How can research cope with the vast heterogeneity of autism?

8:30-9:00 Registration and light breakfast

9:00-9:20 Greetings:
University delegates, Soroka Medical Center, Azrieli Foundation, Ministry of Science and Technology

9:20-9:50 Update regarding the Azrieli National Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research - Prof. Itan Dinstein, Psychology Department, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

9:50-10:50 Keynote lectures (45 minutes per speaker)
Prof. Sven Sandin, Seaver Autism Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY, USA
Prof. Diana Robins, Autism Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:10 Morning lectures session

Group A: Risk Factors (building 92, hall 1)
Classifying ASD causal genes based on Intrinsic disordered regions. Shula Shazman, The Open University of Israel.
Association between ultrasonography fetal anomalies and ASD. Ohad Regev, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Group B: Early Development (building 90, hall 2)
Factors affecting utilization of health promoting treatments for children with ASD. Shay Melsers Eran, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
The association between restricted and repetitive behaviors and adaptive functioning. Shri Rozenblat, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Identifying autism symptom severity trajectories across childhood. Einat Waizbard Bartov, University of California Davis.
Parental expressed emotion, parenting stress, and behavioral problems of young children with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and idiopathic ASD. Ya’ara Serur, Shaba Medical Center Tel Hashomer.

13:10-14:30 Lunch break and poster session (building 98, hall 1)

14:30-16:15 Afternoon session

Group A: Mechanisms (building 92, hall 1)
Rescue of a neurodevelopmental disorder with fever. Andrew Levy, Technion Faculty of Medicine.
NAP, an experimental compound, which has received orphan drug and pediatric rare disease designations from the FDA, displays effectiveness in treating symptoms of Autism. Illana Gozes, Tel Aviv University.
Mutation in the splicingosome subunit, WBP4, causes syndromic autism spectrum disorder. Masayan Saiton, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Changes in the inhibitory system associated with the Mthfr gene deficiency in the brains of newborn mice. Danielle Barka, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
Microbiome analysis of individuals with Autism in Israel. Evan Elliott, Bar Ilan University.

Group B: Adolescents & Adulthood (building 92, hall 2)
Knowledge and needs of teachers and professionals working with school children with autism regarding attention in autism. Lilach Shalev-Mevorach, Tel Aviv University.
Are developmental trajectories from toddlerhood to adolescence in ASD related to social relationship competence? Ronit Saban, Ariel University.
Eye-gaze is superior to pointing and uncovers hidden literacy in minimally verbal ASD. Keren Ellert, Bar Ilan University.

16:15-16:45 Coffee break (building 98, hall 1)

16:45-17:30 Keynote lecture (building 98, hall 1)
Prof. Francesca Happe – Social Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Department, King’s College of London, UK

17:30-18:30 Discussion with guests – Does the current definition of ASD help or hinder meaningful research? Preface by Prof. Yonata Levy
Experts panel discussion

19:00-21:00 Festive dinner (building 71, Senate Hall)