



# Israeli Meeting for Autism Research 2025

**3.3.2025**

Abraham Ben David Ohayon Behavioral  
Sciences Complex (Building 98, Hall 1)



**08:30-09:00** Registration and light breakfast

**09:00-09:15** Opening greetings | **Prof. Daniel Chamovitz**, President, Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
**Dr. Dror Dolfin**, Deputy Director General, Soroka University Medical Center

**09:15-09:30** **ANCAN Update** | **Prof. Ilan Dinstein**, Psychology Department, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

**09:30-10:30** **Keynote Lecture** | "Diagnosing autism in early childhood: Challenge and stability of diagnosis"  
**Prof Alice S. Carter** Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston

**10:30-11:00** Coffee break

**11:00-13:00** Morning lectures session

**Session A: Risk Factors & Diagnosis** (building 98, hall 1)  
Chair: Prof. Ofer Golan

- Sex specific trajectories of autism: from pregnancy to adulthood including gender related camouflage, **Prof. Lidia Gabis**.
- Evaluating the agreement across common measures of core autism symptoms, **Dr. Einat Waizbard**.
- Psychological distress in autistic and non-autistic Israeli children exposed to war and terrorism, **Shir Shaked-Ashkenazi**.
- Joint contributions of polygenic risks for autism and schizophrenia to the expression of autistic and psychotic phenotypes, **Ahmad Abu-Akel**.
- Characteristics of minimally verbal children with autism spectrum disorder before and after age five, **Dr. Gat Salvadi Harussi**.
- Urine metabolomic profiling and machine learning in ASD diagnosis: toward precision treatment, **Dr. Shula Shazman**.

**Session B: Behavior** (building 71, Senate Hall)  
Chair: Prof. Einat Gal

- Sensory avoidance in less and more cognitively able children with autism, **Prof. Cory Shulman**.
- Risk of injury in children with autism spectrum disorder with or without attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder - a retrospective cohort study of pediatric emergency department visits in Israel, **Prof. Aviva Mimouni Bloch**.
- Early joint attention abilities measured by the ADOS-2 predict subsequent expressive language abilities in young autistic children, **Moran Bachrach**.
- Working Together: a longitudinal study examining differences in adaptive behavior and social communication between autistic and neurotypical employees, **Yael Lousky**.
- Cognitive abilities of autistic adults and intellectual disability in relation to age: accelerated development, stable progression, or continued age-related trajectories? **Dr. Moran Zemach**
- Quality of life and mental health in families of children with autism spectrum disorder during wartime, **Nomi Werbeloff**.



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**13:00-14:30 Lunch Break + Posters session (building 98, hall 1)**

**14:30-16:30 Afternoon lectures session**

**Session C: Mechanism (building 98, hall 1)**

Chair: Prof. Idan Menashe

- Shank3 mutation impairs glutamate signaling and myelination in autism spectrum disorder models, **Boaz Barak**.
- A phenotype-based approach for prioritizing ASD genetic variants from whole-exome sequencing, **Noam Levi**.
- Protective inherited and de novo pathological mutations in ADNP: essential for sex-dependent hippocampal gene expression regulating neurogenesis and cognition, **Prof. Illana Gozes**.
- Splicing regulation by WBP4 is critical for neurodevelopment and autism spectrum disorder, **Ophir Geminder**.
- The role of thioredoxin system in autism spectrum disorder, **Wisam Bazbaz**.
- Distinct protein expression in umbilical cord blood of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, **Dr. Omer Bar Yosef**.

**Session D: Treatment (building 71, senate hall)**

Chair: Prof. Gal Meiri

- Examining the effect of parental involvement on child and parent outcomes in the peers for preschoolers (P4P) social skills intervention: a randomized controlled trial, **Liron Oliver Aronson**.
- Depression and suicide risk among autistic adults, **Joy Benatov**.
- Randomized controlled trial (RCT): the effectiveness of ot-parentship on parental resilience, self-determination and the functioning of autistic adolescents, **Batel Wachspres**.
- Safety and effectiveness of risperidone and methylphenidate in children with autism spectrum disorder, **Vitaly Lubin**.
- Family accommodation as a mechanism for RRB expression in autism: associations with child and parent characteristics, **Dr. Judah Koller**.
- Comparison of perceptions of autism and neurodiversity between autistic individuals their parents and child psychiatrists: a qualitative study, **Dr. Ron Walfisch**.

**16:30-17:00 Coffee break**

**17:00-18:00 Technology Session (building 98, hall 1)**

- Emerging technologies for quantifying autism symptoms, **Prof. Ilan Dinstein**, Ben Gurion University
- The Israeli autism tech ecosystem, **Rimon Tubin**, Hackautism

**18:00-18:15 Concluding remarks, final announcement of the poster contest winners and group photo.**

**18:30 Festive Dinner (building 71, Senate hall)**