



Science in the Service of Autism

Joint venture between Autistica and Saudi Arabia

Research into the causes and treatment of autism takes on a new international dimension with the announcement of a joint venture between Saudi Arabia and Autistica to provide Fellowships for Saudi postgraduate students to continue their studies in the UK

The agreement between Autistica and the Prince Salman Center for Disability Research (PSCDR) in Riyadh aims to provide opportunities for young science graduates from Saudi Arabia to enter the field of international autism research.

This new project underlines the commitment of the PSCDR to develop strong links between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world in the field of autism research.

The agreement calls for the creation of fellowships in leading research centres in the United Kingdom.

Importantly, the two organisations will work together to ensure that the new fellows have access to experienced mentors to assist their development in key aspects of medical research such as the peer review process and networking with the international research community.

Autistica will work with the Prince Salman Center in the selection and placement of suitable candidates.

Eileen Hopkins, Director of International Development of Autistica said: 'This marks a further stage in the partnership between Autistica and the Prince Salman Center. Both organisations are committed to excellence in the field of research. These autism Fellowships will initially allow Saudi postgraduates to study here in the UK and we look forward to a reciprocal programme for UK postgraduates to study in Saudi Arabia, being developed as Stage Two of the partnership'

Dr Sultan Al-Sudairy, the Executive Director of PSCDR commented that "This joint collaboration with Autistica will ensure that we provide the best possible training and exposure to our young scientists and will promote world-class research in the area of autism in our country. This agreement constitutes an integral part of our National Autism Initiative to improve research and the care of people with autism in Saudi Arabia".