

**COST ACTION BM1004 TRAINING SCHOOL
JUNE 4-7TH 2013
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, UK**

**INTERACTION MEASUREMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERVENTION STUDIES
ACROSS THE INFANCY AND PRE-SCHOOL YEARS**

Autism is a longterm neurodevelopmental condition with high morbidity and cost for the individual, their family and society. COST Action BM 1004 – Enhancing the Scientific Study of Early Autism (ESSEA) aims at fostering an interdisciplinary scientific network to advance the pace of discovery about the earliest signs of autism, combining techniques from cognitive neurosciences with clinical sciences and to establish European practice guidelines on early identification and intervention.

The Management Committee (MC) for COST action BM 1004 is pleased to open its call for applications for the **2013 Training School on parent-child interaction and its measurement in early autism research**. (Note that the measures to be discussed could also apply to interactions of infants and children with other adults as well as parents).

Training Schools within the framework of the Action topic are aimed at i) Widening the knowledge of the Action activities, ii) Providing intensive training on a new and emerging subject, and iii) Offering familiarization with unique equipment or know-how in one of the laboratories of the Action. Training Schools are not intended to provide general training or education. Those attending a Training School are typically – but not exclusively – young researchers from across Europe. Furthermore, Training Schools may also cover appropriate re-training as part of life-long learning. The financial support is a contribution to the costs of participation at a Training School and may not necessarily cover all the costs in each case. The grant should normally cover only travel and subsistence. The financial contribution for Training School participation will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the application by the Training School assessment committee.

The ESSEA 2013 Training School will take place at the Social Development Research Group, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK between June 4th – June 7th 2013. This training school will focus on parent-child social interaction in early autism, in the context of both developmental studies and measuring intervention effects.

The aim is to i) present theory, evidence and discussion about the role of interaction in development; ii) an introduction to new measurement methodologies that have shown evidence of value in developmental studies and/or measurement of intervention response; iii) introduce discussion of theoretical and practical aspects of interaction outcome measures (in the context of outcome measures generally) for autism treatment studies. The training school will start with an introduction and theoretical background. Then two new measures will be introduced: the Manchester Assessment of Parent-Infant Interaction (MACI) and the Dyadic Communication Measure for Autism (DCMA). The MACI has been used in early developmental studies in the infant prodrome of autism and in the current iBASIS infant prodromal intervention (for more details please consult Wan et al 2012a and Wan et al 2012b). The DCMA has been studied in the pre-

school period and was a key outcome measure in the recent Preschool Autism Communication Trial (PACT - for more details consult Green et al 2010 and <http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/pact/>). Full references are below. Following this there will be discussion of a new elaboration of the ADOS method for intervention measurement, the ADOS-C, and other new aspects of ADOS techniques (further details available on request). There will be a general seminar discussion on intervention outcome measurement and also time for trainees to present and discuss their own research. The Training School will not result in a full training in the methods described, but we will be suggesting possible further training opportunities for attendees who wish to train to reliability on at least one of the methods introduced.

Speakers and trainers:

Professor Cathy Lord, Weill Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital, US

Professor Jonathan Green, University of Manchester and Manchester Childrens' Hospital, UK

Dr Ming Wai Wan, University of Manchester, UK

Dr Kathy Leadbitter, University of Manchester

Professor Helen McConachie, Newcastle University, UK

Dr Catherine Aldred, Stockport NHS Trust

Applicants:

Applicants should be engaged in a program of research as a postgraduate/PhD student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed in an institution actively participating in COST Action BM1004. For this training school we welcome senior researchers who may wish to familiarize themselves with these instruments for their institutions, as well as more junior researchers. We will accept a maximum of 2 trainees from the same lab. We will be mindful of geographical equity throughout the process.

Applicants must send a Cover Letter containing the following information:

1. Name of home institution(s)
2. Personal motivation for participation in the Training School
3. Relevance of your participation for ESSEA
4. Previous experience with interaction measurement or intervention studies.
5. List of publications/presentations based on any of these method(s)
6. Implementation strategy of (one of) the methodologies at your institution (including available resources in terms of equipment and funding)
7. Other information of direct relevance for your application

Please structure your Cover Letter according to these points, and write as concisely as possible. The applications will be evaluated by the Training School Committee. The Committee will take into particular consideration the degree to which the applicant has a clear and realistic plan regarding on how the knowledge and skills acquired during the Training School will be translated into research relevant for ESSEA. It is advantageous if the applicant has some experience in child development and observing interaction, and that her/his research group has the necessary resources for conducting interaction observations and research in the context of autism.

In addition to the Cover Letter, please provide a full CV, a full publication list, and (if applicable) a confirmation by PI (or equivalent) regarding resources (equipment, funding). All materials should be sent by the Applicant electronically (by e-mail as

attachment) to the administrator of the Training School (claudia.grimaldo@manchester.ac.uk), and the MC Chair (tony.charman@kcl.ac.uk) no later than the **1st March, 2013**. You should receive a confirmation that we have received your application within one day after your submission.

Please name all files adequately, e.g. "yourlastname_coverletter.doc".

The applicant will be informed about the outcome of the evaluation and level of funding by **22nd March, 2013** latest.

Any queries on the Training School should be addressed in the first instance to Claudia Grimaldo, claudia.grimaldo@manchester.ac.uk.

2013 TRAINING SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Arrival June 3rd evening

Day 1 June 4th -

- Welcome and introductions to attendees
- General introduction/Theory/Developmental background to interaction studies (JG)
- MACI – Introduction/theory and development of instrument/structure/coding and coding practice (MWW)
- MACI – evidence base to date (MWW/JG)
- General discussion - Attendees identify their research questions

Day 2 June 5th -

- DCMA - Introduction/theory and development of instrument/structure/coding and coding practice (KL/HMC/CA)
- DCMA – Evidence to date (KL/HMC/CA)
- General discussion – Attendees discuss their research experience to date

Day 3 June 6th -

- ADOS-C – Introduction/theory and development and experience/evidence to date (CL)
- ADOS-C – potential applications in the context of intervention measurement (CL)
- Seminar/discussion on theory and practice of intervention change measurement in autism/mention of the MeASURE study and COST context (CL/JG/HMC)
- General discussion – attendees discuss their future research plans
- The school will include accommodation if needed for the night of June 6th

Day 4 June 7th -

- Attendees are welcome to stay on for an open university lecture by Professor Cathy Lord 10am -11.30am – details to be announced

Instructions and guidance can be found on page 35 of the COST *Vademecum* (Part B):
<http://www.cost.esf.org/participate/guidelines>.

Best regards,

Jonathan Green (Training School Organizer)

Helen McConachie, Kathy Leadbitter, Ming Wai Wan (Training School Committee Members)

References:

Wan M. W. W., Green J., Elsabbagh M., Johnson M., Charman, T., Plummer, F., et al. (2012a). Parent-infant interaction in infant siblings at risk of autism. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 33; 924–932.

Wan, M. W., Green, J., Elsabbagh, M., Johnson, M., Charman, T., Plummer, F. and the BASIS Team (2012b), Quality of interaction between at-risk infants and caregiver at 12–15 months is associated with 3-year autism outcome. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. doi: 10.1111/jcpp.12032

Green J. Charman, T., McConachie, H. et al (2010). Parent-Mediated Communication-Focused Treatment for preschool children with Autism (PACT); a randomised controlled trial. *The Lancet*, 375(9732), 2152-2160.