

Autism in Africa: Debunking myths & stigma through Diagnosis, Education and Evidence Based Interventions

Prof. Petrus de Vries



Prof. Petrus de Vries is the Sue Struengmann Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Director of the Centre for Autism Research in Africa and the Adolescent Health Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. He trained in Medicine at Stellenbosch University in South Africa before moving to the UK where he completed his clinical training in Psychiatry and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and a PhD in Developmental Neuropsychiatry at the University of Cambridge.

Until 2011, Prof de Vries was the clinical lead for a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary service for school-aged children with neurodevelopmental disorders in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, UK. He has a clinical interest in assessment and intervention for young people with very complex neurodevelopmental and mental health needs.

Prof de Vries is chairman of the Society for the Study of Behavioral Phenotypes (SSBP), an international, interdisciplinary research organization, and is on the WHO ICF-CY steering group for autism spectrum disorders and ADHD, under the chairmanship of Prof Sven Bolte. He is a scientific advisor to MONAA (MONaco Against Autism) and is a member of the National Executive Committee of Autism South Africa (ASA) and Autism Western Cape.

Apart from his work in autism spectrum disorders and adolescent health, he also has a program of research in the neuropsychiatry of tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) and has an interest both in the molecular mechanisms underlying neurocognitive and neurodevelopmental deficits associated with the TSC1/2-mTOR signaling pathway and in community-based participatory research. He is a Medical Advisor to the Tuberous Sclerosis Association (UK), a member of the

Professional Advisory Board and International Scientific Advisory Panel of the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance (USA), a Specialist Advisor to TSDeutschland and scientific advisor to Stichting Michelle (Netherlands). He was chairman of the Neuropsychiatry Panel of the international consensus group that revised the diagnostic criteria and treatment guidelines for TSC in 2012 and has been on the study steering committee of three phase III clinical trials for mTOR inhibitors in TSC. He is also a member of the working committee of the TOSCA international natural history database project of TSC.

Topic: Autism in Africa: Trends and issues

Dr. Liliana Mayo



Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP)

Dr. Liliana Mayo received her doctoral training in the Department of Applied Behavior Science at the University of Kansas. She is the founder and executive director of Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP), in Lima, Peru, which serves more than 400 students with different abilities (especially those with the most severe limitations) and their families. Dr. Mayo is a professor of special education at the

Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and the Universidad Catolica, in Peru, and an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Department of Applied Behavior Sciences at the University of Kansas. Also, she is a member of the National Council of Education in Peru. She is the representative of CASP in the formal cooperative agreement between CASP and the Schiefelbusch Institute for Research in Life Span Studies at the University of Kansas, in the United States.



Dr. Mayo has received numerous awards and recognitions due to her contributions to the development of successful practices that promote progress and full inclusion of people with different abilities in society through the high participation of parents in the School of Families, and the implementation of effective educational programs following a Functional Natural Curriculum. Among them are the Queen Sofia of Spain 1999, Award for Rehabilitation and Integration, the International Dissemination of Applied Behavior Analysis award in 2000, the Peruvian Government that is the Order “El Sol del Peru” in the Commander Grade in 2007. She was honored by the government of Panama with the Order "Maria Ossa de Amador" in the Grade of Grand Medal in 2012 and for the government of Dominican Republic, with “Christopher Columbus’ Heraldic Order” in 2014.

Dr. Mayo prepares parents to participate directly in their children’ education by teaching them to be the best and most consistent teachers. She has given lectures and seminars in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Holland, Japan, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Turkey as well as in the United States, in which she presented topics related to the Functional/Natural Curriculum of CASP and the active involvement of parents in their children’s education.

Dr. Mayo and the CASP team along with Judith M. LeBlanc, Ph.D. from the University of Kansas developed the Functional/Natural Curriculum model for families and students with different abilities. For this work, Dr. Mayo has received numerous awards and recognitions. Among them are the Campodonico Award, Medal of Honor of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, the Queen Sofia of Spain 1999 Award for Rehabilitation and Integration, the International Dissemination of Applied Behavior Analysis award by the International Association of Applied Behavior Analysis, an award recognizing her international work with and for people with different abilities by the Lawton Chiles Center in conjunction with the Fogerty Center and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the top honor given by the Peruvian Government which is the Order “El Sol del Peru” in the Commander Grade.

Recently she has received the Paul Harris Award for Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru, likewise the Social Entrepreneurship Award of Peru. Dr. Mayo, however, counts the success of the students and families in CASP as her greatest award and she recognizes that it takes a team of professionals and parents to make this success happen. She dreams of making the world and even better place for all people with different abilities.

Topic: The power of 2: Parents and professionals working together

Megan Miller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA



Megan Miller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA is the co-founder of Navigation Behavioral Consulting and CEO of PEAK ABA Solutions. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from John Carroll University in 2004 and obtained a master's degree in Psychology with a Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis from Florida State University in 2007. Megan earned her Ph.D. in Special Education and Behavior Analysis at The Ohio State University in 2015. Dr. Miller's early training in behavior analysis occurred at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism as a volunteer/intern in 2003. Since that time, she has provided services to over 100 children diagnosed with autism and other disabilities. Dr. Miller has taught courses in behavior analysis and

special education at the University of Mary Washington, University of West Florida, The Ohio State University, Florida State University, and Southern Illinois University. She has co-authored journal articles published in the Journal of Developmental Physical Disability, Behavior Analysis in Practice, and Teaching Exceptional Children. She also co-authored "The 7 Steps to Earning Instructional Control" with Robert Schramm, BCBA. Megan has provided over 40 presentations to numerous professional organizations, including the Association for Behavior Analysis International, the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis, the Association for Behavior Analysis International, the Ohio Association for Behavior Analysis, and the Emerald Coast Association for Behavior Analysis.

PACA2019Topic: Identifying common barriers to learning and addressing them using the science of Applied behavior Analysis

Dr. Amina Abubakar



Prof. Amina Abubakar is an Associate Professor of Psychology and Public Health at Pwani University, Kenya and a fellow at the Kenya Medical

Research Institute/Wellcome Trust Research Programme. She co-leads the Neuroscience research group at KEMRI-WTRP. She is also an honorary fellow at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, UK. She holds the prestigious MRC/DfiD African Research Leaders award. In 2016, she was awarded the Royal Society Pfizer Award. Her main interests are in the study of developmental delays and impairments among children exposed to various health problems such as HIV, malnutrition and malaria. A focus in her work is the development of culturally appropriate

strategies for identifying, monitoring and rehabilitating at-risk children. Prof Abubakar has been instrumental in developing various culturally appropriate measures of child development that have been used in many African countries. In addition, she is also interested in examining the prevalence of and risk factors for neurodevelopmental disorders, specifically ASD, within the African context. Prof. Abubakar has given guest lectures, and workshops largely focusing on cross-cultural research methods in various countries, including Cameroon, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain. She has (co)-authored more than 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She has served on technical working groups, and forums for various international organizations including the World Health Organization, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (USA), Save the Children, and Autism Speaks. She is actively involved in capacity building for African Scientists; she has supervised Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and PhD students in Kenya. She has also supervised PhD students from South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

PACA2019Topic: Identification of children with Autism in Africa

Kristin Sohl, M.D., FAAP



Kristin Sohl, MD, FAAP is an Associate Professor of Clinical Child Health at the University of Missouri, Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Vice Chair of the Child Health Department. She is a pediatrician with extensive experience in medical diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of children with a concern of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. Sohl is regarded as an expert in quality and process improvement for comprehensive autism diagnostic and longitudinal services. She is the site principle investigator for the Autism Intervention Research for

Physical Health/Autism Treatment Network (AIRP/ATN) and serves in national leadership roles with each of these programs. She is the founder of ECHO Autism, an innovative framework to increase community capacity to care for children with autism and other developmental/behavioral concerns. The ECHO Autism program is viewed as a national model in expanding autism diagnosis and treatment to underserved and rural populations-those currently faced with the longest wait times. The ECHO Autism team has established partnerships with other children's hospitals and autism centers in more than 15 states and 5 countries. Her research focuses on systems change to improve healthcare and focuses on understanding underlying medical conditions in individuals with autism. Dr. Sohl is a tireless advocate for children and enjoys engaging other physicians in being a voice for children's health. She is the President Elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Missouri Chapter. She completed medical school and pediatric residency at the University of Missouri.

PACA2019Topic: Medical and Psychiatric conditions in Autism

Dr. Muideen Bakare



Dr. Muideen Owolabi Bakare is the Chairman of Childhood Neuropsychiatric Disorders Initiatives (CNDI), a Non-Profit Organization registered in Nigeria that is committed to the objective of promoting physical, social and mental well-being of children and adolescents in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. Dr. Bakare is a trained Psychiatrist practicing in Nigeria. He is a Chief Consultant Psychiatrist and Head of the Child and Adolescent Unit of Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria. He has participated in impact conferences like World Psychiatrists Association (WPA) World Congress, International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), International Association for Child and Adolescents Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) on various subjects relating to Childhood Neuropsychiatric Disorders in Africa. He has contributed impactful research in the subject area of Childhood Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Bakare was a Member of the WHO Extended Peer-Review Group for classification of Intellectual Developmental Disorders (IDD) for the proposed ICD-11. Dr. Bakare was also part of the Delphi Panelists that contributed to the rounds of Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health initiative. He is the Secretary, WPA Section for Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability (SPID).

He finds interest in History, Biographies & Child Physical and Emotional Development.

PACA2019Topic: Treatment and Interventions of Autism in Africa

Ryan O'Donnell, M.S., BCBA



Author: Ryan O'Donnell, M.S., BCBA

Bio: Hey, I'm Ryan. I usually go by Ryan O or RYANO. I hail from northern Nevada in the grungy, yet surprisingly classy, (and newly renovated) Reno, Nevada. I like my climate like I like my data: evolving, uncompromising, and progressive. I am a Master of Science; that is, I have an M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis, however my interests have grown to include many other interests, including entrepreneurship and capturing perspectives and stories through various mediums. These interests and skills have allowed me to

work with a lot of great people. I've started three businesses, started numerous active joint venture agreements, a behavioral think-tank, a podcast, a professional development movement, helped organizations that support people with Intellectual Disabilities, to list a few. Currently, I'm on a "gap" year where I make content for behavioral science enthusiasts and prepare for my next big venture (TBA in 2019). I focus outside this role on building a community of thought leaders and doers to create content that increases the transparency of behavior analytic technologies with the hopes of creating a platform that truly saves the world. My interests are all over, from artificial intelligence and machine learning applications to the theory and philosophy behind Why We Do What We Do (www.dwwdpodcast.com). In my spare time you can find me consuming social media, prepping/climbing a giant mountain, or walking around with my camera in my hand (and, occasionally, all simultaneously). Connect with me personally on most all social platforms via @TheDailyBA and let me know what drives you to pursue the Behavior Analysis vision.

Title: What Works? Instructional Design & Evidence-Based Kernels

Abstract: The field of Behavior Analysis provides a lens or a sense of understanding of why we do what we do. The of the approach lies in its ability to affect meaningful change at an individual level. Today's presentation will provide you with a review of free materials available to use to help facilitate ethical learning and behavior change. Join us in an introduction to "what works" in behavioral science. Attendees will learn what constitutes evidence-based kernels and how to implement them in practice, and the basics of instructional design to assist anyone struggling to most effectively teach their unique learners.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will define constitutes behavioral technology.
- Participants will define and be able to provide examples of evidence-based kernels.
- Participants will be able to explain how to implement the non-linear instructional design process.

Sample Videos: If you want to include them so they can see who I am :)

- Pat Friman: <https://youtu.be/MyCIJpztOSs>
- What is Applied Behavior Analysis? <https://youtu.be/sNMFVrA1T4M>
- Instruction and Education: <https://youtu.be/bbY9f2MyYrk>

PACA2019Topic: What Works? Instructional Design & Evidence-Based Kernels

Lincoln Kamau, Ed.D., BCBA-D, LBA



Dr. Lincoln Kamau graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, University of Massachusetts, Boston and Northeastern University. He also studied at Yale in New Haven Connecticut.

In 2000, he started working with children with autism at the Melmark school in Pennsylvania and he caught the bug! He has continued to work with children, adults and families of children with autism since then in the US, Kenya (through Autism Lights), Mexico and Costa Rica.

Dr. Kamau is a licensed Doctoral Level Board Certified Behavior Analyst, a visiting scholar at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (FUABC), Mexico and Faculty, Department of Graduate Psychology at Kaplan University.

He has authored publications including Kamau, L. Z. (2017). Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Kenya: Barriers Encountered in Diagnosis, Treatment and Management. *Journal of Research in Pharmaceutical Science*, 3(7), 01-11 and interviewed for by The Star, Kenya, April 17, 2018, *Pulselive*, Kenya, November 07, 2016 and the *Boston Globe*, USA, July 10, 2018 with Nierenberg, Amelia.

PACA2019Topic: Using Grief model (Kubler Ross, 1969) to bring a sense of hope and/or relief for parents and families living with a loved one with Autism

Dr. Alliya Mohamed



Dr. Alliya attended St. Georges School of Medicine in Grenada. She completed clinical rotations in the U.K. and U.S.A. and her residency in pediatrics at Goryeb Children's Hospital (Mt. Sinai School of Medicine) in New Jersey before returning to East Africa.

In 2016, she went on to sub-specialize in developmental pediatrics at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, University of Cape Town, and is happy to be back in Nairobi after her year in South Africa.

Dr. Alliya is certified by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Kenya Medical and Dentists Board. She is also a member of the Kenya Pediatric Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Now that she has returned to Muthaiga Pediatrics as a full-time pediatric consultant, Dr. Alliya looks forward to meeting families as well- and sick-child needs, working with families with developmental concerns such as delayed development, autism, ADHD and cerebral palsy, and to continued exploration of her research interest in disease effects on neuro-development.

Dr. Alliya has a young son who keeps her very busy. She enjoys spending time with family, walking in Karura Forest, travelling and exploring Kenya.

PACA2019 Topic: Risk factors of ASD in toddlers and best course of action for parents and medical professionals

Prof. Charles Newton



Prof. Charles Newton Charles was born in Kenya, qualified in Cape Town, South Africa, with postgraduate training in Pediatrics in Manchester and London, United Kingdom. As a lecturer at University of Oxford, he returned to Kilifi Kenya in 1989, to help set up a unit to study severe malaria in African children. Thereafter he spent 2 years as a Post-doctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins, USA; studying mechanisms of brain damage in central nervous system infections. He completed his training in Pediatric Neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital, UK. In 1998 he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellowship at University College London, to return to Kilifi, to study CNS infections in children. He

has published on a wide variety of subjects concerning sick children in tropical countries. He conducts research on CNS infections in children; epidemiological studies of epilepsy and neurological impairment; tetanus, jaundice and sepsis in neonates. At present he is conducting studies of Autism and Epilepsy in Africa and working on sickle cell disease in Tanzania. In 2011 he took up a professorship in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford to concentrate of neurological and mental illness disorders in children living in Africa.

PACA2019Topic: Genetics and Epidemiology of Autism

Jane Paul, Ph.D., BCBA-D



Dr. Weru Paul is a Pediatrics Neurodevelopmental Specialist and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) specializing in testing and developing treatment programs for children with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. Her services to individuals with autism include: Early intervention, curriculum development, direct staff supervision, staff and parent training, verbal behavior analysis, social skills training, adaptive living skills, systems analysis, and functional behavior analysis.

She is a recognized innovator in the field, pioneered a cross-cultural study comparing African Americans and Caucasian Americans with autism at UC Davis Medical Center. She also pioneered a cross-cultural study comparing Kenyan's, African Americans and Caucasian Children with Autism for her doctoral research.

She earned her Doctorate in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders from the University of Texas at Austin and completed her Federally funded Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Davis Medical Center, M.I.N.D Institute. Her passion for autism started early on while in high school. Her best friend had a brother and every time she visited, he would hide behind the house, never said hello to his sister and could not look at you. This baffled her and she kept wondering what was wrong with her friend's brother. It was not until she attended college and had her first Psychology course that she learned about a disability called autism and right there she diagnosed her best friend's brother with autism. From then on, she purposed to study and research autism in order to find out the mysteries behind this disability and how to help children and families affected by it. Dr. Paul has dedicated herself to improving the lives of children with autism and their families in the United States and other third world countries where not much is known about Autism.

PACA2019Topic: Intensive Behavior Technician Training (Pre-conference Training) & Panel Participant

Dr. Evisha Ford-Sills



Dr. Ford-Sills has a passion for marginalized youth which began at an early age. She earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and began serving inner-city homeless youth providing therapeutic intervention and linkages to community resources. She worked with various community agencies to build their capacity to support the needs of vulnerable youth via training, resource development and program evaluation. She was recruited by Chicago Public School (CPS); during her tenure within the Early Childhood Department she came to understand the complex needs of young children and the critical nature of early intervention.

Later she served as a Response to Intervention (RtI) Coach for the CPS Office of Specialized Services. Subsequently, she was appointed Director of Special Education in Bremen High School District. Dr. Ford-Sills completed her doctoral studies at Aurora University in Educational Leadership in 2010. Her research focus is students with disabilities, youth resiliency, and critical race theory. Dr. Ford-Sills founded an organization; “iCan Dream Center,” designed to address the recreational, emotional, and post-secondary needs of youth with disabilities along with their families. She supported the development of other professionals in her role as an Assistant Professor and Special Education Leadership Program Coordinator at Concordia University Chicago, in the Graduate College. In 2015, she accepted and now serves in the role of Assistant Superintendent in the Posen-Robbins School District.

Additionally, Dr. Ford-Sills is serves on the Board of Directors for The New Roseland Community Hospital, HeartLife Ministries and The Cradle Foundation- Sayer Center. She was also appointed as Steering Committee Chair of the United Way Blue Island/Robbins Neighborhood Network. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and sons, scuba diving & participating in book clubs.

PACA2019Topic: Therapeutic Interventions for youth and with ASD and Neurodevelopmental delays

Dr. Magda Mostafa



Magda Mostafa is the Associate Chair of the Department of Architecture, the American University in Cairo (AUC) and Design Associate at Progressive Architects.

Mostafa is specialised in architectural design for children with special needs and sensory challenges with a focus on autism. She is the author of one of the world's first set of evidence-based autism design guidelines, Autism ASPECTSS™. It has been widely published and recognised worldwide. In 2014 it was awarded the International Union of Architects (UIA) Architecture for All Research Award. In 2015 she presented her work to the United Nations and WHO and was invited to speak at the world's first autism design conference, hosted by the UK's National Autistic Society. She also recently presented a well-received TEDxTalk. She designs globally and has shaped autism projects in Europe, the US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Australia and the UAE, making her architectural impact span 5 continents. Information about her work can be found at www.autism.archi

PACA2019Topic: Building for a Differently-Abled World: The Architecture of Autism

Register here: <https://cvent.me/Nd4PM>

Website: www.panafricancongressonautism.org

Email: info@panafricancongressonautism.org

Professional: \$225

Parents of persons with ASD: \$180

SNE Teachers \$180



Students	\$150
Adults with ASD	\$150

Dates: April 25th-April 27th, 2019

Venue: Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi Kenya

www.safaripark-hotel.com/

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