

14th Autism Europe International Congress

11th-13th September 2025 | Dublin, Ireland

Quality of Life - Research, Policy and Practice



Press Release

14th Autism Europe International Congress comes to Dublin in September 2025

AsIAm, Ireland's Autism Charity and Autism Europe, are partnering to host the 14th Autism Europe International Congress in the RDS Dublin next year. The theme of the conference will be "Quality of Life – Research, Policy and Practice".

From September 11th to 13th next year, the annual Congress will offer significant professional development opportunities in Autism research and practice in Ireland. Bringing together leading Autism researchers, advocates and practitioners, the Congress provides a seminal opportunity for the development of neuroaffirmative autism research in Ireland and across Europe.

Adam Harris, CEO of AsIAm said "AsIAm, Ireland's Autism Charity is honoured to be hosting the 14th Autism Europe Congress in Dublin in September 2025. As an autistic-led organisation we are committed to a vision of an Ireland and Europe in which every Autistic person is accepted "as they are" – equal, valued and respected. Core to this vision is Autistic people having the same chance in every aspect of our societies and of course exploring, understanding and achieving a high quality of life for Autistic people and that is why we are delighted to have selected this theme, through direct consultation with Autistic people, family members and professionals across Europe. Our Congress places the voices of Autistic people at the centre – with an emphasis on rights-based, neuroaffirmative approaches which align with the lived experiences and priorities of Autistic people and families.

He added "Our Scientific Committee embodies our commitment to partnership and co-production bringing together a diverse range of experts from across numerous disciplines and geographical locations, with diverse experience as Autistic people, family members, researchers and professionals. For the first time, the Scientific Committee brings together an majority of Autistic experts.

"The Congress will be developed as an accessible, welcoming event for the Autistic community with universal design at the core of the organisation process. We believe our inclusive approach to the organisation and management of the Congress will ensure all feel welcome and valued during the event, and leave a lasting legacy in terms of Autism across Europe, with Congress delegates leaving with new tools and knowledge to inform day-to-day living, research, service provision and policy formulation into the future."

"We look forward to tickets going on sale later this year and are keen to hear from organisations who would be interested in partnering with us to sponsor key aspects of the Congress including corporate partners, research organisations, public bodies and prospective exhibitors" he concluded

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c/o Keynote PCO, Suite 26, Anglesea House, 63 Carysfort Ave.,
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Harald Neerland, President of Autism-Europe “We are thrilled to come to Dublin in 2025 for our 14th International Congress. The Congress’ theme is fully aligned with AE’s mission: to promote understanding, acceptance, and full respect of the rights of autistic people in society so as to improve their quality of life. AsIAM’s trailblazing work and inclusive approach in Ireland will be reflected in the Congress’ programme and promises to inspire participants from around the world. We very much look forward to a diverse and inclusive event featuring discussions on research, best practices, and personal experiences in the field of autism that will contribute to make a difference to the lives of autistic people. Whether as a speaker, exhibitor, or delegate, you are all encouraged to join this journey towards acceptance and equality in Dublin

Dr Cat Hughes, Chair of the Scientific Committee “I’m extremely excited and honoured to be Chairing the Scientific Committee for the Dublin Congress. We’re committed to shaping a congress that places collaboration and co-production at the heart of the event. Our mission is to create space for conversations that have a practical impact for all of the autism community. The event’s focus on Quality of Life will be based on an autistic understanding of the topic, with an acknowledgement of the wide variety of experience and expression within the community. We look forward to focusing on practical, real-world topics that impact daily life, such as education, health, employment and vocation, relationships, autonomous living and finding joy. We hope that the congress will serve as a platform for autistic people to share their research and express their experiences, needs and wishes. Equally, we hope that the congress will provide room to build future collaboration based on listening, understanding and shared respect.”

Autism-Europe is an international association dedicated to advancing the rights of autistic people and their families, helping them improve their quality of life. The organisation plays a crucial role in raising public awareness and influencing European decision-makers on issues related to the rights of autistic individuals.

Some of the topics to be discussed over the 3-day event are:

1. **Improving physical & mental health** (Including topics relating to both physical and mental wellbeing and access to the health care system)
2. **Understanding ageing in autistic people**
3. **Supporting autistic people to thrive & find meaning in life** (Including topics such as interests, joy, leisure & creative arts)
4. **Vocation & Employment**
5. **Creating safe and autism friendly environments** (Including topics such as sensory, motor, socially safe, & predictable spaces).

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6. **Accessing learning across the lifespan** (Including topics such as access to education from early childhood to higher education, ongoing access to lifelong learning and formal and informal coaching)
7. **Gender & sexuality** (Including topics relating to gender identity and expression, sexuality and sexual diversity)
8. **Embracing intersectionality & underrepresented perspectives** (Including topics relating to communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in research, policy and/or practice)
9. **Accessing housing & autonomous living**
10. **Autism and overlapping neurodivergence**
11. **Autistic communication and autistic interaction**
12. **Advancing rights: from advocacy and activism to policy changes**

Speakers will include:

Professor Liz Pellicano - committed to transforming autism science so that it more accurately reflects everyday autistic life. She is Professor of Autism Research at University College London (UCL), having recently been Professor at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Dr Jeroen Dewinter - clinical psychologist and currently works as clinical manager of the Child and Youth Unit of GGzE in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

Dr Peter Vermeulen - PhD in Psychology and Clinical Educational Sciences, has more than 35 years of experience in the field of autism.

Dr Mary Doherty is an Irish Consultant Anaesthetist and Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Medicine, University College Dublin.

Dr. Wenn Lawson is Assistant Professor with Curtin University, WA, is an Autistic Researcher and British Psychologist living in Australia. Wenn is well published, has won a number of awards and his work is recognised in Australia and internationally.

Dr Jessica Eccles is a Consultant Psychiatrist in the Neurodevelopmental Service at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, specializing in adult ADHD, autism and Tourette syndrome. Within that service she co-leads the world's first Neurodivergent Brain-Body Clinic.

Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson holds a Personal Chair in Developmental Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. She is interested in how children grow and learn, with a particular focus

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on development and neurodiversity. Her work draws on rigorous methods from psychology and applies these to questions with clinical, educational and societal impact.

Dr Kara Dymond, OCT, is a late-diagnosed autistic/ADHD advocate, author, educator, presenter, and award-winning teacher educator from Canada. Kara is an experienced teacher whose work supporting autistic students inspired her books *The Autism Lens* and *The Teacher's Guide to Neurodiversity*.

Maja Toudal is an autistic and ADHD psychologist, speaker, and author from Denmark. Her first book, *What Your Autistic Child Wants You To Know*, combines her personal and professional perspectives to advise parents on the inner lives of autistic children. Her second book, *Energy Accounting*, provides a practical guide to self-exploring and making adjustments to improve quality of life.

Sara Rocha is a Portuguese autistic and disabled advocate working as a Data Manager for the Public Health and Primary Care department of the University of Cambridge. She is Vice-chair of the Women's Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF), Vice-President of the European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP) and co-founder and President of Associação Portuguesa Voz do Autista, the first autistic-led organisation in Portugal.

Eva Loth is a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London. Her main interest is in understanding the dynamic interaction between social and biological mechanisms in social, cognitive and emotional development in autistic and neurodivergent people.

Joris Lechêne, a pioneering trainer in anti-racism, bias, and decoloniality, draws his unique insights from both his lived experiences as a marginalized individual (Black, Queer, Neurodivergent) and his expertise in the sociology of the built environment.

Dr Bernadette Grosjean has practiced psychiatry for 35 years, initially in Belgium and later in California. She has worked in various settings including private practice, community hospitals, and with the homeless population in Los Angeles.

All details can be found at autismcongress2025.org

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