Because Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurobiological disorder, the significant contributions that psychoanalysis can make in understanding and treating ASD are not widely understood. An integrative model of ASD which describes how neurobiological and psychological factors interact in the development and alleviation of ASD will be presented. Clinical material from the analytic treatment of patients from preschool to young adulthood will be presented to demonstrate psychoanalytic technique and its effectiveness in ASD. This will help clinicians a) explain how the neurobiological components of ASD interact with psychological factors and how working with psychological conflicts can help relieve ASD symptoms and neurobiological deficits and b) more effectively treat ASD patients and their families. Our presenters are experienced clinicians with presentations and publications in this area.

After attending this session, participants should be able to: 1) Discuss how neurobiological factors interact with psychological factors in ASD and its treatment; 2) Discuss the role of psychoanalytic treatment with patients with ASD and their families. CEC: 3

The Child Congress is open to all with an interest in child, adolescent, and young adult clinical work. This year the first panel is dedicated to contemporary psychoanalytic views of ASD and its treatment in the first three decades of life. While the second panel addresses the complexity of ethical issues in child work, especially with emerging adults: their ambiguous status and heightened risk behaviors pose unprecedented and age-specific dilemmas.