



COST ESSEA Conference
11th and 12th September 2014
Toulouse, France

The Toulouse Conference is the closing activity of the Enhancing the Scientific Study of Early Autism (ESSEA) COST Action BM1004.

About ESSEA: The primary objective of the ESSEA COST Action has been to establish an interdisciplinary scientific network to advance the pace of discovery about the earliest signs of autism; to combine techniques from cognitive neuroscience with those from the clinical sciences; to exchange information from ongoing screening and early intervention studies; and to facilitate dissemination of science and practice relevant to early autism. Funded by the European Science Foundation the network has held working group meetings; funded lab exchanges; and held training schools for early career researchers 2011 – 2014 (<http://www.cost-essea.com/>).

The ESSEA conference brings together leading European and international scientists in the field. It will review the progress made in early autism science over the past few years and provide a forum for discussion of the future directions in the field in Europe.

Keynote Speakers:

Rebecca Landa, Director, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Baltimore, USA

"The Emergence of the Autism Phenotype in the First Three Years of Life and Treatment Implications"

Connie Kasari, Director, Center for Autism Research and Treatment, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA

"Lessons learned from intervention trials with preschool children with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

Mark Johnson, Director, Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck College, London, UK

"Autism, the social brain, and neural adaptation"

Chiara Servilli, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland

"Global Perspectives on Raising Awareness and Building Capacity in Early Autism Research"

Other Highlights

EU-AIMS symposium (<http://www.eu-aims.eu/home/>). European Autism Interventions - A Multicentre Study for Developing New Medications (EU-AIMS) involves a novel collaboration between organisations representing affected individuals and their families (Autism Speaks), academia and Industry who for the first time in the world have come together to develop the infrastructure underpinning new treatments for autism.

Paper and poster presentations from early career researchers, including winners of the ESSEA COST Action conference awards.

'Meet the experts' lunch for early career researchers.

Tony Charman (Action Chair), Herbert Roeyers (Action Vice-Chair)

**Schedule for ESSEA Conference
11th and 12th September 2014 Toulouse, France**

	Morning	Afternoon
Thursday 11th September	<p><i>Arrival</i></p> <p>12:15 - 13:15</p> <p>Registration</p> <p>12:30 - 13:15 Lunch</p>	<p>13:15 - 13:30</p> <p>Welcome and overview of ESSEA COST Action <i>Tony Charman, Chair ESSEA COST Action</i></p> <p>13:30 - 14:30</p> <p>Keynote Lecture <i>Rebecca Landa</i> <i>"The Emergence of the Autism Phenotype in the First Three Years of Life and Treatment Implications".</i></p> <p>14:30 - 15:30</p> <p>Early Stage Researcher Symposium</p> <p>15:30 - 16:00 Break</p> <p>16:00 - 17:00 Keynote Lecture <i>Chiara Servilli</i> <i>"Global Perspectives on Raising Awareness and Building Capacity in Early Autism Research"</i></p> <p>17:00 - 18:30</p> <p>Poster Viewing + Drinks Reception</p> <p>19:00 Conference Dinner</p>

<p>Friday 12th September</p>	<p>8:30 – 9:00 <i>Coffee</i></p> <p>9:00 – 10:00</p> <p>Keynote Lecture Connie Kasari <i>"Lessons learned from intervention trials with preschool children with Autism Spectrum Disorder"</i></p> <p>10:00 – 11:00</p> <p>Early Stage Researcher Symposium</p> <p>11:00 – 11:30 <i>Break</i></p> <p>11:30 – 13:00</p> <p>Parallel Interactive Discussion Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(A) Pros and cons of infant imaging methods: Mark Johnson, Chantal Kemner, Marie Gomot</i> - <i>(B) Screening for autism: Ricardo Canal Bedia, Herbert Roeyers</i> - <i>(C) Where next for early intervention? Rebecca Landa, Helen McConachie, Connie Kasari</i> <p>13:00 – 14:00 <i>Lunch</i></p>	<p>14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>European Perspectives: Zsuzsanna Szilvasy (Autism Europe); Bernadette Rogé (Host); Rafal Kawa (Poland)</p> <p>15:00 – 16:00</p> <p>Keynote Lecture Mark Johnson <i>"Autism, the social brain, and neural adaptation"</i></p> <p>16:00 – 16:30 <i>Break</i></p> <p>16:30 – 17:45</p> <p>EU-AIMS Symposium <i>Eva Loth: Overview of EU-AIMS</i> <i>Emily Jones: EUROSIBS study</i> <i>Eva Loth: LEAP study</i></p> <p>17:45 – 18:45</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Early Autism in Europe: ESSEA COST Action Looking Forward: <i>Sven Bölte (Work Group 1)</i> <i>Terje Falck-Ytter (Work Group 2)</i> <i>Evald Saemundsen (Work Group 3)</i> <i>Petra Warreyn (Work Group 4)</i></p> <p>Closing remarks: <i>Herbert Roeyers, Vice-Chair ESSEA COST Action</i> <i>Tony Charman, Chair ESSEA COST Action</i></p> <p>18:45 <i>Close</i></p>
--	--	---