

Activity Report of the IASSIDD Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities - Special Interest Research Group (SIRG-PIMD) - 2016

1. Members

The SIRG-PIMD had 49 subscribed members in 2016. The membership is decreasing: 110 in 2013 (27% of the IASSIDD-members); 96 (22%) in 2014; 56 (28%) in 2015 and 49 (10%) in 2016.

2. Board

The board members were: Bea Maes (Chair), Juliet Goldbart (Secretary, Treasurer), Annette Van der Putten, Sheridan Forster, Nan-Chieh Chen, Krysti De Zonia, Gare Fabila, Carla Vlaskamp and Peter Thorpe (webmaster).

Juliet Goldbart was nominated as representative on the IASSIDD Council, with Sheridan Forster as her alternate especially for Southern Hemisphere events.

The Board decided to have more regular communication – 6 monthly skype-based.

3. Activities

3.1. Melbourne Conference

The SIRG PIMD organized 6 symposia, 1 roundtable and 1 master lecture (C. Oliver, Intellectual disability: Does difference matter?).

About 60 presentations have been identified with regard to persons with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. A list of the abstracts and a lot of presentations have been made available through the SIRG-pages on the IASSIDD website.

3.2. Early career research meetings

The 6th Early Career Researchers Meeting was held in Melbourne (Australia) on the 19th of August 2016, a day after the IASSIDD 15th World Congress. Thirteen enthusiastic (early career) researchers with interest in people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD) came together to share their experiences and to discuss various topics related to research in people with PIMD. The definition of PIMD has been discussed, and some of the young researchers presented their research plans. The report and the presentations have been made available at the SIRG-pages on the IASSIDD website.

3.3. Carla Vlaskamp Award

The Carla Vlaskamp Award has been given to Lena Talman from Sweden. Lena is working on participation in daily life of people with PIMD.

4. Communication

There were two editions of the electronic newsletter in 2016. The newsletter informs SIRG-members about upcoming events, current research projects, new PhD's, awards, new publications, questions of members to cooperate in certain projects, etc. Sara Nijs (KU Leuven) and Leontien Bossink (RU Groningen) are coordinating the newsletter.

We updated the content of the SIRG-PIMD pages on the IASSIDD-website.

5. Plans for the future

The 8th Roundtable meeting of the SIRG-PIMD will be organized by Geneviève Petitpierre at the University of Fribourg , Switzerland. Dates are: 28 - 30 August 2017. There will also be an Early Career Researchers Meeting.

Submitted by:

Bea Maes,

Chair

02.11.2017