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Autism Conference to Focus on Awakening Potential through Brain Science Profectum Foundation to hold 2nd International Conference March 21-23, 2014 at the Pasadena Convention Center

Pasadena, Calif. – New insights and interventions that work for autism, sensory processing disorders and oppositional behavior will be the focus of the 2nd International Conference by the Profectum Foundation, to be held **March 21-23** at the Pasadena Convention Center. The Profectum Foundation, a non-profit organization based in New Jersey, works to address one of the fastest growing childhood epidemics of our time – autism spectrum disorder (ASD or autism).

“We hope to provide the training practices for practitioners that are critical to intervention as well as provide information specific to parents,” explains Ricki Robinson, MD MPH, a clinical leader with Profectum Foundation. “We understand the angst parents go through, not only when their child receives the initial diagnosis, but also when the child hits roadblocks after periods of tremendous progress, or reaches new stages in life that require new approaches.”

The conference goes deep into the research and successful treatment models that tap into brain plasticity, giving rare insight into how the brain thinks, creates and feels. The conference is open to parents, caregivers, family members and multidisciplinary professionals who serve these families and their children. Among the leading scientists, clinicians, and educators featured at the three-day conference are:

Serena Weider, PhD, who will explain how our children learn through interactions paired with meaningful experiences.

George McCloskey, PhD, who will share what brain executive function is, what it isn't and how this capacity can help build lifelong skills.

Elizabeth Torres, PhD and Elysa Marco, MD, who will present important research on why and how a child can sharpen perception, make faster, more accurate decisions, plus think more logically and improve social communication with sensory motor guidance throughout childhood as they transition into adulthood.

Mona Delahooke, PhD; Connie Lillas, PhD, MFT, RN; Catherine Crowley, OTD, OTR/L; and Barbara Stroud, PhD, who will give real life examples of how to understand where a behavior is coming from and how to use your child's developmental age and individual differences as a guide to managing challenges.

Monica Osgood and Christine Seminario, M Ed, who will demonstrate strategies, within both public and private school settings, to boost thinking, relating, and communicating that lead to independence and success beyond school.

The conference will also feature young adults with autism who will share the joys and challenges when entering the workforce. As well as their parents, who will share how they manage different, often challenging, life situations with their special needs child.

“With autism on the rise it’s more important than ever for professionals and parents to increase their knowledge about successful treatment models and gain exposure to programs available for their children and adults,” states Robinson. “I’m fortunate enough to sit on the board of Villa Esperanza Services, which is a leader in providing programs for children, adults and seniors with developmental disabilities including autism. They, along with many other organizations, will be on hand at the conference to help answer questions and provide families with the resources they need.”

For more information about the conference please visit www.profectum.org/2014CAConference.

ABOUT THE PROPECTUM FOUNDATION: The Profectum Foundation is an international non-profit organization based in Mendham, New Jersey. Founded in 2011, Profectum, meaning “progress”, Foundation’s primary mission is to advance the training of parents and professionals to help children and families with special needs worldwide. Profectum embraces the DIR® ([Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-based Model](#)) as its core approach complemented by Profectum's new [Foundational Capacities for Development](#) (FCD™).

ABOUT RICKI ROBINSON, MD: Dr. Ricki Robinson is a leading expert on Autism, providing 20 years of care for children with autism. Ricki is co-director of the Descanso Medical Center for Development and Learning in La Canada; a clinical professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and a senior attending physician at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. A founding Board Member of Cure Autism Now and currently serving on the Scientific Review Panel of Autism Speaks, Dr. Robinson continues to be a true advocate. In her spare time, she has managed to author a few books - her most recent one, *Autism Solutions*. Robinson serves on the Board of Directors for Villa Esperanza Services and Five Acres.

ABOUT VILLA ESPERANZA: Villa Esperanza Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the care and education of children, adults and seniors with developmental, intellectual and other disabilities. Villa offers nine programs including a comprehensive education center for children up to the age of 22 years; a Speech and Language Center and Occupational Therapy Clinic providing children, adults and seniors with comprehensive therapies; employment services; day programs for adults; and adult residences in Pasadena and Thousand Oaks. To learn more about Villa’s collaborative approach, visit www.VillaEsperanzaServices.org.

ABOUT AUTISM: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), autism affects about 1 in every 68 children. Autism is a complex condition that affects a person’s ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges.