

SIRG-PIMD NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the IASSID Special Interest Research Group on Persons with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities

July 2007

Membership

In May we have received an overview of the paying IASSID-members that are registered as a member of our SIRG-PIMD. This number totals up to 50 members. We were very surprised and pleased by that number. The SIRG-PIMD includes 11% of all IASSID-members that join one or more SIRGs. But this number could be larger, since at this moment 148 persons (!!) are listed on our SIRG-mailinglist. First of all, we want to thank all those who join the SIRG-PIMD. You may be aware of the new policy of IASSID. In summary, this is, IASSID-members are free to choose any SIRG they want to join, without paying an extra fee. Each SIRG now receives an initial set amount of funding which is then topped up according to the number of members registered for each SIRG. This is very important for us, because it gives us the possibility to organise roundtables, young researchers meetings, newsletters etc. If you are not yet an official IASSID-member, you may still start or renew your membership fee, see www.iassid.org. Please speak to your colleagues and contacts and encourage them to join our SIRG. They will find information about our mission, our activities and the members of the SIRG on www.sirgpmd.be. Members are key to the continued success and development of our activities. If people are interested, please ask them to send a mail to the SIRG-PIMD-secretary (erik.lenaerts@ped.kuleuven.be).

Conferences

21st-22nd September 2007 - European Conference on Cerebral Palsy in Adolescence and Adulthood – Potsdam - Germany

This conference is organised by the European Association of Intellectual Disability Medicine and Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Ärzte für Menschen mit geistiger oder mehrfacher Behinderung. The programme is targeted at physicians and physiotherapists but will be broad enough for other health professionals involved in CP care to attend.

7th -8th November 2007 - Roundtable SIRG-PIMD – Dundee, Scotland

The next roundtable of our SIRG will be organised by James Hogg (White Top Research Unit, University of Dundee), Loretto Lambe (PAMIS, Dundee) and Martin Campbell (St Andrews University). It will take place on the 8th and 9th of November 2007 in Dundee (Scotland), hopefully with a visit to St Andrews included. Details about the venue and the programme etc will be announced

during the month of September, or earlier if available. In the meantime, please put these dates in your diaries!

25th-30th August 2008 – IASSID 13th World Conference – Cape Town – South Africa

The next IASSID World Congress will be held in Cape Town from the 25th till the 30th of August 2008. For further information see www.iassid.org. Prof. Carla Vlaskamp, from the Netherlands, will be a keynote speaker on profound and multiple disability. Before the congress a workshop will be organised about persons with profound and multiple disabilities for delegates from African countries. At the roundtable this November we will make more concrete arrangements about the symposia that we will organise with the SIRG-PIMD-see also below.

Papers and Symposia on Persons with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities for the IASSID Congress, Cape Town, 25 - 30, August 2008

Our SIRG is coordinating the PIMD symposia and papers for the 2008 Congress. We plan to make a preliminary proposal of this programme and to discuss it on the roundtable in November. To be able to do this, we invite you to submit ideas for papers, posters or proposals for a symposium, on any topic of interest about persons with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities. Papers can cover a wide variety of topics, type and level of intervention and disciplines. Possible ideas for symposia are: PIMD and health issues, PIMD and quality of life, PIMD and education, PIMD and interventions, PIMD and parents, PIMD and assessment, PIMD and social inclusion, PIMD and services, etc. Please send all your ideas and suggestions to: bea.maes@ped.kuleuven.be by the end of September, so that we can draft a programme proposal for discussion at the roundtable. For suggested papers please just send me the name(s) of the proposed presenters and the title of the presentation. Abstracts etc will be dealt with at a later stage.

New PhDs

During the last year several young researchers have successfully defended their doctoral dissertation about persons with PIMD:

Mrs. Chen, Nan-chieh (2006). *Human being as Dialogue and Shūnjatā – Transcultural study on Special Education for persons with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities*. Köln: University of Köln. (ncchen@gmail.com)

Mrs. Petry, Katja (2006). *Measuring the quality of life of people with profound multiple disabilities. Development of a questionnaire*. Leuven: KULeuven. (katja.petry@ped.kuleuven.be)

Mrs. Tadema, Annemarie (2007). *From policy to practice. Developments in the education of children with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities*. Groningen: University of Groningen. (a.c.tadema@rug.nl)

Our congratulations to all of them.

Colloquium for PhD Students

The colloquium for PhD students in Maastricht was attended by 17 persons and was very much appreciated by the participants. Collin Griffiths has written a report on the colloquium which you can find on our website (www.sirgpmid.be/reports.php)

Publications

James Hogg was the guest editor of a Special Issue on Profound and Multiple Disabilities of the *Journal of Practice and Policy in Intellectual Disability*, 4 (2). Several members of our SIRG have made contributions to this special issue. For an overview of the contributions, see www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/ppi/4/2

Website

Our website is still available at www.sirgpmid.be. There are sections about our mission, membership, board members, events, reports and a members' section. Please remember to fill in your **membercard**. You can find it by clicking on the Member Section link in the navigation menu on the left. You will be prompted to enter a login and password: the login is 'member' and the password is 'specialist' (without the quotation marks). Please note that this login is the same for everyone, and that the member section is not accessible without it. By filling in the member card, all members will have more easy access to each other.

We are also building a section about **current research projects**. A form to fill in details about current or recently finished research projects or research programs will be found by clicking on the Research Section link in the navigation menu. We invite you to fill in those forms so that every member may be informed about current projects about persons with PIMD.

European Masters Degree

The universities of Groningen (the Netherlands), Köln (Germany), Leuven (Belgium) and St Andrews (Scotland) are planning the development of a European Masters about persons with PIMD. The degree would take 2 years. Minimal requirements would be a bachelors degree (academic or professional). The degree is aimed at front-line staff, therapists, managers and any professional or parent who has the appropriate qualifications. The following modules are to be included: theoretical and methodological issues; assessment approaches; approaches to intervention; families in a life span perspective; design of services; a clinical case study and a research module. We will apply for Erasmus Mundus funds to further develop and start this programme and will keep you all informed of progress.

Call for information exchanges

If anyone has commentaries, announcements, news items and other things of interest to share with the members of our SIRG, we would appreciate this information. This may be for the website or to include in the next newsletter (which we plan to publish by September-October 2007).

Editor: Bea Maes
bea.maes@ped.kuleuven.be