

The Third Autism Neuroscience Conference

Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge
Friday 10th September 2010



*Hosted by the Autism Research Centre, Department of
Psychiatry, University of Cambridge*

The third **Autism Neuroscience Conference** was hosted by the Autism Research Centre, University of Cambridge on 10th September, 2010. The conference brought together international autism experts in research, clinicians, parents, and individuals with autism spectrum conditions (ASC). The conference was hosted in the magnificent building of the Law Faculty, designed by architect Lord Norman Foster (who also designed 'the Gherkin' in London).

Keynote speakers included **Dr BhismaDEV Chakrabarti** whose talk included a discussion of the findings from a candidate gene study of Asperger Syndrome; **Dr Michael Lombardo** who outlined the importance of the self in autism, and its neural basis; and **Dr Bonnie Auyeung** who described studies that examine the potential role of foetal testosterone in the development of autistic traits.

Other thought provoking talks were delivered by a number of international scientists. **Dr Bruno Gepner** (University of Aix-Marseille, France) proposed that clinical features of ASC could be explained by a neuropsychological dysfunction in temporospatial processing; **Dr Ellie Wilson's** (Macquarie University/King's College London) paper discussed face processing in individuals with the 'broader autism phenotype'; **Dr Edith Posener** (Child Development Centre, Netanya, Israel) summarised findings from a study looking at the validity of diagnoses in children after the age of seven; **Dr Justin Williams** (University of Aberdeen) described research demonstrating impairments in the ability to modulate attention to sensory and facial stimuli in autism; **Dr Antonia Hamilton** (University of Nottingham) focused her talk on the comprehension of rational and irrational actions in the typical and autistic brain; and **Jonna Eriksson**, (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden) discussed her study that looked at the effect of androgens in adults with ASC.

The ARC would like to thank everyone for their participation, whether they presented a paper, a poster or took part in the valuable discussions throughout the day. This 3rd Autism Neuroscience Conference (ANC) follows on from successful earlier ANC conferences held in Cambridge in 2006 and the Royal Society in London in 2008. It is hoped that the 4th ANC conference will be held in 2012. Details will be posted on the ARC website, www.autismresearchcentre.com.



Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge



Bhisma Chakarbarti, Edith Posener,
Simon Baron-Cohen



Bhisma Chakarbarti giving his keynote address



Delegates at lunchtime