



## **International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities**

Association Internationale pour l'Étude Scientifique des Déficiences Intellectuelles

Internationale Vereinigung zum wissenschaftlichen Studium von Intelligenzstörungen

Asociacion Internacional para el Estudio Científico del Deficiencia Intelectual

Associacao Internacional para o Estudo Científico da Deficiência Intelectual

## **國際知的障害研究協會**

February 1, 2005

Dear Council Member:

As President, David would like to increase the interplay between the IASSID Executive and Council and to hold periodic telephone or internet meetings so we can discuss Council business. You will recall that we discussed the possibility of a video conference in January when we met in Montpellier last June. We looked into the possibility of this but it was not practical, so we have decided to mount an electronic information exchange instead. We hope that this will enable everyone to keep in touch with developments and allow you to let us have your suggestions. We will have the opportunity to meet in person at the Asia-Pacific meeting in Taipei in June 10-12, 2005. After that, we meet in Maastricht in August, 2006. The idea will be to have an electronic exchange every year in a convenient time in between Council meetings.

The IASSID executive met in September, 2004 and are due to meet again this March. [The minutes from the September meeting are attached.](#)

We discussed the committee structure at the last Executive and confirmed suggested committee membership and assignments. Vianne has written to you already to tell you about which committees you are being asked to join and which Executive member is the chair. You will shortly be hearing from the committee chair, who will be setting up virtual meetings and outlining the committee's work plan. Your ideas and contributions to the committee are most welcome and in fact very necessary for its smooth functioning. **If you have suggestions about what you might do to contribute to the work of the committee, or initiatives that you think the committee should take, please send them to the committee chair.**

### **Finance**

(i) Final account from Montpellier. We are still chasing the final few payments but it is clear that it was successful financially - contributing to an increase in operating capital in

the region of 350,000 euros. Two main factors contributed to this: (a) we had much more sponsorship support than usual, (b) paid registrations exceeded break-even point.

The majority of sponsorship support came from within France, via contacts made by Neil and Charles Aussilloux. It is unlikely that we will get similar support from within South Africa. In Montpellier, we supported about 200 delegates at highly discounted/free registration. The demand from countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America for support to attend IASSID Congresses will increase the more the Association becomes genuinely global. One way Council or SIRG members can help broaden the base of our attempts to collect sponsorship would be to develop commercial or other contacts in your own countries who would be willing to sponsor delegates from developing countries to attend our meetings. **Please let us know about contributions you might make in this area.**

(ii) 2004-2008 budget for supporting costs of administration. Our aim is to begin to put the Association on a sufficiently sound financial footing that officers who administer the working of the Association can receive some support. Our priorities are support for the Treasurer, Secretary and Webmaster. Nearer the time, we will want to help the President-elect as her work on the Cape Town Congress builds up. We are therefore looking to invest a substantial proportion of our operating capital for an annual revenue.

(iii) We decided to make the Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities, IASSID's own journal, part of the membership entitlement. We are still able to offer the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research to members at the same (uplifted in line with price increases) very favourable rate. We are aware that there are always risks when membership rates and benefits change. **Please let us have your reactions.**

## **Secretarial Matters**

(i) Vianne would like to obtain short bios and electronic pictures from all of you all for developing the Council section of the website. **Please forward this information to [vtimmons@upei.ca](mailto:vtimmons@upei.ca). Your contact information is on the website - please check your entry and let us know about changes you would like to make. Please also remember to let us know about changes in the future.**

(ii) Benefits of membership. We are always looking to enhance benefits for our members. **Please let us know of suggestions which you think we could develop.**

(iii) Newsletter. This will now be electronically distributed. **Please send in to Vianne [vtimmons@upei.ca](mailto:vtimmons@upei.ca) any suggestions, short articles, reports or announcements for inclusion by March 1, 2005**

## **13th World Congress - Cape Town**

(i) Matt, Glynis and David visited Cape Town in December. [Glynis' report is attached.](#) Plus points are the venue is modern with good-sized spaces, located with lots of nearby hotel accommodation, and just a short walk from the waterfront (an area of shops & restaurants). Downside points are slightly fewer parallel session rooms than in Montpellier (so will promote greater presentation of posters) and question about ease of availability of lunch provision (although all hotels have restaurants). The walk to the waterfront is about 10-20 minutes depending on speed of walking, and weather during early Spring can not be entirely relied upon. In recent events, we have been reluctant to include catered lunches within the conference as it cuts down flexibility for delegates (not all delegates want a set lunch every day) and puts up the registration fee. If lunch break was long, it may be possible for everyone to eat off site, but then some might prefer the option of a catered lunch. **Please let us know your thinking about this.**

(ii) IASSID is keen to use the Congress in Cape Town as a means to promote our field throughout Africa. Glynis has suggested that we collect donations from governments, trusts and businesses for a fund to provide grants for research in Africa, probably through a partnership between local researchers and established centres in the developed world, the results of which can be presented at the IASSID World Congress in Cape Town in 2008. The Executive is unanimous in its support. It will take a tremendous money-raising effort to be a significant initiative. **Please let us know your ideas and how you might contribute to the effort.**

## **Publications**

A procedure is now in place for IASSID to assess proposals for publications which will carry IASSID endorsement. The review process will be co-ordinated by Tony Holland. **Please bring any suggestions you have for IASSID publications to Tony.** ([ajh1008@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ajh1008@cam.ac.uk))

## **SIRG/Affinity Group/Research Centre Co-ordination + Eastern Europe**

Henny Lantman is developing this role. Essentially, we have felt that SIRGs/Affinity Groups/Research Centres would appreciate regular contact and interest in their affairs from the leadership of the Association and it would at times be useful to have a means of co-ordinating activity (to avoid clashes or to promote collaboration). In addition, Henny is interested in strengthening the involvement which Eastern European countries are playing in our activities. **Please send any suggestions you have on this to Henny.** ([henny.lantman@hag.unimaas.nl](mailto:henny.lantman@hag.unimaas.nl))

## **WHO Liaison/EU liaison**

As you will know, IASSID benefits from having NGO status. However, NGOs are expected to pursue a workplan in return for such status. We need to review our past workplan and begin to set some new directions. We have therefore thought it wise to have a focus person who can work on this agenda. Patricia Walsh is developing this role. She will also lead on IASSID's relationship with the EU. **If any members feel that they could contribute IASSID initiatives which can be of benefit to the WHO, please feel free to contact Patricia. ([patricia.walsh@ucd.ie](mailto:patricia.walsh@ucd.ie))**

## **Constitutional affairs**

The big development here is the decision to appoint one committee to constitute both the Awards Committee and Nominations Committee. Stephen Kealy will chair. We want to keep the issue of deciding awardees and potential office holders continuously on the agenda. Beginning work now will give a long lead in to Cape Town in 2008. **Any suggestions to Stephen ([scjmclinic@eircom.net](mailto:scjmclinic@eircom.net))**.

## **Website**

The website is now quite extensive. It is therefore an increasing challenge to keep up-to-date and accurate. **Please make a note of things which need up-dating when you are visiting the website and let Neil know what needs to change (please supply corrected text). If you have any other suggestions or ideas for contributions you could make, please feel free to contact Neil ([njross@compuserve.com](mailto:njross@compuserve.com)).**

In closing, we would welcome your comments on whether you have found this electronic exchange useful and any suggestions about how we might improve it when we do it again. As the Council only meets yearly, we know from our own experience that it can take Council Members a long time to get the feel of their role and their contribution to IASSID - it can all seem rather mysterious - particularly if for some reason or another one cannot attend every meeting. The aim here is to explain more about what is going on in between meetings and to give you the opportunity to initiate developments and work to further the Association. We have organised this distribution as a listserv.

**Please reply to the underlined issues and give us feedback.**

Thank you for your time and effort.