

PROGRAM

Scientific Conference

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF FEEDING, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND NEURODIVERSITY

Connecting Nutrition, Growth and Inclusivity

25 - 27 October, 2024

Golden Tulip Hotel, Varna, Bulgaria

ORGANIZER:

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA



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**EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF FEEDING,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND NEURODIVERSITY**

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

HONORARY CHAIR PROF. DR. DIMITAR RAYKOV, MD, DSC
(Rector of MU-Varna)

ANTON TONCHEV (MU-Varna)

RUZHA PANCHEVA (MU-Varna)

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STEFKA TSCVETANOVA (Karin dom Foundation)

NIKOLETA YONCHEVA (Karin dom Foundation)

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF FEEDING, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND NEURODIVERSITY

Friday, 25th October 2024

13:00 - 14:00	Participant Registration
14:00 - 14:30	Conference Opening (Welcome and Introduction)
14:30 - 17:00	SESSION 1

SESSION 1:

Nutritional Screening and Strategies for Neurodiverse Children

Chair: *Nikoleta Yoncheva*

- » **Koen Huysentruyt** (Belgium)
Nutritional Screening and Strategies for Neurodiverse Children
- » **Konstantinos Gerasimidis** (UK)
Micronutrient Assessment
- » **Dimitar Raykov** (Bulgaria)
Ultrasonography of pediatric hip-proven approach in hip disturbances prevention
- » **Manlio Vinciguerra** (Italy)
Genetics and Epigenetics of Pediatric Fatty Liver

17:30 Welcome Cocktail

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Saturday, 26th October 2024

09:00 - 10:30 SESSION 2

SESSION 2:

Early Childhood Feeding and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes

Chair: *Dimitar Marinov*

- »» **Carmen Costea-Bărluțiu, Andrea Hathazi, Diana Botez (Romania)**
Attachment Parental Behaviors and Selective Eating in Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- »» **Ivan Ivanov (Bulgaria)**
Early Child Development Tracking
- »» **Nadia Koltcheva (Bulgaria)**
S/he Loves Me S/he Loves Me Not! Specifics of Parent-Child Relationships in Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities
- »» **Ivan Chavdarov (Bulgaria)**
Neonatal Asymmetric Crying Facies (NACF): Clinical Diagnosis and Therapy, New Methods

10:30 - 10:45 **Coffee Break**

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10:45 - 12:45 **SESSION 3**

SESSION 3:
Innovative Therapeutic Approaches to Feeding
Chair: Sevdzhihan Eubova

- » **Konstantinos Gerasimidis (UK)**
Nutritional Screening Tools
- » **Tena Niseteo (Croatia)**
Use of Blended Diets in Neurologically Impaired Children
- » **Ivan Yankov (Bulgaria)**
Growth and Development of Children on Enteral Feeding: 7 Years of Experience in a Reference Center
- » **Koen Huysentruyt (Belgium)**
Case Studies and Practical Interventions
- » **Hristo Naydenov, Mila Baycheva (Bulgaria)**
Nutritional Interventions in Hospitalized Patients with Severe Neurological Diseases
- » **Virginia Stallings (USA)**
Growth and Development in Children with Cerebral Palsy (Online)

12:45 - 13:45 **Lunch**

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13:45 - 15:15 SESSION 4

SESSION 4:

Communication and Feeding Disorders: Integration of Speech Therapy

Chair: *Silviya Nikolova*

- » **Bruna Menegassi** (Spain)
Ultra-Processed Foods (UPF) in Children's Diets
- » **Virginia Stallings** (USA)
Nutrition in Children with Cerebral Palsy (Online)
- » **Andrea Hathazi, Carmen Costea-Bărluțiu** (Romania)
Mealtime Routines in the Development of Communication Skills in Children with Multiple Disabilities
- » **Stanka Fitneva** (Canada)
Early Psychosocial Correlates of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities: Evidence from the Canadian National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth (Online)

15:15 - 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 - 17:30 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Feeding and Neurodevelopmental Challenges

Chair: *Sevdzhihan Eubova, Silviya Nikolova*

Participants: *All Lecturers*

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15:30 - 17:30 POSTER PRESENTATION

POSTER PRESENTATION:

Chair: *Emil Galinov/Pavlo Savov*

Participants: *All attendees*

18:00 Dinner

Sunday, 27th October 2024

09:00 - 11:00 SESSION 5

SESSION 5:

Role of Organizations in Supporting Neurodiversity and Nutrition

Chair: *Antoniya Hachmeryan*

- » **Silvia Nikolova** (Bulgaria)
Needs Assessment and Quality of Life of Families with Children with Cerebral Palsy and Autism
- » **Tena Niseteo** (Croatia)
The Role of DHA in Neurodevelopment in Children
- » **George Bogdanov** (Bulgaria)
Advocacy for political reforms of the National Network for Children in the field of Child development, Nutrition, Growth, and Inclusivity
- » **Marco Fiore** (Italy)
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Disorder of Neurodevelopmental Origin

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- »» **Nikoleta Yoncheva** (Bulgaria)
Assessment of Feeding and Creating Effective Feeding Plans as a Team: Parent-Doctor-Therapist
- »» **Daria Leonidovna Chivchibashi-Pavlova** (Bulgaria)
Animal Modeling of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Challenges and Opportunities

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:45 CLOSING SESSION AND DISCUSSION

CLOSING SESSION AND DISCUSSION: Future Directions and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Chair: *Ruzha Pancheva*

- »» **Nina Yordanova** (Bulgaria)
Possibilities and Difficulties for Feeding Therapy in Patients with Cerebral Palsy and Autism
- »» **Ruzha Pancheva** (Bulgaria)
Tools and Metrics for Tracking Progress in Nutritional Status of Children with CP and Autism
- »» **Sevdzhihan Eyubova, Dimitar Marinov** (Bulgaria)
Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Understanding the Interplay and Impact on Social and Emotional Functioning
- »» **Karan Courtney Haag** (USA)
Social Aspects of Nutrition (Online)
- »» **Discussion**

13:00 Conference Closing (Summary and Appreciation)

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF FEEDING,
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POSTER PRESENTATION:

1. **Nutrition-Neurodevelopment Interactions Related to Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children: A Narrative Literature Review**
Authors: Sirma Angelova, Desislava Konstantinova, Anna Nenova-Nogalcheva (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
2. **From Gut Health to Mental Health: Probiotics in ADHD Therapy**
Authors: Maria Desislava Panayotova, Pavlina Koseva (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
3. **Impact of Nutritional Supplementation on Children with Autism – Literature Review**
Authors: Doroteya Zhelezova, Monica Stoycheva, Rozalina Braykova (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria; Research Group NutriLect, Medical University Varna)
4. **The Impact of Prenatal Nutrition on Future Neurodiversity: The Role of Vegetarian and Vegan Diets in Pregnant Women**
Authors: Doroteya Y. Yordanova, Rositsa M. Tabakova (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
5. **Demographic Characteristics and Accompanying Medical Profile in a Sample of Bulgarian Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Authors: Yana Petkova, Reni Petkova, Rozalina Braykova, Alben Toneva (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria; Research Group NutriLect, Medical University Varna)
6. **Optimizing Perioperative Nutrition in Gastrointestinal Pediatric Surgery**
Authors: Hristo Todorov, Petar Stamov, Aleksandar Zlatarov (Medical University of Varna)

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- 7. The Significance of the Composition of the Breast Milk of Volunteer Bulgarian Mothers for Infant Development**
Authors: Gyurova D., Lazarova A., Mladenova S., Kuzova E., Dimbareva D., Georgieva Tz., Rasheva I. (National Center of Public Health and Analyses, Sofia; Faculty of Biology, Sofia University)
- 8. Dietary Diversity and Food Preferences in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Authors: Yana Tosheva, Antoniya Hachmeriyan, Stanislava Hadzhieva (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
- 9. Biofeedback-Driven Approaches to Inclusive Feeding Practices for Children with Feeding Disorders**
Authors: Gabriela Panayotova, Antoniya Hachmeriyan (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
- 10. How Breastfeeding Duration Affects Neurodevelopment in Five-Year-Olds**
Authors: M. Dzhogova, D. Zhelyazkova, V. Atanasova, M. Petrov, S. Popova, R. Yoradnova, R. Iv. Ivanov, R. Pancheva (Medical University Varna; Medical University Plovdiv, Bulgaria)
- 11. Assessment of Support for Parents in Bulgaria Regarding Early Childhood Nutrition**
Authors: Sonya Nedelcheva, Klara Dokova (Medical University Varna, Bulgaria)
- 12. Challenges Related to Feeding Children Involved in the NutriLect Project**
Authors: Rositsa Chamova, Stanislava Hadzhieva, Ruzha Pancheva, Albena Toneva, and Rosalina Braikova (Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology and the NutriLect Research Group at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Bulgaria)

