

World Autism Organisation

www.worldautismorganisation.com

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World Autism Organisation is going to Houston in 2018!

The number of children and adults being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders is increasing dramatically throughout the world. There is thus a desperate need for parents, family members, professionals, as well as people with autism, to be empowered with knowledge to optimise outcomes for all individuals with Autism.

The World Autism Organisation (WAO) was founded in 1988 by a group of parents who were all too aware of the unequal spread and inadequacy of appropriate support and services in many countries to meet these needs. Although essentially still a parent-based organisation, we now have professional members and people with autism who have identified with our mission and are very much on board.

The WAO proactively represents specifically the views of those primarily affected and we receive no funding from official or commercial sources with any vested interest in our work. Our primary activity is to reach out to, and offer support to those parts of the world where resources are highly inadequate and to encourage well-resourced international service providers, parents and professionals with suitable expertise to share their knowledge, expertise and experience with those less fortunate than themselves.

Every four years, the WAO joins with parents in a part of the world where we feel we can collaborate to make a positive impact on services and understanding. Together, we host a major conference that facilitates joint meetings of people with autism, their families, researchers and professionals from all over the world that always provides a perfect platform for sharing of experiences, mutual support and of course socialising and relaxation with fellow companions

The WAO has facilitated such events in Australia (2002), South Africa (2006), Monterrey (2010) and Kuwait (2014), leaving behind a legacy of knowledge, expertise and ideas. In between these congresses we also endorse and partner with other organisations as they host conferences, with the next one taking place in Herring (Denmark) in collaboration with the Danish National Autism Society, 15-17 January 2016.

As a result of a "Call for Bids" that was circulated in 2014, it is with great pleasure that the WAO is able to announce that the 2018 WAO conference, which is predicted to be unique in a number of ways, will take place in Houston, Texas 12-15 November 2018.

Although taking place in Houston under the auspices of the WAO, the event will be hosted jointly by associations from Texas and Mexico (notably in Nuevo Leon). It will be a genuine "Tex-Mex" event held with the collaboration of the Autism Society of America. Additionally, we are grateful for the enthusiastic support from the professionals from of the Texas Medical Center.

WAO events normally attract 1000 – 1500 delegates from many countries around the world and with Houston such a terrific host city with good access by air, we are confident that there will be even greater participation. Presentations will be in Spanish and in English with simultaneous translation where appropriate.

To keep up to date with developments, Calls for Papers for WAO conferences and endorsed/partnered conferences, visit our website at www.worldautismorganisation.com

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