

# MISA

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021

Celebrating  
21 years of  
the Massage  
in Schools  
Programme!

October 9-10 | Online Conference

**Oct 9, Saturday**

Open to MISP Instructors and Public

**Oct 10, Sunday**

Open to MISP Instructors only



### Keynote Presentation:

## THE TOUCH THAT MATTERS MOST

How our skin is a social organ where gentle nurturing touch shapes the destiny of the social brain

Be part of an inspiring keynote and workshop experience with **Prof Francis McGlone**, *Co-director of the Somatosensory & Affective Neuroscience Lab at the School of Natural Sciences & Psychology*

## MISA Conference - October 9

### KEYNOTE : The Touch That Matters

In this talk I will pose the question 'why do we have a system of slowly conducting gentle touch responsive nerves in the skin?' and provide some evidence-based, and some speculative, reasons why such a system has evolved in social species. A sense of touch is fundamental for an organism to detect its environment, but it also serves a second social/affiliative function that has, over evolutionary time, reached its zenith in human primates. Here we propose, and provide evidence for, a recently identified system of gentle touch sensitive nerves in the skin that provide the neurobiological substrate for a touch system that encodes the emotional qualities of skin touch. These nerves - called c-tactile afferents (CT) - are hypothesised to play a fundamental and critical role in socialising the developing brain, and have led to our view of the skin as a social organ where gentle nurturing touch shapes the destiny of the social brain.



### Prof Francis McGlone

*Francis McGlone is Professor in Neuroscience at Liverpool John Moores University, & Visiting Professor, Liverpool University, UK. He is Co-Director of the Somatosensory & Affective Neuroscience Lab at the School of Natural Sciences & Psychology. He has a long term interest in the function of the different classes of afferent c-fibres innervating human skin - those that code for pain, itch (for which an IgNobel prize was awarded) and 'pleasure' - at both peripheral and central levels. Techniques used in this research span single unit recordings with microneurography, psychophysical measurements, functional neuroimaging, behavioural measures, and psychopharmacological approaches to investigate the role of the brain transmitter serotonin in affiliative and social touch. He is also co-director of the International Association for the Study of Affective Touch (IASAT) which held its first meeting in Queens Sq (London) in March 2015.*

## Conference Speakers - October 10



### **MISP Research In Russia**

Eva Lovygina, Russia

A research titled "Application of MISP for improving the quality of life of orphans" has been carried out in Russia. The research was conducted in 3 Russian cities at the same time. A unique aspect of the study was that children themselves were experts to evaluate the MISP efficiency. The children showed interest in implementing and continuing of this new communication experience which has brought us many insights and new questions.



### **MISP Research in Scotland**

Dougie Mirfin & Fiona McCallum, Scotland

Latest research gathered from a focused piece of work carried out in an East Ayrshire school - whole class as well as three identified children with a range of needs.

**Presentations by MISP  
Co-Founders, MISA  
International President,  
MISP Trainers and more!**



### **Other highlights**

**Stroke Review, Q&A with speakers and co-founders, Rainbow Massage, updates from  
MISA International!**

## Conference Fees & Registration

### For MISP Instructors

**Early Bird CAD\$30** registration before 10 Sep

**Normal Fee CAD\$35** registration 11 Sep onwards

Conference fee includes :

- entry into Day 1 and 2 live conference
- access to recording of videos for 30 days post conference

### For Public

**Early Bird CAD\$30** registration before 10 Sep

**Normal Fee CAD\$35** registration 11 Sep onwards

Conference fee includes :

- entry into Day 1, 9 Oct live conference only
- access to recording of Day 1 videos for 30 days post conference

### Terms & Conditions

- Registration is confirmed only upon payment received.
- Conference fees are non-refundable by participants under any circumstances. If you are unable to make attend the live sessions, you will still receive the recordings of the presentations.
- Conference fees will only be refunded if the conference is cancelled by MISA International.