



REFLECTIONS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023 ISSUE

DR. KRISTIN SOHL FEATURED SPEAKER: US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Dr. Kristin Sohl was recently featured in a US News & World report webinar, Hospitals as Community Care Hubs for Autism.

Get an inside look into how hospitals are supporting individuals on the autism spectrum, who now account for approximately 1 in 36 children in the U.S. and for whom effective care plans are highly personalized. Such efforts include partnering with schools and community-based service providers, as well as coordinating care delivery among specialists across psychology, social work, speech/language pathology, behavioral health and more, given that children and adults on the autism spectrum can often have a range of comorbidities.

Hospitals are also playing important roles in supporting children and young people as they navigate school, work, and the transition into adulthood, as well as supporting cutting-edge research and policy and advocacy campaigns.

Check out the webinar [here](#).



NEURO
DIVERSIDAD
ONG

GLOBAL PARTNERS IN ACTION

Fundación Neurodiversidad, one of ECHO Autism's partners in Argentina held the "3rd International Free and Virtual Congress: Autism and Neurodiversity" on April 1st and 2nd. The congress aimed to create a space for experts, professionals, neurodivergent individuals, and their families to exchange knowledge and experiences related to autism and neurodiversity.

Featuring 11 speakers from various countries, the congress covered topics such as advancements in treatment, education, employment, mental health, and human rights. Of particular interest was the impact that ECHO Autism Communities is having all over Latin America and the results that some of our global partners shared with the community.

The congress was free of charge, and it received an overwhelming response, with almost 16,000 participants registering to access the presentations and discussion forums. The website provides detailed information about speakers, the program, and conferences, and recordings of the presentations are now available for anyone who might find them useful. Check it out [here](#).

APRIL IS WORLD AUTISM MONTH

Enjoy learning what some of the ECHO Autism Communities partners are doing to spread awareness, acceptance, and education around ASD.

Lurie Center for Autism posted a collage of their staff wearing blue on their Facebook page to kick off our support of World Autism Month. You can see it [here](#).



They also shared “30 facts in 30 days” throughout the month of April. You can see their first “fact” post [here](#).

To see the entire campaign, visit their Facebook page [here](#).

In the April newsletter, LurieNOW, they shared a public awareness project called Autism Around The Globe (AATG) which was created by the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation (NLMFF). “The NLMFF launched the Autism Around the Globe project to foster greater awareness, understanding, and acceptance of individuals with autism in communities around the world. The website shares dozens of compelling personal stories from contributors around the world whose lives have in some way been affected by autism.”



Every year, **The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**, and the **Center for Autism Research**, in partnership with the **Philadelphia Eagles**, host Huddle Up for Autism. This event is a fun-filled day designed especially for kids and teens on the autism spectrum and their families and helps educate, fundraise, and create awareness for autism. This year's event took place Sunday, April 2 in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Day.

Learn more about this event here:

[Huddle Up for Autism | CHOP Research Institute](#)
[Philadelphia Eagles Huddle Up For Autism](#)

ECHO Autism from Poznan, Poland undertook many activities aimed at spreading knowledge about autism spectrum disorders, supporting people with ASD and their families, and social integration.

- They participated in scientific conferences with speeches: "Neurodiversity and therapeutic needs" (Agnieszka Słopień), "Early symptoms of autism spectrum disorders" (Aneta Wojciechowska), "AAC as a means of supporting communication of people with ASD" (Aneta Wojciechowska).
- The Spektrum Kindergarten team, with Anna Kostiukow, prepared local marches for autism and numerous activities that activated the local community for integration. Throughout April, the facility organized numerous meetings of support groups and talks about autism.
- The Association for People with Autism ProFUTURO in Poznan conducted free screening tests for autism spectrum disorders for children up to 3 years old. Parents had the opportunity to meet specialists and consult the development of their children.
- In April, the first open session of ECHO Autism Poland was also held.
- In addition, they have undertaken many activities to expand knowledge about ASD in the local community.



70 Flowers ECHO Autism in North Macedonia presented "The ECHO Autism Model, The Cross-Cultural Role of the SLP in the Screening, Assessment and Treatment of Children with ASD" to undergraduate and graduate speech and language pathology students at the Speech and Language Pathology Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ankara

Yildirim Beyazit University in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. The audience included close to 60 participants from Turkey, Lithuania, Poland, and North Macedonia. There were three Turkish interpreters who interpreted simultaneously during the presentation.



The Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) had many events planned throughout the month of April to support and recognize Autism Awareness Month and Autism Acceptance Month, coinciding with 2023 as "the year of mental health" in Wisconsin.

- Held ECHO Autism: Addressing Anxiety in Clinical Practice Sessions
- The WI Care Integration Initiative grant funded by HRSA/MCHB sponsored an ACT Early Bright Spot webinar training in April called, "Mental Health Therapy with the Autistic Client." The training was provided by the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin and was designed specifically for clinicians to build their knowledge, skills, and confidence in providing therapy to autistic clients within the mental health setting.



Also with the University of Wisconsin-Madison: **Southern Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs.** There are multiple events planned to highlight the intersection of the many aspects of autism with different aspects of mental health. Many

events are free and most will be recorded and available to watch later on the [website](#). Here are a few highlights:

- Connecting the Dots...How diagnosis impacts mental health
- What's not working for black and brown kids around autism?
- Risk factors, warning signs crisis supports and suicide prevention for the autism community
- Autism and Anxiety – Help!



ECHO AUTISM COMMUNITIES 2023 SYMPOSIUM SUCCESS

This year's ECHO Autism Communities Symposium was a huge success. We had over 650 participants learning about autism best practices and topics to enhance services, access, care, and advocacy within the autism community. Graphic recordings, such as the one on the left, from the 2023 Symposium will be available on our website and social media platforms soon!