

BYLAWS

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities

Statement of Purpose

The **purpose of the SIRG-PIMD** is to provide opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking between researchers and members of IASSID within the same area of interest. In this way, they may create opportunities for sharing information, developing initiatives, identifying new colleagues and being visible to newcomers in the field. Through the SIRGs, groups of researchers in the field may easily collaborate on common themes of interests.

The SIRG PIMD has as its **founding principles**:

- Provide a focus for the worldwide exchange and dissemination of research and practice, as well as networking, in the field of persons with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. Individuals with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities form a heterogeneous group. The 'core group' consists of individuals with such profound cognitive disabilities that no existing standardized tests are applicable for a valid estimation of their level of intellectual capacity and who often have profound neuromotor dysfunctions for example, spastic tetraplegia. In addition to profound intellectual and physical disabilities, it has been demonstrated that they also frequently have sensory impairments. Individuals with PIMD form a physically very vulnerable group of persons with a high dependence on personal assistance for every day tasks, 24 hours a day. The SIRG/PIMD brings together researchers and practitioners from different disciplines and from different countries.
- Promote cross-national, multidisciplinary collaboration in the area of persons with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. The ultimate aim of the group is to improve the quality of life and/or services for people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities, their carers, and their families.
- Provide a framework for the collation of information relating to the research interests, expertise, and publications of group members. Within the overall process of collaboration, the views and contributions of nonprofessionals, including people with intellectual disabilities and their families and friends, are a fundamental component, and will be given the priority they deserve.

Purpose & Establishment

- 1) In recognition of the diverse interests of its members, the Association encourages the formation of Special Interest Research Groups (SIRGs) that are formed by groups of members with a specific research interest or topic.
- 2) For new SIRGs to be recognized by the Association, a minimum of 30 members must agree to a set of common objectives and receive the written approval of Council for the establishment of such a SIRG.
- 3) SIRGs will be reviewed by the Executive prior to every Assembly and any recommendation for termination of a SIRG will be made to Council at its last meeting.
- 4) SIRGs should endeavor to be multidisciplinary in their composition.

Membership

- 1) Membership in recognized SIRGs is a benefit of membership in the Association, requiring payment of membership dues on an annual basis.

Organization & Administration

- 1) The Executive Committee is comprised of:
 - a) Chairperson
 - Represents the SIRG at council meetings, unless this role is delegated
 - Presides over meetings of the SIRG
 - Ensures SIRG statement of purpose and bylaws are filed with the IASSIDD secretary within one month of each World Congress
 - b) Secretary /Treasurer
 - Keeps a record of the meetings of the SIRG membership
 - Produces annual activity and financial reports for the SIRG
 - Maintains the SIRG website
 - c) At least 4 other members
The duties of the other members pertain to
 - Coordination of the newsletter committee
 - Coordination of the young researchers committee
 - Involvement of parents
 - New membership
 - Organization of roundtables, pre-conferences and conferences
- 2) The SIRG maintains both a Statement of Purpose and Bylaws consistent with the Association's Vision, Mission, Values and Aims statements and Bylaws. These documents are reviewed and filed with the Secretary within a month of each World Congress.
- 3) The SIRG conducts regular meetings of its membership and keeps a record of such meetings. These meetings can be face-to-face or by electronic means.

Fund Allocation

- 1) The SIRG has a funding allocation identified within the Association's Treasury based on the relative size of its membership.
- 2) All SIRG funds are consolidated in the Association's Treasury.

Responsibilities

- 1) The SIRG plans and conducts activities appropriate to its mission. These activities might include, but are not be limited to, conferences, roundtables, workshops, dissemination of newsletters, etc.
- 2) The SIRG maintains a page on the IASSIDD website to facilitate visibility and communication with its members.
- 3) The SIRG covers expenses related to the participation of its representative to Council and its committees.
- 4) The SIRG will, at the request of the Secretary, provide an annual report of activities (including any financial statements) to Council.

Dissolution

- 1) A motion to dissolve the SIRG may be presented to Council on the basis of its failing to maintain the minimum number of members (30), not sending a representative to Council without due cause, not submitting annual reports, not filing Statement of Purpose and Bylaws documents within a month of each World Congress, or if its activities no longer reflect the values, aims and objectives of the Association.
- 2) Dissolution will require a simple majority vote of Council. The vote can be taken at a regular meeting of Council, or by electronic poll of the Council where the Secretary has given a minimum of 28 days notice of such a poll.
- 3) Any funds allocated to a SIRG which is subsequently dissolved will be reallocated to the central budget of the Association.