



Canadian Autism Leaders to Make Exclusive Announcements about Autism and Technology on Australian Radio Show

Summary: The March 14 Statewide Morning with Tim Cox will feature an exclusive interview with Canadian autism leaders Dr. Jeanette Holden and Cynthia Howroyd. On a whirlwind tour of workshops and presentations the team from Canada will announce research findings from the world's first-ever in-depth study on the use of technology in providing autism services to families of children with autism.

(Fredericton, March 7, 2007) Canadian leaders in autism research and eHealth technologies, Dr. Jeanette Holden, PhD, FCCMG and Cynthia Howroyd, M.Sc, SLP, will be making exciting new announcements about the use of technology in providing treatment to children with autism on Statewide Morning with Tim Cox.

In a study begun in July 2006 at Queen's University in Canada, Dr. Holden selected 50 families of children with autism from among hundreds of applicants to participate in a research study using an online autism care program called AutismPro. The program allows families to assess their children's needs and then make treatment recommendations through the program's artificial intelligence.

"AutismPro pulls together information about autism, evaluates various options, and combines various best-practice and evidence-based procedures into one program," said Dr. Holden, Program Director of the Autism Spectrum Disorders – Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC), an international consortium of autism researchers. "It is my sincere belief that using technologically-based approaches is essential in order to provide the needed amount of therapy to the hundreds of thousands of children world-wide who have minimal or no services."

Dr. Holden will reveal her research findings for the first time ever on the March 14 Statewide Morning with Tim Cox show at 10:30 AM in a interview with both her and Cynthia Howroyd, President and CEO of Virtual Expert Clinics, the creators of AutismPro.

Ms. Howroyd, who was one of the first speech language pathologists ever to work with children with autism in the remote regions of the province of New Brunswick, said, "Besides being a practical tool for helping families of children with autism, AutismPro is a powerful tool for researchers to collect data on intervention choices and related outcomes for different children."

Dr. Holden and Ms. Howroyd will be giving a series of workshops and presentations in Melbourne, Hobart and Launceston beginning March 13. A schedule and registration form is available online at autismpro.com.

Dr Jeanette Holden, PhD, FCCMG is internationally recognized for her research on autism and intellectual disabilities. She is Program Director of the Autism Spectrum Disorders – Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC), a group of more than 60 researchers, clinicians, and parents carrying out research to understand the Autism Spectrum. She is also Program Director of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Strategic Training in Health Research (STIHR) Program at Queens University.

Web sites: www.autismresearch.com, www.asdcard.com and www.autismtraining.com

Cynthia Howroyd, M.Sc., SLP is CEO of a Canadian software company, Virtual Expert Clinics, as well as a Speech Language Pathologist with over 15 years experience providing therapy to children with autism and other developmental disorders. Over the past 5 years, she has collaborated with an international team of autism experts to develop a new technology that can help make quality autism therapy more accessible to many, and to answer important research questions about autism.

AutismPro is a 9-step online treatment program for parents and professionals of young children with autism. AutismPro was developed over a two year period with clinical content from approximately 30 therapists, the Geneva Centre for Autism and an advisory board of internationally recognized experts, including Dr Kathleen Quill, author of the best-selling DO-WATCH-LISTEN-SAY: Social and Communication Intervention for Children with Autism (2000, Brookes Publishing Company, ISBN 1557664536). AutismPro was launched at the Geneva Centre for Autism's 2006 International Symposium. For more information on AutismPro, visit <http://www.autismpro.com>.

Contact:

Thomas Mitchell
Media Manager

Email: mitchell@vecinc.com

Phone: 0011+1+506+474+8134

AutismPro
46 Dineen Drive, Suite 347
National Research Council Building
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 9W4

Web Site: www.autismpro.com

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