Association for Children at Risk

#### Psychoeducational implementation of peer intervention to promote social engagement in play, interaction and conversation among preschoolers with HFASD

Dr. Dganiit Eytan, Bar Ilan University

#### Higher education is associated with improvement in adaptive behavior and reduction in psychiatric symptoms

Dr. Gil Zukerman, Ariel University

#### Exosomes: small particles big potential

Prof. Daniel Offen, Tel Aviv University

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16:30

### Coffee break

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17:00

#### Simmons Foundation: Overview of research and funding opportunities

Dr. Natalia Vofovsky, Director of Data & Analytics, Simmons Foundation

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17:10

### Keynote Lecture

#### Splitting vs lumping: from biology to treatments in ASD

Prof. Evdokia Anagnostou, Bloorview Research Institute & University of Toronto

## Posters

### Risk Factors

101. Birth weight and ASD: A population-based nested case-control study  
Ziv Talmi, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
102. Genes essential for embryonic stem cells are associated with neurodevelopmental disorders  
Shahar Shohat, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
103. Spatiotemporal distribution of ASD incidence among birth cohorts 2000–2011 in Israel  
Hadas Magen-Molho, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
104. Air pollution and ASD in Israel: A negative control analysis  
Hadas Magen-Molho, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
105. Hormonal imbalance among women with and without autism  
Tsilil Simantov, Ben Gurion University

### Mechanisms

201. Social perception in high-functioning adolescents with ASD: A MEG study  
Adi Korisky, Bar Ilan University
202. Variability quenching in adults with autism  
Yaniv Paz, Ben-Gurion University
203. Observations of behavioral mechanism  
Dr. Amit Fliess, "ASI" Autism Spectrum Community Activists in Israel
204. Visual processing of the signatures of human movement in autism  
Dr. Shlomit Ben-Ami, Weizmann Institute of Science
205. Basic oculomotor characteristics are similar between young ASD children and matched controls  
Inbar Avni, Ben-Gurion University
206. Pups ultrasonic vocalization in environmental and genetic models of autism  
Itay Shekel, Prof. Hava Golan and Prof. Ora Kofman, Ben-Gurion University
207. ROW binds transcription start sites of genes and is associated with transcriptional activation  
Neta Herman, Hebrew University
208. POGZ deficiency leads to abnormal behavior, transcription dysregulation and impaired cerebellar physiology  
Reut Suliman Lavie, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
209. Behavioral phenotyping in a group context reveals elevated pro-social behaviors and reduced flexibility in groups of Fmr1-KO mice.  
Noa Eren, Weizmann Institute
210. Do individuals with ASD have difficulties in herding with the group?  
Inbar Z. Marton-Alper, University of Haifa
211. Emphatic disequilibrium in two different measures of empathy predicts autistic traits in neurotypical individuals  
Ido Shalev, Ben-Gurion University
212. Coordinated joint action developmental trajectories and their link to motor functioning in ASD: Preliminary results  
Shahar Bar Yehuda, Yael Estrugo, Einat Karin and Prof. Nirit Bauminger-Zviely, Bar-Ilan University
213. Peripheral blood mononuclear cell Oxytocin and Vasopressin receptor expression positively correlates with social and behavioral function in children with autism  
Irena Voinsky, Tel Aviv University
214. Neuroanatomical differences in toddlers with autism?  
Ayelet Arazi, Gal Meiri, Idan Menashe, Gal Ben-Arie, Ilan Shelef, Ilan Dinstien, Ben Gurion University and Soroka University Medical Center
215. Characterizing sleep in children with and without Autism  
Gal Eylon, Ayelet Arazi, Idan Menashe, Gal Meiri, Ilan Dinstein, Ben Gurion University and Soroka University Medical Center

### Diagnosis, Development, and Outcome

301. The Autism Preschool Peer Interaction Observation Scale (APIOS): Naturalistic observation to assess adaptive and non-adaptive social communicative skills in ongoing interaction with peers  
Dr. Analia Shefer and Prof. Nirit Bauminger-Zviely, Bar Ilan University
302. Detection of an autism EEG signature from only two EEG channels through features  
Prof. Enzo Grossi and Giovanni Valbusa, Villa Santa Maria Foundation and Ephoran Multi Imaging Solutions, Italy
303. Hidden literacy in minimally verbal individuals with ASD revealed by involuntary eye movements  
Keren Ellert, Bar Ilan University

304. Claims-based ASD risk  
Ohad Zadok, Ben-Gurion University

305. Population disparities in ASD  
Orly Kerub, Ben-Gurion University

306. Parent-adolescent reciprocity in a conflictual situation predicts peer interaction in adolescents with ASD  
Dr. Shai Rabin, Bar Ilan University

307. Exploration in the presence of mother in typical and non-typical pre-walking human infants  
Tzviel Frostig, Tel Aviv University

308. "Autistic-Like Behaviors" In children with vision impairment  
Zili Nir & Prof. Cory Shulman, The Hebrew university

309. Speech characteristics of young children with ASD  
Marina Eni, Ben Gurion University

310. Sex differences in the sensitivity, specificity, and diagnostic cutoff of the childhood autism  
Sandra Israel Yaacov, Bar Ilan University and the Association for Children at Risk

311. Automated identification and quantification of repetitive movements from video clips of ADOS assessments  
Tal Barami, Ben Gurion University

312. The importance of early autism diagnosis for improved outcome  
Nitzan Gabbay, Ben Gurion University

313. Sleep problems and sensory sensitivities are strongly related in children with ASD  
Liora Manelis, Ben Gurion University

314. Autism severity changes in young ASD children are similar across distinct educational settings  
Michal Ilan, Ben Gurion University

315. Clinical correlates of family accommodation in autism  
Yael Duchovni, The Hebrew University

316. Abnormal head growth during early fetal development  
Ohad Regev, Ben-Gurion University

### Treatments

401. Using iPads as a tool for testing narrative ability in young children with high-functioning ASD.  
Danel Waissengreen, Bar Ilan University
402. Musical interventions in autism: Prevalence and the role of Oxytocin and group synchrony.  
Dr. David M. Greenberg, Bar Ilan University
403. Vestibular stimulation improves skill learning in minimally verbal ASD children.  
Gil Nave, University of Haifa
404. A comparative study of infants and toddlers treated with the Mifne approach for ASD.  
Dr. Hanna Alonim, Dr. Ido Lieberman, Dr. Danny Tayar, Dr. Giora Scheingesicht, DR. Hillel D. Braude, The Mifne Center
405. Balance dysfunction and anxiety in children with high functioning autism: The effect of a sensorimotor intervention.  
Yael Harel, Tel Aviv University
406. Evaluation of adaptive skills and autism symptoms in Roim Rachok pre-army course for young adults with ASD  
Yael Lousky, Ariel University
407. The efficacy of "Smart-Glove" exchanged-based approach on the communicative initiations of low-functioning toddlers with autism  
Dr. Gat Savaldi Harussi, Ariel University
408. Significance of the therapeutic alliance between therapists and parents for treatment outcome of young children with ASD  
Prof. Cory Shulman, The Hebrew University
409. Building capacity for families as partners in research: A family engagement in research certificate program  
Connie Putterman, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
410. iPads for teaching graphic symbols to people with ASD  
Einav Israel, University of Haifa
411. The Teaching Model: Academic and functional skills outcomes of an intervention through continuing education among adults with low-functioning autism spectrum disorder  
Mica Melamed, The Autism Center of Alut
412. Career identity construction of adults with ASD  
Yael Goldfarb, University of Haifa
413. A community-delivered, parent-mediated intervention for children with autism and disruptive behaviors: Secondary outcomes  
Tzilil Birenboim Avtalion, The Hebrew University



[www.autismisrael.org](http://www.autismisrael.org)

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