

A nighttime photograph of a London street, likely Whitehall, featuring the illuminated Big Ben clock tower in the background and the Lion Guard statue in the foreground. The scene is lit with warm streetlights and the cool blue tones of twilight.

7th Annual International Meeting For Autism Research (IMFAR)

London 15th – 17th May 2008



Thursday 15 th May				
8.00 – 8.30 am	Breakfast + Registration (Chablis)			
8.30 – 8.35 am	Introduction: Prof Tony Charman (Meeting Organiser: Institute of Child Health, London) (Cremant)			
8.35 – 8.45 am	The Role of the Medical Research Council in Supporting Autism Research in the UK (Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chief Executive, MRC, London) (Cremant)			
8.45 – 9.45 am	Keynote speaker: Francesca Happé Time to give up on a single explanation for autism? (Cremant)			
9.45 – 10.15 am	Coffee (Chablis)			
10.15 am – 12.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Immunity in Autism: A New Page with Fresh Insights" Organizer: Glenn Rall (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Cognition 1 (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Intervention (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (8.30 am – 1.00 pm) Communication Posters 1 Human Genetics Posters 1 Clinical Phenotype Posters 1 Brain Imaging Posters 1 Sensory Systems Posters (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
12.15 – 1.15 pm	Lunch (Chablis) + Tools You Can Use: Identify Early Signs with the ASD Video Glossary (Amy Wetherby) (Cremant)			
1.15 – 3.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Linking Genes and Behaviour Using Brain Imaging: A Practical Guide to a Dark Art" Organizer: Declan Murphy (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Clinical Phenotype 1 (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Epidemiology 1 (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (1.00 – 4.00 pm) Treatment Posters 1 Cognition Posters 1 Motor & Imitation Posters Services Posters 1 Comorbidity Posters (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
3.15 – 4.00 pm	Coffee (Chablis)			
4.00 – 5.30 pm	Lifetime Achievement Award and Presentations Dr. Isabelle Rapin Autism at age 60+: some contributions of a fascinated participant (Cremant)			
5.30 – 7.00 pm	Reception (Chablis)			

Friday 16 th May				
8.00 – 8.30 am	Breakfast + Registration (Chablis)			
8.30 – 8.45 am	Introduction + Autism Speaks Sponsorship (Cremant)			
8.45 – 9.45 am	Keynote speaker: Thomas Bourgeron Synaptic and clock genes in autism spectrum disorders (Cremant)			
9.45 – 10.15 am	Coffee (Chablis)			
10.15 am – 12.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Neuropathology of ASDs" Organizer: Eric London (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Language & Communication (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Sensory Processing (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (8.30 am – 1.00 pm) Developmental Stages Posters Human Genetics Posters 2 Social Function Posters 1 Epidemiology Posters (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
12.15 – 1.15 pm	Lunch (Chablis) + A Strategic Plan for Autism Research (Tom Insel) (Cremant)			
1.15 – 3.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Reflections on the Mirror Neuron Hypothesis of Autism: Lighting the Way Forward" Organizer: Justin Williams	Oral Presentations Clinical Phenotype 2 (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Human Genetic Studies (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (1.00 – 5.30 pm) Treatment Posters 2 Communication Posters 2 Cognition Posters 2 Neurophysiology Posters Repetitive Behaviour Posters (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
3.15 – 3.45 pm	Coffee (Chablis)			
3.45 – 5.45 pm	Oral Presentations Animal Model Systems (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Epidemiology 2 (Mancy)	Roundtable "How to Choose between Diagnostic Tools?" Moderator: Helen McConachie (Bourgogne)	
6.00 – 7.00 pm	INSAR AGM (Avize-Morangis)			

Saturday 17 th May				
8.00 – 8.30 am	Breakfast + Registration (Chablis)			
8.30 – 8.45 am	Introduction + Simon's Foundation Sponsorship (Cremant)			
8.45 – 9.45 am	Keynote speaker: John Constantino "The BAP and the New Genetics of Familial and Non-Familial Autism" (Cremant)			
9.45 – 10.15 am	Coffee (Chablis)			
10.15 am – 12.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Role of Environment in ASDs" Organizer: Craig Newschaffer (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Evoked Response Potentials (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Cognition 2 (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (8.30 am – 1.00 pm) Services Posters 2 Brain Imaging Posters 2 Social Function Posters 2 Clinical Phenotype Posters 2 (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
12.15 – 1.15 pm	Lunch (Chablis) + Presentation by Joaquin Fuentes on behalf of Autism Europe and IACAPAP "Autism Spectrum Disorders: policy and practice in Europe" (Cremant)			
1.15 – 3.15 pm	Invited Educational Symposium "Sensory Integration Disorders" Organizer: Susan Hyman (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Brain Imaging 1 (Mancy)	Oral Presentations Sibling Studies (Bourgogne)	Poster Presentations (1.00 – 5.30 pm) Language Posters Neuropathology Posters Cognition Posters 3 Cell/Animal Model Posters Play Posters (Champagne Terr/Bordeaux)
3.15 – 3.45 pm	Coffee (Chablis)			
3.45 – 5.45 pm	Oral Presentations Brain Imaging 2 (Avize-Morangis)	Oral Presentations Repetitive Behaviour (Mancy)	Roundtable "Correlating Animal Behavioral Models to Human ASD" Moderator: Jacqueline Crawley (Bourgogne)	

IMFAR Welcome

Welcome to the 7th annual International Meeting For Autism Research (IMFAR). We are very pleased to be able to host this International Meeting in London – the first ever meeting outside of North America. London, we hope, needs no introduction but combines unique history and traditions, with cutting-edge modern culture and close access to mainland Europe.

The decision to host IMFAR in Europe for the first time was intended to increase international awareness and participation at the meeting. Fortunately, this has been a great success. We received a record number of Abstracts (800 excluding invited presentations) from countries around the globe and for the first time the meeting has over 1,100 delegates. We have also made a number of incremental changes to the format of the meeting, in line with feedback that we have received over the years and these are outlined in the following pages by Manny DiCicco-Bloom, Program Chair. Clearly each of these changes to the format will alter the feeling of the meeting and we will be eager to hear from each of you about their effectiveness as we make plans for next year's meeting. Please give us your appraisal by completing the online feedback form that will be available on the INSAR home page after the meeting.

We wish to thank the many contributors to INSAR and IMFAR. The success of the meeting is due to the dedication and hard work of many individuals, including the INSAR Board, the Scientific Program Committee, those who took time to review Abstracts and the generosity of those who provide funding for the meeting. We are also particularly grateful to Autism Speaks who provided funds up-front to underwrite the contract for the conference venue – funds without which the meeting would not be happening in Europe for the first time. Other financial support for this meeting came from private foundations and US and UK public agencies and we are grateful to each of these (in alphabetical order): the Autism Society of America, the Medical Research Council, the National Institutes of Health, Research Autism and the Simons Foundation. If you have the opportunity, please express your gratitude to members of these groups who will all be present at the meeting. Finally, a number of exhibitors provide financial support in return for space at the meeting and we hope that you will find their exhibits of interest and help.

We are sure that you will find the 3 days stimulating, sociable and educational. Welcome to London!

Tony Charman PhD
Conference Chair

Manny DiCicco-Bloom MD
Program Chair

Bob Schultz PhD
President, INSAR

President's Welcome and Society News

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 7th annual meeting of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR). As you know, IMFAR is the official scientific meeting for the Society. As such, I want to take this opportunity to update you on Society activities over the past year. One of our major achievements was the creation of the Society's journal, *Autism Research*. Our first issue of *Autism Research* was published in March of this year, and the second issue will be published in May. We will continue to publish every other month, before becoming a monthly publication within the next few years. We encourage all IMFAR attendees to submit papers to the Journal, whose emphasis is on biological and psychological mechanisms, especially with respect to developmental processes. Judging from the number of article downloads (4,000 in the first two weeks after Issue 1 went online!), as well as the feedback from scientific community, I am confident that our new Journal will be a resounding success. *Autism Research* prides itself on fast turn around times for the review process, and we aspire to be the leading publication in the field. Our Editorial Board is composed of numerous well recognized leaders in the field, each of whom will be submitting some of their best work in these earlier years in order to help establish a first rate reputation for the Journal. I am very thankful for the efforts of the Journal's Editor-in-Chief – Anthony Bailey, and the Associate Editors – Ed Cook, Sally Rogers, Jim Sutcliffe, as well as the for the tireless work of our publisher Ms. Colette Bean of Wiley-Blackwell, Inc.

A second major achievement of the past year was the establishment of the Society's webpage (<http://autism-insar.org/>). This webpage contains Society news, an archive of past IMFAR meeting abstracts, a jobs board, and links to *Autism Research*, various funding sources and autism organizations. Importantly, as all of you surely know by now, this webpage is being used for IMFAR registration. Unfortunately, there continues to be some confusion about the distinction between registering for INSAR membership and registering for the IMFAR meeting. These are two distinct processes with distinct benefits. IMFAR is currently open to everyone, though given the unprecedented demand for registration this year, future meetings may need to give preference to INSAR members. INSAR runs the IMFAR meeting, and INSAR's webpage should be used for (1) paying your annual membership dues (due by January 1 of each year), as well as IMFAR registration (typically starting in February or March). I wish to encourage all IMFAR attendees to consider becoming a member of the Society. Membership dues go toward supporting all of the Society's activities, and provide several important benefits, including:

- 1) Free online access to *Autism Research* (through autism-insar.org)
- 2) IMFAR registration discounts (and in the future, possible preferential registration)
- 3) Ability to vote and run for elected office in INSAR (next elections to be in January 2009)
- 4) Ability to post advertisements on our website's Jobs Posting page

Given the growth of IMFAR, from only about 300 attendees in its first year, to nearly 1200 this year, we are expecting even larger attendance for IMFAR 2009, to be held May 7-9 in Chicago, and IMFAR 2010, to be held in May in Philadelphia (exact dates to be posted on autism-insar.org by this summer).

In closing, I want to draw attention to and to thank the members of INSAR's Board of Directors: Peter Mundy (VP), Katherine Loveland (Treasurer), Jennifer Pinto-Martin (Secretary), Sally Rogers (ex officio), as well as various committee chairs (Membership - Nurit Yirmiya; Elections – Joe Piven; Student - Mathew Goodwin). I want to extend a special thanks to Autism Speaks for their continuing financial support and to the Simons Foundation for providing support for this year's meeting, to Jonathan Wood, our webmaster, and to Tony Charman and Manny DiCicco-Bloom for their work as Conference Chairman and Scientific Program Chair, respectfully, for this year's meeting. Having been involved in running past meetings, I can attest to the hard work required to organize and execute these meetings. This year's meeting was especially challenging, owing to a set of new procedures and mechanisms established this year in order to make the meeting run more efficiently and to be more cost effective to the Society. Tony and Manny bore the brunt of these *transition* costs, at times spending the majority of their work week on IMFAR business. The Society is indebted to them and I am greatly appreciative of their many hours of volunteer service.

Sincerely,
Bob Schultz
INSAR, President

IMFAR 2008 Scientific Program

Dear IMFAR Delegate,

We have instituted many exciting changes this year in the scientific program that should enhance communication and learning throughout the meeting. Along with these changes in meeting structure, you will notice the dramatic expansion of the Program Book to include the title and location of every one of the greater than 800 submitted abstracts, and the creation of a separate Abstract Book. Below, we briefly describe the new format, which is conveniently displayed visually in the first three pages of this Program Book. The most important changes in meeting structure are the scheduling of Invited Educational Symposia in each half day so there is no competition between them; the introduction of assigned poster presentation hours so that delegates can go to a poster with a guarantee to find someone to speak with; and the introduction of a new form of session, the Roundtables, where brief presentations by leading investigators will be followed by audience participation. Roundtables are designed to bring together a diverse range of opinions in hot topic areas where the ideas and the eventual goals of the field are still in development.

The meeting is organized into six (6) half days intervals, each with a separate section in the Program Book. Each half day has a poster session that includes 4 to 5 topics, and is further described below. For each morning, we start with a Keynote Speaker, followed by a Coffee Break, to allow room re-organization. Then over the next two hours, we have the Invited Educational Symposium (IES) that is comprised of 4-5 speakers that occurs in parallel with the two Oral abstract presentations. Throughout the morning, one has the option to visit posters (up for the entire half day) when the presenters will be present, as indicated by the time stated with each abstract and its poster board number. This year the Program Book lists every presented abstract, especially the posters, which comprise greater than 80% of all communications, a new feature to enhance your ability to find the information and authors you choose at the meeting.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS: All Posters will be presented for a half day period, in either the Champagne Terrace, where poster boards 1-60 are located, and the Bordeaux, where boards 61-120 are located. You will find the Velcro pieces needed to hang your posters in each room. While you are welcome to be at your poster for the entire half day period, presenters are required to attend their posters during the one hour period starting at the assigned time, also noted in the Program Book.

The afternoon of each day starts with lunch, during which speakers from autism research related organizations make presentations. The second poster session of the day also starts at this time. Immediately after lunch, there is another series of parallel IES and Oral presentations. Then after we take a Coffee Break, the Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony occurs on Thursday, and parallel Roundtables and a second set of Oral presentations occurs on Friday and Saturday. Of course throughout the afternoon, one has the option to visit posters when the presenters are present, or anytime else.

The Program Book is organized into sections devoted to each half day. To help you know immediately what is scheduled for each half day, the entire program is briefly organized over the first page or two. This way you can plan to attend Keynotes, IES and Roundtables without having to page through all the titles of every individual abstract in the Oral and Poster sessions. Nonetheless, each half day lists every abstract presentation that occurs, eight (8) of them in each Oral session, and between 15-45 in each of the 4 to 5 poster categories over the several hour period. The convenient Author Name Index at the back provides you with every abstract number the author is associated with, the one on which she/he is presenting author (in BOLD) as well as an e-mail address.

The Abstract Book contains every abstract in order of presentation and also the descriptive paragraphs provided by Keynote Speakers, Awardees, IES Organizers and Speakers and Roundtable Moderators, and also contains the Author Name Index. This book is available in PDF format from the INSAR website.

We hope the new meeting structure and Program/Abstract Books provide a more rich experience for the autism community, especially as we continue to grow at such a remarkable pace. We must acknowledge the unwavering support of Allena Buchhold at Confex and Jonathan Wood at Mixxmedia for their support and guidance as we create these new assets for INSAR and its annual meeting, IMFAR.

Manny DiCicco-Bloom, MD
Scientific Program Committee Chair

Acknowledgments

The International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) is the professional organization that oversees the annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR). INSAR is responsible for appointing all committees that govern the organization and approving the content and format of the annual meeting.

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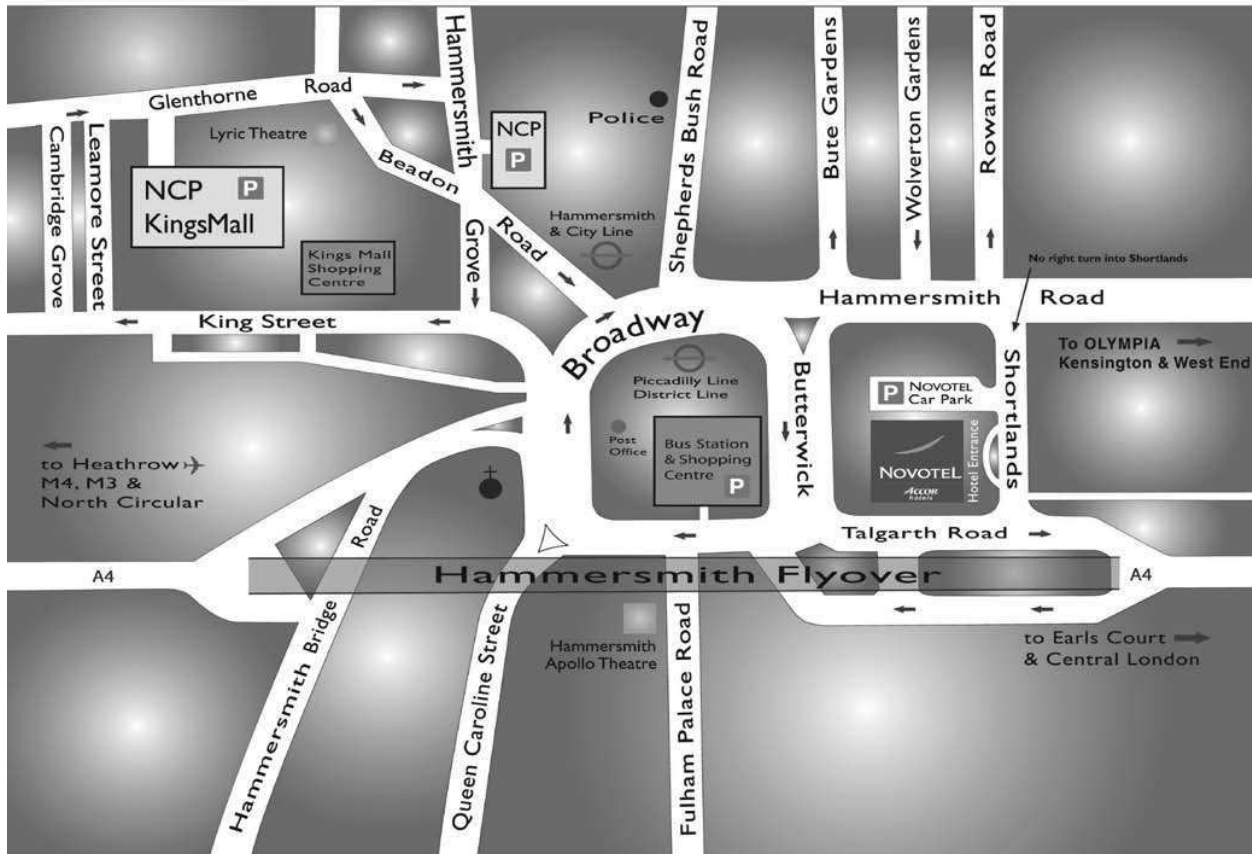
Program

Data presented at the annual International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) is the sole responsibility of the authors. The sponsor of the annual Meeting, the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), takes no responsibility for its accuracy. Submitted IMFAR abstracts are reviewed only to ensure that the authors will be presenting empirical data and that aims and conduct of the study, as far as can be ascertained, are consistent with international ethical guidelines for scientific research (Declaration of Helsinki). Acceptance of an abstract for presentation at the Meeting does not represent an endorsement by the Society of the quality or accuracy of the data and their interpretation, which judgment must await publication in a peer review journal. Consumers should recognize that study data presented at meetings is often preliminary and in some cases speculative, and that findings and conclusions have not undergone the rigors of a true peer review process.



NOVOTEL LONDON WEST HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE

LOCATION MAP



By Road

A316 & M4 (A4) motorway converge at the Hogarth Roundabout in Chiswick. Continue straight over, along the Great West Road (A4) following signs for Hammersmith. Exit left for Hammersmith, just before the A4 Hammersmith Flyover. Proceed along Hammersmith Bridge Road (church on right) to the roundabout. Take the 5th exit (Parallel to the Flyover with the Novotel London West, second building on your left). Take 1st left into Shortlands for the main entrance. For the car park, please take 1st left after the main entrance. The car park charge is £3.00 per hour for non-residents and £1.00 for residents.

By Air

Direct underground from Heathrow Airport, via the Piccadilly line to Hammersmith. From Gatwick Airport, British Rail link to Victoria and then District line to Hammersmith.

By Underground

Hammersmith underground is just 3 minutes walk away. This station is a major interchange and offers the District, Piccadilly and Hammersmith & City lines which between them connect with the entire London Underground system. On exiting through the Underground ticket barrier, follow overhead signs to Talgarth Road. Turn left as you leave the Shopping Centre. Follow the Flyover on your right. Cross intersection. The second building on your left is the Novotel London West.

By Rail

Victoria main line British Rail. Take District line to Hammersmith Underground Station. By Bus numbers 9, 10 and 27 run into Broadway, along the Hammersmith Road.