The purpose of a SIRG is to provide opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking between researchers and members of IASSIDD 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 interest.

Introducing the Board
- Bea Maes, Belgium, Chair
- Juliet Goldbart, UK, Treasurer / secretary and IASSID council representative
- Annette van der Putten, The Netherlands, Member
- Nan-Chieh Chen, Taiwan, Member
- Sheridan Forster, Australia, Member
- Krysti De Zonia, US, Member
- Gare Fablila, Mexico, Member

Membership
Please do consider to start or renew your IASSIDD Membership for 2018. If you do so, please do remember to select the SIRG Profound and Multiple Intellectual Disabilities as your "primary" SIRG. Please speak to your colleagues and contacts and encourage them to join our SIRG.

Information about our mission, our activities and the members of the SIRG can be found on the IASSIDD website. Members are key to the continued...
Annette van der Putten, board member of our SIRG-PIMD, has been appointed associate professor with *ius promovendi* of the special needs education focusing in particular on people with profound multiple disabilities at the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences of the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Annette will hold her inaugural lecture on April 10, 2018.

**New research project**

**Assessment in people with PIMD**

July 2017, Marleen Wessels started her PhD-project about assessment in people with PIMD at the University of Groningen under supervision of prof. dr. Annette van der Putten. Assessment is essential for gathering information about needs, wishes, abilities and preferences of people with PIMD and adapting support to them. However, there are few instruments or assessment methods specifically developed for people with PIMD and many instruments or assessment methods that are available were not studied for success and development of our activities. If people are interested, please ask them to send an email to Bea Maes (SIRG Chair).

**Upcoming events**

**5th IASSIDD Europe Congress**

*Athens, Greece, 18-20 July 2018*

In July 2018 the 5th IASSIDD Europe Congress “Diversity & Belonging: Celebrating Difference” will be organized in Athens. Call for papers is open till January 15th. [More information](#).

**IASSIDD World Congress**

*Glasgow, United Kingdom, August, 2019*

The next World Congress will take place in Glasgow, Scotland in August, 2019. More information will be available in 2018.

**Miscellaneous**
The current project will start with an inventory of assessment instruments and assessment methods that are used in practice in people with PIMD, to what goals these instruments and methods are used and what barriers professionals experience in assessment of people with PIMD. Moreover, the project will focus on determining the psychometric qualities of several assessment instruments that are used in support of people with PIMD. For more information send an e-mail to m.d.wessels@rug.nl.

Overview of protocols to assess the cognitive functioning

During the Roundtable meeting in Fribourg the question was raised to compose an overview of the various available assessment protocols to determine the level of cognitive functioning of persons with PIMD. In order to make a useful overview, we would like to ask you to fill in this questionnaire where you can provide us with information about one or various assessment protocol(s). Link to questionnaire. Together with the next newspaper in June 2018 the overview will be send to you. If you have further questions please contact Sara Nijs.

LinkedIn Group: ECRM SIRG PIMD Network

We want to point your attention to the LinkedIn group: ECR SIRG PIMD Network. This group is open to any student or researcher (junior, senior) involved in or interested in research in the field of profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD). This LinkedIn group has originated from the Early Career Researchers Meetings that have been organized alongside international IASSID congresses and roundtables of SIRG-PIMD. With this group we aim to create a platform with a low communication threshold in order to facilitate interaction and exchange of information among all researchers with interest in PIMD. This group is not meant to be an isolated group beside the current activities of the SIRG-PIMD activities. For more information
found on the [JASSIDD website](http://www.iassidd.org/content/profound-multiple-disabilities). Thanks to Genevieve and Juliane for organising this interesting Roundtable and for showing us around in a beautiful part of Switzerland.

**Early Career Researchers Meeting**

*Fribourg, Switzerland, 28 & 31 August 2018*

Before the start of the Roundtable meeting of the SIRG PIMD the early career researchers and some senior researchers gathered for the ECRM. After a short introduction, some early career researchers had the chance to present their PhD research to the group. Guided by the senior researchers, various topics were furthermore discussed in smaller groups:

1. (Video)coding, behavioural approach,
2. Integration of the families in the health path/impact of research on families, and
3. Impact of neurological impairments, input of the neurosciences in the understanding of PIMD functioning.

During the second day we discussed issues like sample size/control group/ missing data/comparative research and approaching the end of a PhD: thesis defence + what to do after a PhD in PIMD? We were pleased to see many familiar faces and to welcome the new early career researchers.

**Distribution Next Newsletters - REMINDER**

From now on, all members of the SIRG PIMD will receive the newsletter as a PDF document by email. This to ensure that all paying member receive the newsletter at any case. We will also continue with sending the newsletter to the mailing list of MailChimp to other interested parties. Everyone interested in research with PIMD is able to subscribe to this list.

If you are paying member of the SIRG and don't like to receive the newsletter twice, please click at "unsubscribe from the list" at the bottom of this email.

All past issues of our newsletter are also available on the website of [JASSIDD](http://www.iassidd.org/content/profound-multiple-disabilities) (*SIRG-PIMD; Documents and Publications*).
researchers! A more detailed report can be found on the website of the Early Career Researchers.

City walk, the old town of Fribourg

We try to compose an interesting newsletter two times a year. We would welcome any feedback on this newsletter and content for the next edition. The following newsletter will be send to you in June of 2018. Please send us your information on: Past & Upcoming Events, finished doctoral theses, new projects, interesting books, articles and announcements with regard to the group of persons with PIMD (after December 2017). Send email

Published Books and Articles


