

President's Report to IASSID Executive

Rome: March 26th/27th March 2010

1. IASSID Website

Neil, Phil and Helene have spent a lot of time redesigning the website, which looks much better and seems to work well for eg paying dues. We will be discussing further work on the website during the executive meeting but would like to thank Neil, Phil, Helene for their work so far.

2. Finances

Phil Davidson has taken over from Matt Janicki and has worked really hard to ensure the financial systems are working well.

SIRG finances are much clearer and membership payment is working better on the new website.

Phil and I and others have had a number of discussions relating to finances (in Halifax, over email and over phone). There are some difficult issues relating to funding of JPPID and the Academy which we will be discussing at this executive meeting

3. Conferences

IASSID Europe Oct 2010: abstract submission has just closed and we have a record number of submissions. Personally I felt the submission system was not flexible, simple or effective. Georgio, David and others will, I am sure, be discussing this in the executive meeting, along with plans for preparing the abstract booklet and timetable.

IASSID South America 2011: Jan and I (and others) have discussed the plans for a possible conference in Brazil, to include some IASSID speakers and some local speakers. Jan has done some further planning and will present suggestions for discussion at the executive meeting.

IASSID World Congress: Vianne, Helene, David, Neil, Phil and others met (some of us virtually) in Halifax in November last year. Those of us there in person viewed the venue and met Halifax personnel. Vianne has been planning the World Congress and will up-date us during the executive meeting. One of the big decisions will be whether we decide to run our own abstract submission and registration systems.

IASSID Asia Pacific: Will be in Japan. No news to report as yet. However in the last Asia Pacific conference in Singapore an Asia Pacific regional special interest group was formed and Keith McVilly has some proposals to present to us from that group during the executive meeting.

4. Academy

The review of the Academy has been underway for some months now. It is

being led by Prof Seamus Hegarty and he is assisted by Geert van Hove. I sent them a detailed letter of instruction (circulated to exec members previously). They had hoped to report by March but various delays mean that this date has been pushed back (they will certainly report by Council meeting Oct 2010). I have had a number of discussions with them over the phone, including recently to clarify the conditions of approval of the Academy (as agreed by the exec meeting in Cardiff 2007).

5. **WHO**

After years of having difficulty engaging with WHO we now seem to be having active engagement, including in writing / contributing to a document on evidence based aspects of intellectual disabilities in children, to which a number of IASSID exec and council members are contributing. Eric Emerson is to be congratulated on engaging with WHO. He is bringing some suggestions to the executive meeting for discussion.

6. **SIRGs**

I have had relatively little contact from SIRGs – Bob may have other news for us.

One item we do need to consider is a position paper from the CB/MH SIRG submitted by Dave Allen. He would like this considered by the executive with a clear path for getting it accepted by IASSID as a whole. It would be useful to make sure precisely how we want to deal with such papers now and in the future.