



Italian Embassy Summit on Autism

An Italy-UK workshop

**Organized by the Italian Embassy in London in collaboration with,
and co-sponsored by, GE Healthcare**

Supported by the Italian Medical Society of Great Britain

GE Healthcare



22 October 2010

RIBA

(Royal Institute of British Architects)
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
London



Premise

The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working together to improve services for people with autism and their families. The Adult Autism Strategy, published in April 2010, sets out the Government's plans to tackle the isolation, discrimination and inequality routinely experienced by many adults with autism. It details the steps that need to be taken locally and nationally to achieve real change. This is the first time that the UK Government has committed to producing a strategy specifically to improve the quality of services provided to adults with autism

A national consultation on autism was held in Italy between May 2007 and January 2008, including representatives from parents' associations, professional groups and regional health authorities. The issue of adults with childhood-onset autism is also matter for discussion in a country where inpatient treatment and residential care are considered the last of the options. School inclusion, sheltered training and creative projects compete along with traditional placements often run by non-profit organisations. A key issue is, after the transition to adulthood, whether autism is to stay a mental health task, at least in part, or it should totally be under the care of social services.

Now it's time for experts and managers from the UK and Italy to discuss possible innovative solutions in handling these issues. The meeting will offer the opportunity of sharing best practices, strategies of implementation and future perspectives in managing the transition. Its expected outcome is to reach a common understanding of the potential solutions available to cope with this critical phase of life of the individuals with autism, of their carers, and of the community as well.

Scientific Committee

Chair: Dr Claudio Marelli Italian Medical Society of Great Britain

Prof Steve Williams, Institute of Psychiatry King's College London

Prof Stefano Palazzi, Ferrara Health Trust & University Mental Health Dept.

Prof Marisa Papaluca, European Medicine Agency

Dr Marc Barlow General Electric Healthcare

Prof Salvator Roberto Amendolia, Scientific Attaché, Italian Embassy in London

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and refreshments

9:00 – 10:50 First session

Welcome: **H.E. Alain Giorgio Maria Economides**, Italian Ambassador to the UK

Keynote speech:

The Adult Autism Strategy

Patience Wilson - Deputy Director - Independent Living, Social Care Directorate,
Department of Health, UK

Representative from the Italian Ministry of Health - TBD

UK perspective: **Richard Mills** – National Autistic Society, UK

Italian perspective: **Stefano Palazzi** (Univ. Ferrara, Italy and Roehampton Univ.,
London)

Liana Baroni (President ANGSA Italy)

10:50 – 11:10 Coffee break

11:10 – 13:10 Second session Autism: clinical aspects

Chairpersons:

Steve Williams (Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London)

Stefano Palazzi (Univ. Ferrara, Italy and Roehampton Univ., London)

Current and Future approaches to the clinical management of autism. Managing the transition
Declan G Murphy (Institute of Psychiatry King's College London, Dept of Health ADHD and
autism clinical research programme lead investigator)

Imaging of autism and other psychiatric disorders: future prospects

Marco Catani (Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College
London)

Screening and Diagnosis of Adults with Asperger Syndrome

Simon Baron-Cohen (Autism Research Centre, Dept Experimental Psychology, Cambridge
University)

News from the IX International Congress Autism Europe (Catania, October 8th – 10th 2010)

Donata Vivanti-Pagetti (President, Autism Europe)

The pros and cons of residential services at school and beyond

Rita Jordan (University of Birmingham)

13:10 – 14:10 Lunch break

14:10 – 16:20 Round-table discussion

Chairpersons:

Patrick Bolton (Institute of Psychiatry, London)

Cecilia Essau (Roheampton University, London)

Setting the scene (from Science to Implementation):

Improving outcomes for adults with autism

Patricia Howlin (Institute of Psychiatry, London)

Social inclusion: the Italian experience and future perspective

Angelo Fioritti (Mental Health Director, Bologna Italy)

All presenters and invited participants

a - Education and employment

Invited participants:

- **Francesca Happè** (Professor in Cognitive Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London)
- **Gail Prince** (Deputy Head, Heritage House School Chesham, Buckinghamshire)
- **Pamela Yates** (Maudsley Hospital, London)
- **Pierluigi Politi** (Professor of Psychiatry, Univ. of Pavia, Cascina Rossago, Italy)
- **Giuseppe Leocata** (Medical Doctor, Medicina del Lavoro 2, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico Milano)
- **Fabrizio Pregliasco** (Medical Director, Fondazione Istituto "Sacra Famiglia" Cesano Boscone, Italy)
- **Gillian Green** (STORM Project Director, University of Manchester)

b – New scientific frontiers in autism and bioethics

Invited participants:

- **Ilna Singh** (Reader in Bioethics and Society, Associate Director BIOS Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science)
- **Alberto Bizzi** (Dept of Neuroradiology, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico "Carlo Besta", Italy)
- **Andrew McKechnie** (University of Edinburgh)

c – Strategic investments for the future

Invited participants:

- **John Jeans** (Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, MRC)
- **John Williams** (Head of Clinical Activities, Wellcome Trust)

16:20 – 16:30 Conclusions and recommendations

Donata Vivanti-Pagetti (President, Autism Europe)

16:30 Close