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## Prof David Amaral visits OTARC



Prof David Amaral, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Research Director and Beneto Foundation Chair, The M.I.N.D. Institute, University of California, Davis and Past President of INFAR, gave a public lecture at La Trobe University in September, which was fully subscribed. During the lecture, Prof Amaral shared some exciting new data on the brain development of high risk infant siblings from 6-months of age. He also discussed his animal model work with rhesus monkeys, focusing on both the maternal antibodies implicated in ASD and the role of the amygdala in these conditions.

Read about other visitors to OTARC on Page 11, 12 & 13

ASDs affect approximately 1% of the population (i.e., 1:100 individuals) 3 out of 4 people affected are male. - Autism Speaks, USA

## Donations

To fund our research activities the OTARC relies on the support of private and corporate donors. Our thanks are extended to the individuals and organisations who have made donations to the [Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre](#).

Donations can be made online or through mail and telephone. To access these options go to [www.latrobe.edu.au/foundation](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/foundation).

Remember to specify that your donation is for the [Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre \(OTARC\)](#). Please note that all donations to La Trobe University are tax deductible. If you need more information, please call (03) 9479 2497 or email [otarc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:otarc@latrobe.edu.au)

Recent donors include:

Kalparrin EIP  
Mrs Olga Tennison  
An anonymous donor



## Our Third AGM

The Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre held its third Annual General Meeting in July 2011. [The Annual Report](#) was presented to those present and is available as a PDF (855 KB) for download from the OTARC website.

 Tell them all about it!

Trembath, D. (2011) *An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Lecture presented to teachers in training, La Trobe University.

Richdale, A. and Dissanayake, C., (August 25 - one day workshop) *Autistic Disorder and Asperger's Disorder*. ACER Workshop Series

Richdale, R & Simpson, C., *Treating behavioural sleep problems in children: What psychologists need to know*. APS Workshop.

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Chair— Prof Margot Prior, LTU, Melbourne University, and RCH*

*Associate Professor Cheryl Dissanayake, Centre Director, LTU*

*Professor Tim Brown, DVC Research, LTU*

*Professor Brian McGaw, Dean of Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering, LTU*

*Prof David Finlay, Chair University Human Ethics Committee, LTU*

*Mr Clifford Picton, LTU Ombudsman*

*Professor Robin Williams, Director of Alumni & Advancement, LTU*

*Professor Christine Bigby, School of Social Work, LTU*

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*Dr Jacqueline Roberts, Associate Professor, University of Sydney, NSW*

*Mr Oreste Pompetti, Finance & Administration Manager EPIC Centre*

*Ms Lia Castorina, Team Leader - Autism Advisor Program, Autism Victoria*

*Ms Cherie Green, PhD candidate, LTU Student representative*



## Director's Report

Much has happened since my last report, including the breaking of three ribs while I was in New Zealand in July this year to attend the Australasian Human Development Association Biennial Conference in Dunedin. Thus I returned to work following my sabbatical a little more gingerly than I expected!!! The Early Diagnostic Clinic was in full flight on my return, with bookings now made to March 2012, highlighting the need for this important service, which focuses on assessment and diagnosis of children suspected of having an ASD aged under 36 months. I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by the clinic staff in establishing this successful community service.

The OTARC had its third AGM in July, during which we were able to, again, thank Mrs Tennison in person for yet another generous donation. Her continued support of our work means that we have been able to expand our research areas and our personnel. We welcomed Mr Wojciech Nadachowski as Senior Operations and Projects Advisor to our ranks this month. Wojciech has a deep knowledge of ASDs and has already begun to work with us at OTARC to extend our reach.

Many of us have recently returned from the Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC) in Perth.



*Associate Professor Cheryl Dissanayake, PhD MAPS*

The meeting was well attended, with excellent keynote addresses. At the conclusion of APAC, there was an inaugural meeting of the Australasian Society for Autism Research (ASfAR). Details of this new society are contained within the body of this newsletter. Following APAC, we were delighted to host both Professors Cathy Lord and David Amaral in Melbourne. I would like to acknowledge their generosity in sharing their ideas and time with staff and students both at the OTARC and the Margot Prior Wing of the La Trobe **Community Children's Centre**.

Finally I would like to share the news with all our readers that the application for a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) on Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders has been shortlisted (and is one of 10 – out of 26) to progress to the next stage of consideration. We are one of six universities involved as essential partners in this exciting 10 year, 93 million dollar initiative which, if successful, will lead to positive long term changes for people affected with an ASD and their families. We at OTARC are keeping our fingers crossed until November when the successful CRCs will be announced.

I hope you enjoy reading our Spring edition of Another Piece!

## Welcome Wojciech!

In light of our centre's rapid growth and enormous potential, OTARC is pleased to appoint Wojciech Nadachowski as Senior Advisor of Operations and Projects.

Wojciech's background managing database implementations for not for profit organisations, as well as developing Community Relations and Fundraising campaigns, makes him an ideal candidate to consolidate OTARC and help manage the increasing opportunities for growth.

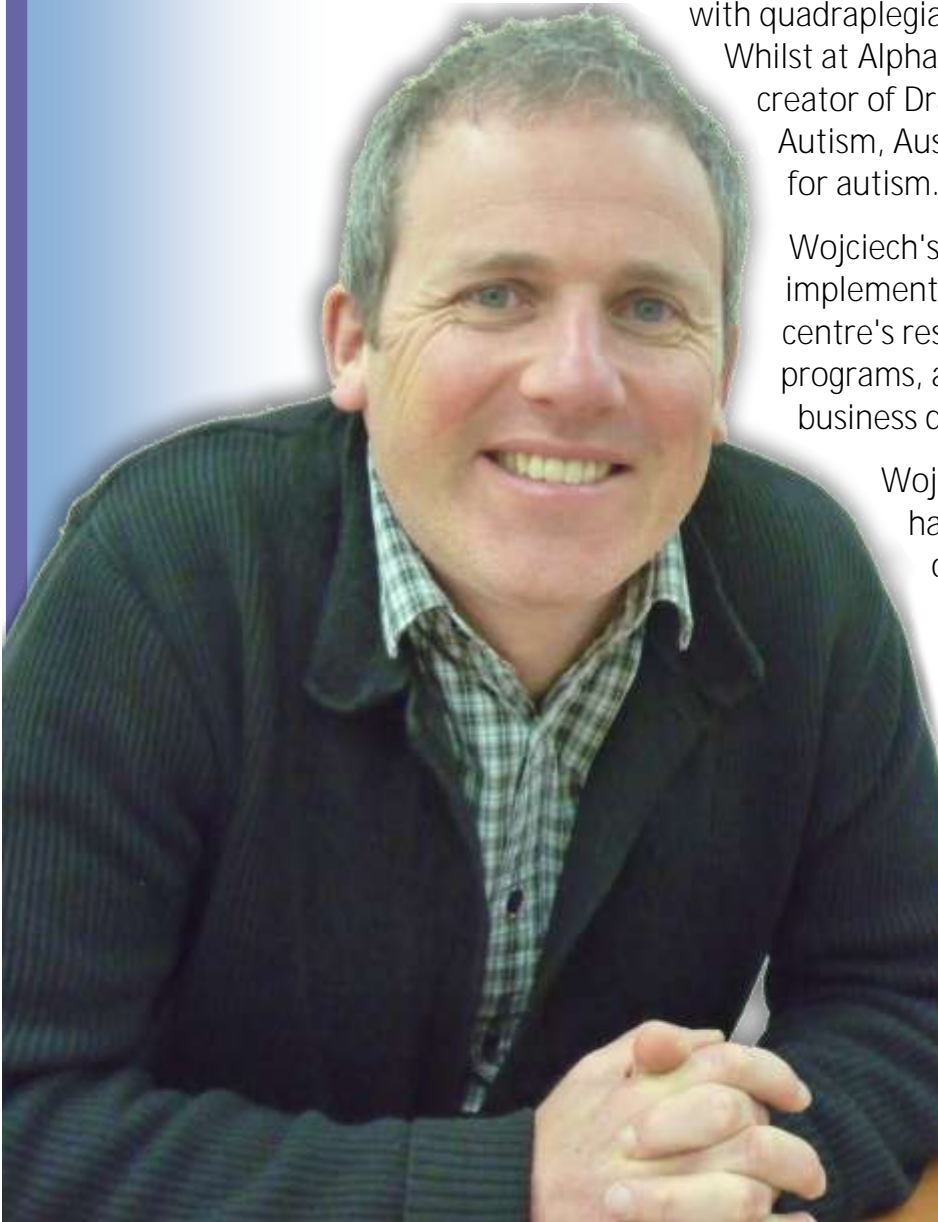
Wojciech has experience in both the Higher Education and disability sectors. He has undertaken a PhD in philosophy at UNSW, and over the last decade has worked in programs to support adults with quadraplegia, acquired brain injury, and ASD. Whilst at Alpha Autism, Wojciech was the co-creator of Drawtism: Play Pictionary for Autism, Australia's first national campaign for autism.

Wojciech's immediate priorities are to implement new systems to support the centre's research, education and service programs, as well as initiate and oversee business development opportunities.

Wojciech is not new to the OTARC having been an Honorary Member of the team for over a year.

Wojciech's work at the OTARC has involved supporting Dr David Trembath's *N1 Collect and Connect Project*, as well as mentoring Ms Carmela Germano, our Lab Manager, with the FaCHSIA contract to manage the implementation of the database for the six ASELCCs.

The OTARC is pleased to harness his expertise for our centre.





## Conference papers - APAC 2011

More children  
will be  
diagnosed  
with an ASD  
this year than  
AIDS,  
diabetes and  
paediatric  
cancer  
combined.—  
Autism  
Speaks, USA

The OTARC was represented by six staff at the Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC) in Perth in September. The presentations were:

**Cheryl Dissanayake, Cathy Bent and Josephine Barbaro**

*An investigation of social attention in the development of Autism.*

**Amanda Richdale, Emma Baker, Michelle Short and Michael Gradisar**

*Associations between sleep and psychopathology in adolescents with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder (HFASD).*

**Kristelle Hudry et al**

*The Preschool Autism Communication Trial (PACT): Lessons from a large randomised-controlled trial. (Kristelle became ill at the last minute and was unable to attend APAC)*

**Giacomo Vivanti et al**

*Sensitivity to direct gaze in Autism and typical development*

**Josephine Barbaro and Cheryl Dissanayake**

*Prospective identification of ASDs in infants and toddlers using developmental surveillance approach: The Social Attention and Communication Study (SACS).*

**Felicity Chandler and Cheryl Dissanayake**

*An exploration of the internal working models of caregiver attachment in children with high functioning Autistic Disorder.*

**Naomi Bishop**

*Characterisation of a new gene family implicated in Autism: The DIA1-family.*

**Cynthia Zierhut and Giacomo Vivanti**

*Treatment Gains in Children receiving the Early Start Denver Model in a Group Setting (poster)*

**Stephanie Bland, Amanda Richdale and Angelica Rose**

*An Evaluation of the 'Drama for Everyday Life' program for Children and Adolescents with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder. (poster)*



Josie, Cheryl and Cynthia enjoyed a night out at the 'WICKED' while at APAC

Next APAC will be held  
7-9 August 2013 in  
South Australia

See Page 8 for more conference presentations by the OTARC team.

**A sample of the questions we receive to our 'Ask a Researcher' Service at OTARC. In every issue, we will bring you a recent question and the response supplied by one of our team of researchers. This issue's question has been answered by our Lab Manager, Carmela Germano**

*What impact does diagnosis have on a adult with Aspergers syndrome (AS), their Neuro Typical partner and their relationship? Will getting a formal diagnosis of Aspergers syndrome help couples in a relationship?*

**Answer:**

*Informing community based professionals about autism is an important part of our role in helping promote awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders, particularly the benefits of early detection and diagnosis.*

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is an umbrella term, which includes **Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified**. Although ASD is a collection of lifelong disabilities that impact affected individuals in all areas of living, literature on ASD in late adolescence and adulthood is scarce. The three primary characteristics of ASD, communication deficits; social skill deficits; and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of activities, interests, and behaviour, are most salient in young children. Although communication improves over time and presence of stereotyped behaviour decreases, continued impairment, particularly in social communication persists into adulthood (Seltzer, Shattuck, Abeduto, & Greenberg, 2004).

**As Asperger's syndrome (AS) is within the Autism Spectrum (ASD),** many individuals with AS desire to be in a relationship; however, their difficulty with social interaction may hinder them from successfully beginning, developing, and/or maintaining an intimate relationship with another person.

To our knowledge, there has not been any published research conducted on the area of romantic relationships and adults with AS. However, a literature search has uncovered a number of books written in the area including case studies, vignettes, self-help guides, and autobiographical accounts, which provide a glance into the lives of many individuals who share their lives with a person diagnosed with AS.

The anecdotal evidence derived from books on the topic suggest that individuals with AS often feel daunted by the prospect of forming and maintaining friendships and relationships. Maintaining close friendships and relationships requires a great deal of empathy and sophisticated social skills, which can be difficult for individuals with AS. As a result, individuals with AS may be at risk of social isolation. In this instance, individuals could be encouraged to engage in activities where they can share interests with others, which may break down the barriers and build new friendships or relationships.

*Continued on next page*

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The OTARC now has an operating Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link on our website. It can be accessed through the [‘Ask a Researcher’](#) page.

Staff and students answer questions regarding research and other aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

There are various challenges experienced by Neurotypical (NT) individuals who know someone close to them who has a diagnosis of AS. Examples of the challenges outlined in the literature vary from organising a holiday, planning a wedding, and maintaining a sexual relationship with a person diagnosed with AS. Additionally, NTs may be in an intimate relationship with a partner with AS who has deficits in empathy and spontaneity. Therefore, there may be some personal costs associated with maintaining a relationship in terms of the mental effort exerted by the individual with AS to maintain the relationship and to their NT partner in having to change their expectations of the relationship. Thus, there is a need for mutual understanding in relationships between people with AS and NTs.

Although there are no published studies on the impact a diagnosis of AS on the individual with AS, their NT partner, and their relationship, case studies have explored the painful and emotional struggle that may be experienced. While the literature does not explicitly address whether a formal diagnosis of AS will help couples in a relationship, a clearer understanding of the impact that AS is likely to have on a romantic relationship is likely to provide couples with an opportunity to explore strategies to resolve the unique issues that may arise within their relationship.



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## Kristelle Abroad

In July Dr Kristelle Hudry spent a few weeks in the UK where she visited a number of different research groups:

- The Wales Autism Research Centre - meetings with staff, workshop on assessment of young children, and talk: *The development of atypical social-communication in autism: Getting answers from high-risk cohorts and intervention trials.*
- Birkbeck and the Institute of Education - meetings with the British Autism Study of Infant Siblings (BASIS) research group
- Guy's Hospital and the University of Manchester - meetings with the Preschool Autism Communication Trial (PACT) research group.



*The PACT research group: (Left to Right.) Prof Ann Le Couteur, Prof Pat Howlin, Dr Vicky Slonims and Dr Kristelle Hudry.*



## Conference papers

Jacobs, D. & Richdale, A. *Behavioural diversity in children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI)*. Paper presented at the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference (June 2011)

Badenoch, R. & Richdale, A. *Authentic school-home partnership: Blending roles in the educative process*. Paper presented at the 7th International Conference on Education (ICE) at Samos Island, Greece. (July, 2011)

Dissanayake, C. *Pretend Play in young children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder: Evidence for Symbolic Abilities*. Keynote at Play Conference, Melbourne University (July, 2011)

Dissanayake, C. *An investigation of Social Attention in the Development of Autism*. The Australasian Human Development Association (ADHA), New Zealand (July, 2011)

Vivanti, G. *Children with Autism's responses to direct gaze during imitation tasks*. The Australasian Human Development Association (ADHA), New Zealand (July, 2011)

Dissanayake, C. *Theory of Mind in high-functioning Autism in middle childhood*. The Australasian Human Development Association (ADHA), New Zealand (July, 2011)



## Publications

Falkmer, M., [Stuart, G.W.](#), Danielsson, H., Bram, S., Lönebrink, M., & Falkmer, T. (In press). *Visual acuity in adults with Asperger syndrome: No evidence for “eagle-eyed” vision.* *Biological Psychiatry.*

Barrett, B., Byford, S., Sharac, [J.](#), [Hudry, K.](#), Leadbitter, K., Temple, K., Aldred, C., Slonims, V., Green, J., & the PACT Consortium (in press). *Service and wider societal costs of pre-school children with autism in the UK.* *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.*

Tee, J., & [Dissanayake, C.](#), (In Press) *Can 15-month-old infants understand pretence? An investigation using the ‘violation-of-expectation’ paradigm.* *Acta Psychologica* (accepted 27/07/2011).

[Dissanayake, C.](#) (in Press). *Social behavior and social impairment.* *Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders* (Ed. Volkmar, F). Springer



## 2011 Seminar Series

Presented by Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC)

Supported by ACER

*There are still two seminars left in the 2011 series.*

[Seminar 2—Thursday 20 October 2011— with Dr Giacomo Vivanti](#)

[‘Social Learning in Autism Spectrum Disorders’](#)

[Seminar 3 — Wednesday 16 November—with Dr Amanda Richdale and Dr Josephine Barbaro](#)

[“Diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders from infancy to adulthood: Who's involved, what to look for, and the assessment process.” \(A repeat of Seminar 1, April 2011\)](#)



## Announcing the



The Australasian Society for Autism Research (ASfAR) is a member based organization devoted to advancing knowledge about Autism Spectrum Disorders through research and scholarship.

ASfAR membership is open to individuals engaged in academic and research activities (full members), graduate students and post doctoral researchers (student members) and others (affiliate members) who are involved in the study and service of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). Organizations involved in providing services for people with ASDs may become organizational members.

In order to qualify for membership of ASfAR, fees must be paid annually and an initial membership application (see overleaf) must be submitted to the ASfAR Interim Committee (until the Executive Committee is formed). All applications will be reviewed by the Committee.

**Full member (\$100 annually)**

**Affiliate member (\$70)**

**Student member (\$40)**

**Organizational member (\$200)**

**International member (\$100)**

Membership fees will support a biennial national research meeting (to be held in the alternate years to APAC), an ASfAR website, and production and distribution of a half yearly Newsletter, administration of subscriptions, membership etc

For more information email: [ASfAR@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:ASfAR@latrobe.edu.au)

### **In addition to the usual benefits of membership, ASfAR membership will include:**

- Reduced registration fee for biennial ASfAR meeting (limited to two registrations for organizational members)
- Receipt of Newsletters/reports
- Ability to vote and run for executive committee positions (only available to full members)
- Online membership directory
- Login website with latest information on autism meetings etc
- Student prizes

## Visitors to our Centre



**Prof Cathy Lord** visited OTARC on her way home to USA from the APAC Conference in Perth.

Prof Lord toured OTARC and met with our staff and students before being shown around the Margot Prior Wing by Dr Cynthia Zierhut and staff.

Prof Lord has been working at the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan, USA. She has just taken up a new position in New York at Columbia University and Cornell University.

Her main research interests are autism and related developmental disorders.



**Prof David Amaral** visited OTARC on his way home to USA from the APAC Conference in Perth. We were fortunate that he agreed to give a free public lecture entitled 'Neurobiological and Neuroimmune Approaches to Understanding **Autism**'.

Prof Amaral is a Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and the Research Director and Beneto Foundation Chair at The M.I.N.D. Institute (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders), University of California, Davis, USA.



**Dr Emiko Kezuka**, who visited OTARC last year, returned to spend more time with us. She has been working on joint attention in infants with an ASD while here. Emiko will be at OTARC until the end of September. She is from Gunma Prefectural Women's University in Japan.



**Mr Tony Stein** came to speak to OTARC about an Information Enabling Plan for our centre as part of the time he is volunteering for the OTARC.

## Visitors to our Centre



**Dr Jose Ignacio Alcantara**, a visiting scholar from the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Cambridge, attended our August Lab meeting. His talk on auditory processing in autism was titled *'Possible mechanisms underlying speech-in-noise perception deficits in ASD.'*



### Visitors from Learning 4 Life -

**Mary Muirhead** – Director Learning for Life Autism Centre also ABIA Committee of Management Member

**Mary Christian** – Committee of Management member L4life/Research

**Sarah Wood** – Senior program staff member and Research Officer at L4life

**Karen Mc Kinnon** – Director – Autism Partnership Australia

**Chris Stocco** – Business Manager, Autism Partnership Australia

**Susie Pavey** – General Manager Autism Behavioural Intervention Association



Check out **WHO's WHO @ OTARC** in 2011 with a PDF available from [our website.](#)

(1063 KB)



Our research on the early identification of ASDs has led to the establishment of the Early Diagnostic Clinic for ASDs here at La Trobe University, which opened in July 2011. The clinic now has bookings until March 2012. We have not had a single appointment slot vacant since opening.



*A/Prof Cheryl Dissanayake and Dr Cynthia Zierhut showed Prof David Amaral some delights of the Victorian countryside at Tarra Warra Gallery during his visit. Dr Zierhut has previously worked with Prof Amaral on the Autism Phenome Project.*



*The OTARC team were excited to have a visit from Prof Cathy Lord during September on her way between Columbia and Cornell Universities in New York, USA and the APAC conference in Perth.*



## Grants & tenders

You can  
follow us on  
TWITTER &  
FACEBOOK  
For up-to-the-  
minute postings  
of the latest  
news from our  
centre you can

OTARC have been successful in getting a Small Grant from the Program for La Trobe Research Exchanges with China 2011, to get a scholar, [A/Prof Chonying Wang](#), Director of the Center for Behavioural Science at Nankai University, out to our Centre for a week in November this year.

OTARC also secured an Endeavour Award to sponsor [Dr Sander Begeer](#) from the Netherlands (VU University Amsterdam Developmental Psychology) to undertake collaborative research on social cognition in children with an ASD.

[Dr Kristelle Hudry](#) received a Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering (FSTE) Early Career Researcher award for her project entitled: *Early Parent-Child Interaction in the Context of High Genetic Risk for Autism*.

follow our  
centre on  
TWITTER at  
*\*OlgaTennison*  
(NB. no space)  
or become a  
Friend of OTARC  
on FACEBOOK  
(Facebook  
search: *Olga*  
*Tennison*).

THE AGE Letters  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2011, p10

### Costs come later

THE Victorian Department of Education insists it must discriminate against many students with disabilities, as it is too costly to provide these children with the assistance they need ("Too costly to aid all disabled kids", *The Age*, 26/8).

However, it is also costly *not* to adequately support such children in schools. Classroom support for children with mild intellectual disability or those with autism spectrum disorders, for example, can make the difference as to whether these children can remain at school and/or get sufficient education for employment and independent living as adults. Perhaps if it was the state government (rather than the federal government) that had to pay the resulting unemployment/disability support for these children if they fail to gain an adequate education, and/or bore the costs of a parent to give up employment to home-school that child, supporting their education would suddenly not just be a legal and ethical obligation, but also make good financial sense.

[Naomi Bishop, Research](#)

*(Dr Naomi Bishop is a member of the OTARC team)*

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/letters/its-about-more-than-procreation-20110828-1jgf9.html#ixzz1WOGxlaL7>



Seeking participants

**SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS**

**TEACHERS**

**PAEDIATRICIANS**

**SOCIAL WORKERS**

**GPs**

**EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDERS**

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**

**OTHER SPECIALIST SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**PSYCHOLOGISTS**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Do you work with individuals/families with  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS?**

We are keen to hear about the experiences of a range of different professionals working with individuals with ASDs and/or their families, particularly regarding the topic of language. Participants would be interviewed for around 30 minutes, at a convenient time and location, or by phone. To find out more please contact:

Dr Kristelle Hudry  
Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre  
La Trobe University  
k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au  
Phone: (03) 9479 5649



seeking participants



## Sleep Quality and Psychological Well-Being in Mothers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### What is the project about?

This project is about how sleep and behavioural difficulties in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder impact on mothers' sleep quality and psychological well-being.

### Who can participate?

If you are a mother of a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, we would like you to participate in this research study.

### What will I do?

You will be asked to complete several measures about your child's sleep, behaviour, and ASD symptoms and your own sleep and psychological well-being in mothers.

Participants will also be entered in a draw for the chance to win a \$50.00 Coles -Myer voucher.

### How do I find out more?

Researcher: Parise Nichole Gentikoglou, Honours student, School of Psychological Science. [pngentikoglou@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:pngentikoglou@students.latrobe.edu.au) or phone 0438 348 237.

Project Supervisor: Associate Professor Amanda Richdale ([a.richdale@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.richdale@latrobe.edu.au), 9479 1742),

Principal Research Fellow, Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre

## ADOS Training with the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre



OTARC is pleased to offer training to clinicians and researchers on the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS). We aim to run 2-3 courses per year, around Melbourne or elsewhere in Australia, either at La Trobe University (Bundoora, VIC) or in partnership with other service providers. Small course sizes will permit intensive discussion and active learning. The fee of \$2200 per trainee covers all materials and training for 4 full days, morning/afternoon tea and lunch on each day, and the receipt of detailed individualised feedback on post-course work. This fee **does not** include trainees' travel/accommodation costs, or materials to which trainees will require access prior to and following the course (i.e., an ADOS kit and manual).

At this stage, we have one remaining trainee place on an upcoming clinical ADOS course:

26th – 29th September, at Irabina Childhood Autism Services, Bayswater, Victoria.

Training will be facilitated by Dr Kristelle Hudry, a WPS/ACER accredited ADOS trainer, with a PhD in Educational Psychology and expertise in the early identification and diagnosis of ASD.

For more information, or to register interest in this or future courses, please contact Kristelle directly: [k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:k.hudry@latrobe.edu.au). Places will first be offered to waitlisted individuals and will be confirmed upon receipt of completed registration forms. Full payment of course fees will be required around one month prior to course commencement. Following payment, pre-course materials will be distributed to permit trainees to gain some initial familiarisation with the ADOS prior to the course.





seeking participants

## Does your child have Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?

Is your child aged 7 to 12 years?

Are you and your child interested in participating in a research study?

As part of my postgraduate psychology degree, I am investigating social attention abilities in children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and / or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. If you are interested in participating, please contact Claire Forsyth at the La Trobe University Child Development



Telephone: (03) 9479 2151.

Email: [cl2forsyth@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:cl2forsyth@students.latrobe.edu.au)

As a thank you for participating, you and your family will go into a draw to win a family movie pass valued at \$60.

*Participants are needed for our research projects. If you, or a family member, wishes to participate in research please email the Centre at [otarc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:otarc@latrobe.edu.au) or phone 9479 2497. Many research projects need typically developing children as well as children with an Autism Spectrum Disorders.*



Phone: 61 3 9479 2497

Fax: 61 3 9479 1956

Email: [otarc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:otarc@latrobe.edu.au)

Web: [www.latrobe.edu.au/otarc](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/otarc)

### WHERE TO FIND US

The Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre is situated in a purpose-built child-friendly research facility in the School of Psychological Science (George Singer Building).  
Bundoora Campus  
La Trobe University



## For Your Information

Page 22 contains events, requests and opportunities from organisations other than The Olga Tennison Research Centre.

We publish these items as a service to our readers.

To find out more about any item on these pages please go directly to the organisation that posted the notice.

# Mirror Neuron Study



## Who is required?

Males 16 to 30 years of age with a diagnosis of High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

## What is required?

Participation takes place at Deakin University, Burwood, and will take approximately 90 minutes. This research uses a technique called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS).

Whilst undertaking TMS, the participant will complete three tasks designed to examine Mirror Neuron functioning.

## Benefits to you

\$10 as thanks for your participation

## Goal of research

To investigate whether the mirror neuron system functions differently in autistic populations

It is hoped this will improve diagnostic clarity of autism spectrum disorders

## Who to contact for additional information?

For more information on TMS and the research tasks, please contact:

Tom Perkins ([tperk@deakin.edu.au](mailto:tperk@deakin.edu.au))

Kayleigh Young ([ms.kayleigh.young@gmail.com](mailto:ms.kayleigh.young@gmail.com))



## FREE Family Fun Day in the Park!

**SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER**  
**12noon – 3pm**  
**Wattle Park, Burwood**  
**Cnr Riversdale & Warrigal Roads**  
**Mekway 60 J2**



- ✓ Sausage Sizzle supported by Kiwanis Moorabbin
- ✓ Balloon Animals & Magic Show by Balloonantics
- ✓ Face Painting by Giddy Art
- ✓ Fun children activities

*PLEASE JOIN US!*

*BYO picnic rug, snacks & drinks*

*Enjoy a free sausage (or two...) and an afternoon of fun!*



Contact ABIA with any queries  
 p: 03 9830 0677 | e: [info@abia.net.au](mailto:info@abia.net.au)  
[www.abia.net.au](http://www.abia.net.au)



**Training Programs 2011**  
*Suitable for parents, professionals and carers*



Training	Dates	2-hour Seminars	
<b>ABA Therapist Training</b> 9.30am – 4.30pm	October 17-19	Task Analysis	Oct 26
	November 8, 15, 22	Top 10 Ways to Manage Behaviour	Oct 27
	November 28-30	Eating Issues & Solutions	Nov 3
	December 1, 8, 15	Finding Order in Chaos	Nov 12
<b>ABA Information Session</b> FREE Saturday 10am – 12noon	December 12-14	Programs for High Functioning Children	Nov 17
	October 22	Teaching Play	Nov 19
	November 26	10.30am-12.30pm (Weekday) 10am-12noon (Saturday)	

To register or for more information, contact ABIA  
 p: 03 9830 0677 | e: [info@abia.net.au](mailto:info@abia.net.au)







*Everything old is new again!*

LEARNING FOR LIFE AUTISM CENTRE presents

# RECYCLE Ball



**FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2011 7PM-MIDNIGHT**  
**LEONDA BY THE YARRA, 2 WALLEN RD HAWTHORN**

**BOOKINGS**

[www.learningforlife.com.au](http://www.learningforlife.com.au)  
Tickets \$165 pp Tables of 10



**HOSTED BY TOM GLEISNER**  
**ENTERTAINMENT BY WENDY STAPLETON, WILBUR WILDE**  
**AND 'THE TROUBLE MAKERS', AND SWING PATROL**

