

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

SENSES

CULTURAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Building a peaceful & healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders

Senses Cultural Promotes Holistic Programs to Raise Awareness About Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Through Cutting Edge Science, Research and the Arts

As hard as it was to deal with a global pandemic in 2021, we were blessed to use this time to build stronger national and international networks. Our networks support the research and science of autism, and raise awareness about available treatments.

This year, Dr. Alessandro Prigione who is a scientist at the Heinrich Heine University in Germany joined Senses Cultural as a new board member.

team of outstanding global scientists, many of whom are based locally at the UC Davis MIND Institute, we know that while there is no one treatment for the autism spectrum disorders, we can focus on providing the earliest interventions that allow the best outcomes. Stem cell research is also on the horizon, to help treat autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, and we are supporting several scientific initiatives in the field.

04.



SENSES CULTURAL and its cross-disciplinary team is proud to serve as an organization with a track record of good will to promote education on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and to support academic institutions that work in the field. Our ability to reach out to communities and experts, nationally and internationally, is an asset that few other organizations working in this field have. So, as we look forward to next year, I will share our work every step of the way toward promoting research projects and producing results that improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Tata Monfared

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tata Monfared', written over a white background.

Founder and President, SENSES CULTURAL

Key Milestones in 2021



Launched Educational
Webinar Series on
Autism and
Neurodevelopmental
Disorders



Led educational
programs on autism on
international television
networks broadcast to
remote areas of the
Middle East



Conducted educational
podcast interviews on
autism and
neurodevelopmental
disorders for SensesPod

Education

06.



Raised funds for
research proposal on
genetic causes of
autism



Partnered with the
scientific team at the Max
Delbruck Center for
Molecular Medicine



Served as founding
sponsor of inaugural
Stem Cell Conference at
UC Davis MIND Institute

Research

07.



Arts

- ✓ Sponsored Art for Autism First International Photography Contest

Advocacy

- ✓ Launched ACT NOW AUSTIM in support of COP26 to reduce environmental pollutants

- ✓ Partnered with Anne Fontaine Foundation to support autism awareness

- ✓ Organized community events to raise funds for autism



Mission

09.

Established in 2012, **SENSES CULTURAL** is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, California, dedicated to creating a peaceful and healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopment disorders. We cultivate relations with national and international networks, create partnerships with artists, scientists and cultural advocates, and organize events for health experts and artists beyond their own geographic and social borders. Senses Cultural continually offers partnership opportunities to interested organizations so that together we can sponsor, host and promote projects that fulfill our common goals of serving people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We especially encourage projects in which we can partner with others to build cross-cultural understanding and tolerance around the theme of autism, and celebrate the diversity of the autistic community.

Together with communities, scientists, researchers, social workers, teachers, and psychologists, **SENSES CULTURAL** is slowly but surely making a global impact.



Canada



United States



Germany



Iran



China

Where we work

10.

Our stories, Our impact

Spotlight on Education





SENSES CULTURAL proudly launched its first free education webinar series to help parents and communities build awareness about treatments for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. The webinar series includes educational broadcasts led by psychologists, behavioral experts, and scientists working on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Launched Educational Webinar Series on Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

12.



EP.1 Educational Webinar

Covid-19 Vaccine & Sleep

Dr. Mohammad Nami

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.2 Educational Webinar

Quality of life

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.3 Educational Webinar

sign and symptom of Autism

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.4 Educational Webinar

Autism and Parenting

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.5 Educational Webinar

Supporting Parents with Autistic Child

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.6 Educational Webinar

Behavior Management

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



EP.7 Educational Webinar

Overview of past Educational Podcasts

Dr. Farideh Niroomand

senses
RESEARCH · QUALITY · INSPIRATION
EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

EW



Led Educational Programs on Autism on International Television Networks Broadcast to Remote Regions of the Middle East

SENSES CULTURAL and its team of scientists joined international television channels broadcast in remote areas of the Middle East for interviews about the causes of and treatments for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

14.

AYENEH TV

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

A special forum in honor of World Autism Awareness Month

SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021
9 AM & 5 PM LOS ANGELES
8:30 PM TEHRAN

ALSO LIVE ON FACEBOOK

R. HAGERMAN, MD
PEDIATRICIAN

F. NIROOMAND, PH.D
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

T. MONFARED
SENSES CULTURAL

P. RAOOFI, PSY.D
PSYCHOLOGIST

STUDENTS WITH AUTISM GET A NEW TOOL FOR INDEPENDENCE: A SMARTWATCH



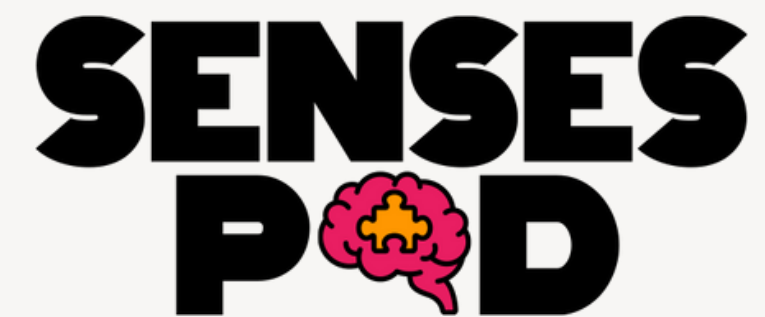
Highlighted News on Latest Developments to Treat Autism

On a regular basis, **SENSES CULTURAL** highlights arts, scientific and technological news about the latest treatments for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

This year, **SENSES CULTURAL** was proud to be able to interview US-based, European and Middle Eastern scientists about the causes of and treatments for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, as part of our partnership programs with universities in the United States and in Germany.

Conducted Educational Podcast Interviews on Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders for Sensespod

16.



**SENSES
POD**

**Dr.
Pamela
J. Lein**

Professor of
Newrotoxicology

ep.
08



**SENSES
POD**

**Dr.
Alessandro
Prigione**

Stem Cell
Metabolism Group

ep.
07



**SENSES
POD**

**Dr.
Farideh
Niroomand**

Ph.D. in Behavioral
Psychology

ep.
06



**SENSES
POD**

Our stories, Our impact

Spotlight on Research



Raised Funds for Research Proposal on Genetic Causes of Autism

SENSES CULTURAL continues to raise funds to support a research proposal about the genetic causes of autism. This proposal was launched last year, in partnership with the UC Davis MIND Institute and scientists at the Heinrich-Heine University in Germany. Senses Cultural launched this Genetic Research Project on Fragile X and Autism, and Crisprs Gene Editing, to specifically fund two post-doctoral research fellowships and research on the genetic causes of autism. The research project is based on the science of editing DNA, through clustered repeated sequences known as Crisprs. To recognize the importance of the field, the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to two scientists, Dr. Jennifer Doudna and Dr. Emmanuelle Chapentier, for their work on Crisprs.

19.

UC DAVIS
HEALTH

MIND INSTITUTE
and
Stem Cell Program



September
24
2021

Targeted Audience:
Scientists, Researchers,
Clinical Researchers,
Post-doctoral Scholars, and
Graduate Students

Location:
UC Davis MIND Institute
2825 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

Conference Information:
blshelton@ucdavis.edu

Register Here:
<https://cvent.me/343rL9>

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Stem Cell and Gene Therapy for Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Keynote Speakers

Kristen Brennand, Ph.D., David R. Hampson, Ph.D.,
Alysson R. Muotri, Ph.D., Matthew Porteus, M.D., Ph.D.

This inaugural conference, Stem Cell and Gene Therapy for Neurodevelopmental Disorders, is an early discussion of how to develop safe and effective treatments for children suffering from disorders caused by single – gene defects. New advances in this field are actively studied by the expert speakers for this conference, who are all working on cutting-edge research that has the goal of providing future treatments.

The conference is strongly focused on evidence-based science. In bringing these novel cell and gene therapy trials from bench to bedside and into routine clinical practice, many scientists, physicians, healthcare, regulatory, manufacturing and other staff members work together in large teams. Our goal is to enhance collaborative research in the fields of Cell and Gene Therapy for Neurodevelopmental disorders.

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/cellgenetherapy/index.html>

Partnered With Max Delbruck Center for Molecular Medicine

SENSES CULTURAL partnered with the German-based Max Delbruck Center for Molecular Medicine to record educational webinars, and launch new research proposals. In addition, Senses Cultural funded the participation by scientists from the Center at the inaugural international Stem Cell and Gene Therapy Conference held at UC Davis in September 2021.

20.

Served as Founding Sponsor of Inaugural Stem Cell Conference

SENSES CULTURAL Senses Cultural was a proud funding sponsor of the inaugural Stem Cell and Gene Therapy Conference held at the UC Davis MIND Institute in September 2021. The conference took place virtually, and offered limited abstract awards to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. As an opening speaker, the Founder and President of Senses Cultural Ms. Tata Monfared shed light on the important collaborative initiatives between the organization and the MIND Institute, and the joint work that went into hosting the conference and supporting scientists to take part. In addition, Senses Cultural sponsored the participation at the conference by the Max Delbruck Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) based in Berlin, Germany.

Our stories, Our impact

Spotlight on Art





Sponsored Art for Autism First International Photography Contest

22.

In memory of the world-renowned math legend Professor Maryam Mirzakhani, SENSES CULTURAL proudly organized an online global photography contest under its Arts for Autism program, designed to celebrate women and autism. The initiative brought together the work by artists from around the world to build a just and healthier world, featuring a Jury Salon, and a Salon of Photography. Through funding from SENSES CULTURAL, awards were granted to top photographers, and a book of photographs was published to commemorate the event.



autobook
Aliasghar YOSEFI
Iran

1st award
Women



autobook

Aliasghar YOSEFI
Iran

1st award

Women



Home Work

Kyaw Kyaw WINN
Myanmar

Honorable Mention

Women



Team Work

Seshadri MOITRA

(AFIAP - EFIAP)

India

3rd award

Women



amn datwanm 1
Omid FARROKH
Iran

1st award
Individuals dealing
with
neurodevelopmental disorders





Mohamad Javad MAK TABI, Iran

2nd award

Individuals dealing with neurodevelopmental disorders



Valeriy KHLIZOV (EFIAP)

Azerbaijan

Honorable Mention

Individuals dealing with neurodevelopmental disorders

2-teach deaf and dumb children
Huy NGUYEN QUOC Vietnam

Honorable Mention
Individuals dealing with
neurodevelopmental disorders





Teacher

Seyed Mohammad Sadegh HOSSEINI
Iran

Honorable Mention

Individuals dealing with
neurodevelopmental disorders



The world of hope

Pranab BASAK (EFIAP)
India

Honorable Mention

Individuals dealing with
neurodevelopmental disorders



Rupali Barman
Sujan SARKAR
India

Honorable Mention
Individuals dealing with
neurodevelopmental disorder



Our stories, Our impact

Spotlight on Advocacy



Launched *Act Now Autism*

In support of the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference COP26 goals to reduce environmental pollutants, **Senses Cultural**'s team of scientists, educators, psychologists, and community workers recommitted to urging governments to reduce pollutants linked with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. To this end, we launched Act Now Autism (ANA) along with a Petition on Autism and COP26 Goals, to launch new programing initiatives to address the issue.

32.

Making COP26 Our Platform for World Autism Awareness



Partnered With Anne Fontaine Foundation

33.

SENSES CULTURAL proudly partnered with the women's fashion brand Anne Fontaine in June, at its San Francisco, CA store, to receive 10% of all sales for our efforts to raise awareness about autism. Donations went toward supporting our latest Gene Therapy and Stem Cell Research Project in partnership with the UC Davis MIND Institute.



ANNE FONTAINE
FOUNDATION

ANNE FONTAINE

Senses Cultural / Anne Fontaine in support of awareness for Autism

Where:
Anne Fontaine
67 Geary Street
San Francisco
CA 94108

When:
June 26 & 27, 2021
At 11 am to 5 pm


PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION
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Annual Financials

Senses Cultural receives the bulk of its funds from Ms. Monfared, and a few individuals as well as community donors, and through your financial contributions to the organization.



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