

**Report of Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities  
IASSID Council Meeting  
June 10, 2005  
Taiwan**

**Summary of Past Year Activities**

The Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities SIRG held their second meeting at the IASSID Conference in June, 2004 in Montpellier. At this meeting a vote of thanks was recorded to Professor Tim Booth, the Inaugural Chair who contributed so much to the formation of this of this SIRG.

The Parenting SIRG mounted a very successful Parenting stream at this conference and were pleased to welcome attendees at the conference sessions to the SIRG meeting with encouragement for them to join the SIRG and further advance its activities.

The major focus in the past year was the successful mounting of this Parenting stream with plans to ensure an active and vibrant presence of SIRG members at the 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific IASSID conference and subsequently for 2006 at the IASSID Europe conference in Maastricht in 2006.

In addition, several key areas have been identified for particular attention by the SIRG with active encouragement of members to present papers in these areas and to explore opportunities particularly for international studies on these topics. The areas are health and psychopathology, fathers and fathering, advocacy and the parent voice, epidemiology and ethics concerns.

Following the completion of the first term of office for members of the SIRG Executive, several members of the Executive expressed their interest in standing for nomination. This was particularly pleasing given the need to provide steady direction in this early stage of the SIRG to ensure its ongoing development. After a general call for nominations was extended to the SIRG membership via the listserv on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005, one additional nomination was received from Professor George H S Singer.

The new Executive Committee of the Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities SIRG is as follows:

Chair: Professor Gwynnyth Llewellyn, Australia  
Deputy Chair: Dr David McConnell, Australia  
Secretary/ Treasurer: Professor Peter Vietze, USA  
Executive members:  
Dr Sue McGaw United Kingdom  
Dr Marie Gustavsson Holstrom, Sweden  
Dr Jytte Faureholm, Denmark  
Professor Rannveig Traustadottir, Iceland  
Professor George Singer, USA

### **Plans for Upcoming Year**

1. To ensure good representation at 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific IASSID Conference in Taipei, June 2005. The Parents and Parenting SIRC is well represented in a Parenting Stream with a meeting scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and 3 full symposia sessions on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. To explore opportunities for cross country collaboration and particularly in areas identified as critical concerns and noted above in summary of past year activities.
3. To attract additional members to the SIRC and to promote our activities by way of the Parenting Listserv and the SIRC's website attached to the IASSID website.
4. To ensure ongoing and timely reporting of member's activities worldwide and in particular to announce new publications, research and development activities and policy issues or development and public media attention to parents and parenting with intellectual disabilities.
4. To identify appropriate ways to effectively utilize additional SIRC membership fees including for example student sponsorship for presentations at IASSID conferences.

### **Issues or Acting Items**

To further streamline pathway between IASSID Council and the SIRC to ensure timely relay of IASSID members indicating their interest in the Parents and Parenting SIRC to the Secretary/ Treasurer to ensure that interested parties have full access to SIRC activities.

### **Discussion Points for Council**

1. The SIRC requests an update on the progress of new and streamlined pathways of communication from the IASSID Executive to the SIRC's as discussed by the incoming President in Montpellier. The SIRC continues to experience difficulty in getting timely information about the membership base.
2. The SIRC is keen to put forward a keynote speaker on the topic of parents and parenting with intellectual disabilities given the increasing research, practitioner and media attention given to people with intellectual disability as parents. The first opportunity would be at IASSID Europe in 2006 and the SIRC wishes to explore the opportunity to do this.