

Report on the Mental Health SIRG

IASSID Council Meeting 2007

Summary

The MH-SIRG contributed to the programme at the Maastricht IASSID meeting held in 2006. A business meeting was held at that time to discuss the future of the SIRG and what topics might be covered. It was noted that there is competition from other conferences that cover mental health and ID. Joint meetings with other SIRGs had been generally successful but we had failed to establish a core membership that was willing to organise meetings and to develop the SIRG further. There was discussion about the need for a small meeting to establish standards of training in psychiatry and psychology with respect to ID. This is at present on hold.

Since the Maastricht meeting a proposal has been put to IASSID to establish a SIRG on challenging behaviour. Tony Holland, as co-chair of the MH-SIRG, has expressed concern about the SIRGs becoming too focussed and losing the benefit of a multi-disciplinary perspective. E-mail correspondence with the MH-SIRG committee has indicated that there is support for seeking a joint SIRG that brings MH and CB, and the different perspectives these are seen to represent, together.

Tony Holland was invited to represent that MH-SIRG at the first meeting of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) in Sub-Sahara Africa held in 2007. The WPA has established a sub-section devoted to ID and the MH-SIRG has a formal link with this group.

Meetings

No meeting has been arranged for 2007. It is anticipated that the MH-SIRG will contribute to the programme for the meeting in SA in 2008.

Points for consideration at council

- Future structure of SIRGs
- The re-establishment of the MH-SIRG as MH and CB
- The role of SIRGs in general for the SA meeting

Tony Holland

May 2007