

IASSID Council Singapore

Academy report

This report is an update to council of activities carried out and planned since Cape Town. There are three main developments: the planning and running of 2 workshops, the development of 2 major series of workshops, and considerations for further development of the Academy due to its growth and development. In addition there are brief comments concerning the budgetary situation of the Academy.

1) There have been two workshops

Both of these workshops were successful and evaluations indicate that on all categories the workshop and the presenters were rated on average in the top two categories of the 5 point scale which we normally use. For India The Academy purchased about 50 - 512 MB USB drives on which were loaded all of the videos, article copies, and other handouts. Reaction to receiving the USB drives was very favorable.

a) Promoting social relationships and friendships for people with intellectual disability. 19 – 20 February 2009 Singapore at NCSS

Presenter Keith McVilly PhD (Australia)

Participants 23. Certificates of attendance provided.

b) Aging and developmental disabilities. One-day workshop 11th March 2009. Lebenshilfe for the Mentally Handicapped, Visakhapatnam, India

Presenters: Matthew P. Janicki Ph.D. and Ronald Lucchino Ph.D. (USA)

Participants 50 -34 Certificates awarded

2) The **development of two major series of workshops.** The Academy advertised both series of workshops and initiated the planning procedure by circulating information to all chairs of SIRGS with a request to circulate all their members.

a) Academy workshops pre-and post-ISSID Asia-Pacific conference, Singapore June/July

<p><u>WORKSHOP #1</u></p> <p>Numeracy & literacy development across the lifespan for learners with Down Syndrome</p> <p>Dr Rhonda Faragher ()</p>	<p><u>WORKSHOP #5</u></p> <p>Workshop #5</p> <p>InterAACtion: strategies for unintentional and intentional communicators</p> <p>Hilary Johnson M.A (Ed), Dip.SpTh, & Karen Bloomberg M.Sc. (Audiology & Speech) (Australia)</p>
<p><u>WORKSHOP #3</u></p> <p>Behavioural manifestations in complex developmental disabilities of dual diagnosis and Autism - How to understand them and how to deal with them</p> <p>Dr Nehama Baum Canada</p>	<p><u>WORKSHOP #7</u></p> <p>Understanding the impact of puberty in women with disabilities</p> <p>Dr Margaret Kyrkou (Australia)</p>
<p><u>WORKSHOP #4</u></p> <p>Individual and Family Quality of Life: an overview and implications for practice.</p> <p>Dr Roy Brown, Dr Ivan Brown (Canada) & guest speakers Dr Alice Schippers (Netherlands) & Karen Watchman MSc, Scotland & Dra Gare Fabila (Mexico).</p>	<p><u>WORKSHOP #8</u></p> <p>Assessment of Violence & Risk in Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities</p> <p>Associate Professor Douglas Boer (New Zealand)</p>

Throughout the development of these workshops (a further workshop was canceled due to low registration), there has been very close cooperation with the program committee of the Asia Pacific Singapore conference, which has included discussion with many of its members. Dr. McVilly, Conference Program Chair and also a member of the Academy Board has provided continuous encouragement and support. Several agencies in Singapore have supported these workshops through the donation of space, equipment and technical support. In particular these included the Rainbow Centre, Singapore and Singapore Down Syndrome Society. In addition, because of acute shortage of space, the NCSS obtained grants from the government of Singapore and provided accommodation grants for local travel and room and board for Academy presenters. The Academy has also charged entry fees for its

other workshops which range from half to two full days. The popularity of certain workshops (numeracy & Literacy and Understanding the impact of puberty in women with disabilities) had such high enrollments that repeat sessions have been arranged. The Academy works with presenters to ensure that the PowerPoint material is archived. Colleagues have been most generous in this regard.

b) Academy joint venture with YAYASAN SULTAN IDRIS SHAH, Ipoh, Malaysia.

The Academy was approached by Dr Mitch Clark, Social Work & Disability Studies, Mount Royal College, who is a member of Iassid, and invited to collaborate in their joint venture with YAYASAN SULTAN IDRIS SHAH. The YAYASAN SULTAN IDRIS SHAH, except for certificates, is covering all costs. At the time-of writing over 200 registrations have occurred though some participants have registered in more than one workshop. The workshops are largely for front-line personnel in an area, which we understand, is desperate for training and expertise.

Workshop A [Dr. Ivan Brown] Canada]

19TH JUNE 2009 Historical and Current Views of
2PM-5PM Disability

20TH JUNE 2009 Quality of Life- An Introduction
9AM-12.30PM

2PM-5PM Providing Flexible Services
Lessons from Canada

21ST JUNE 2009 The Difficult Task of Choosing
9AM-12.30PM What to Do; Ethical Dilemmas of
Support Workers

Workshop B [Dr. Angela Hassiotis UK& Dr. Nancy Jokinen, Canada]

29TH JUNE 2009 Specific Disabling Conditions
9AM – 5PM

30TH JUNE 2009 Supporting Persons with
9AM – 5PM Challenging Behaviors

1ST JULY 2009 Supporting Families
9AM – 5PM

2ND JULY 2009 Summary and Building on Staff's
9AM – 5PM Capabilities and Skills

Workshop C [Dr. Margaret Kyrkou, Australia]

3RD JULY 2009 Disabling factors before birth & development during the first year of life.

9AM – 5PM

4TH JULY 2009 The central nervous system, abnormalities, injury & epilepsy

9AM – 5PM

c) Development of the Academy

The Academy has expanded its development. The evaluations of all workshops have proved more than satisfactory. It will be seen from the above that a very considerable amount of work is involved in preparation and the Academy has broadened its range of content in workshops and its presenters are from different countries. However, both inside and outside the Academy Board there is interest in broadening the range of speakers with a hope that we will include in future people from other parts of the world, particularly Asia. Several letters have been received complimenting the Academy of its work and requests asking for further assistance. At the inception of the Academy a number of comments were made about modes of delivery, one of which was the use of online workshops. Part of the Mexico workshop in the first year was delivered via the web, and use is made of a variety of technical aids. However it was thought important in the first period of development to ensure that the Academy could function effectively, provide valuable and useful workshops in different communities, and prove attractive to a wide range of audiences. A second stage would be to explore the use of the Internet and online delivery along with other media resources. These are expensive if they are going to be carried out at a high level of academic quality and this costs money. The Academy believes it can now explore this venture and it is suggested that the Academy appoint a committee to explore how the Academy might develop this side of its potential activities. Such a committee might well involve representatives from Sirgs. There is a strong view that face-to-face workshops remain extremely important to teaching in developing countries where there is a need to have demonstration based on experience and research that has practical relevance to the communities involved.

Because of the growth of the Academy's work and interests of members the Academy is discussing the possibility of forming a small executive group to oversee the development and approval of workshops and seminars. The Academy requires

substantial amount of detail regarding the objectives, curriculum and the delivery of its workshops. It also examines curriculum vitae of prospective presenters. For these reasons the Academy is discussing the wisdom of appointing an associate director, but also partly because it is desirable to train up a successor to the current director.

Several presenters have been requested by their universities to request that their university is recognized on certificates. This is obviously a two-way process and increases the status of our workshops.

Academy finances

Dr Janicki, Academy treasurer has provided a summary of the Academy's financials since its inception. The proposed budget for 2010 will be provided to the IASSID treasurer by agreement after the Boards June meeting. As director I would like to indicate that the Academy has been the trying hard to move to a cost neutral position as requested by IASSID. This year has seemed considerable progress in this direction as indicated by comments above. The amount of carryover from 2009 is likely to be considerable, and should reduce substantially the amount requested of IASSID, particularly as both an outside grant and participant fees are likely to play an increasing role in the Academy's finances.

Concluding comments

The Board of the Academy is meeting in Singapore and agenda and background information have been circulated to board members so they may have input whether or not they are attending the Singapore meeting. The decisions of f this meeting along with the final registration and evaluation of the current workshops will be reported subsequently.

Future workshops are being planned with interest from China for later in 2009 and Italy for 2010. Colleagues in Mexico have also indicated to us that once the economic situation improves in Mexico they will request further involvement of the Academy.

Blackwell has given permission for Academy to use PDFs of articles published in JPPID and JIDR.

It is with regret that we have received Dr Ann Turnbull's resignation for personal reasons- her comments on the development of and the need for the Academy are rewarding. The Board is looking into a replacement.

Respectfully submitted

Roy I Brown Director and Chair

IASSID Academy,

June, 2009