

GAC Scientific Program

GAC DAY 1

| Time | Exhibition hall | Cardinal Gracias Hall | Annexe 3 Hall | UOH auditorium | Lecture 1 Hall | Nursing auditorium |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|----------------|--------------------|
| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | Registration | | | | | |
| 9.00 AM - 11.00 AM | | Workshop 1: Using AAC in Therapy settings Speakers : Dr. Shoba S Meera, Ms. Anjana Sathyabodha | Workshop 2: Feeding and Eating Disorders in Autistic Individuals Speakers : Dr. S. M Manohari, Dr. Avinash Kamath, Dr. Swetha Madhuri Chikkala, Mr. Inayath Ulla | | | |
| 10 AM - 1 PM | | | | ACT 1 (Autism Community Training Track 1): For Community Health Workers Facilitators: Dr Shankar K, Dr Vinay Kumar, Dr Bhagyavathi Mentor: Dr Varghese P Punnoose | | |
| 11.15 AM - 1.15 PM | | Workshop 3: Managing Co-occurring Anxiety in | Workshop 4: Play with Purpose: Therapeutic Play and Engagement | | | |

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| | | Autism Speakers: Dr Satya Raj, Dr Jigyansa Ipsita Pattnaik, Dr Velprashanth Venkatesan | Strategies in Autism Speakers : Ms. Priya Sandeep, Ms. Soumya Koduvalli, Ms. Kannika Iyengar | | | |
| 1.15 PM - 2 PM | Lunch Break | | | | | |
| 2.00 PM - 5.00 PM | | ACT 2 (Autism Community Training Track 2) For School Teachers and Principals Facilitators: Dr Gayathri Rajan, Dr Rachna George Mentor: Dr Alka A. Subramanyam | ACT 3 (Autism Community Training Track 3) For Nursing professionals Facilitators: Dr Nelia Mathew, Dr Rajalakshmi Ramu Mentor: Dr Satya Raj | ACT 4 (Autism Community Training Track 4): For Primary care practitioners & pediatricians Facilitators: Dr Shivangi Mehta, Dr Prasanna Kumar N, Dr Kashmiri Badbade Mentor: Dr Smita Deshpande | Workshop 5: Assessment in Autism: Tools, Adaptations, and Reports Speakers : Dr. Sai Kirthi Kamath, Dr. Meghana Vijayanand | Workshop 6: Addressing Challenging Behaviors & Teaching Adaptive Skills Speakers: Ms. Kavitha Kamath, Ms. Anupama Ramesh |

GAC DAY 2

| Time | Lecture Hall 1 | Exhibition Hall | St John's Main Auditorium | Cardinal Gracious Hall | Annex 3 Hall | UOH auditorium |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | Oral Presentations Session 1 | Registration | | Oral Presentations Session 2 | | |
| 9.00 AM – 9.45 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Autism in the global South: Culture, Community and Neurodiversity</p> <p>Speakers : Dr. Shoba Srinath</p> <p>Chair: Dr Vijaya Raman</p> | | | |
| 9 45- 10 30 AM | | | Inauguration | | | |
| 10 30- 10 45 am | Coffee Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |
| 10.45 - 11.30 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Early Communication Matters: How early and what matters</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Prathibha Karanth</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Shoba Srinath</p> | | | |
| 11.40 AM - 1.10 PM | | | Symposium: Setting Up an Inclusive School and Child | Symposium: Understanding and Managing Autism with Co- | | |

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| | | | <p>Development Centre</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Jo Chopra, Dr. Koyeli Sengupta</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Ruby Singh and Ms. Suchita Somashekaraiah</p> | <p>occurring ADHD</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Chhitij Srivastava, Dr. Rachna George</p> <p>Chair: Dr S.M Manohari and Dr Lakshmi Shiva</p> | | |
| 1.10 PM - 2.00 PM | Lunch Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |
| 2.00 PM – 3 30 PM | | | <p>Live demonstration session: The First Conversation: Sharing an autism diagnosis with the parent(s) (interactive role-play + panel)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Satish C Girimaji</p> <p>Panelists: Dr Samiksha Sahu, Dr Varghese P Punnoose, Dr M Thomas Kishore, Dr Vanitha Rao</p> | | | |
| 3 30-4 PM | Coffee Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |
| 4 PM - 5 PM | | | <p>Symposium: Neurodivergent</p> | <p>Symposium: From Practice to</p> | <p>Symposium: What Causes</p> | |

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| | | | <p>Workforce Inclusion: Beyond Tokenism</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. G Vijaya Raghavan, Ms. Swati Vellal, Ms. Alina Alam</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Sarbani Mallick and Ms. Suman John</p> | <p>Publication: How Autism Practitioners Can Conduct and Share Research</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Naresh Nebhinani, Dr Eesha Sharma</p> <p>Chair: Dr Denis Xavier and Dr Rajesh Sagar</p> | <p>Autism? Genetic, Cognitive and Neurobiological Perspectives</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Mathew Belmonte & Dr Meenakshi Bhat</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Satish C Girimaji</p> | |
| 5.15-6.30 PM | | | <p>Open House: Speaking for Ourselves: Voices of Autistic Self-Advocates and lived experiences</p> <p>Discussants: Ms. Alice Mamaga Akosua Amoako, Ms. Betsy Selvam, Mr. Pranav Kumar Rajagopalan, Ms. Asha Sreedhar</p> <p>Ms. Mugdha Kalra</p> | <p>Round Table: Academic Challenges and Classroom Solutions</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Saritha Alexander, Dr. Rajani Padmanabhan, Dr. Rita James, Dr. Rosa Hoekstra, Ms. Neetu P</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Alka A. Subramanyam</p> | | |

GAC DAY 3

| Time | Lecture Hall 1 | Exhibition Hall | St John's Auditorium | Cardinal Gracias Hall | Annex 3 Hall | UOH auditorium |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | Oral Presentations Session 3 | | | Oral Presentations Session 4 | | |
| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | | Registration | | | | |
| 9.00 AM - 9.45 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Neurodiversity Without Borders: Innovations Shaping Autism Care Globally</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Valsamma Eapen</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Shoba Srinath</p> | | | |
| 9.45 AM - 10.30 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Community-Led Approaches in Resource-Constrained Settings</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Naoufel Gaddour</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Ammar Albanna and Dr Satya Raj</p> | | | |
| 10.30 - 11.00 AM | Coffee Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |

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| 11.00 AM - 12.30 PM | | | <p>Keynote: Disability certification/ UDID certification- uniformity and standardization : Bane or boon?</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Alka A. Subramanyam</p> <p>Chair: Dr Rajesh Sagar</p> | <p>Symposium: Electric Pathways, Emerging Possibilities: Neuromodulation in Autism</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Nishant Goyal and Team</p> <p>Chair: Dr G.R.K Sarma and Dr Kasturi S</p> | | |
| 12.30 PM- 1.30 PM | Lunch Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |
| 1.30 PM - 3.00 PM | | | <p>The Future We Want for Autistic Adults (2035)</p> <p>In Conversation with Ms. Merry Barua & Dr. Nandini Chatterjee Singh</p> <p>Hosted By: Dr Henal Shah</p> | <p>Symposium: Medical Comorbidities in Children with Autism</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Minal V Kekatpure, Dr. Nelia Mathew</p> <p>Chair: Dr Swarnarekha Bhat and Dr. Nandini Mundkur</p> | <p>Symposium: Digital apps & AI based interventions</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Alice Mamaga Akosua Amoako, Dr Suresh Sundaram, Dr. Sridhar Bodapati</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Shyam Rajagopalan</p> | |
| 3.10 PM – 4.45 PM | | | Symposium: Understanding Gender Dysphoria in Autistic Youth | Symposium: Designing Sensory-Friendly Public Spaces for | Symposium: Competency-based Medical Education in Autism Spectrum | Ask Me Anything: Financial Planning and Legal |

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| | | | <p>Speakers: Dr Henal Shah and Dr. Porpavai Kasiannan</p> <p>Chair: Dr Ashlesha Bagadia</p> | <p>Autism Inclusion</p> <p>Speakers:, Ms. Gita Balakrishnan, Mr. Joseph Bedford</p> <p>Chair: Mr. G Vijaya Raghavan and Mr. Ravi Ranganathan</p> | <p>Disorders For Indian Medical Graduates and Postgraduates</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Kiran Kumar, Dr H R Vinay, Dr M Kishore</p> <p>Chair: Dr Rajesh Sagar and Dr Henal Shah</p> | <p>Guardianship for Families of Children and Teens with Autism</p> <p>Interactive Q & A</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Sameer Tandon and Mr. Gopinathan Ramakrishnan</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Raghavendra Kumar</p> |
| 4.35 PM – 4.45 PM | Coffee Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | | |
| 4.45-5. 45 PM | Oral Presentations Session 5 | | <p>Panel Discussion: Beyond the Biomedical: CAM, AYUSH and Yoga-Based Approaches in Autism Care</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Madhuri Vaidyeswar, Dr Pallavi Priyam, Dr Koyeli Sengupta, Dr. Sindhu Shankar S</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Hiral Kotadia</p> | <p>Symposium: Visual Thinking & Art based therapy in Autism</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Sumathi Ramjee, Dr. Gitanjali G Govindrajan, Ms. Bela Joshi</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Akshayee Shetty</p> | | <p>Human Library: Sibling Stories: Voices Growing Beside Autism</p> <p>Hosted By: Ms. Renuka Jiothiswaroopan and Ms. Kavitha Seth</p> |

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| 5.50-6. 45 pm | Oral Presentations Session 6 | | <p>Human Library: Mental Health of Professionals Working with Autism</p> <p>Discussants: Ms. Sita Krishnamurthy, Dr. Keerthana Thatavarthi,, Dr Alka A. Subramanyam, Ms. Shoba Sundar</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Arun Kishore</p> | <p>Panel Discussion: Parenting on the Spectrum: Journeys, Strategies, and Shared Wisdom</p> <p>Panellists: Dr. Sunita Maleku Amatya, Ms. Mary Chaitanya, Ms. Mugdha Kalra, Ms. Prachi Deo</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Deepa Bhat Nair</p> | | |
| 7 pm Cultural Program and Dinner | | | | | | |

GAC DAY 4

| Time | Lecture Hall 1 | Exhibition Hall | St John's Auditorium | Cardinal Gracious Hall | Annex 3 Hall |
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| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | Oral Presentations Session 7 | | | Oral Presentations Session 8 | |
| 8.00 AM - 9.00 AM | | Registration | | | |
| 9.00 AM - 9.45 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Autism in Girls, Women, and Gender-Diverse Individuals</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Porpavai Kasiannan Chair: Dr Henal Shah and Dr Harshini Manohar</p> | | |
| 9.45 AM - 10.30 AM | | | <p>Keynote: Co-Creating with Patients and Communities: Driving Innovation in Autism Care</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Ammar Albanna</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Naoufel Gaddour and Dr Naresh Nebhinani</p> | | |

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| 10.30 AM - 11.00 AM | Coffee Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | |
| 11.00 AM - 12.30 PM | | | <p>Keynote: Perspectives on Achieving Timely and Neuro- Affirmative Autism Diagnoses.</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum</p> <p>Chair: Dr Mathew Belmonte</p> | <p>Symposium: Autism and Bullying: Building Safe Peer Relationships in Schools</p> <p>Speakers: Ms. Sony Gill, Ms. Chitra Solomon, Ms. Betsy Selvam, Ms. Sara Varughese</p> <p>Chair: Dr Rajendra K.M</p> | |
| 12.30 PM- 1.30 PM | Lunch Break and E-Poster Viewing | | | | |
| 1.30 PM - 2.15 PM | | | <p>Keynote: Pharmacotherap y in Autism: What We Know, What We Do, and What Needs to Change</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Paramala Santosh</p> <p>Chair: Dr John Vijay Sagar and Dr Nishant Goyal</p> | | |

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| 1.30 PM – 3 PM | | | | <p>Symposium: Sexuality & Puberty in Adolescents with Autism: What Families Need to Know</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Venkata Lakshmi, Dr Aarthi Ranganathan</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Sangeetha Saxena</p> | |
| 3 PM – 4.30 PM | | | <p>Answering the “What After Me?” Question: The Uhuru Model</p> <p>Dr. Gitanjali G Govindrajan, Ms. Yashaswini Gupta, Ms. Palak Chanana</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Sunita Maleku Amatya, Dr Priyanka Nambiar</p> | <p>Symposium: Psychotherapy in Autism: Strategies for Adolescents with Psychiatric Comorbidities</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Sowmya Bhaskaran, Dr Lakshmi Shiva</p> <p>Chair: Dr Uttara Chari & Dr Paul Russell</p> | <p>Human Library: Grandparent Journeys:</p> <p>Hosted By: Dr Mathew Vargheese, Dr Arvind Kasthuri</p> |
| 4.30 PM – 5.30 PM | | | <p>Round Table: Autism Across Cultures: Global Lessons from Families and Communities</p> | | |

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| | | | Dr. Rosa Hoekstra, Ms. Alice Mamaga Akosua Amoako, Dr. Naoufel Gaddour, Dr. Ammar Albanna, Dr. Harshini Manohar Moderator: Dr Henal Shah | | |
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GAC DAY 5

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| TIME | St. John's Auditorium |
| 8:00 AM.9:00 AM | Registration |

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| 9:00 AM.9:45 AM | <p>Plenary: Autism and Child Safety: Identifying and Supporting Children Affected by Abuse</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Shaibya Saldanha and Dr. Keerthana Thatavarthi</p> <p>Chair: Dr Satya Raj</p> |
| 9:45 AM.10:45 AM | <p>Keynote: From Bench to Village: The CMC Vellore model in Autism Service Innovation</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Paul Russell</p> <p>Chair: Dr Shoba Srinath</p> |
| 10:45 AM.11:00 AM | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 AM.12:00 PM | <p>Closing Conversation: The St. John's Model for Autism Care: Past, Present, and Future</p> <p>Speakers: Dr Vijaya Raman and Dr Suhas Chandran</p> <p>Chair: Dr Paul Russell and Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum</p> |
| 12:00 PM -1.00 PM | <p>Valedictory:</p> <p>Lessons from GAC 2026 and the path ahead</p> <p>Award Distribution</p> |