

ICARE4AUTISM ANNOUNCES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Objective is to Strengthen the Fight Against Autism

(Jerusalem – June 22) On June 10th, a high-powered group of biomedical researchers and educators from throughout Israel met at the Conference Center in the Jerusalem Hills to review progress toward the establishment of the world's first Global Center for Autism Research and Education in Jerusalem. The Center is scheduled to open in 2014 on the Mt. Scopus site that is currently home to the Bezalel College of Art & Design.

The meeting was convened by ICare4Autism, the New York City-based charitable organization responsible for creating and operating the Center.

ICare4Autism Founder/President Dr. Joshua Weinstein updated the group regarding the recent expansion of the Advisory Council to include leading figures representing distinguished international academic institutions and research centers including the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (USA); Istituto di Neuroscienze (Italy); Mexico City University (Mexico); and University of Alberta (Canada). This is an important first step toward the creation of a global autism leadership network, to be based at the Center in Jerusalem.

The Israeli experts expressed their longstanding concern about the absence of an Israeli central disease control authority, which makes it difficult to accurately assess the impact of the autism crisis, allocate resources or target interventions. Israel shares this problem with many countries around the world.

In response, Dr. Weinstein announced a major Icare4autism initiative to help foster the creation of a central disease control authority in Israel, to be modeled after the renowned Center for Disease Control in the United States. Later this year, he will personally lead a team of high-level American experts to Israel, to advise senior officials in the Ministries of Education, Social Service and Health Services regarding necessary measures. Eventually, this initiative will serve as a valuable prototype to be made available to Health Ministries worldwide.

Said Dr. Weinstein, "While the mission of the Global Autism Center in Jerusalem is worldwide in scope, we are strongly focused on using this opportunity to help meet the most urgent needs of Israeli families on the front lines of the autism crisis."

Said Dr. Yoav Kohn, Director of the Donald Cohen Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Department in Jerusalem, "We are thrilled to have the unique opportunity to host the Global Autism Center here in Jerusalem. The benefits of hosting the Global Autism Center to Israelis with autism will be incalculable."

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Site of the ICare4Autism International Center for Autism Research and Education's Global Autism Center on Mt. Scopus, Israel