



## International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

### President's Report to Council 2006

August, Maastricht

Reviewing the highlights of the year is as usual very heartening:

1. 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*.
2. Henny Lantman, Marian Maaskant and Wil Buntinx have equally well organised the Second IASSID-Europe Conference, which we look forward to over the next few days. About 430 papers will be presented by 340 presenters. Registration has been strong and it looks like we will be at maximum capacity again. The conference abstracts are published in the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*.
3. SIRG meetings are an established part of the annual calendar too. The Aging SIRG met in Dortmund last year and in Toronto this April. 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 also met in Canada earlier this year, and the Employment Affinity group organised a Roundtable in April in St Petersburg.
4. 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).
5. We have agreed a new logo. This logo may be used for all IASSID meetings (e.g., regional and SIRG conferences). Please check with the Executive whether it is appropriate to use the logo for other purposes (e.g., meetings involving IASSID through participation of its officers or the officers of SIRGs).

6. We signed a new agreement of co-operation with the *International Society for Alternative and Augmentative Communication* and we have made a similar agreement of co-operation with *Down Syndrome International*.
7. The finances of the Association are still in a good state. It was important that the Asia-Pacific Conference broke even. IASSID provided a grant to support scholarships, but otherwise Lisa Wang produced a cost neutral budget. Our thanks go to Lisa for her tremendous local fund raising effort which underpinned this.
8. Clearly, 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. Any suggestion from Council Members or SIRGs on how to broaden the base of our attempts to gain sponsorship for delegates from developing countries to attend our meetings would be greatly appreciated.
9. We will have our second planning meeting in Cape Town for the 2008 World Congress in August. We are still keen to use the Congress in Cape Town as a means to promote our field throughout Africa. The Africa research fund is being launched.
10. As I reported last year, a procedure is now in place for IASSID to assess proposals for publications which will carry IASSID endorsement. Any suggestions for publications which IASSID may wish to commission would be appreciated.
11. 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".
12. We had a constructive meeting in Montréal in May to further plans to hold a meeting in Chile next year in collaboration with the Pan America Health Organization. A human rights lawyer in Santiago, Soledad Cisternas Reyes, has agreed to be a local organiser. Miguel-Angel Verdugo is playing a key role for IASSID alongside Patricia Walsh and Matt Janicki.
13. IASSID was well represented as co-sponsor of the International Summit for the Alliance on Social Inclusion in Montréal in May, with members organizing symposia and presenting papers. The meeting was a great success.
14. Keith McVilly, Trevor Parmenter and Matt Janicki are making advance arrangements with colleagues in Singapore for the Second Conference of IASSID-Asia Pacific.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to IASSID's activities in 2005/6.

David Felce  
President