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Monday, October 9th

Noon-1PM

Wang Center

Time for a shift in thinking? A biopsychosocial conceptualisation of functioning and intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorder



The publication International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health - Children and Youth Version (ICF-CY) by the World Health Organisation in 2007 provided a biopsychosocial perspective, and a comprehensive classification system and universal language for understanding the experience of disability. However, with over 1600 categories the ICF-CY has been criticised for being overly complex and unwieldy. The usability of the ICF-CY has been enhanced by the publication of Core Sets for specific diagnostic groups, with the Core Sets for ASD being the most recently developed. The ICF Core Sets for ASD provide a shortlist of ICF categories selected as the most relevant for people with ASD, and have highlighted the importance of considering environmental factors, both in understanding the experience of living with ASD and as a potential intervention target. The development process also highlighted that people with ASD have many ASD-related skills and abilities. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the newly developed ICF Core Sets for ASD, and describe several Australian interventions aimed at improving environmental supports (including a peer-mentoring program for university students with ASD) and a strengths-based computer coding club for teenagers with high functioning ASD.