

**Tohum Autism Turkey Early Diagnosis and Education Foundation** is established on April 15, 2003 as a non-profit, non-governmental civil organization with an aim to lead and disseminate early diagnosis and social integration of children with “Autism Spectrum Disorder” via special education, throughout the country

OUR VISION

The vision of Tohum Autism Foundation is to ensure early diagnosis of “Autism Spectrum” in Turkey and to ensure fulfillment of health and educational needs of diagnosed children and their families in line with the world standards.

OUR MISSION

For the children and young people who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families; additionally for the children and young people who have special education in inclusion environment and their families;

* To meet knowledge and support needs of children with autism and their families in order to enable them to sustain their lives according to available contemporary standards,
* To training the trainers, provide education and research opportunities,
* To increase capacity of qualified personal on special education, facilitation and related professions in Turkey.
* To support and improve the nationwide health and education services,
* To promote and develop opportunities for occupation, independent living and social life,
* To conduct advocacy works and legal regulations to improve policies,
* To establish a conscious public opinion and raise awareness.
* To create effective collaborations with other governmental and private institutions
* To achieve world standards in screening, detailed evaluation and diagnosis processes on autism and their dissemination throughout the country,
* To build capacity for children with ASD to receive early intensive special education, to meet all the needs from the least restrictive educational environment to all phases of life,
* To establish of model school by applying PCDI programs in the education of children with ASD and ensure that the programs are spread throughout the country.

OUR PRINCIPLES and VALUES

* Scientific approach
* Leadership and pioneering
* Transparency
* Credibility
* Sharing knowledge
* Inter-institutional communication and cooperation
* Smart usage of resources
* Valuing-respecting human being and children, favor the best services

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2003

* Tohum Autism Foundation established a model school on autism for Turkey. Since that time, 1.904 children with ASD has been educated in our school.
* 921 children with ASD has been supported with scholarships in Private Tohum Foundation Special Needs School.
* 36 national and international projects have been completed
* 71 governmental schools for children with ASD supported as teacher trainings, content and material.
* 12.644 teachers and 1.867 medical staffs educated about autism.
* A web based free-of-charge autism support service(www.tohumotizmportali.org) with its 30.243 members established to support teachers and parents.
* 190.916 Autism Education Kit and booklets called “What Autism Will Be Now?” and “Education, Therapy and Treatment Methods” distributed as free –of-charge.
* For the first time in Turkey, 55.010 children have been scanned for early autism diagnosis. Since beginning of 2018, 9.010 children have been scanned just in Istanbul in context of “Project for Development of Autism Scanning, Diagnosis and Education Model”.
* “Continuing Education Department” has been established in 2015 to spread family and teacher based free- of- charge seminars through the nation. 16.531 family members, teachers and univesity students have been benefited form services.
* Educational softwares and mobile applications have been developed to use in education of children with autism for the first time in Turkey. “Tohum 1 &2”, “Concept Learning” and “Listen, Understand” Turkish applications have been started to use.
* For the first time in Turkey, a job and life concept has been developed for support youths with autism in their Professional life. The concept is still in use in Beylikdüzü Special Education Job Application Center.
* “Counseling Department” established for educational evaluation and consultancy about ASD throughout the nation. 10.510 children, family members, teachers and students have been benefited from services.
* “Autism Perception and Knowledge Level in Turkey” survey has been conducted two times in 2015 and 2017. This research awarded with Golden Award in Social Owl Category by Turkish Researchers’ Association.

**Through 15 years, Tohum Autism Foundation has touched and make difference in 427.452 children with autism and their families’ lives.**

TOHUM AUTISM FOUNDATİON SERVICES

**I. Educational Activities for children and their families**

**Private Tohum Foundation Special Needs School**

Private Tohum Foundation Special Needs School has established on 2008-2009 academic years as a pilot school in its field, acknowledged by Ministry of National Education.

Tohum Autism Foundation made a know-how agreement in 2005 with Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI)[[1]](#footnote-1), one of the leading institutions working on autism in USA. The goal of the agreement was to establish a school using the same model with the Institute, in Turkey.

In this school, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)[[2]](#footnote-2) method is being used, which is scientifically accepted throughout the world. ABA based curriculum is first used in 2006 (starting from 18 September 2006) in first three classes of Tohum Foundation Special Needs School. ABA method helps to increase useful behaviors and reduce those that may cause harm or interfere with learning. With this method, Tohum Foundation Special Needs School promises Non- stop education for 11 months, 40 hours per week. Our students can acquire approximately 1600 skills. No extra speech or sensory integration therapy needed.

Not only education, but also evaluation services are provided by expert school teachers. So far, 7365 children with ASD are evaluated.

**II. Other Educational Services**

* Taining of trainer of Private Tohum Foundation Special Needs School and course programme
* **3.844 students Undergraduate and Post Graduate Student** benefited from Tohum Teacher Training services.
* Training of Ministry of National Education personnel. The Tohum Autism Foundation's mission is to educate children with autism in their integration education and to be educated in the same environment with their normally developing peers. In our country, there are big gaps in the education of the autistic children's schools and the teachers who are involved in the integration. Teachers lacking knowledge and education about autism do not take autistic children into their schools and classes. In order to close this gap, the Tohum Autism Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education, provides trainings to ministry teachers, mainly special education teachers and guidance and research center trainers.
* In collaboration with MOH, 1.867 healthcare personnel have been trained about OSD.

**III. SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC WEAL**

**CAMPAIGNS**

* **Doğuş**

**2005**

A campaign was made under the name (“Re-born”) to raise awareness on the the symptoms of autism and to point the importance of early diagnosis. The campaign targeted awareness all over the country, and the activities lasted for 3 weeks to explain a child with autism can re-start her/his life through early diagnosis and intensive education program.

The campaign used mass media; published reports, booklets, educational kits; and also conferences were held during the campaign period.

As a result of the campaign, 4448 people call the Foundation, 2700 family took information regarding autism, and 1600 families took advice from the experts of the Foundation.

* **I am aware of autism and I stand by them!**

A campaign, in collaboration with Channel D, was aired on 8 May 2009, to provide financial support to the Foundation and thus to the children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In Beyaz Show, one of the prime-time shows of the channel, celebrities gathered together and supported the Foundation in its fund-raising effort. Throughout the program, awareness was provided for early diagnosis and education, as well as fundraising for projects. The campaign was announced and supported in the program by Minister of Health Recep Akdag, Minister of Education Nimet Çubukçu, Hulya Avşar, Cem Yilmaz, Tuba Büyüküstün, Orhan Gencebay, Acun Ilıcalı, Cemal Hünal, Yetkin Dikinciler, Fadik Sevin Atasoy, Kubat, Demet Akbağ and Fatih Erkoç. After the night of the announcement of the campaign, applications were made to the Foundation Center from all provinces of Turkey with the suspicion of autism spectrum disorder. Since May 2009, radio spots and newspaper advertisements prepared from the voices of the celebrities who supported the campaign with the slogan “I am aware of autism and I stand by them!” were broadcasted and the campaign was continued.

* **Someone Tells me (Biri Bana Anlatsın)**

The “I am aware of autism and I stand by them!” campaign was continued on January 15, 2011 on NTV, the TV program “Biri Bana Anlatsın”. Prof. Dr. Yankı Yazgan, Prof. Dr. Bülbin Sucuoğlu, film critic Sevin Okyay, as well as celebrities like Kenan İmirzalıoğlu, Tuba Büyüküstün, Erkan Petekkaya, Beren Saat, Cansel Elçin, Demet Evgar, Engin Altan Düzyatan and Ajda Pekkan have come together for children with autism in this program.

* **When I Grow Up**

**2015**

In April 2015, during Autism Awareness month, Tohum Autism Foundation and Starbucks launched a new awareness campaign called “When I Grow Up”.

During the campaign important information regarding early diagnosis and information regarding training these children were shared with the general public through our website [www.benbuyuyunce.com](http://www.benbuyuyunce.com/). With help from all over the country, as well as from the Büyükşehir municipalities, we created billboards. With the help of the media teams we published adverts in nearly 30 magazines and newspapers, discussing our campaign and the issues surrounding autism. For the sole purpose of raising awareness, we planted and distributed 200 pots, all implanted with seeds, with a message stating “Support Us”. We also managed to distribute around 230 informational brochures to numerous amounts of Starbucks. The “I am aware of autism and I stand by them!” campaign was continued on January 15, 2011 on NTV, the TV program “Biri Bana Anlatsın”. Prof. Dr. Yankı Yazgan, Prof. Dr. Bülbin Sucuoğlu, film critic Sevin Okyay, as well as celebrities like Kenan İmirzalıoğlu, Tuba Büyüküstün, Erkan Petekkaya, Beren Saat, Cansel Elçin, Demet Evgar, Engin Altan Düzyatan and Ajda Pekkan have come together for children with autism in this program.The campaign was supported by the actors of TV series “Poyraz Karayel” with the song which has the same name with the campaign. The song was vocalized by them and on social media, #benbüyüyünce shares helped the campaign to reach broad masses.

* **Light it up Blue!**

**2014- 2015- 2016- 2017- 2018**

Since 2014, on the 2nd of April, Tohum Autism Foundation joins and represents the World wide autism awareness campaign from Turkey.

In 2014- 2015- 2016 to support the cause, both of the bridges connection Asia to Europe and many more iconic building and monuments were are lighting it up for blue!

The campaign is supported via social media and becomes trend topping on Twitter (#otizmemaviisikyak) for a whole day. Thousands of citizens to wear blue apparel and even get the newscast to wear blue ribbons while conducting the news. “April 2nd Autism Awareness Day” Social media campaign became 2nd most effective Twitter campaign in Turkey and continued with the same success with hashtag #otizmemaviışıkyak on 2017 and 2018.

* **Plant a Seed**

**2015**

In April 2015, In collaboration with Khiel’s an awareness and fundraising campaign has launched through social media and Street events. Many famous actors, singers, bloggers and designers have supported the couse and create a great impact on people. The campaign “Bir Tohum Ek” had great success on Social media with hashtag #birtohumek.

* **When My Child Grow Up!**

**2016**

In April 2016, the "My Child Grows Up" campaign, which was prepared with TBWA support, included dreams of mothers of autistic children and called for support from the Tohum Autism Foundation. In this film, which is allowed as a public spot, it is shown that dreams of mothers with autistic children are dreams for small but autistic children for many children, but dreams can be reached with early diagnosis and education.

* **Share Your Heart**

**2016**

In April 2016 in collaboration with Starbucks, a social media autism awareness campaign have been launched. Brochures about autism have been distributed from Starbucks shops. Also a website is created [www.kalbinipaylas.com](http://www.kalbinipaylas.com), where people take their pictures and share it via social media accounts to raise awareness. The shares with #kalbinipaylaş hashtag had 4,998,616 post views on Facebook and 1,848,703 views on Twitter.

* **It's Not a Joke!**

In April 2017, the campaign “It’s not a joke!” was prepared with the support of 4129Grey Advertising Agency. The goal of our Social media campaign was raising awareness of autism and make society emphatize. On April 1st, all the topics in the Ekşi dictionary were altered with “It’s not a joke!” and made users wondered. They had been faced with our autism awareness video when they clicked on the headlines. Our video was shared by 21.950 people on social media accounts.

* **Kiehls x Be A Part of Tohum Autism Foundation Campaign**

Within the scope of the cooperation, on October 2nd “World Children's Day”, the famous actor Matthew McConaughey was made to share with social media through the video and he paid attention to autism awareness. With the support provided by many sections of the society, 21.950 contents were shared within the scope of company.

In the second stage of the #parçasıol campaign of the Tohum Autism Foundation and Kiehl's, the awareness videos, which are subject to the signs of autism and the support of the actors, have been prepared and published for social media. In the campaign videos, Akasya Asıltürkmen, Şule Karaok, Utku Ates, Bianca Somer, Almila Ada, Ece Begüm Yücetan, Ugur Kurul and Efecan Şenolsun gave support by taking the role.

A total of 6 million access was achieved as a result of both campaigns.

* **Give Them a Chance!**

With the support of the actress Neslihan Atagül and 4129Grey Advertising Agency, we made a call for help to draw attention to Autism and to provide training is the only treatment during the New Year. Our campaign video reached to 2,639,295 people on Facebook and was shared 52 times to be spread in social media. It received 52 tweets and 737 retweets on Twitter. On Instagram, the video was shared 279 times and received 3.661.251 views.

* **10 Seconds To Autism Campaign**

In June 2018, 10 Seconds to Autism campaign was launched in order to draw attention to the symptoms of autism with the cooperation of Çukur series published on Show TV. In total 8 videos were taken to explain the symptoms of autism. Campaign videos received 3,940,978 views in total.

**PUBLICATIONS and REPORTS**

**BOOKS**

One of the aims of the Foundation is to translate significant international publications on autism into Turkish. Within this framework, the books of;

* Thinking in Pictures
* The Autistic Spectrum
* Dr. Lorna Wing’s “The Autistic Spectrum”
* “Activity Schedules for Children With Autism”
* “Development Disorder Field and Special Education in Turkey”

**REFERENCE BOOKS and MOVIES**

* Autism Education Kit
* Autism; What is Next?
* Education and Therapy Methods in Autism
* “Love Me Unconditionally” Awareness Film

**REPORTS**

* Report on Developmental Disabilities and Special Education in Turkey
* Support Model Guidance through Inclusive/Integration Education
* Inclusive/Integration Education Situation in Turkey
* Inclusive/Integration Education in Turkey: Policies and Practice Recommendations
* Best Practices from Turkey and Rest of the World about Inclusive/Integration Education
* Autism Screening Project Final Report
* For Accessible Turkey: Where Are We?
* National Autism Action Plan
* Developmental Disabilities and Special Education Report in Turkey in 2017

**RESEARCHES**

* GFK Turkey & Tohum Autism Foundation:  Research about Autism Perception and Knowledge Level of People in Turkey
* GFK Turkey & Tohum Autism Foundation:  Research about Autism Perception and Knowledge Level of People 2017 in Turkey

**IV. OUR PROJECTS**

* **Autism Screening Project, 2006**:

 In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and with the grant of EU. With this project, Tohum Autism Foundation made screening in 5 pilot cities: Izmir, Bursa, Adana, Kocaeli and Gaziantep. 46 000 children (babies from 18 to 36 months old) were screened via M-CHAT and CHAT tests as a result of this project.

* **Promoting Full Participation of Children with Autism in the Society, by Improvement of Physical Independence, Mobility, Through Education, 2008:**

The EU Grant, taken under “Strengthening Civil Society in the Pre-Accession Process: NGO Grant Facility” was used to train teachers of Counselling and Research Centres on children with autism in Bursa, Adana, Gaziantep, Kocaeli, Izmir and Istanbul. Ministry of National Education was collaborated to run the project. Two other NGOs, one from Bursa (Bursa Autistic Children Association) and one from Adana (Adana Autism Association) were Tohum’s Project partners.

* **Implementation and Policy Recommendation to Increase the Effectiveness of Inclusive/Integrated Education Practices in Turkey, 2010:**

The "Project for Policy and Implementation Proposals to Improve the Effectiveness of Integration / Integration" was carried out by the Education Reform Initiative, funded by the Sabancı Foundation. Within the scope of the project initiated to increase the effectiveness of the education method by the mainstream adopted at the legislative level for the access of the disabled children to the quality education, three schools with different characteristics in different regions of Istanbul were identified and a support model aiming to increase the effectiveness of the education through integration with these schools was implemented as a pilot . Within the scope of the project, 4 different reports were prepared and shared with the decision makers.

* **Increasing The Number Of Children With Autism Attended To The Pre-School Education By Creating An E-Learning Portal For Parents, 2010:**

"Project for Increasing the Pre-school Education Participation of children with autism with E-Learning Portal for Parents and Trainers" was implemented within the scope of European Union Grant Scheme. The project aims to improve early intervention capacities of teachers and parents working with autistic children and to contribute to pre-school education of autistic children in disadvantaged groups in order to maximize the benefits of pre-school education for children with autism. The training portal, which is available free of charge at www.tohumotizmportali.org, is still in circulation and has 21,172 members.

* **Strengthening Special Education in Turkey, 2010:**

Tohum is a consortium partner in the Technical Assistance Team of this project, which will last for 30 months. Within the scope of technical tender; by improving special education services in Turkey, is aimed to exclude disadvantaged groups and individuals in need of special education contributes to participate in society.

* **Increasing the Productivity of the young people with disability and integrating them in Labor Market, 2010**

Istanbul Development Agency Social Inclusion and Social Integration Small Scale Infrastructure Supported by the Financial Support Program and conducted by the Istanbul Provincial Directorate of National Education and the partnership of Tohum Autism Foundation. The project "Increasing the productivity of people with autism and supporting their entry into the labor market" contributes to the development of occupational skills of the general purpose, disadvantaged people with autism, and to increasing their employability and ensuring independent living conditions on their feet. Supervision trainings were completed with the support of the expert staff of the Tohum Autism Foundation after the start of the construction of the Beylikdüzü Special Education and Business School with trainers, the selection of the student selection criteria, the regulation of the classroom and the educational environment, the establishment of the special curriculum originating from the science and the beginning of the education.

* **Teacher Trainings in Education Centers for Children With Autism (OÇEM), 2011**

Tohum Autism Foundation, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Istanbul Bağcılar Chamber of Commerce and Lokman Hekim signed a protocol with OÇEM and passed the "OÇEM Quality Education" project. The aim of the project is to contribute to the education of the children with autism in the age of compulsory education by providing the professional development of the scientifically based practices, arranging the classes according to the educational objectives of the children and equipping them with materials.

* **Integration Cartoon Project (2012)**

Living with the differences and showing respect, understanding the way to come from the theme of Tohum Autism Foundation; cartoons were prepared for the students and teachers at the first level of primary and primary education together with the experts in the field. The cartoon called 'Rainbow School' was distributed in all primary schools.

* **Parent Seminars in Autism: To know is to Understand, 2012**

Supported by The General Consulate of Netherlands MATRA Fund, the project aims to provide parents of children with autism with introductory knowledge on autism as well as basic skills to interact with children with autism. It is aimed to inform parents for children with autism aged 0-8 living in Istanbul with two-day seminars and to be understand the autism and to improve university students in both professional sense and social responsibility sense. This effort is the main objective of the project to contribute to the integration of children with autism into the collective. The seminars were given by 3rd and 4th grade psychology students who were trained by Tohum Autism Foundation. During the seminar, 1st and 2nd grade students also helped their parents to attend the trainings by caring for their children.

* **My Tablet Speaks for Me I, 2012**

Supported by the USA Consulate, the main aim of this project is to improve the education quality of children with autism in Turkey via technology use. The uses of new technology have been introduced as a method of teaching to the students with autism and their teachers and parents. (Tohum 1 via Apple store)

* **My Tablet Speaks for Me II, 2014**

Supported by the USA Consulate, the main aim of this project is to improve the education quality of children with autism in Turkey via technology use. The uses of new technology have been introduced as a method of teaching to the students with autism and their teachers and parents. This is the second part of “My Tablet Speaks for Me” and focuses on object matching, body parts and actions. (Tohum 2 via Apple store)

Project lasted for 9 months.

* **Vocational Qualifications Authority, Professional Elements Projects (2013)**

The Tohum Autism Foundation has made efforts to enhance national and international legal and managerial regulations for capacity development of professionals who provide services to children with developmental disabilities. Professional standards prepared and presented to the VQA for home trainer, school support staff, adult support staff, rehabilitation counselor and behavior analyst who are working with disabilities. Project still continues.

* **Technical Tender to Reinforcement of Special Education (2014)**

Tohum Autism Foundation joined to the “Technical Tender to Reinforcement of Special Education” financed by European Union / IPA-II as consortium partner. In the tender context, capacity of Counseling and Research Centers have been enhanced, vocational skills of psychology / counseling teachers have been developed and a national conference to network institutions who are working in special education field has been organised.

* **Beylikdüzü Special Education Business Application Center (2014)**

Within the scope of Koç Holding "For My Country" project, the continuity of Beylikdüzü Business Application Center has been ensured. In the scope of the project, super visions made by the experts of Tohum Autism Foundation to Beylikdüzü Special Education Business Application Center trainers for the 2013-2014 academic year. During the 2015-2016 academic year, trainings and educations were held under the sponsorship of Domino's Pizza. In addition, music and arts workshops were established in the school.

* **Beylikdüzü Integration Project (2014)**

Koç Holding has been funded within the scope of the project "For My Country"; the Provincial Directorate of Education and the Tohum Autism Foundation. With the Beylikduzu Integration Project, the aim were creating consciousness and reaching to teachers, administrators and students who were volunteer in primary schools in Beylikdüzü District. This pilot project will be an example to Turkey with a mainstreaming project was launched.

* **Give way to my Independence! 2014**

Financed by E.U, To support the independent living of people with developmental disabilities (mental disabilities and autism) through supporting them to go out in the street; therefore contributing to the equal citizenship of disabled people in the society.

* **Guidance Unit (2014)**

Private Tohum Foundation Special Needs School’s ‘Guidance Unit’ was established in 2014.

Up to now, a total of 3,844 persons have been provided with services such as providing free educational evaluation and guidance services for parents, who are calling by phone during the year of training, who want to receive information and who are reading the documents, and family trainings to help them in the problem areas where their families need help. Guidance Unit continues to work.

* **Autism Friendly City: Gaziantep (2015):**

In order to raise awareness and increase capacities of institutions deal with autism; to implement Autism Action Plan in local level; partnership between Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and Tohum Autism Foundation has established. For one year, various training programs has been organized which targeted families, teachers, decision-makers, doctors and health staff.

* **Increasing Education Opportunities for Autistic Children by using Technology, 2015**

With the support of Istanbul Development Agency (ISTKA), and in collaboration with Provincial Directorates of Ministry of National Education, Tohum forms a special online game, which helps children learning basic concepts. This game will be available via web site, android and IOS tablets.

* **Creativity Workshops for Schools (2015)**

Supported by the Istanbul Development Agency under the Creative Industries Financial Support Program with the Development of Creativity Workshops in Schools, it is aimed to contribute to the development of creativity industry in Istanbul with the development of creativity skills of children with developmental inadequacy. Music, painting and ceramics workshops were established for 12 mainstreaming schools within the scope of the project and trainers' trainings and awareness seminars were organized.

* **Continuing Education Unit (2015)**

The Tohum Autism Foundation has established much of its life in its own 'Continuing Education Unit' to reach teachers, autistic children and their families. Continuing Education Unit; the development of special education application center teachers who will take the education of autistic individuals, the development of the qualifications of mainstreaming schools classroom and branch teachers, the training of teachers for the newly opened Special Education Application Centers, the development and continuation of the Tohum Autism Foundation education portal and the development of training materials and methods by using new technologies and applications to carry out studies in order to contribute. Garanti Bank became the main sponsor of our 'Continuing Education Unit' in 2015. In 2015, the 'Continuous Education Unit' has been reached with a total of 15.964 people.

* **First Step to Education: Inclusive Education in Pre-Schools (2016):**

**I**t is aimed to increase vocational capacities of pre-schools teachers via supervision by formatter in the classes. In this sense, 20 formatter have been trained; 20 pre-schools have been selected to give on the job-trainings. Project is implementing by the partnership of Provincial Director of National Education and Teachers Academy Foundation.

* **The Path to Education (2017)**

The Path to Education Project conducted by the Tohum Autism Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education. It is funded within the scope of Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project (TANAP) between the years 2017-2019. The natural gas pipeline will be applied in 11 provinces (Ardahan, Kars, Yozgat, Erzincan, Giresun, Ankara, Sivas, Kırıkkale, Kütahya, Balıkesir and Edirne). The project aims to increase the professional capacities of educators/teachers in the provinces, increasing the level of knowledge and awareness of autism in families and the people of the region.

* **Rights of Disabled Persons in Education: Together in School, in Life (2017)**

The Tohum Autism Foundation, with the support of Sabancı Foundation, and the Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Sociology and Educational Studies (SECBİR), will carry out the project between 2 October 2017 and 28 September 2018 with the title of Disabled Persons in Education: and positive attitudes towards disability in teachers and parents, and to prevent negative attitudes.

**V. ADVOCACY**

**National Action Plan for Individuals with ASD**

Action Plan was first outlined and recommended to the public opinion on April 2, 2013, by Tohum Autism Foundation and Ministry of Family and Social Policies. The purpose and of the action plan is to

* Strengthen the inter-institutional cooperation for increasing the awareness level of all sections of the society on ASD and to ensure the continuity of health, education and support services for the individuals with ASD.
* For ASD in Turkey, evaluation for early diagnosis purpose, and quality, fast and widespread establishment of monitoring and support programs for the process of definitive diagnosis.
* Families with a child with ASD, informing, awareness raising, training ve directing with the provision of this necessary social support.
* The Development of educational evaluation, special education, vocational education, supportive education and rehabilitation services and promote education of children with ASD in integrated environment without discrimination
* Ensuring the employment of individuals with ASD and making arrangements for working life.
* Individuals with ASD and their families; social security, social assistance and social services to more effectively benefit from ensure full participation in social life.

**VI. SCHOLARSHIPS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prof. Dr. Abigail Colomb | Tel Aviv University (Israel) |
| Prof. Dr.Adnan Kulaksızoğlu | Marmara University |
| Prof. Dr. Bengi Semerci | Yeditepe University |
| Prof. Dr. Bülbin SucuoğluProf. Dr. Dilek ErbaşProf. Dr. Elif Tekin İftar | Ankara UniversityMarmara UniversityAnadolu University |
| Prof. Dr. Eric Hollander | Seaver Autism Research  Centre (USA) |
| Prof. Dr. Fatih Ünal | Hacettepe University |
| Prof. Dr. Ferhunde Öktem | Hacettepe University |
| Prof. Dr.Giray Berberoğlu | Middle East Technical University |
| Prof. Dr. Gönül Kırcaali İftarProf. Dr. H. İbrahim Diken | Anadolu UniversityAnadolu University |
| Prof. Dr. Hülya Kayıhan | Hacettepe University |
| Prof. Dr. Mehmet Haznedar | Mount Sinai Medical Center (USA) |
| Prof. Dr. Mehmet Özyürek | Gazi University |
| Prof. Dr. Melda Akçakın | Ankara University |
| Prof. Dr. Nahit Motavalli Mukaddes | İstanbul University |
| Prof. Dr. Sevda Bekman | Bosphorus University |
| Prof. Dr. Yankı YazganProf. Dr. Özgür Öner | Marmara UniversityBahçeşehir University |
| Münip Üstündağ | Former General Director of DG Mother-Child Health and family Planning of Ministry of Health |

Tohum Autism Foundation gives scholarships to the children with autism to enable them to enjoy the high quality education given in its private school.

**TOHUM AUTISM FOUNDATION SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD**

**TOHUM AUTISM FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

**Lynn E. McClannahan, Ph.D., Executive Director**,

Princeton Child Development Institute

**Patricia J. Krantz, Ph.D., Executive Director,**

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University of Kansas

**Dawn Buffington Townsend, Ph.D., Executive Director,**

Institute for Educational Achievement

**Angeliki Gena, Ph.D., Professor,**

University of Athens

 **Greg Mc. Duff, Ph D., Executive Director**

Princeton Child Development Institute

**Edward C.Fenske, Executive Director**

 Emiritae Princeton Child Development Institute

1. PCDI is an institution, founded in 1970, with great achievements in education of children and adults displaying autistic characteristics, since its establishment. Based on said success, PCDI has been awarded the “Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions in Behavior Analysis” by the Association for Behavior Analysis International in 1999. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Scientific researches show that half of the children receiving intensive special education based on applied behavior analysis by the age of 3 are able to attend education with their peers with normal development in subsequent periods. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)