

**Report of SIRG Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities
IASSID Council Meeting
At E-IASSID, Maastricht August 2006**

Summary of Past Year Activities

The Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities SIRG held their third meeting at the first Asia Pacific IASSID Conference in May, 2005 in Taipei.

Although the Parenting SIRG did not formally mount a Parenting stream at this conference there were several presentations primarily from Australia on parenting for people with intellectual disabilities. These presentations attracted good audiences and a great deal of interest from attendees.

The Parenting SIRG held an informal meeting with attendees including Professor Hans Reinders to discuss, in particular, the symposia for the IASSID Europe conference in Maastricht in 2006. The meeting agreed to approach the Chairs of the E-IASSID conference with a proposal to have parenting as a keynote topic. The meeting also agreed to actively pursue several symposia building on the topics agreed at Montpelier.

The 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

The Parenting listserv has again been of benefit to members. Up to date information is regularly shared by this list serv about events in member countries. For example, the development and implementation of the Australian National Strategy for Parents with Learning Difficulties; the release of the UK Report, *Finding the Right Support?* prepared by our colleagues at the Norah Fry Research Centre, University of Bristol.

Plans for Upcoming Year

1. To ensure good representation at E-IASSID at Maastricht in August, 2006.
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 SIRG and to promote our activities by way of the Parenting Listserv and the SIRG'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 SIRG 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 SIRG to ensure timely relay of IASSID members indicating their interest in the Parents and Parenting SIRG to the Secretary/ Treasurer to ensure that interested parties have full access to SIRG activities.

Discussion Points for Council

1. The SIRG requests an update on the progress of new and streamlined pathways of communication from the IASSID Executive to the SIRG's as discussed by the incoming President in Montpellier. The SIRG continues to experience difficulty in getting timely information about the membership base and subscriptions due to the SIRG.
2. The SIRG is keen to be informed about the Council's strategy, timeline and process in publishing books on the area of interests of the SIRGS. It would be helpful for example if there was an identified plan and timeline so that SIRG members could mobilize their efforts to work towards an outstanding international publication in a timely and orderly way.
3. The SIRG is also keen to be informed about the strategy in place to secure special editions of the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*. It may be helpful for example to have a schedule of special editions with SIRG's signing up well ahead of time to coordinate a special edition in their area of expertise and interest.