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Research Advertisement – Ageing in Autism

Title of Project: Age-related Effects on Cognition and Quality of Life in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Ethical Approval References: PNM/13/14-26 (Psychiatry, Nursing and Midwifery (PNM) Research Ethics Subcommittee (RESC) at King's College London)

PSYETH(UPTD) 13/14 28 (City University London School of Arts & School of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee)

Researchers: Miss Esra Zivrali (MRC SGDP Centre)

Supervisors: Professor Francesca Happé (MRC SGDP, IoPPN); Professor Patricia Howlin (Department of Psychology, IoPPN)

Collaborators: Professor Dermot Bowler (City University London), Ms Amanda Roestorf (City University London)

What is this research project about?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a life-long condition, and therefore it is important to understand how the process of ageing affects individuals with autism. For example, this research will look at the changes in mental health and physical well-being and cognitive skills such as language and memory are affected in ageing. The study will also explore how social functioning such as independent living, relationships and social communication affect quality of life.

This research project will explore how the symptoms associated with autism change over the lifespan and how this affects the quality of life for individuals with autism. In this way, the study will enable us to identify ways in which support services can be improved to help older adults with autism to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research study is being organised by researchers working at City University London and King's College London. The study has been funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC UK) for City University London in collaboration with the National Autistic Society, and the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Education for King's College London.

How long will it take?

We aim to hold **two** separate research sessions, lasting approximately **3 hours each**. To thank you for your time and

involvement we will offer to pay you **£25 per research session** that you attend.

Who can participate?

If you're at least 18 years old, with an **autism spectrum disorder** (i.e. autism or Asperger syndrome) we would like to hear from you.

We also welcome people aged **50+ years**, whether you have received a childhood diagnosis, or one in later-life.

In addition, we also invite **typically developed** adults (18+ years), with no family history of autism spectrum disorder.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to participate in this **Ageing in Autism** study, please contact:

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