

**INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**  
**IAP CHAPTER OF NEURO DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICS**  
**The World Autism Awareness Day – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016**

Autism is a lifelong development disorder that begins in early childhood and severely impacts in the child, the communication and social skills and interaction with other outer world. The spectrum of symptoms can range from relatively mild to very severe. The origins of Autism still remain a mystery but some in depth research provide deep insights into what could be the probable cause of Autism.

Timely Identification and appropriate early intervention is the only way this neuro developmental disorder can be modified and managed. The earlier the children have access to care, services and treatment, the more likely they are to progress and attain their maximum potential. {Red Flags for Autism attached herewith.} As Pediatricians we should ensure that Children with Autism enjoy their rights and be allowed full participation and inclusion not only for education, but as a whole in the society.

Latest global surveys suggest that 1 in every 68 children are being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2014.

With the rapidly increasing incidence of NeuroDevelopmental Disorders in regular pediatric practice, you are all well aware of the difficulties in clinical practice, research, teaching and even medicolegal issues. These have been further complicated by the absence of concrete guidelines till now. Various institutions and experts have individualized their approach to these patients with good results, but there was a lack of a simple and applicable standard of practice that regular pediatricians can confidently follow till now. With the Indian Govt. becoming more pro active and expecting the doctors to report every case of child with developmental delay, the role of doctors, especially pediatricians becomes more pertinent that they get skilled in the standardized process of Identification, Diagnosing and Reporting the case. It is also the need of our passion towards the Medical Profession and towards helping children with developmental deviancies.

With this aim, the **IAP Chapter of Neuro Developmental Pediatrics**, as a part of the **IAP Presidential Action Plan 2015**, held a National Consultative Meet in November 2015 at Mumbai , for Developing Guidelines on Neuro Developmental Disorders, (Autism, ADHD, Learning Disabilities and Newborn Hearing Screening). With hard work of the Chairperson **Dr Samir Dalwai** and the Team IAP Chapter Neuro Developmental Pediatrics, and the blessings of **Dr Pramod Jog** President IAP 2016, **Dr SS Kamath**, President IAP 2015 and inputs by **Prof Dr MKC Nair Sir**, Vice Chancellor Kerala University of Health Sciences, the IAP National Consensus Guidelines were released during PEDICON 2016 at Hyderabad.

The **Guidelines** bear the latest evidence based details on Screening and Early Identification, Clinical Features, Diagnostic Methods, Pharmaco- Therapeutic interventions and Multi disciplinary Rehabilitation, Referral, Inclusion and Education Recommendations. **The guidelines enlighten the “Best Practices” to follow in routine for children with neuro - developmental disorders and will be shared with all Pediatricians across the country by conducting Zonal training programs. The IAP Chapter of Neuro Developmental Pediatrics invites one and all to come forward and join hands to take this mission ahead.**

**Dr SAMIR DALWAI**  
**CHAIRPERSON, IAP CND**

**Dr SS KAMATH**  
**PRESIDENT CIAP 2015**

**Dr CHHAYA PRASAD**  
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