



# ESSENCE 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

A dual platform / hybrid conference  
CAPE TOWN, South Africa

### 03 April 2023

TIME	ACTION	VENUE
15h00 – 18h00	Registration	Century City Conference Centre
18h00 – 20h00	Welcome Function	Century City Conference Centre

### 04 April 2023

Session 1	Theme: ESSENCE	Speaker
09:00-09:40	ESSENCE introduction	Christopher Gillberg
09:40-10:10	Cognitive functions and ESSENCE	Eva Billstedt
10:10-10:30	ADHD	Christopher Gillberg
10:30-11:00	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>	
Session 2	Theme: ESSENCE continue	Speaker
11:00-11:20	A theoretical framework for autism: Operationalization and clinical implications	Darko Sarovic
11:20-11:40	The rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder – artefact, reality or both?	Sebastian Lundström
11:40-12:00	Mild intellectual disability: from childhood to adult life in a population context	Elisabeth Fernell
12:00-13:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
Session 3	Theme: ESSENCE continue	Speaker
13:00-13:30	ARFID in children: prevalence, etiology, course, and comorbidity	Lisa Dinkler
13:30-13:50	Developmental language disorders and ESSENCE	Carmela Miniscalco
13:50-14:10	Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS): diagnosis and treatment	Mats Johnson
14:10-14:30	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>	
Session 4	Theme: Background	Speaker
14:30-15:00	The genetics of ESSENCE from risk to resilience.	Thomas Bourgeron
15:00-15:20	Pre-and perinatal reduced optimality and ESSENCE: Lessons from JECS (Japan Environment and Children's Study)	Koko Yasumitsu-Lovell
15:20-15:40	Cytokine levels at birth and psychopathology in childhood	Nicolas Glaichenhaus
15:40-16:00	Summary	Christopher Gillberg
18h30–22h00	<b>CONFERENCE GALA DINNER</b>	Century City Conference Centre

### 05 April 2023

Session 5	Theme: ESSENCE in South Africa	Speaker
09:00-09:30	Developmental Disabilities in Africa	Charles Newton
09:30-09:50	Investigating ESSENCE in South African children: the Breede Valley Project	Amy Slogrove/Ben Truter
09:50-10:10	Neuroimaging very young high risk brains: lessons from a South African birth cohort	Kirsty Donald
10:10-10:30	TSC, TAND and the TANDem project	Petrus de Vries
10:30-11:00	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>	
Session 6	Theme: Physiology	Speaker
11:00-11:30	Look me in the eyes - or not?	Nouchine Hadjikhani
11:30-11:50	The physiology of eye contact in autism	Martyna Galazka-Carney
11:50-12:10	Brainstem Disruptions to the Core Self in Autism	Jonathan-Delafield Butt
12:10-12:30	What do structural and social determinants have to do with it?"	Mark Tomlinson
12:30-13:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
Session 7	Theme: Psychosocial	Speaker
13:30-14:00	MAPP (Maltreatment Associated Psychiatric Problems)	Helen Minnis
14:00-14:20	The BRIDGE project: ESSENCE and ACEs and the road to BPD	Ruchika Gajwani
Session 8	Theme: Intervention	Speaker
14:20-14:40	Sleep and treatment with melatonin	Maj-Britt Posserud
14:40-15:00	No child is an island: supporting parents with ESSENCE in mind	Lucy Thompson
15:00-15:20	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>	
Session 8	Theme: Intervention Continue	Speaker
15:20-15:40	Problem Resolution in ESSENCE (PR-ESSENCE) - A new intervention for challenging behavior in children with neurodevelopmental disorders	Mats Johnson
15:40-16:00	ESSENCE across the lifespan; what can we do?	Christopher Gillberg
16:00-16:20	Summary	Christopher Gillberg