

IAC to arrange inter-national conference on Autism in Kolkata

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India Autism Center (IAC), an initiative by **Ratnabali Group**, which is in process of setting up a first of its kind development center in the world for individuals with autism, over a 52-acre land near Kolkata is hosting an esteemed **international conference on Autism on and from January 10 to 12, 2019 at Swabhumi, The Heritage Plaza, Kolkata**

Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects about ten million Indians. As per the data released by World Health Organisation in 2017, nearly 1 out of every 160 children are suffering from ASD globally. It refers to a range of conditions characterized by some degree of impaired social behaviour, communication and language. The term "Spectrum" reflects that symptoms can occur in any combination and with varying degrees of severity, implying that it manifests itself differently in every individual

Mr. Suresh Somani, Managing Trustee & Chairman, India Autism Center, stated, "There are negligible resources or centers in India that provide comprehensive care to people who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our Conference is a humble effort to bring together the community under one single roof wherein we can acquire an in depth learning about Autism Spectrum Disorder, be aware about the best practices followed in India and around the globe being introduced to recent research and developments in the field of Autism, get our queries answered by the experts and also explore career opportunities in the field. We at India Autism Center believe that while there is no known cure for autism, an early intervention can make a big difference in the lives of many children, which is what India Autism Center aspires to provide."

The Conference will see subject experts, professionals, researchers, educators and parents from the around the world **deliberate and exchange ideas on Autism Spectrum Disorder, behaviour therapy, applied behaviour analysis, speech and language therapy, social skills therapy and occupational therapy** which can help reduce the difficulties of individuals suffering from Autism while helping them learn new skills and make the most of their strengths

There are **28 speakers from around the world** who are globally acclaimed researchers from the medical fraternity like **Dr. Stephen Shore**

, Professor at Adelphi University, USA, **Ms. Jalynn Prince**, Founder and President of Madison House Autism Foundation (MHAF), USA, **Mr. Chris Bonnello**, an award-winning writer and international speaker, **Mr. Robert J. Bernstein**, Author "Uniquely Normal: Tapping the Reservoir of Normalcy to Treat Autism", **Ms. Merry Barua**, Activist, educator, writer and trainer and has pioneered the Autism movement in India, **Dr. Neil Martin**, Behaviour analyst teaching behaviour analysis courses worldwide, supervising students working with individuals with autism and consulting to organisations and families internationally, **Dr. Gauri Divan**, Director of the child development group, Sangath, **Ms. Joanne Lara**, Executive Director Autism Works Now, USA, **Prof. Bhismadev Chakrabarti**, Professor of Neuroscience and Mental Health and Research Director of the Centre for Autism at the University of Reading, UK and many others dignitaries are expected to address to the concerns of the parents of autistic individuals and offer solutions through discussions, speaking on early intervention, professional learning, therapy provision, services for adults and many upcoming research and clinical practices in the field of Autism.