

مؤتمر التكنولوجيا والتوحد

AutismTech CONFERENCE

14 - 16 أبريل، 2025، الدوحة، قطر
April 14 - 16, 2025, Doha, Qatar

Diamond	 <p>وزارة الخارجية Ministry of Foreign Affairs دولة قطر - State of Qatar</p>	Platinum	 <p>وزارة الصحة العامة Ministry of Public Health دولة قطر - State of Qatar</p>	 <p>Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar</p>			
Gold	 <p>جامعة قطر QATAR UNIVERSITY</p>	 <p>ORCID</p>	Silver	 <p>سيدة للطب Sidra Medicine</p>	 <p>QAPCO QATAR ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS</p>	 <p>الشفا Shafallah Institution for Charitable Activities</p>	 <p>السالم العالمية SALAM INTERNATIONAL</p>



08:30 - 09:00

Registration

09:00 - 09:25

Opening Ceremony Ballroom 2

Opening Remarks

Dr. Ahmad M. Hasnah

President, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)

Opening Keynote

The Promise of AI-Based Computational Phenotyping

Dr. Robert Schultz

Professor, University of Pennsylvania

09:25 - 10:15

Opening Panel

Tech for Autism: Bridging the Gap from Promise to Impact

Moderators

Dr. Dena Al-Thani

Associate Professor, HBKU

Dr. Marwa Qaraqe

Associate Professor, HBKU

Panelists

Dr. Noof Al Siddiqi

Lead, National Autism Plan, Ministry of Public Health

Christopher Banks

President and CEO, Autism Society of America

Keith Wargo

President, Autism Speaks

Mary Partin

Chief Executive Officer, Dan Marino Foundation

10:15 - 10:40

Coffee Break

10:40 - 11:50

Remarks

Global Collaboration for Impact: Advancing Autism Innovations

Dr. Javaid I. Sheikh

Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar

Introducing Research Opportunities

Dr. Ali Kasem Alaboudy

Senior Research Program Manager, Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council

Panel Discussion

Setting the Stage - Milestones in Autism Research and the Road Ahead

Moderators

Dr. Khalid Fakhro

Chief Research Officer

Sidra Medicine

Alison Singer

Co-Founder and President

Autism Science Foundation

Panelists

Dr. Stephen Scherer

Chief of Research, Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Mohammed Aldosari

Pediatric Neurologist, Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Frederick Shic

Professor, University of Washington

Principal Investigator, Seattle Children's Research Institute

Dr. Uvais Ahmed Qidwai

Professor, Qatar University

11:50 - 13:30

Lunch Break



Session 1	Ballroom 2	Session 2	Ballroom 1
13:30 - 15:30	<p>Advancements in Screening and Diagnosis Using Technology</p>	14:30 - 16:45	<p>Integrating and Connecting: Autism Community Engagement Live Arabic Interpretation Available</p>
13:30 - 14:30	<p>Introduction and Opening Statements</p> <p>Keynote Beyond Checklists: The Emerging Era of Multimodal Autism Diagnosis and Phenotyping</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Aldosari Pediatric Neurologist, Cleveland Clinic</p>	14:30 - 14:55	<p>Introduction and Opening Statements</p>
	<p>Invited Talk Transforming Pediatric ASD Care in Japan: From AI Diagnosis to Social Implementation</p> <p>Dr. Sonoko Sensaki Deputy Director Think Tank for Children and Families</p>		<p>Keynote Technologies to Support Students with Autism: Education, Mental Wellbeing, and Healthy Aging</p> <p>Dr. David Brown Professor, Nottingham Trent University</p>
	<p>Invited Talk Eye Tracking Technology as an Objective Tool in the Early Screening and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Dr. Fouad Abdul Wahab Al-Shaban Principal Investigator Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, HBKU</p>	14:55 - 15:45	<p>Panel Discussion 1 Bridging the Gap – Community Voices and Research Priorities</p> <p>Moderator Sabika Shaban Founder, Qatar Disability Resource (QADR) Academic Journals and Publications Specialist, HBKU</p> <p>Panelists Ranjana Ranganathan Learning Support Teacher Arab International Academy Mursi Seraj Self Advocate Hayat Zakaria Abuzannad Parent</p>
14:30 - 15:25	<p>Panel Discussion Designing Effective Autism Screening Tools with Technology and Expertise</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Alia Satti Attending Physician, Sidra Medicine</p> <p>Panelists Dr. Fouad Abdul Wahab Al-Shaban Principal Investigator Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, HBKU Dr. Mohammed Aldosari Pediatric Neurologist Cleveland Clinic Dr. Sonoko Sensaki Deputy Director Think Tank for Children and Families Dr. Peter Owotoki Founder Vitafluence.ai Dr. Mohammad Tolefat Therapeutic Services Manager Shafallah Center</p>	15:45 - 16:45	<p>Panel Discussion 2 Connecting Research with Community Needs – Expectations and Responsibilities</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Achraf Othman Head of Research and Innovation Section Mada Qatar Assistive Technology Center</p> <p>Panelists Dr. David Brown Professor, Nottingham Trent University Dr. John-John Cabibihan Professor, Qatar University Dr. Asma Amin Consultant Psychiatrist, Shafallah Center</p>



09:30 - 10:00 Registration	
Session 3: Unlocking Autism's Secrets: Using Genomics and AI to Discover Biomarkers	
Ballroom 2	Ballroom 1
<p>10:00 - 11:25 Introduction and Opening Statements</p> <p>Keynote: Genomics in Autism: Informing Biology, Diagnosis, and Prospects for Treatment</p> <p>Dr. Stephen Scherer Chief of Research The Hospital for Sick Children</p> <hr/> <p>Invited Talk: Autism Biomarkers: Where, When, and Why?</p> <p>Dr. Stephan Sanders Professor, University of Oxford</p> <hr/> <p>Invited Talk: Circulating Neuronal Proteins are Elevated in Severe Autism: Linking Biomarkers to Neuronal Dysfunction and Behavioral Deficits</p> <p>Dr. Abeer Al-Shammari Scientist, HBKU</p> <hr/> <p>Invited Talk: The BARAKA-Qatar Study: A Multi-Omics Approach to Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Dr. Mona Abdi Postdoctoral Fellow, Sidra Medicine</p>	<p>11:00 - 11:50 Voices of Innovation: Meet the Speakers</p> <hr/> <p>Moderator Dr. Mohamad Hassan Hijab Postdoctoral Researcher, HBKU</p> <hr/> <p>Speakers Dr. Frederick Shic Professor, University of Washington Principal Investigator, Seattle Children's Research Institute Dr. Albert Rizzo Director for Medical Virtual Reality USC Institute for Creative Technologies</p>
<p>11:25 - 12:30 Panel Discussion Recent Advancements in Omics Technologies and Their Applications in Identifying Biomarkers Associated with ASD</p> <hr/> <p>Moderator Dr. Omar Albagha Acting Executive Director Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, HBKU</p> <hr/> <p>Panelists Dr. Stephan Sanders Professor, University of Oxford Dr. Abeer Alshammari Scientist, HBKU Dr. Mona Abdi Postdoctoral Fellow, Sidra Medicine Dr. Khalid Fakhro Chief Research Officer, Sidra Medicine</p>	
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Break	



Session 4: The AI Advantage: Revolutionizing Autism Assessment, Therapy, and Education

Ballroom 2		Ballroom 1	
13:30 - 14:25	<p>Introduction and Opening Statements</p> <p>Keynote Progress with Computer Vision-Based Behavioral Phenotyping of Autism</p> <p>Dr. Robert T. Schultz Professor, University of Pennsylvania</p> <hr/> <p>Invited Talk Artificial Intelligence and Autism Tech: Intersections, Collisions, and Opportunities</p> <p>Dr. Frederick Shic Professor, University of Washington Principal Investigator, Seattle Children's Research Institute</p>	14:30 - 15:20	<p>Speaker Spotlight Meet the Experts</p> <hr/> <p>Moderator Dr. Sara Abdulla Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council</p> <hr/> <p>Speakers Dr. Stephen Scherer Chief of Research The Hospital for Sick Children Dr. Stephan Sanders Professor of Paediatric Neurogenetics Department of Paediatrics University of Oxford</p>
14:25 - 15:30	<p>Panel Discussion The Growing Potential of AI in Autism Assessment and Treatment</p> <hr/> <p>Moderator Dena Al-Thani Associate Professor, HBKU</p> <hr/> <p>Panelists Dr. Connie Kasari Distinguished Professor University of California, Los Angeles Dr. Stephen Kanne Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine Dr. Arfan Ahmed Assistant Professor Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar Dr. Uvais Ahmed Qidwai Professor, Qatar University</p>		
19:00 - 21:00		Banquet Dinner (by Invite Only)	



08:30 - 09:00	Registration		
Session 5	Ballroom 2		
09:00 - 10:30	Technology for Safety and Communication Live Arabic Interpretation Available		
09:00 - 09:30	Introduction and Opening Statements Beyond Speech: Preliminary Survey Findings on Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) Dr. Mariam A. Bahameish Senior Research Associate, HBKU		
09:30 - 10:30	Panel Discussion 1 Lived Experience Live Arabic Interpretation Available		
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10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break		
10:50 - 11:50	Panel Discussion 2 Perspectives of Service Providers and Researchers Live Arabic Interpretation Available		
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11:50 - 13:00	Lunch Break		



13:00 - 14:00

Ballroom 2

Panel Discussion 3 Academia

Moderator

Dr. Stephen Kanne
Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine

Panelists

Dr. Matthew Goodwin
Professor, Northeastern University
Developing Innovative Technology to Enhance Research and Practice in Individuals on the Autism Spectrum: A Computational Behavioral Science Approach

Dr. James Rehg
Professor, University of Illinois
Leveraging AI to Measure and Model Social Behavior

Dr. Qazi Fazli Azeem
Professor, Al Akhawayn University
Nothing About Us Without Us

Dr. Connie Kasari
Distinguished Professor
University of California, Los Angeles
Access to Communication: Adaptive and Personalized Approaches

14:00 - 15:00

Ballroom 2

Panel Discussion 4 Industry

Moderator

Dr. Fahad Alnemy
CEO, Ynmo

Panelists

Dr. Russell Shilling
Senior Innovation Advisor, Autism Speaks
From Moonshots to Impact: How DARPA-Inspired Models Can Guide Autism Tech Development

Dr. Albert Rizzo
Director for Medical Virtual Reality
USC Institute for Creative Technologies

Vanessa Castañeda Gill
CEO, Social Cipher
Social Cipher: Catalyzing Social and Emotional Learning Through Video Games

15:20 - 15:50

Ballroom 2

UNICEF Digital Health Implementation at Scale

Sean Blaschke
Senior Health Specialist, UNICEF

15:50 - 16:20

Closing Session