

JOYFUL JOURNEY

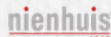
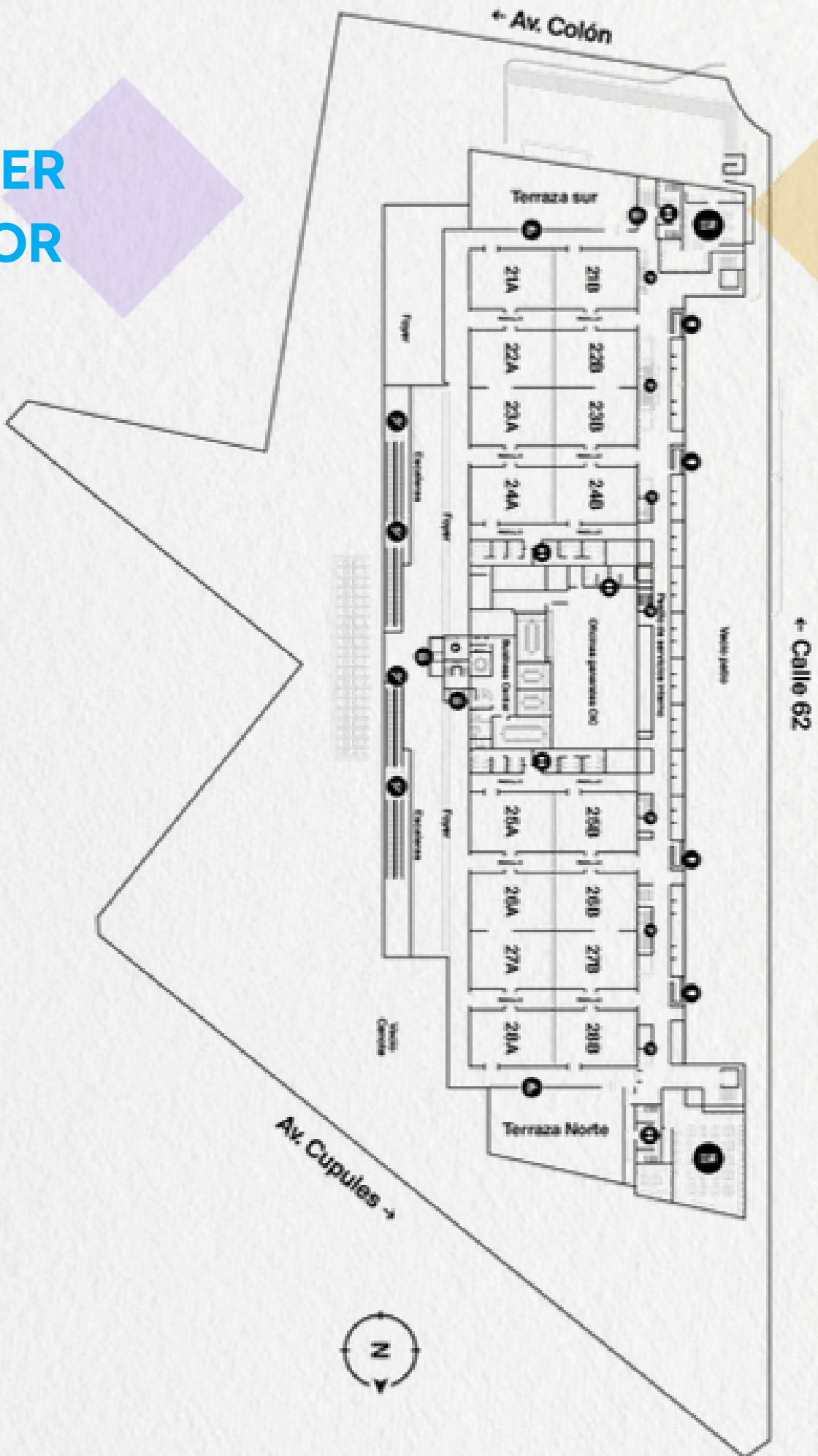
1ST - 4TH MAY 2026
MÉRIDA, MÉXICO



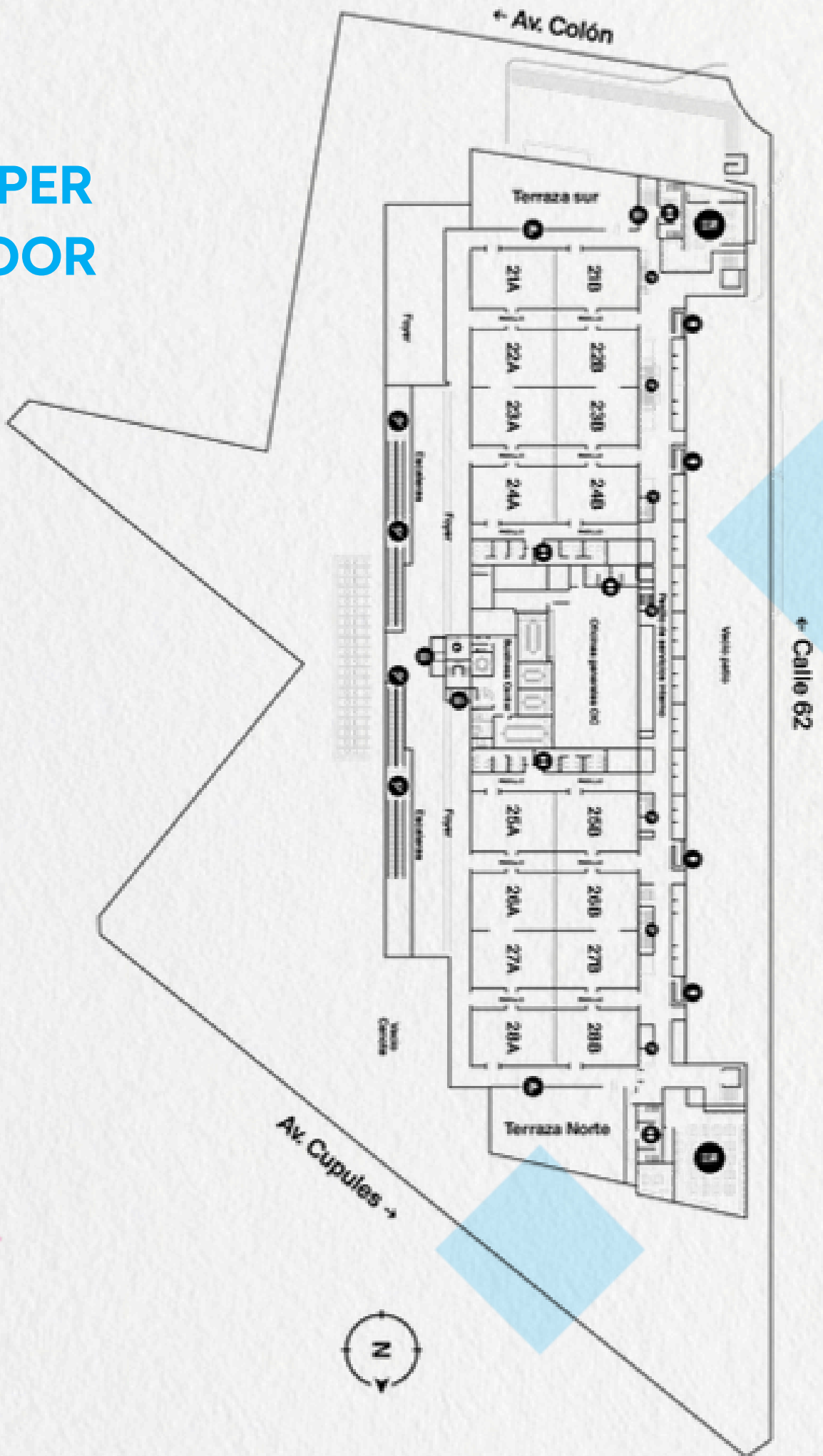
30TH INTERNATIONAL
MONTESSORI CONGRESS



LOWER FLOOR



UPPER FLOOR



OUR SPONSORS



APRIL 30TH

(16:00PM - 21:30PM)

16:00 - 20:00

REGISTRATION

CIC LOBBY

20:00 - 21:30

MEET & GREET

AT FIESTA AMERICANA STELARIS BAR
(OPTIONAL)



ANUNCIO 1

ANUNCIO 2



MAY 1ST

(09:30PM - 21:30PM)

09:30-16:00
REGISTRATIONS

10:00
EXHIBITOR AREA OPENING

10:30-11:30

OPEN BREAKOUT ROOMS
*NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**THE THREE-PERIOD
LESSON AS A JOYFUL
JOURNEY:**

**HOW MONTESSORI GOT
THE NEUROSCIENCE RIGHT**

Dr. Jeff Hester & Alissa Stolz
CIC Rooms 3-4

**LA CONEXIÓN ENTRE EL
DESARROLLO
DEL CEREBRO
Y EL APRENDIZAJE
SOCIOEMOCIONAL:**

**UNA PERSPECTIVA MONTESSORI
PARA LA PRIMERA INFANCIA**

Veronica Burbano (Spanish Only)
CIC Room 22

**SEVEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
SUPPORTING EQUITY-BASED
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES IN
MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

Paige M. Bray & Gay C. Ward
CIC Room 25

**MONTESSORI SPORTS:
FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE**

Patrick Oudejans & Jip Bartels
CIC Room 21

**THE PREPARED
PARTNERSHIP:
USING EPSTEIN'S FRAMEWORK
TO CULTIVATE INCLUSIVE FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT IN THE
MONTESSORI ENVIRONMENT**

Selda Coklu Nolan
CIC Room 23

**MONTESSORI, EDUCATION
FOR PEACE
DOCUMENTARY**

Ángel Galmés Sureda
CIC Room 24A

**MONTESSORI BEYOND
BORDERS:
FROM PRINCIPLES TO ACTION**

BEVERLY MARAGH, ROBERTO
COLÍN, GILBERTO BOTELLO
CIC Room 26

**FROM CRISIS
TO COMMUNITY:**
HISTORY, EXPERIENCES
AND FUTURE

ERICA MORETTI
& LYNNE LAWRENCE
CIC ROOMS 26

**BUSINESS MINDSET
WITH A HEART:**
CO-CREATING SUSTAINABLE
MONTESSORI SCHOOLS
THROUGH VALUES-BASED
LEADERSHIP

HANA CHRAMOSTOVÁ
& MIRKA VLČKOVÁ
CIC ROOM 27

13:00-15:00

LUNCH

15:00-16:00

BREAKOUT ROOMS

**POSITIVE DISCIPLINE
IN THE MONTESSORI COMMUNITY:**
CULTIVATING RESPECT, RESILIENCE, AND
RESPONSIBILITY AT SCHOOL AND HOME

CHIP DELORENZO
CIC ROOMS 3-4

CURRICULUM WITH INTEGRITY:
PSYCHODISCIPLINES ACROSS
THE PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT

XAVIER ANGELO PAEZ BARRAMEDA
CIC ROOMS 22

LET'S BUILD A NETWORK IN HORME:
A JOURNEY THROUGH SUCCESSFUL
MONTESSORI SOCIAL PROJECTS

(HORME DOCUMENTARY) ROBERTO COLIN
CIC ROOMS 24A

PATHWAYS TO IMPACT:
INCREASING ACCESS TO MONTESSORI
EDUCATION IN KENYA, TANZANIA, AND
MADAGASCAR

SARAH KITELEJA, FRANCISCAH KIPSOI
AND PATRICIA PETERSON-FONTENAY
CIC ROOMS 26

**WHERE MONTESSORI
MEETS FOOTBALL:**
A JOYFUL JOURNEY THROUGH
PURPOSEFUL MOVEMENT

SANTIAGO MACIMOVICH
(MONTESSORI SPORTS)
CIC ROOM 21

**THE CONNECTION BETWEEN
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING:**
A MONTESSORI PERSPECTIVE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

VERONICA BURBANO
CIC ROOM 23

**MONTESSORICARE (DAYSERVICE
POPPY) AND MONTESSORI CARE
ASSOCIATION JAPAN:**
IF YOU GET DEMENTIA -DEMENTIA THAT
BRINGS HAPPINESS AND PEOPLE'S LIVES

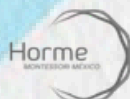
KAZUYO YAMAMOTO & MIWA SUGITA
CIC ROOM 25

INTERSTITIAL:
EXPLORING THE SPACES BETWEEN
THE CONSTRUCTION OF SELF
AND THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY

TERRENCE MILLIE
CIC ROOM 27

20:00-00:30

**COMMUNITY SPECIAL DINNER (REGISTERED
PARTICIPANTS ONLY) ESPLANADE OF THE CIC**



ANUNCIO 3

ANUNCIO 4

MAY 2ND

(08:45AM - 20:00PM)

08:45-09:00

WELCOME

09:00-10:00 **THE MONTESSORI DIFFERENCE:
WHAT THE RESEARCH TELL US**

ANGELINE LILLARD CIC ROOM 3-4

10:00-11:00 **BUILDING
THE FOUNDATION FOR THE
ONGOING JOYFUL JOURNEY**

JUDI ORION CIC ROOM 3-4

11:00-12:00

COFFEE BREAK
EXHIBITOR'S AREA

12:00-13:00

**FROM DOING TO BEING: THE JOYFUL JOURNEY
AT THE HEART OF MONTESSORI.**
A MONTESSORI PERSPECTIVE ON DIGNITY, CONNECTION
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

JULIA BALLESTEROS CIC ROOM 3-4

13:00-15:00

LUCH
CIC ROOMS 5-6

15:00-17:50

WORKSHOP- PEER ORIENTATION:
WHY CHILDREN ARE STRESSED, WHY PARENTS AND TEACHERS
ARE DISEMPOWERED AND HOW TO RESTORE A HEALTHY BALANCE
IN ADULT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

GABOR MATÉ CIC Room 3-4

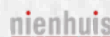
17:50-19:00

CLOSING REMARKS

19:00-20:00

MEET AND GREET COCKTAIL
GSA (GLOBAL SCHOOL ACREDITATION)/
GLOBAL RESEARCHERS GROUP/EDUCATEURS SANS
FRONTIERS/MONTESSORI DEMENTIA, DISABILITY AND AGEING

FIESTA AMERICANA (STELARIS BAR)



WHERE YOUR
MONTESSORI JOURNEY
BECOMES A
DEGREE PATHWAY



Learn More at:
www.hartford.edu/Montessori



EXPANDING ACCESS.
ADVANCING PRACTICE.
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY.

AMI • AMS • MACTE-accredited
coursework eligible for transfer toward
undergraduate and graduate degree programs

PARTNERS IN MONTESSORI STUDIES

**UNIVERSITY
OF HARTFORD**



MONTESSORI
Training Center Northeast

WORLD-CLASS MONTESSORI TRAINING STARTS HERE.

✓ AMI Diploma Programs

- ◇ Assistants to Infancy (0-3)
- ◇ Primary (3-6)
- ◇ Elementary (6-12)
- ◇ Adolescent (12-18)

✓ AMI Certificate & Short Courses

- ◇ Orientation & Assistants Courses
- ◇ Montessori School Leadership (MSL)
- ◇ Montessori for Dementia, Disability & Ageing (MDDA)
- ◇ Specialized seminars

✓ Professional Learning & Consulting

- ◇ Workshops & Leadership Development
- ◇ School Start-up & Strategic Planning
- ◇ Satellite Training Center Development
 - Short-term programming
 - Long-term Montessori community development

✓ Research & Community Engagement

- ◇ Practitioner research
- ◇ Alumni networks & mentorship



MAY 3RD

(08:45AM - 00:30AM)

08:45-09:00

WELCOME

09:00-10:00 **THE CHILD:
THE MISSING PIECE IN
HUMANITY'S PUZZLE**

MOLLY O'SHAGGNESSY
CIC ROOM 3-4

10:00-11:00 **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS
AND SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL NEEDS:
THEIR MULTIFACETED
RELATIONSHIPS**

ADELE DIAMOND CIC ROOM 3-4

11:00-12:00

COFFEE BREAK
EXHIBITOR'S AREA

12:00-13:00

BREAKOUT ROOMS

**A JOYFUL JOURNEY
THROUGH THE FOUR PLANES
OF DEVELOPMENT:
EXPERIENCING MONTESSORI
FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD**

JUNNIFA UZODIKE & SIMONE
DAVIES CIC ROOMS 3-4

**CULTIVANDO
RELACIONES ALEGRES:
DESARROLLO DEL ADULTO
A TRAVES DE LA COMUNICACIÓN
NO VIOLENTA**

NATI BELTRÁN (SPANISH ONLY)
CIC ROOM 22

**WHERE DIGNITY LIVES:
DESIGNING MONTESSORI
SPACES FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED**

JENNIFER BRUSH & CAROLYN
MAGNUSSEN
CIC ROOM 25

**MONTESSORI SPORTS:
FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE**

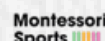
PATRICK OUDEJANS & JIP
BARTELS CIC ROOM 21

**MONTESSORI
AND INNOVATION:
A DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOP
FOR A CHANGING WORLD**

PAVAN GOYAL & MUNIRA
HUSSAIN CIC ROOM 23

**MONTESSORI, EDUCATION
FOR PEACE
DOCUMENTARY**

ÁNGEL GALMÉS SUREDA
CIC ROOM 24A



ANUNCIO 6

ANUNCIO 7

MAY 4TH

(08:45AM - 13:30PM)

08:45-09:00

WELCOME
CIC ROOM 3-4

09:00-10:00 BELONGING
IN THE WORLD

BO MYNETH
CIC ROOM 3-4

10:00-10:45 PANEL "EDUCATION
AND PEACE"

LYNNE LAWRENCE,
ANURANDHA SHANKAR
AND ALAIN TSCHUDIN
CIC ROOM 3-4

10:45-11:45

COFFEE BREAK
EXHIBITOR'S AREA

11:45-12:30

**TOGETHER:
JOURNEY AND LEGACY**

EDER CUEVAS
CIC ROOM 3-4

12:30-13:30

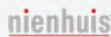
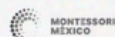
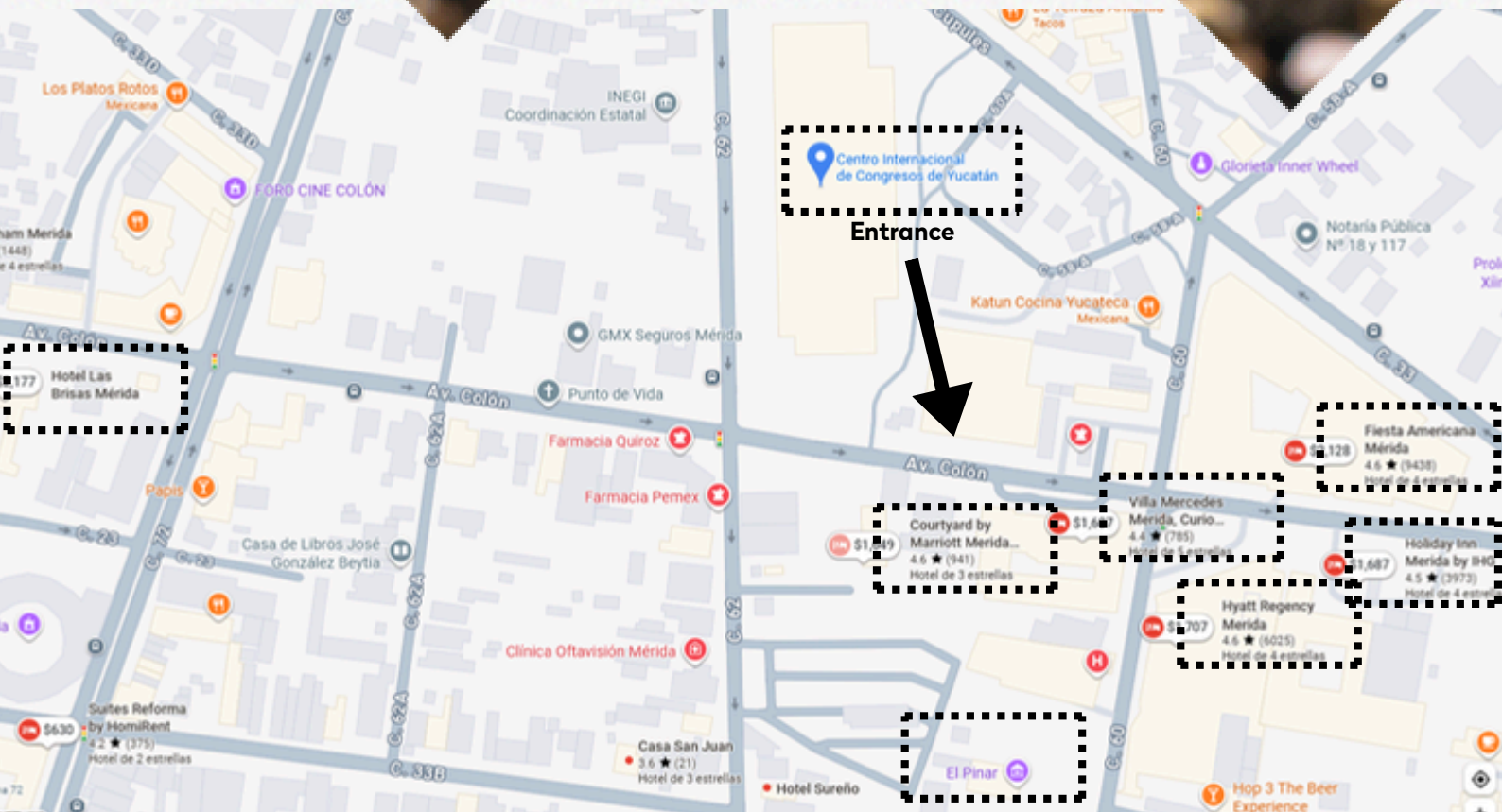
**CLOSING CEREMONY:
2029 A NEW JOURNEY**

MONTESSORI MÉXICO/AMI
CIC ROOM 3-4





MAP

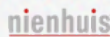


SPEAKERS

GaborMaté

Gabor Maté (pronounced GAH-bor MAH-tay) is a retired physician who, after 20 years of family practice and palliative care experience, worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness. The bestselling author of five books published in 43 languages, including the award-winning *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction*, Gabor is an internationally renowned speaker highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness. For his groundbreaking medical work and writing he has been awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian distinction, and the Civic Merit Award from his hometown, Vancouver. His most recent book, *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness and Healing in a Toxic Culture* is a New York Times and international bestseller.

His next book, co-written with his son Daniel, will be *Hello Again: A Fresh Start for Parents and their Adult Children*, based on their popular workshop. www.drgabormate.com



Adele Diamond

Adele Diamond, PhD, FRSC, FAPA, FAPS, FSEP, ScD (honoris causa), DPhil (honoris causa) is the Canada Research Chair Professor of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. She is considered one of the two founders of the field of developmental cognitive neuroscience and a world leader on executive functions, which depend on the brain's prefrontal cortex and interrelated neural regions. Executive functions enable us to mentally manipulate information, flexibly switch perspectives or mindsets, think before we act, maintain focused attention, creatively problem solve, and succeed despite obstacles.

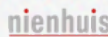
Prof. Diamond's work on executive functions has profoundly influenced education, child development, and public policy. She has emphasized that addressing social and emotional needs may be central to whether executive functions improve and whether those improvements last. Thus, she offers a different perspective from mainstream education in hypothesizing that focusing exclusively on training cognitive skills is less efficient, and ultimately less successful, than also addressing emotional, social, spiritual, and physical needs.

Adele Diamond is the first in her family to graduate high school or go to college. She was educated at Swarthmore College (BA, Phi Beta Kappa, Sociology-Anthropology and Psychology), Harvard University (PhD, Developmental Psychology), and Yale Medical School (Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroanatomy).



Angeline Stoll Lillard

Angeline Lillard is Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia where she directs the Early Development Laboratory and the Montessori Science Program. She is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Psychological Science. She received her PhD in Psychology from Stanford University in 1991, and the American Psychological Association's Boyd McCandless Award for her early career contributions to Developmental Science. Her book, *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius* (Oxford University Press) received the Cognitive Development Society Book Award, is translated into several languages, and is currently in its 3rd edition. She has been keynote speaker at dozens of Psychology and Montessori conferences nationally and worldwide. Her research has been funded by the Institutes of Education Sciences, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and many private foundations.



Alain Tschudin

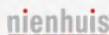
Professor Alain Tschudin completed his PhD in Psychology in 1999 through the then University of Natal (The University of Kwazulu-Natal) on the comparative evolution of social complexity and intelligence in dolphins and primates, registering as a professional psychologist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. In 2007, he completed his second PhD in moral philosophy and theology on the meaning of being, at the University of Cambridge. Alain worked for the University of Seville and the European Commission on a project to foster social integration and economic participation for immigrant and ethnic minorities in Spain. He later returned to South Africa and ran the Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies Programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal using dialogics to pursue solidarity among residents and refugees, along with peace, democratisation and human rights initiatives in marginal communities. He has done humanitarian work with Save the Children International, with UNICEF in the Central African Republic and served as the UN's inter-agency Child Protection Assessment Coordinator for Northern Syria. Alain was Executive Director of Good Governance Africa, a pan-African NGO, in Johannesburg, Professor in the WITS School of Governance and lead consultant for the UN Special Advisor on Africa on the nexus approach to fast-tracking the SDGs across Africa. Subsequently, he was Director of the International Centre of Nonviolence at the Durban University of Technology. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland and is a Senior Research Associate at St Edmund's College, Cambridge. Since 2022, he has served voluntarily as President of the Association Montessori Internationale, the NGO set up by Dr Maria Montessori in 1929, headquartered in the Netherlands and he recently joined the Board of the Gorée Institute in Senegal. In 2025 he was named the UNESCO Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair on Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity hosted by Stellenbosch University and co-hosted by St Edmund's College, Cambridge University.



Judi Orion

Judith A. Orion M.A. Director of Training holds the AMI Early Childhood (3-6) diploma and received her Assistants to Infancy (0-3) diploma at the first AMI training for that level, given in Rome.

Judi has conducted Primary and Infancy Montessori classes, and is a trainer, examiner, and consultant at both levels. She conducted teacher training internationally and was Director of Training for the first 0-6 AMI Diploma course. Judi works at AMI as the Director of Pedagogy and served for many years as the Chair of the Training Group, the AMI committee that oversees the training of new AMI trainers. In 2020 Judi retired from The Montessori Institute, Denver, Colorado where she was the director of 0-3 training courses for 30 years.



Bo Mynett

Bo Mynett is an AMI 6-12 Trainer with more than a decade of experience in the education of children and adults. She has been working as an Elementary Montessori guide in both the United States and the Netherlands. In the academic year of 2022/2023, she directed the first AMI 6-12 diploma course in Delft.

She worked in a Montessori environment before taking her AMI 6 -12 training in Bergamo and continued to work in the classroom in San Mateo, California as well as at Casa Bilingual Montessori School in Pijnacker in The Netherlands. After several years she decided to also take the AMI 3 - 6 training course in Boston, USA, which was offered as a summer course which allowed her to keep working in the classroom throughout the years.

Although she enjoyed her work with the children very much she then went back to Bergamo, Italy to do the training for Trainers under the guidance of Baiba Kruminis Grazzini for 2 academic years. She went back to teaching after that as she completed the seminars and requirements to become an AMI 6-12 Trainer.

Since January 2022 she gave five 6 -12 Orientation Course at the International Montessori Institute in Delft followed by the first AMI 6 - 12 Diploma Course ever held in The Netherlands at the IMI in the academic year 2022-2023. She is currently the Director of Training for the first AMI 6 - 12 Diploma Course in Mwanza, Tanzania where close to 40 students are participating. She is also the Director of Training for the first Dutch AMI 6 - 12 Diploma Course in Delft which started last September, and lecturing on the first AMI 6 - 12 Course in Estonia.

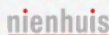


Eder Cuevas Iturralde

Eder Cuevas Iturralde is Executive Director of Montessori Mexico, Head of the Chihuahua Montessori School, AMI trainer for school leaders, and AMI board member.

He is passionate about Montessori's social contribution through Horme and ESF, with programs such as Montessori environments in prisons He has supported Montessori schools in the process of continuous improvement, developing programs for adolescents and workshops for families in more than thirty countries.

Eder has studies in physical education and sports, a master's degree in sports psychology, and a bachelor's and master's degree in education. His Montessori training includes AMI elementary in Bergamo, Italy, and AMI adolescent training in Ohio, USA. He was a professor at the Autonomous University of Chihuahua at the bachelor's and master's levels for 15 years in the areas of sports and is currently a consultant for Montessori Sports.



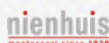
Anuradha Shankar

Born in a family deeply involved in India's Freedom Movement, Anuradha Shankar grew up strongly committed to Gandhian values. Anu has been actively engaged with Ekta Parishad, a grassroots movement for land rights and Jai Jagat, an international movement for peace and non-violence. She is on the board of the Universal Solidarity Movement, which works to develop responsible, ethical citizenship in school children in India. She mentors groups of young adults working on a non-violent economy and harmony between communities. She has been a Focal Point for UNICEF, developed capacity-building programmes for child-friendly policing, and given inputs to UNICEF's 5-year country plans as well as critical feedback on their programme implementation. She is a decorated senior officer of the Indian Police Service and has leveraged her position to ensure safety and security regimes for the vulnerable, particularly women and children. As the leader of a regulatory organisation, her core competence is critical analysis for ensuring optimum results in the delivery of justice and her primary mandate is oversight of the mechanics of governance in a democracy. She is seen as a change agent rather than an upholder of bureaucratic perimeters. Anu has travelled widely to speak on Kasturba Gandhi and the role of women in India's struggle for freedom.



Julia Ballesteros

Julia Ballesteros Senties is a Human Communication therapist specialized in cognitive neurorehabilitation from the Complutense University of Madrid, with over 25 years of experience working with adults and seniors in clinical and community settings. She is a Board Member of Montessori Mexico, a member of the Mexican College of Human Communication Therapists, and the first AMI Montessori trainer in Spanish for aging and dementia. Certified as a Montessori guide (3-6), in Montessori for aging and dementia, and as a Death Doula, Julia has pioneered the integration of Montessori philosophy into aging, dementia, and palliative care, training professionals internationally and founding NUÚP honra.conecta. She also organized the First International Montessori Congress on Adults and Seniors and continues to focus her work on dignifying every stage of life, fostering compassionate caregiving, and honoring human authenticity through Montessori principles.





Molly O'Shaughnessy

Molly O'Shaughnessy is an AMI Primary (3–6) Trainer, consultant, and Executive Director Emeritus of the Montessori Center of Minnesota (MCM). For nearly three decades, she led MCM, expanding its impact through teacher training, community-based Montessori programs, and the development of a permanent campus in East St. Paul that includes an AMI training center, a model early childhood program, and a Montessori museum. She is the founder of Montessori Partners Serving All Children (MPSAC), supporting high-fidelity Montessori programs in historically marginalized communities. An internationally respected Montessori leader, she has served on the AMI Board, the AMI Trainers Group, and continues to consult, teach, and speak worldwide on equity, leadership, and social justice in Montessori education.

Lynne Lawrence

Lynne Lawrence has served as Executive Director of AMI since June 2008. Prior to this role, she was Acting Secretary General and Chair of the Association's Human Resources Committee. She also worked as a trainer with the Maria Montessori Training Organisation (MMTO), now known as the Maria Montessori Institute.

As Executive Director, Lynne actively promotes the inclusion of the Montessori Movement in developing countries, while also working across other areas of the Association, including Montessori training programs worldwide, research and development initiatives of the Board of Directors, and the coordination of AMI's committees and staff.

