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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual autism conference to host international special education experts in Dubai

Fifth edition of Around the World Conference 2014 to highlight key issues in communication and language development

Dubai, February 5, 2014 – Experts in speech and language pathology from the US and professionals in the field of special education will come together for the Fifth Annual Autism Around The World Conference 2014 to address issues faced by people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

The Child Early Intervention Medical Center (CEIMC) in collaboration with Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), UAE Ministry of Health, Dubai Health Authority (DHA), and the UAE Autism Society, will host the Conference on February 20-21, 2014 at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Center (MBRM-AMC), Dubai Healthcare City.

The conference theme ‘Communication and Language Development for Individuals Affected with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)’ will provide insights into how the lifelong developmental disability affects communication and social interaction.

The conference will bring together global experts and families to address a full range of issues. Experts in speech and language pathology in the field of special education will share topics essential for successful communication and educational support planning, specifically intervention in preschool and school settings.

The conference will also discuss current assessment and intervention strategies for children with severe speech disorders with an emphasis on linguistic theory and linguistically based analysis, target selection, and intervention methods.

According to statistics from Autism Speaks, a global organization involved in fundraising, science, and advocacy efforts, 1 out of 88 children born today will be diagnosed with autism by the time they are eight years old. Therefore early intervention and planning is critical to help more children learn and integrate into mainstream schools.

“We believe that every child has the right to mainstream education and as leaders in inclusion, we have successfully managed to mainstream around 70 per cent of the children in our center,” said Dr. Hibah Shata, Managing Director and Co-founder of Child Early Intervention Medical Center.



“To achieve these goals, we need to work hard with the community, educators and families to advocate and ensure that children not only find placement in schools but are supported to reach their maximum potential inside the school. Understanding best practices from experts in the field of speech and language development will help us provide children with speech and language delays with the much needed support for them to be fully integrated in the community, and this conference creates an ideal forum for identifying and sharing best practice standards.”

Dr Amer Ahmad Sharif, Managing Director, Dubai Healthcare City – Education, said, “The education division of DHCC is committed towards building capacity and furthering medical education. We welcome initiatives that resonate with our commitment, and give voice to a cause. In this instance, the Autism Around The World Conference calls attention to the stigma and insufficient educational support associated with ASD.

“DHCC’s dedicated academic complex, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Academic Medical Centre (MBR-AMC), works towards ensuring Dubai’s healthcare workforce is developed and has access to internationally-recognized education, research, and continuous professional development.”

Speakers from the United States include Dr. Nancy Creaghead, Ph.D, CCC-SLP, Professor and Head of Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. James Feeney, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at the College of Saint Rose, in Albany, New York and Clinical Fellow of New York State’s Neurobehavioral Resources Project, and Dr. Robert E. Owens, Jr. Ph.D., Associate Professor at the College of Saint Rose and author of several books on Speech and Language Development and Communication disorders and over 190 professional publications and workshops around the globe.

The Autism Around the World Conference will also feature lectures by local field experts, including CEIMC Clinical Director, Mr. Jason Garner, M.A., with over 18 years of clinical experience in Applied Behavioral Analysis and CEIMC Head of Speech & Language, Ms. Asma Rizvi, M.Sc., CCC-SLP, who is certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is accredited by UAE Ministry of Health with 8hrs of CME.

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If you would like more information about the Fifth Annual Autism Around the World Conference, please contact Dr. Erica Edwards at +971 55 558 1809 or via email at drerica@childlearning.ae.