



**Minutes**  
**General Assembly & Awards Ceremony**  
**Wednesday, July 11, 2012; 12:00-13:30**  
**WTCC Room 200, Halifax, Nova Scotia,**  
**Canada**

Attendance: 72 of 129 members eligible to vote. Complete list available from the Secretariat (admin@iassid.org).

1. The President of IASSID, Glynis Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. E. Emerson moved the approval of the Agenda. A. Hassiotis seconded the motion. **All in favour.**
3. Glynis Murphy, IASSID President, reviewed the activities of the 2008-2012 Council. She noted that IASSID is an expanding and ambitious organization dedicated to research aimed at improving the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities. The association has been engaged in acquiring active members in all parts of the world, running Special Interest Research Groups (SIRGs), organizing regional and world congresses, producing a journal, as well as publications and position papers. The Association has organized increasing numbers of workshops through its Academy, it has an active link with the World Health Organisation, it has supported developments in specific areas, namely in Africa (post 2008 World Congress) and in Asia-Pacific (post 2009 Singapore Regional Congress). Since 2008, IASSID has invested into a Secretariat with a sophisticated website (with conference management capabilities). The President thanked the many individuals from many different countries upon whose efforts, hard work and initiative these activities depend.

The President provided a brief report on membership statistics since 2004. Individual membership (by far our largest category; currently over 750) fluctuates cyclically with an increase in the World Congress year (~200 more in 2008 versus 2007; ~300 more in 2012 versus 2011). A steady increase in Center membership is noted.

The Association has seen a growth in the number and activity of SIRGs. These provide regular meetings and networking opportunities for members, they are involved in the production of themes special issues of scientific journals and IASSID-endorsed publications, they have produced position papers, and have contributed to IASSID Academy events. Since 2008, SIRGs have been represented on Council.

The President recapped the Association's main activities as follows:

- 2009: Asia-Pacific Regional Congress in Singapore
- 2010: Europe Regional Congress in Rome

2011: South America Academy workshop in Mexico  
2012: World Congress in Halifax;

and announced the upcoming Asia-Pacific Regional Congress in Tokyo in 2013, the Europe Regional Congress in Vienna in 2014 and the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Melbourne, Australia in 2016.

She noted that JPPID is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> Volume with 4 issues per year. The contributors are from a wide range of countries and there is evidence of accelerating usage (e.g. article downloads). The journal's impact factor has increased from 0.95 in 2001 to 0.97 in 2012. Matt Janicki has edited the journal since its inception; associate editors will be appointed in the coming year.

The Academy, which is tasked with conducting workshops and training events, is led by Roy Brown. It has grown in activity levels with events held in St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland), Warsaw (Poland), New Delhi (India), Ciudad de Mexico (Mexico) and Prince George (Canada) in the last 18 months. The Academy also offered pre-congress workshops.

Since the 2008 World Congress, Eric Emerson has assured the Association's link with the World Health Organisation's Department of Mental Health, Neurological Disorders and Substance Abuse, and the Department of Disability and Rehabilitation. Our workplan with WHO has included:

- a. supporting the development of the mental health Gap Action Programme aiming to scale up services for mental health disorders in low and middle income countries,
- b. contributing to WHO work on estimation of the Burden of Diseases in the area of intellectual disabilities,
- c. supporting the production, dissemination and use of the WHO/World Bank World Report on Disability,
- d. contributing to the revision of the ICD-10 categories related to intellectual disability,
- e. supporting national and global promotion of health and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and
- f. providing relevant material to WHO in the area of intellectual disabilities and to disseminate WHO materials to researchers in the field of intellectual disabilities.

The President concluded by thanking numerous contributors including all who participate in IASSID's activities, SIRG leaders, regional congress organisers, council members, JPPID editor, Academy members, the WHO liaison, and executive members. Special thanks were expressed to Maureen McDonald at the Secretariat for her patience and diligence, and Laura Robinson, assistant to the treasurer, for her accuracy and responsiveness. Appreciation was also expressed to TosInvest and Mencap for funding awards for the World Congress and to Vianne Timmons, president elect, and her team for the organization of an excellent 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress.

J. Merrick moved the approval of the President's report. L. Wang seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

4. Phil Davidson, Treasurer, presented a brief report of the Association's financial affairs. A number of important changes to banking including closure of the Association's Euro account in Paris, opening of a Sterling account with HSBC, and the closure of all SIRG and Academy checking and savings accounts with the consolidation of all funds under the central treasury were outlined. The Treasurer reported on the audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 (the report shows net assets of \$555,758 and \$532,993, at the end of 2011 and 2010 respectively). The Council's approved budget for the current year anticipates a balance of \$479,854 on December 31, 2012.

K. McVilly moved the approval of the Treasurer's report. H. VanShrojenstein Lantman de Valk seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

5. Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz, Secretary, explained the process for review of bylaws over the past year and the process for approval of amendments in three parts: Title, Article I, and Article II to XII.

#### Title

To Read:

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (abbreviated IASSIDD)

J. Beadle-Brown moved the addition of "and Developmental" to the name of the Association. F. Fea seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

#### Article I

To Read:

##### **Section 1: Vision**

A world where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live fulfilling and healthy lives, as valued members of their communities, and where they experience the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as articulated in United Nations conventions.

##### **Section 2: Mission**

To promote the development of new knowledge, research and other scholarly activities, as well as the application of knowledge, to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and those who support them.

##### **Section 3: Values**

1. Respect for the inherent dignity of all people regardless of disability, age, gender and ethnicity
2. Openness and tolerance for differences in people, practices and cultures
3. The right of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, advocates and communities to contribute to the research agenda, research processes, and to have access to research findings in a meaningful way
4. The importance of scientific integrity and methodological rigour in research, within an ethical framework
5. The importance of policy, practice and education being informed by scientific evidence

#### **Section 4: Aims**

##### **To:**

1. Enable international collaboration and leadership in research
2. Encourage a perspective that takes into account the interests, human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and those who support them throughout the world.
3. Stimulate high quality and innovative research encompassing interdisciplinary interests and methodological diversity.
4. Engage in worldwide exchange of evidence-based knowledge with relevant stakeholders. This activity includes, but is not limited to, the organisation of congresses, conferences, roundtables, and workshops, and the publication of journals, a website and newsletters.

E. Emerson moved the replacement of Article I with the text above. A. Hassiotis seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

#### Articles II to XII

Having circulated the complete text of the original revisions in advance of the Assembly and having made copies of the final revisions available to attendees, the revisions to the remainder of the bylaws were highlighted as follows and voted on as a block.

- a. Removal of Association Membership category in favour of affiliation agreements with like-minded associations.
- b. Reinsertion (with slight revisions) of Article concerning Special Interest Research Groups (which had been in 1996 version of bylaws).
- c. Addition of an Article concerning the Academy.
- d. Changes to Assembly of Members Article to reflect role of individual members in the organization and other changes to membership categories. Changes to powers include no longer approving bylaw changes but has the ability to dissolve executive or council.
- e. Changes to composition of Council needed with the inclusion of representative from each SIRG. Changes to powers including approval of bylaw changes.

- f. Addition of electronic as a means of conducting votes.
- g. Addition of conflict of interest section.
- h. Other minor changes to wording for consistency throughout the document.

H. Ouellette-Kuntz moved the acceptance of the revisions to Articles II to XII of the bylaws as distributed to the Assembly. P. Davidson seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

6. The slate of Officers for 2012-2016 proposed by Council was presented.

J. Beadle-Brown moved the acceptance of Vianne Timmons to the post of President. H. VanShrojenstein Lantman de Valk seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

C. Bigby moved the acceptance of P. Davidson to the post of President-Elect. L. Giddens seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

E. Emerson moved the acceptance of Keith McVilly to the post of Treasurer. R. Brown seconded the motion. **All in favour.**

Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz agreed to complete a second term as Secretary and Glynis Murphy accepted the post of Past-President.

7. Awards and Recognition

Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz presented the **Distinguished Achievement Award – Service** to Susan Morris of Canada. Susan is Clinical Director of the Dual Diagnosis Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. She was described as “dedicated to the scientific study of intellectual disabilities...an avid consumer of research, constantly looking for ways to facilitate the application of new knowledge to service, planning and policy advancement. Susan has contributed significantly to establishing and maintaining the Canadian Association for Research and Education in Intellectual Disabilities since 2004.

Glynis Murphy presented the **Distinguished Achievement Award – Research** to David Felce of Wales. David has published in a broadly in the field of intellectual disabilities (including on community life and deinstitutionalization, active support, challenging behaviours) throughout his career pushing the field forward in high quality research. He was the first editor of the Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disability, a previous director of the British Institute of Learning Disability and Past-President of IASSID.

Four individuals were named **Fellows of IASSID** by Council upon nomination by members and recommendation of the Awards and Recognition Committee:

Christine Bigby: Research Program Leader, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Allied Health, Department of Social Work and Social Policy, La Trobe University, Australia.

Marc Tassé: Director of the Ohio State Nisonger Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, USA.

Michael Whemeyer: Director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities; and Associate Director of the Beach Center on Disability, USA.

Philip McCallion: Director of the University of Albany's Center for Excellence in Aging Services, USA.

Ten young researchers were recognized and received funding awards to attend the World Congress:

- Shirli Werner from Jerusalem (Israel) received the Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health SIRG Travel Grant.
- Sinead Foran from Waterford (Ireland) and Laura E. Gomez from Oviedo (Spain) were awarded Aging SIRG Fellowships.
- Kitty Foley from Perth (Australia) and Cameron Neece from Loma Linda, California (USA) were awarded Families SIRG Fellowships.
- Daniela Cvitkovic from Zagreb (Croatia) received the MENCAP award.
- Noelle Blackman, Donna Couzens, Shana Cohen and Katherine McDonald received Tosinvest awards.

Manuela Galli received the Wisniewski Memorial Paper award.

## 8. In Memoriam

The Association noted with regret the passing, since the last General Assembly, of a number of people who have contributed to the lives of people with an intellectual disabilities through scholarship, research, advocacy and service to IASSID over several decades:

- Jim Mansell
- Alan Clarke
- Frans Scholte
- Analise Dupont

9. The newly elected President, Vianne Timmons, presented a general plan of action for her term in office (2012-2016) noting her intent to improve governance, financial sustainability, partnerships and communications.

10. Dr. Hitoshi Hara of the Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities invited all to attend the next Asia Pacific Regional Congress to be held in Tokyo, Japan in August 2013.

11. Keith McVilly presented a promotional video of Melbourne, Australia, site of the 15<sup>th</sup> IASSID World Congress in August 2016.

12. Glynis Murphy called for any other business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 13:10.

Respectfully submitted by H. Ouellette-Kuntz, IASSIDD Secretary.