

Newsletter



International Association
for the Scientific Study
of Intellectual Disabilities

Spring 2006

A Message from the President

By Prof. David Felce

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The Congress was completely successful in its aim to bring together researchers from the region and provide a forum for exchange of their work.

It is my privilege to review the highlights of the year. As usual, doing so is very heartening. My report reflects the contributions of the Special Interest Research Groups (SIRGs), my colleagues on the Executive and individuals who have taken on particular responsibilities. In all this we have been guided by our Council. The Council Meeting in Taipei in June was helpful and productive.

First and foremost, Lisa Wang organised and staged an excellent Inaugural Congress of IASSID-Asia Pacific in June, 2005. There was a strong scientific programme from the region, the venue and hospitality arrangements were of the highest quality and all aspects of presentation were utterly professional. The Congress was completely successful in its aim to bring together researchers from the region and provide a forum for exchange of their work. The congress abstracts are being published in the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*. The second Asia Pacific conference will be in Singapore in 2009.

IASSID has now successfully launched regional conferences in Europe and Asia Pacific. Henny Lantman, Marian Maaskant and Wil Buntinx are in the home straight in their organisation of the Second IASSID-Europe Conference, to be held in Maastricht in August. The Call for Papers has closed with over 400 abstracts accepted. It looks like we will be at maximum capacity again. Book now to avoid disappointment – to register, please visit <http://www.unimaas.nl/congresbureau/e-iassid2006/registration.htm>. The abstract book will be an issue of the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*.



(A Message from the President – Continued)

Publication is an important arm of our activity

IASSID Executive:

President

Prof. David Felce

President-Elect

Prof. Glynis Murphy

Secretary

Dr. Vianne Timmons

Treasurer

Dr. Matthew P. Janicki

Past-President

Dr. Neil Ross

Vice-President (Program Committee & Liaison with Sub-Committee)

Dr. Patricia Noonan Walsh

Vice-President (Membership Committee & SIRG Coordination)

Dr. Henry M.J. Schroyenstein
Lantman de Valk

Vice-President (Constitutional Affairs)

Mr. Stephen Kealy

Vice-President (Publications Committee & SIRG Coordination)

Dr. Anthony Holland



SIRG meetings are an established part of the annual calendar too. The Aging SIRG met in Dortmund last year and will meet this year in April in Toronto. The Physical and Mental Health SIRGs held their second joint meeting in Melbourne last September. The Profound and Multiple Disabilities SIRG met in Bruges in October. The Quality of Life SIRG is also planning to meet in Canada this coming April, in Vancouver, and the Employment Affinity group is organising a Roundtable in April in St Petersburg. More details of meetings can be found on the IASSID website (<http://www.iassid.org>).

The Executive and Council are conscious that, as the number of IASSID events increases and we advance our truly worldwide identity, then the demand from countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America for support to attend our meetings will increase. IASSID provided a grant to support scholarships for the Asia Pacific meeting but we are aware that it will be necessary to broaden the base of such sponsorship to allow the participation of delegates from developing countries to increase as we would like. For example, we are keen to use the next World Congress in Cape Town as a means to promote our field throughout Africa. I would be happy to hear from any members with suggestions of potential grant givers for this purpose.

Our agreement with the WHO has been renewed. IASSID will support the WHO's development of an international atlas on intellectual disabilities where it can. Tangentially related to this, Eric Emerson is leading an editorial team to produce a special issue of the *Journal of Policy & Practice in Intellectual Disabilities* on "Intellectual Disability Policy and Practice in Low and Middle Income Countries". Anyone interested should note the call for contributions in the next issue of *JPPID*.

Publication is an important arm of our activity. The Quality of Life SIRG sponsored a special issue of the *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research* (2005, **49**, 695-811), following the example two years ago of the Family SIRG and their double issue on family research (2003, **47**, 215-399). A number of the plenary addresses from the World Congress in Montpellier were published in the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (2005, **18**, 279-344).

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to IASSID's growing impact during 2005. I hope you like the new logo.

Secretary's Report

By Vianne Timmons

IASSID COUNCIL

- Giorgio Albertini
- Monica Björkman
- Jan Blacher
- Philip Davidson
- Robert Davis
- Ilana Duvdevany
- Fabrizio Fea
- Richard Hastings
- Sheila Hollins
- Ulla Jacobson
- George Jessien
- Mike Kerr
- Joel Levy
- Maria del Carmen Malbran
- Keith McVilly
- Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz
- Hans Reinders
- Robert Schalock
- Franck Sturtz
- Shigeru Suemitsu
- Miguel Verdugo
- Carla Vlaskamp
- Lisa Wang

Please communicate any concerns or issues to any of the Council members so they can be brought forward to our meetings.

It seems like it was only last week that I prepared my last report for our annual newsletter. Since last Spring, your Executive has met twice and a full Council meeting was held last June in Taipei. Our Executive plans to meet again next month in Montreal, Canada and planning is underway for the full Council meeting to be held in August in Maastricht.

Thanks to all of you for assisting with the selection of our new logo. We are now drafting a policy for its use.

As you will see throughout the submissions in this newsletter there is a flurry of ongoing activity. It is very important that we have your views, opinions and suggestions. Please communicate any concerns or issues to any of the Council members so they can be brought forward to our meetings.

SIRG Coordination Committee

By Henny MJ van Schrojenstein Lantman- de Valk

The aim of the SIRG Coordination Committee (SCC) is to underline the benefits of SIRG membership, such as to create opportunities for networking with colleagues from all over the world, share information with them and get involved in policy related to your expertise.

As you may know, SIRG members are eligible for Council representation.

The first meeting of the SCC took place in Taipei, in June 2005, and was dedicated to making a workplan for the next couple of years. Issues included a process of standardization of SIRG organization, creating a system for updating information on the IASSID website, and producing annual overviews of meeting data and locations.

The new SSC meeting for 2006 will take place prior to or during the IASSID-Europe meeting in Maastricht. Invitations for SIRG representatives will follow in due time.

If you have any additional agenda items for this meeting, please let me know by email. (henny.lantman@hag.unimaas.nl)





2nd International Congress of IASSID-Europe Bridging Research, Policy and Practice

The 2nd International Congress of IASSID-Europe will be held at the University of Maastricht, Maastricht, the Netherlands. We hope to welcome 450 participants at this exciting congress.

Registration

Registration is now open. The early registration fee is applicable until April 30, the late registration closes at July 15. Special registration fees are available for people with ID, IASSID-members and students.

Programme

The congress will start with a plenary opening session, and a welcome reception at the Government building near the Maas river. The general format of the conference will be that of a maximum of 80 sessions, with four presentations per session on a specific theme with ample time allowed for discussion. Besides, poster presentation session will be organized. The congress will end with a plenary closing session. We are happy to announce that we received over 450 abstract submissions for both oral presentations and poster presentations. Contributors will receive notifications of acceptance before March 15.

Maastricht hotels

Maastricht is a quaint medieval town that is close to Germany and Belgium, with a charming, international character. There are block reservations at several hotels in Maastricht, which offer discounted rates to conference participants, for reservations made prior to June 2, 2006. Please make your hotel reservations via: <http://www.unimaas.nl/congresbureau/e-iassid2006/hotels.htm>

Further information

➤ internet:

<http://www.unimaas.nl/congresbureau/e-iassid2006>
use the link at the iassid-site: <http://www.iassid.org>

The IASSID 13th World
Congress
will be held on
25th – 30th August 2008
at the
International Conference Centre,
in Cape Town, South Africa



Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability

Submitted by **Keith R. McVilly PhD** (keith.mcvilly@rmit.edu.au)

ASSID, serving members primarily in Australia, New Zealand, and the South East Asian region, has recently conducted its 40th annual conference, at Auckland in New Zealand. The theme of the conference was “*Out of the ordinary: creativity, co-operation, collaboration*”, and was convened by Ms Fran Hartnett, with many thanks to her hard-working committee and to Dr Patricia O'Brien, formally of the University of Auckland and now at Trinity College Dublin, for initiating much of the groundwork and early organization of the conference.



Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities

Editor-in-Chief
Matthew P. Janicki, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago

Call for Papers

Members are invited to submit papers and brief reports for consideration of publication in JPPID. Papers should concern research on practice, reviews, or analyses of practice or policies related to intellectual disabilities. Brief reports provide information about particular outcomes of work or policy implementations. Papers and brief reports must be submitted in APA format and are submitted to peer review.

The 2006 Australasian conference is to be held at Canberra, Australia's national capital, 5th - 8th September, with the theme: “*Risk & Resilience: Hope for the Future*”. Key Note Speakers already confirmed include: Dr Stuart Todd (UK), Dr Levan Lim (Singapore), Professor Jeff Sigafoos (USA), Professor Tony Shaddock (Australia), and Professor Gwynyth Llewellyn (Australia). Other international speakers are currently being confirmed. For further details, see the ASSID Website or contact the convenor: Dr Linda Goddard of Charles Sturt University, at Albury; lgoddard@csu.edu.au.

Planning ahead, the 2007 conference is to be held at Perth, in Western Australia, possibly some time in October. Watch the ASSID website for further details. ASSID would like to extend an invitation to all IASSID SIRGs to consider holding meetings during our annual Australasian conferences. In the past, these have proven a great success for all involved; providing an organised venue for the SIRG meeting and enriching the conference with scholarly papers from around the world. Also, if you are planning a trip ‘down under’, throughout the year our seven ASSID regional associations, in each state of Australia and New Zealand, also conduct annual conferences and welcome delegates from overseas. Check the ASSID website for contact details.

During the recent Australasian conference at Auckland the ASSID Board for 2005/06 was elected: President – Dr Olive Webb; Vice President – Mr Richard O'Loughlin; Treasurer – Mr Glen Jose; Registrar – Ms Sue Peden; and Secretary (and representative to IASSID) – Dr Keith McVilly.

Dr Deb Keen (e-mail: deb.keen@uq.edu.au) of the University of Queensland continues as Editor of the ASSID magazine, *Intellectual Disability Australasia* (IDA). Dr Keen would welcome contributions from service providers overseas, particularly detailing service achievements and examples of good practice.

The Editor of ASSID's peer reviewed scientific journal, the *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability* (JIDD), Associate Professor Roger Stancliffe (e-mail: rogerst@med.usyd.edu.au) of the University of Sydney, has been appointed for a further three year term. Dr



(Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability – continued)

Stancliffe would welcome submissions from researchers from around the world. Dr Tim Griffin of the University of Western Sydney has been appointed as Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability* (JIDD) replacing, after many years dedicated service, Dr Ian Dempsey of the University of Newcastle.

The annual ASSID Journal Editor's Prize for 2005 was awarded to Dr Judith Cockram (Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University), for a paper titled *Justice or differential treatment? Sentencing of offenders with an intellectual disability* (published in Volume 30, Issue No. 1, 2005; pp. 3-13).

The annual ASSID Australasian Research Prize for 2005 was awarded to Dr Nick Hagiliassis, Ms Hrepsime Gulbenkoglou, Mr Mark Di Marco, Ms Suzanne Young (all of "Scope", Victoria) & Prof Alan Hudson (RMIT University, Melbourne) for their paper titled *The Anger Management Project: A group intervention for anger in people with physical and multiple disabilities* (published in Volume 30, Issue No. 2, 2005; pp. 86-96).

The annual ASSID Research Award for 2005 was granted to Dr Robyn Wallace, a physician in private practice in Queensland, for a proposal titled: *An investigation into the prevalence of coronary artery disease risk factors among ageing adults with intellectual disability*. In 2004, ASSID introduced a new category of membership, *Fellow of ASSID*, to recognise the 'exceptional and significant contribution to the field of intellectual disability, with broad impact, sustained over many years'. In 2005, the title of *Fellow of ASSID* was conferred on Professor Trevor Parmenter, Mr Eddie Bartnik and Mr Robert Martin.

IASSID Employment Affinity Group Roundtable

"Developing Better Ways of Employment for People with Developmental Disabilities"

**April 26-28, 2006,
St. Petersburg, Russia**

Preliminary Information

E-mail:

info@congress-ph.ru,
ph@peterlink.ru

2006 Rosemary F. Dybwad International Fellowship Trust, Inc.

The President of the Rosemary F. Dybwad International Fellowship Trust, Fred Krauss, announced that the following persons were awarded travel fellowships for 2005:

Dr. Amy Hewitt (USA) for a travel project in Australia
Dr. Patrick Devieleger (Belgium) for a travel project in the USA
Ms. Christine Marchand (USA) for a travel project in Rhutan
Dr. Gialuca Esposito (Italy) for a travel project in the USA
Dr. Elina Starobina (Russia) for a travel project in Brazil
The 2006 Fellowship Trust applications will be announced in early 2006.

For further information please contact the Trust at
thedybwadtrust@earthlink.net



Professor Robert Schalock Awarded Doctor Honoris Causa by Universidad de Salamanca

Prof. Schalock is a scientist of worldwide prestige, who has spent all his life devoted to teaching and research in the improvement of the quality of life of people with disabilities.

*Submitted by
Miguel-Angel Verdugo
Director of the INICO*

On March 14th, at the Paraninfo of the Historic Building of the University of Salamanca (Spain), the Academic Ceremony of investiture by the Universidad de Salamanca of Professor Robert Schalock as Doctor Honoris Causa took place. The Institute on Community Integration (INICO) proposed Dr. Schalock receive the maximum academic award of the University of Salamanca based on his international leadership role in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities, and for his continuous support to the activities organized by INICO. Professor Miguel Verdugo, director of INICO, defended the nomination of Schalock in the Act.

**15th SIRGAID Roundtable
Toronto Canada
April 26-29, 2006**

Ageing Impacts on Health and Quality of Life among Older Persons with Developmental Disabilities

This Roundtable will be a combined effort of the SIRGAID and the SIRGQoL. It is jointly sponsored by the University of Rochester (NY, USA), the University of Toronto (CAN), and the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (CAN). Concurrence is being sought from the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **The Roundtable will begin on the evening of April 27th and conclude in the afternoon of April 29th.**

When Schalock received the award, after giving his personal speech to the audience, stated that “ The Honorary Doctorate from the University of Salamanca represents my past achievements but also provides me with the inspiration and motivation to continue in the future to mentor future leaders in the field, and to be an integral part of the field of disabilities in our joint efforts to enhance the quality of life of those persons whom we serve, interact with, and support”.

Prof. Schalock is a scientist of worldwide prestige, who has spent all his life devoted to teaching and research in the improvement of the quality of life of people with disabilities. He is the author of many publications on this subject. His latest publication is a book, co-authored by Val Bradley and Jim Gardner, dealing with the implementation of the concept of quality of life in individuals, organizations, communities, and systems.

Likewise, Prof. Schalock is committed to the AAMR and its work, and he is on a number of their task forces and committees including those devoted to: developing an Adaptive Behavior Assessment Instrument and a Children’s Supports Intensity Scale.

IASSID World Congress 2008

By Glynis Murphy

The next IASSID World Congress 2008 is to be held in Cape Town, South Africa. This is a spectacular venue and promises to be very exciting - see the pictures on the IASSID web-site. David Felce and Glynis Murphy will be visiting the site this summer and meeting with the local organizing team.

In addition, we are starting to think about the programme for the World Congress and Glynis Murphy is writing out to SIRG chairs asking for suggestions for speakers for plenary sessions. Please contact her if you have any suggestions. Speakers from Africa would be particularly welcome.

As you probably know, there is very little research in Africa on intellectual disabilities, so the IASSID Council has agreed to set up a research fund for **Research in Africa** and has donated \$30,000. We are currently seeking further donations and all council members have been asked to seek donations from their local philanthropists and intellectual disability organizations. Information about this fund will be up on the web-site shortly, together with an application form for those wishing to apply for research grants under the programme. All research projects so funded will be asked to give a presentation in Cape Town of their study and its findings.

