April 2025 - Autism Acceptance Month
Autism Global Summit in Taiwan



A famous entrepreneur who ranks among the top 500 in the world once regretfully said that "no matter how hard I work in this life, I will succeed. I have created the ideal life I want so far.", but I am unable to change my grandson's future. I am very worried. However, his grandson thinks it’s OK that he is am autistic. Just like another autistic child said, I understand I'm obviously a zebra, why do you want to turn me into an ordinary horse?

April 2025 is Global Autism Acceptance Month. We will use this opportunity to hold a two-day international summit event, featuring speeches by international scholars, the application of AI in autism, and workplace issues for adults with autism. All these will be the topic of discussion at this summit. We sincerely invite people from all walks of life to participate in this grand event so that Taiwan’s care can shine in the world.

Summit Date (1): April 11, 2025
Location: Taipei University of Nursing and Health
Discussion Topics: Introduction to Autism Spectrum, Global Trends in Diagnosis/Assessment/Treatment
Speakers: Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong, Dr. Patricia Prelock

Speaker	Lecture content	Time
Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong Dr. Patricia Prelock	Opening Introduction	9:00 - 9:20
Dr. Patricia Prelock	Global Trends in Diagnosis/Assessment/Treatment	9:30 - 12:30
	Lunch	12:30 - 13:20
Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong	Autism Spectrum Disorders & Neurodiversity	13:30 - 16:30
Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong Dr. Patricia Prelock Autism Parents	Autism Parent Roundtable	16:40 - 17:40

Speaker qualifications



Professor of Health and Human Services

Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

San Diego State University

Dr. Lilly Liu served as professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and executive dean of the School of Chinese Studies at San Diego State University. She is a past chair of the Multicultural Affairs Committee of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA) and chair of the Education Committee of the IALP International Association for Speech Sciences and Disorders. She has dedicated her life to education, focusing on children, women, vulnerable and underserved populations, providing humanitarian assistance and resources to special needs groups, schools, clinics and individuals around the world, including deafness, autism spectrum disorder, Speech and language impairments and people with disabilities of all ages. With the title of "the chivalrous woman who speaks for the weak", in 2024, she won the highest honor: the first place in the "Change the World Global Summit" - Hall of Fame Award.

Dr. Cheng served as the Chair of the Medical Assurance Board of the State of California and Board Member of the California Health Foundation. She served as the Chair of the International Affairs Board of the City of San Diego and the Chair of the Asian Pacific Historical Thematic District. She serves on the Board of Jewish Family Service of San Diego and the Historical Resource Board of the City of San Diego.

Professor Cheng was the past President of the Phi Beta Delta Chapter at SDSU. She has received many awards from SDSU and professional organizations. She was selected as the outstanding alumnus of Michigan State University. Dr. Cheng is the recipient of the 1997 ASHA Award for special contributions to Multicultural Affairs and the recipient of the 2002 Diversity Award from the California Speech & Hearing Association. She is on the editorial board of several major professional journals. She has numerous professional publications and has lectured all over the world. In 2007, she received the best research article award from Council of Exceptional Children. She has taught Chinese to individuals across the life span in a multitude of settings. In 2010, she received the Humanitarian Award from the Asian Heritage Foundation. She received the 2012 Monty's Award from SDSU. She received the 2013 Diversity Award from CAPCSD. She served as consultant for Sesame Street and Tiffany and Company.

Currently, Dr. Cheng serves as the Chair of the Board of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. Professor is the current president of Phi Lambda. Dr. Cheng has published numerous research articles and books on Communication Disorders and Language Learning focusing on the development of an optimal language learning environment (OLLE). She is a frequent keynote speaker on the various topics of speech language pathology and language learning around the world. She advocates for diversity and inclusion and believes strongly that education is a human right.

Dr. Patricia Prelock



Provost & Senior Vice President, University of Vermont

Dr. Prelock is a recognized expert in the nature and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and has been awarded more than $23 million dollars in university, state and federal funding as a PI or Co-PI to develop innovations in interdisciplinary training supporting children and youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families, to facilitate training in speech-language pathology, and to support her intervention work in ASD. She has over 206 publications and 584 peer-reviewed and invited presentations/keynotes in the areas of autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities, collaboration, IPE, leadership, and language learning disabilities. In 2019, she was named Associate Editor for the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. Dr. Prelock received the University of Vermont's Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000, was named an ASHA Fellow in 2000 and a University of Vermont Scholar in 2003. In 2011, she was named the Cecil & Ida Green Honors Professor Visiting Scholar at Texas Christian University and in 2015 Dr. Prelock was named a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Pittsburgh. In 2016, she received the ASHA Honors of the Association and in 2017 she was named a Distinguished Alumna of Cardinal Mooney High School. Dr. Prelock also received the 2018 Jackie M. Gribbons Leadership Award from Vermont Women in Higher Education. Dr. Prelock is a Board-Certified Specialist in Child Language and was named a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in speech-language pathology in 2018. She was the 2013 President for the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and was President of the ASHFoundation in 2020 and 2021, and currently serves as past president. Dr. Prelock was a member of the core leadership team responsible for the successful $5.5M proposal to establish the Osher Center for Integrative Health at UVM.

Dr. Prelock's current research investigates the nature and treatment of autism

spectrum disorders (ASD) emphasizing the role of emotion regulation, social communication and perspective taking as important components of social cognition. She and her colleagues have developed both a parent informant and child measure of theory of mind that have been used as outcome measures for assessing intervention effects following the use of social stories and comic strip conversations. They have also been involved in developing parent training to support joint attention, social communication and emotion recognition in young children with ASD. Both in the past and currently, Dr. Prelock has been engaged in the applications of family-centered care to support the effective communication of individuals with significant disabilities and their families to increase their access to care and evidence-based interventions recognizing their unique communication needs. Dr. Prelock also been engaged in interdisciplinary research, examining best practice models for assessment and intervention planning that are family-centered and culturally competent. She has more than 20 years of experience mentoring students in clinically-applied research and has secured more than $11.3 million dollars as a PI or Co-PI in training and research grants to support the interdisciplinary education, leadership and research skills of master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students across the disciplines of speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, medicine, social work, nutrition and education. Dr. Prelock has a strong working relationship with her collaborators in neuroscience and psychiatry in the Larner College of Medicine, where she holds a secondary appointment in pediatrics. She is also developing a new focus on brain-behavior changes seen in children and adolescents with ASD following social cognitive interventions.

Summit Date (Two): April 12, 2025
Location: Taipei University of Nursing and Health and online
Discussion topics: AI robot training, use of AAC assistive devices, roundtable meeting between autistic people and assistive agencies, Autistic people and workplace bosses roundtable.

Speaker	Lecture content	Time
Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong	Opening Introduction	9:00 - 9:20
Online speech Dr. Ami Klin Dr. Young-Shin Kim Dr. Gregory Abowd （(Tentative list of scholars)）	Early diagnosis and evaluation methods for autism	9:30 - 11:20
	Dr. Ami Klin's visual tracking diagnosis of infants and young children signs of autism	
	Dr. Young-Shin Kim's direct screening method for school-age children Dr. Gregory Abowd integrates advanced technology to diagnose autism	
Dr. Tsai Mengru Dr. Brooke Olson (tentative)	Use of AAC assistive devices	11:30 - 12:20
	Lunch	12:30 - 13:20
Online speech Dr. Maja Mataric (tentative)	AI robot communication application autistic person	13:30 - 14:20
autistic people Representatives of auxiliary agencies	Roundtable meeting between autistic people and auxiliary agencies: First, a short video will be used to introduce several autistic names, such as Yayoi Kusama, Dr. Temple Grandin, etc., and then four autistic people invited to the scene will talk about their	14:30 - 15:20

	growth process.	
Live and online discussions Dr. Cheng, Li-Rong Dr. Olga Solomon Dr. Jill Locke Dr. Edward Brodkin (tentative) workplace boss 成人自閉症者及家長	Roundtable discussion for adults with autism and their parents: American autistic workplace design experts, workplace bosses, and adults with autism are invited to discuss the current situation and future of the workplace.	15:30 - 17:30
	Dr. Olga Solomon teaches how to shape the work environment for adults with autism.	
	Dr. Jill Locke teaches people with autism to adapt to the concept of disciplined and undisciplined play.	
	Dr. Edward Brodkin teaches adults with autism how to search for and retain job opportunities.	