

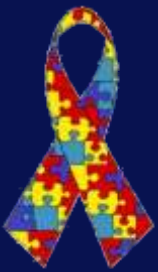


مركز والدة الأمير فيصل بن فهد للتوحد



# Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit

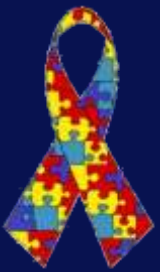
**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**





## *Objectives*

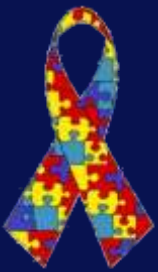
- Outline the global, regional and local challenges.
- Describe our Center's experience in Early Diagnosis and Intervention.
- Extend an open invitation for collaboration.





## Why Early Diagnosis ?

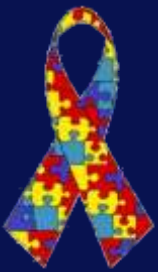
- Why spend so much efforts on early diagnosis?
  - Early and accurate diagnosis = early and effective intervention.
  - Searching for the etiology
  - Epidemiological Studies





# Global Challenges

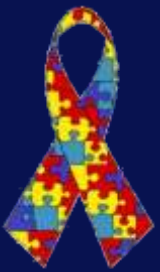
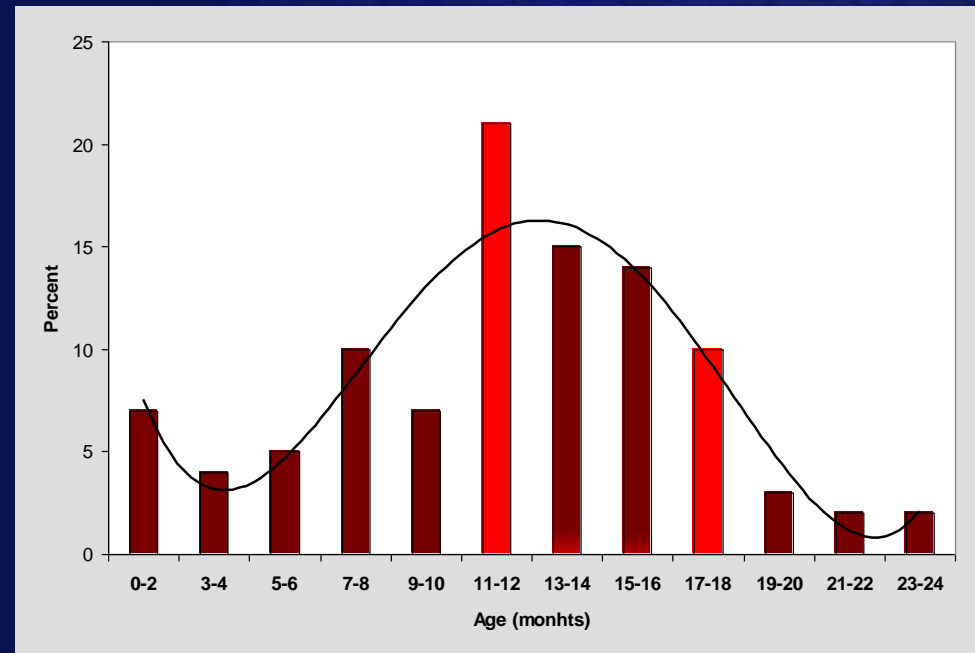
- Enormous increase in prevalence
- Enormous increase in semi-informed parents and professionals...?
- Limited resources.
- Long waiting lists:
  - for initial diagnosis
  - first comprehensive assessment
  - first individualized educational programs





# Global Challenges

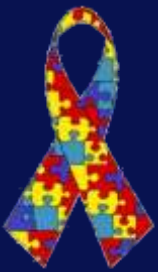
- **Onset of Parental Concerns:**
  - **Average: 14.7 months (SD=6.5)**
  - **Age of first concern:**
    - 0-11m: 20%
    - 12-17m: 36%
    - 18m-24: 44%
  - **Primary concerns:**
    - Speech delays
    - Social concerns





# *Global Challenges*

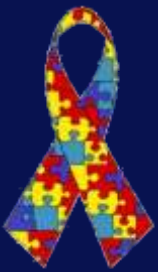
- Average age of diagnosis of autism : 4 to 5 years
- Average time elapsed between first parental concerns and the diagnosis: 2 to 3 years





# Global Challenges

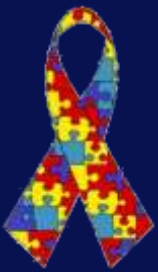
- **Diagnostic issues:**
  - **DSM-IV (1994):** few <36 month olds included in the field trial
  - **Limited sensitivity and specificity of the state-of-the-art diagnostic instruments (ADOS-G, ADI-R) in children with mental age < 18 months**
- **Conceptual issues:**
  - **Birth to 36 months:** period of rapid development & change
  - **Symptoms are likely to vary depending on chronological and mental age**





# *Regional / Local Challenges*

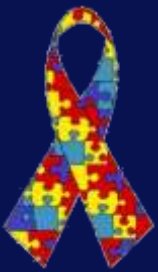
- **Absence of screening or diagnostic “world-standard” tools.**
- **Why do we need tools and scales?**
  - “Clinical experience”
  - Who is the expert ?
  - Subjective ?
  - Conflicts of opinions.
- **DSM-IV criteria**
  - Operational methods.
- **Available “Translated” screening and diagnostic tools:**
  - Issues with the translation.
  - Cultural and linguistic issues.
  - Validation and standardization studies.





## *Regional / Local Challenges*

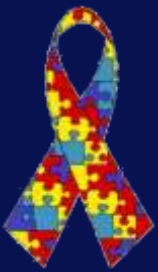
- **Challenges to collaborative work:**
  - “Owner-ship” Mentality
  - Lack of active regional organizations.
  - Different “dialects” between different Arab countries.
  - Funding issues.





## *Local Challenges*

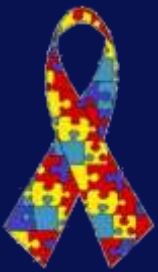
- Long and complicated referral process.
- Variation of training and practice between centers.
- Emphasis on either Service or Research ( academic ).
- Discontinuity between Early Diagnosis clinics and Intervention Programs.
- Limited number of trained personnel.
- Funding issues.





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

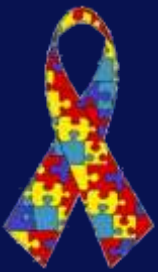
- Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit of Prince Faisal Ben Fahad's Mother's Center for Autism:
  - KFSH & RC
  - PSCDR





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

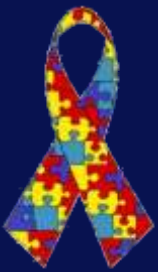
- Primary objectives of the Unit:
  - Making an early and reliable diagnosis
  - Training families in effective early intervention programs.





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

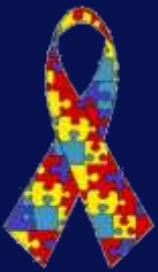
- Secondary objectives of the Unit:
  - to pursue training of professionals
  - To initiate and participate in research projects related to early diagnosis and intervention.
  - To Collaborate with national, regional and international entities





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

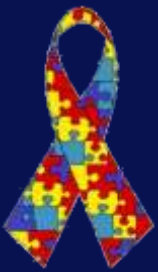
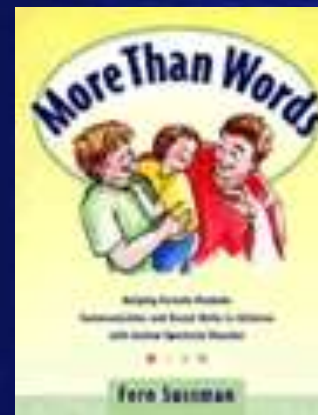
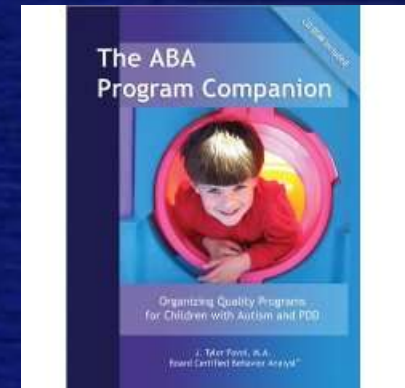
- Working in developing and validating Autism Diagnostic Tools:
  - SCQ, ADI-R, ADOS
  - Collaborating with Egyptian and Qatari groups ( thru PSCDR)





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

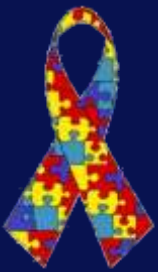
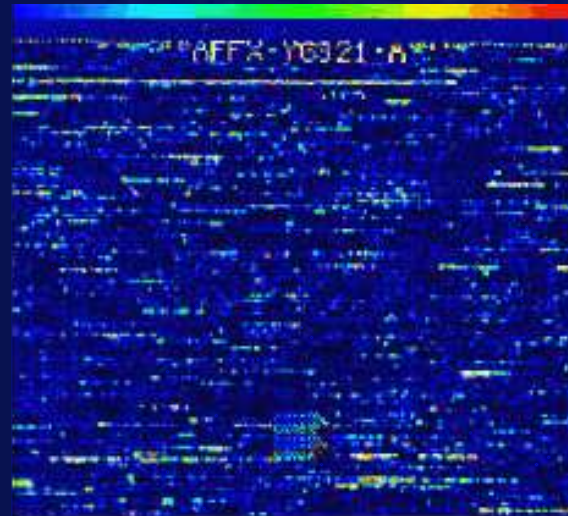
- Develop, validate, and evaluate Early Intervention Programs which are Family focused:
  - ABA
  - Hanen Program





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

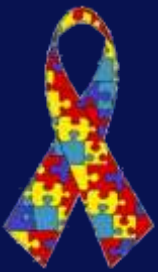
- Research in the etiology of Autism (Genetic and Environmental):
  - “Genetic Characterization of ASD in Saudi Arabia”
- Research in other potential treatment modalities.
- National, and international collaboration





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

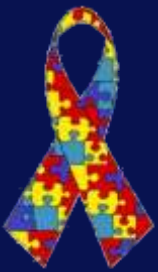
- **MAIN TOOLS:**
- Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ):
  - Purpose:
    - A quick, easy, and inexpensive way to routinely screen for autism spectrum disorders
  - Ages / Grade:
    - Mental age over 2.0 years
  - Administration Time:
    - Less than 10 minutes
  - Format:
    - Parent questionnaire with 40 yes-or-no items. Current and Lifetime Forms





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

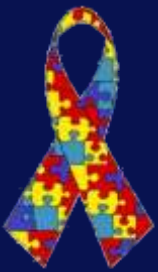
- **MAIN TOOLS:**
- Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised (ADI-R)
  - Purpose:
    - Diagnose autism, planning treatment, and distinguishing autism from other developmental disorders
  - Ages / Grade:
    - Children and adults with a mental age above 2.0 years
  - Administration Time
    - 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours.
  - Format:
    - Standardized interview and response coding





# *Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit*

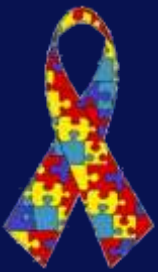
- **MAIN TOOLS:**
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
  - Purpose:
    - Accurately assess and diagnose autism and pervasive developmental disorder across ages, developmental levels, and language skills
  - Ages / Grade:
    - Toddlers to adults
  - Administration Time
    - 35 to 40 minutes
  - Format:
    - Standardized behavioral observation and coding

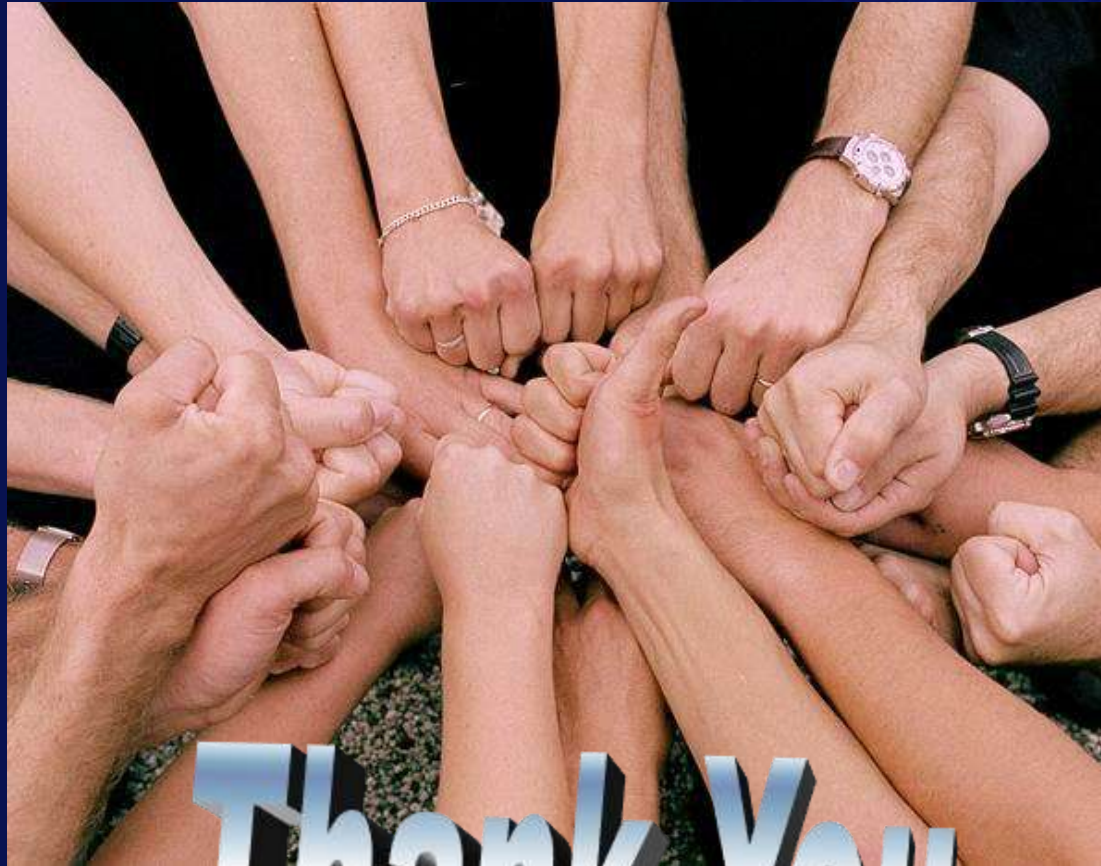




# Early Diagnosis and Intervention Unit

- Collaborative Projects:
  - Saudi Autism Society
  - KFMC
  - KSU
  - International experts in Autism.
  - AND .....





**Thank You**

