University of Cyprus
Center for Applied Neuroscience
CAN

5th Scientific Conference of the Center for Applied Neuroscience

September 14, 2015
9:00 am—15:00 pm
Building 07, Hall 010
NEW CAMPUS

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Website: http://www.cancyprus.org/

PROGRAM

8:30-9:00	**Registration**
Welcome Address	
9:00-9:20	***Prof. Constantinos Christophides,*** Rector, University of Cyprus ***Prof. Fofi Constantinidou,*** Professor of Psychology and Director, CAN , University of Cyprus
Invited Speakers	
9:20-10:15	***Dr. Bonnie Auyeung,*** Department of Psychology, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, UK and Autism Research Centre, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge, UK. **Hormones and Autism: What are the links?**
10:15-11:10	***Dr. Michael Lombardo***, Department of Psychology, University of Cyprus Center for Applied Neuroscience, University of Cyprus Autism Research Centre, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge **Systems biology and neuroscience viewpoints on pathophysiological mechanisms behind autism spectrum disorders.**
11:10- 11:40	**Coffee Break & Networking**
Invited Speakers	
11:40-12:40	***Prof. Jagannath Prasad Das,*** Director Emeritus, JP Das Centre on Developmental & Learning Disabilities, Professor Emeritus, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Alberta.. **Executive Functions and Cognitive Planning: What implications do these have for Education and management?**
12:40-13:40	***Ask the Expert s:*** *Panel discussion with Prof. Das, Dr. Auyeung and Dr. Lombardo*
13:45-14:00	Final thoughts and Wrap-Up
14:00-15:00	**Scientific Poster session & Reception**

Prof. Jagannath Prasad Das

Executive Functions and Cognitive Planning : What implications do these have for Education and management?

Abstract:

Planning and Executive Functions (EF) are overlapping concepts, and sometimes used interchangeably. Yet, plans do not have to be executed, and outcomes of execution are not actively evaluated for subsequent action. Executive control is the central characteristic of EF. EF activates other parts of the brain not shared during Planning. The presentation will discuss the above as well as applications of both Planning and EF in intervention programs for reading and mathematics. Furthermore, research indicates that the brain responds positively the brain responds positively to experience and instruction. The aforementioned interplay is important in order to understand how changes in educational achievements or improvements in decision making are brought about by strategy training.

Professor J. P. Das is an educational psychologist and an internationally recognized expert in educational psychology, intelligence and childhood development. Among his influential international contributions to psychology are the PASS theory of intelligence and the Das-Naglieri Cognitive Assessment System. Das's extensive research covers 3 broad areas: intelligence as a cognitive process, developmental and learning disabilities, and remediation of learning and cognitive processes. During his almost sixty-year academic career, J. P. Das has published 25 books and more than 400 papers and book chapters, in the broad field of cognitive psychology and special education. Das is currently Emeritus Director of the Centre on Developmental and Learning Disabilities and Emeritus Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta. In 1999 he was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2003 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Vigo in Spain. In 2015, Professor J. P. Das received the Canadian Psychology Association Award for his Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology. More recently Professor Das appointed to Order of Canada, the highest honour given to a citizen of Canada.

Dr. Bonnie Auyeung

Hormones and Autism : What are the links ?

Abstract:

Autism is a condition that affects males more than females. The cause of this bias towards males is unknown, though prenatal exposure to environmental factors (including hormones) has been shown to play a large role in shaping the brain and behavior. Given their capacity to exert epigenetic fetal programming during early critical periods of brain development, hormones in particular may be an important environmental factor in the development of characteristics associated with autism. Furthermore, hormones may even alleviate core symptoms of autism. The findings from studies examining the role of hormones in typical development and in autism will be discussed.

Dr. Bonnie Auyeung is a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh where her work is focused around two central themes: 1) the role of prenatal factors on psychological and neural postnatal development and 2) early markers of developmental disabilities. Prior to her current role, Bonnie worked at the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge where she is remains Director of Psychoneuroendocrinology. Before joining Cambridge, Bonnie was a researcher at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute.

Dr. Michael Lombardo

Systems biology and neuroscience viewpoints on pathophysiological mechanisms behind autism spectrum disorders

Abstract

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a heterogeneous and complex set of neurodevelopmental conditions. Both the heterogeneity and complexity of ASD has led to two major imperatives for future translational research. First, we must develop a deeper understanding of the heterogeneity present both within the etiological mechanisms and across the diversity of phenotypes represented across the autism spectrum. Second, we must move beyond approaches that hone in on individual aspects contributing to the biology and towards an understanding of the larger multi-scale biological complexity inherent in autism. In this talk I will show examples from my most recent work that takes a systems biology and neuroscience approach and begins to unravel some of this heterogeneity and multi-scale biological complexity underlying ASD. These examples demonstrate how a change in approach that is more tailored towards the goals of these major translational research imperatives can highlight novel insights.

Dr. Lombardo is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cyprus, and is a faculty member of the Center for Applied Neuroscience. He received his PhD in 2010 from the University of Cambridge, and continues to hold an honorary position there. He has received numerous early career stage fellowships and awards. In just 8 years, Dr Lombardo has published over 60 papers, has been cited over 3000 times, and has an h-index of 30. His multidisciplinary research is highly focused on understanding early developmental mechanisms involved in autism and atypical neurodevelopment.

POSTERS

1	Gavriel, C., Pantelides, S. & Avraamides, M.	Integrating spatial memories encoded through haptics and language
2	Pantelides, S., Nicou, M., Constantinidou, F. & Papacostas, S.	Investigating memory skills in patients with Temporal lobe epilepsy: A longitudinal study
3	Pagkratidou, M., Galati, A. & Avraamides, M.	Environment and spatial memory: a study with space syntax
4	Hatzipanayioti, A., Galati, A. & Avraamides, M.	Sensorimotor interference in narratives
5	Panagiotou, E., Galati, A., Tenbrink, T. & Avraamides, M.	Strategy Selection in Collaborative Spatial Tasks
6	Christodoulou, A., Kkeli, N., Michaelides. M., Karekla, M. & Panayiotou, G.	Factor Structure of the Perceived Stress Scale in a Cypriot Sample
7	Theodorou, M. & Panayiotou, G.	Psychometric properties of the Social Phobia and Anxiety Inventory-23 in Greek-Cypriot college population
8	Makri, A., Themostocleous, D., Loutsiou, A., Matsopoulos, A. & Anastasiou, A.	Parental Stress as it relates to Positive Parenting Practices, Child Hyperactivity and Defiant Behavior
9	Chatjikyprianou, A. & Constantinidou, F.	Memory and executive functions in adults over 60: Findings from the Neurocognitive Study of Aging

POSTERS

10	Michael, M. & Constantinidou, F.	Nicosia Naming Test: A Confrontational Naming Test in Greek
11	Taxitari, L., Christodoulou-Devledian, M. & Constantinidou, F.	Spontaneous production of features to describe common objects across the lifespan
12	Christodoulou-Devledian, M. D. & Rayes, M.	Οι Ταξινομικές και Θεματικές Σχέσεις στις Λεκτικές Συσχετίσεις: Κανονιστικά Δεδομένα στον Ενήλικα Ελληνόφωνο Πληθυσμό της Κύπρου
13	Metaxas, G., Constantimidou, F. & Spanoudis, G.	Cognitive reserve of social cognitive skills during adulthood
14	Charalambous, E., Leonidou, C. & Panayiotou, G.	The Psychometric properties of the Greek Smoking Consequences Questionnaire: Smoking expectancies, personality traits and coping strategies
15	Fella, A., Papadopoulos, T.C., Ioannou, M. & Christofou, C.	Effects of dyslexia on eye movement behaviour
16	Katalanou, M. & Papadopoulos, T.C.	Investigating the effects of physical exercise on cognitive and motor performance of secondary school age children.
17	Christoforou, E.	Finger skin temperature as a physiological indicator of emotional processing

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