



## International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities

Prof. David Felce, President

Email: felce@cardiff.ac.uk

4 March 2006

Dear Council Member:

The previous electronic information exchange at about this time last year seemed to fulfil its objectives of helping everyone to stay more in touch with IASSID developments. Certainly, there was a feeling that Council Members coming to the meeting in Taipei felt better prepared to contribute to the discussion and the decisions made. Please feel free to give the Executive Members your opinions about the further development of the Association. Specifically, if you have ideas about how to facilitate better interchange, let us know.

The next Executive Meeting is in May, the day before the International Summit in Montreal. Please let Vianne know if you are attending that meeting so that I can organise a briefing and discussion session if numbers are sufficient. Beyond that we are looking forward to the Council Meeting in Maastricht in August before the 2nd IASSID-Europe Conference.

Reviewing the highlights of the year is as usual very heartening:

1. First and foremost, Lisa Wang organised and staged an excellent Inaugural Congress of IASSID-Asia Pacific in June, 2005. There was a strong scientific programme from the region, the venue and hospitality arrangements were of the highest quality and all aspects of presentation were utterly professional. The Congress was completely successful in its aim to bring together researchers from the region and provide a forum for exchange of their work. The congress abstracts are being published in the *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.

/...2

2. Henny Lantman, Marian Maaskant and Wil Buntinx are in the home straight in their organisation of the Second IASSID-Europe Conference. The Call for Papers has closed with over 400 abstracts accepted. It looks like we will be at maximum capacity again.
3. SIRG meetings are an established part of the annual calendar too. The Aging SIRG met in Dortmund last year and will meet this year in April in Toronto. The Physical and Mental Health SIRGs held their second joint meeting in Melbourne last September. The Profound and Multiple Disabilities SIRG met in Bruges in October. The Quality of Life SIRG is also planning to meet in Canada this coming April, in Vancouver, and the Employment Affinity group is organising a Roundtable in April in St Petersburg.
4. The Quality of Life SIRG sponsored a special issue of the *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research* (2005, **49**, 695-811), following the example two years ago of the Family SIRG and their double issue on family research (2003, **47**, 215-399). A number of the plenary addresses from the World Congress in Montpellier were published in the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* (2005, **18**, 279-344).
5. We have agreed a new logo. This logo may be used for all IASSID meetings (e.g., regional and SIRG conferences). Please check with the Executive whether it is appropriate to use the logo for other purposes (e.g., meetings involving IASSID through participation of its officers or the officers of SIRGs).
6. We signed a new agreement of co-operation with the *International Society for Alternative and Augmentative Communication*. We are proposing also to make a similar agreement of co-operation with *Down Syndrome International*.
7. The finances of the Association are still in a good state. It was important that the Asia-Pacific Conference broke even. IASSID provided a grant to support scholarships, but otherwise Lisa Wang produced a cost neutral budget. Our thanks go to Lisa for her tremendous local fund raising effort which underpinned this.
8. Clearly, as the number of IASSID events increases and we advance our truly worldwide identity, then the demand from countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America for support to attend our meetings will increase. Any suggestion from Council Members or SIRGs on how to broaden the base of our attempts to gain sponsorship for delegates from developing countries to attend our meetings would be greatly appreciated.

IASSID Council Members

4 March 2006

Page 3 of 3

9. We will have our second planning meeting in Cape Town for the 2008 World Congress in August. We are still keen to use the Congress in Cape Town as a means to promote our field throughout Africa, although we have had limited success so far in attracting sponsors for the Africa research fund.
10. As I reported last year, a procedure is now in place for IASSID to assess proposals for publications which will carry IASSID endorsement. Any suggestions for publications which IASSID may wish to commission would be appreciated.
11. Our agreement with the WHO has been renewed. IASSID will support the WHO's development of an international atlas on intellectual disabilities where it can. Tangentially related to this, Eric Emerson is leading an editorial team to produce a special issue of the *Journal of Policy & Practice in Intellectual Disabilities* on "Intellectual Disability Policy and Practice in Low and Middle Income Countries". Anyone interested should note the call for contributions in the next issue of *JPPID*.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to IASSID's growing impact during 2005.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Felce".

David Felce, President