



# EACD Newsletter

November 2021

## Message by the Treasurer

Dear colleagues and friends,



Welcome to November's newsletter! As the end of the year looms ever closer, a number of initiatives the EACD have started are coming to fruition!

- The **Family & Users Forum**, which has come out of the European Users Task Force, has met, and, as I write this, are electing 3 co-ordinators, who will be representing the Family & Users Forum. We look forward to a close relationship and meaningful partnership, ensuring that families, carers, users and children will have a voice within the EACD.
- The **RehaTech4Child survey**, developed by the Technology and Innovation Task Force, is almost ready to be sent out, so keep an eye out on your emails, it is an important survey on digital technologies used, or not used, across Europe and your views and experiences will be very important to hear.
- A **very successful Trans-Atlantic Webinar on the techniques of Achilles Tendon Lengthening** was held on the 8th of November. The EACD was proud to partner with the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS) and the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America (POSNA). There were about 7000 attendees to this event endorsed by EACD.
- The organisers of the 34th EACD Annual Meeting in Barcelona (18th- 21st May 2022) are working incredibly hard to ensure there is an exciting and innovative programme. **The deadline for abstracts for oral presentations and poster presentations for EACD Barcelona 2022 has been extended to the 30th of November**, so if you have not yet already submitted your abstracts, there is still some time!
- Even though the Early Bird date for the Better Together 2022 Meeting has passed, there is also still plenty of time to register for the **3rd IAACD joint meeting with AUSACPDM**, happening between the 1st – 5th of March 2022.
- After two years of planning, form filling and bureaucratic processes to navigate, the transition of EACD from being a UK based charity to a European Not-for-Profit Organisation is nearing its completion. Our new payment system for membership is up and running smoothly, and **our main EACD website had a makeover!** With this major update, we are hoping to make a step forward in making the look and navigation of the site more accessible. We encourage you to visit our website regularly to ensure you stay up to date about all of EACD's ongoing activities. **The new EACD blog on "What Early Intervention looks like in the 21st century?" can be found for example on the new website.**

Finally, at the end of November, for the first time in 2 years, the majority of the General Management Committee will be meeting in person in Ljubljana, Slovenia (where the EACD 2023 conference will be held). We will have the opportunity to preview the conference venue, as well as have a very long, but lively meeting (1 ½ days) to discuss all exciting plans for the future of EACD!

**Hot off the press:** please see below all the information regarding the **webinar organised by EACD on ["The Power of New Technologies in Childhood Rehabilitation"](#)** on 7th of December, 19:30-21:30h CET (Brussels time). It looks to be a very informative and interesting webinar!

I hope you and your family stay safe, and well.

*Therese Millar, Treasurer EACD*

# EACD Barcelona 2022

## Extended Abstract Submission Deadline for Oral Communications & Poster Presentations



**EACD Barcelona 2022**  
**Deadline extended!**  
**Oral communications & Poster presentations**  
*Extended Abstract Submission deadline:*  
**30 Nov 2021, 23:59h CET**  
EACD 2022  
34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
European Academy of Childhood Disability  
"Networking knowledge into actions"  
BARCELONA  
18-21 MAY

Due to many requests, the EACD Barcelona 2022 Organising Team has decided to extend the abstract submission deadline for Oral Communications and Poster Presentations until **November 30th, 23:59h CET!**

The scientific committee of the 34th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) is looking forward to receiving your abstracts for Oral Communications and/or Poster Presentations. Be aware that only abstracts following the Guidelines for Abstract Submission (see [here](#)) will be accepted. After undergoing the reviewing process, all authors will be informed by January 17th, 2022 at latest on the formal acceptance or rejection of the submitted abstract(s).

**Submit your abstracts now!**

[Click here to go directly to our EACD Barcelona 2022 Abstract Submission Tool](#)

**Contact:** For questions and information, please contact: [abseacd22@pacifico-meetings.com](mailto:abseacd22@pacifico-meetings.com)

## New EACD Website!



As you may have noticed, EACD's main website (<https://eacd.org>) has just had a main makeover! With this major update, we are hoping to make a step forward in making the look and navigation of the site more accessible. We encourage you to visit our website regularly to ensure you stay up to date about all of EACD's ongoing activities! We hope you will enjoy the site and find the information you are looking for. If you have any comment, suggestion or question about the new website, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

[Click here to visit our new main EACD website!](#)

## New EACD Blog



We would like to introduce you to a new blog on our website! The title is "**What Early Intervention looks like in the 21st century?**". It is a very interesting read authored by Alvaro Hidalgo Robles, a member of our Early Career Researchers' Forum steering committee.

[Click here to read the blog](#)

## Spotlight on: Georgia



Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families in Georgia have been facing various challenges for years. Most of those problems have been related to the early identification of ASD as well as financial and geographical accessibility to therapeutic services across the country. One of the main obstacles has been an inappropriate readiness of primary health care (PHC) professionals to identify the risk of ASD and refer children to relevant centers. In addition, the regions have not had the necessary tools for full diagnostics, which is why many parents and children with the risk of ASD had to travel to Tbilisi. A serious challenge has also been the lack of a relevant number of qualified specialists. Thanks to the financial support from the Czech Development Agency (CzechAid), Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) implemented a project aiming at expanding and improving the services for people with ASD, as well as professional strengthening of specialists working in the field. Activities were carried out by CCR with a total budget of up to 255 000 Euros, in close cooperation with Ilia State University's Child Development Institute and the Georgian Academy of Childhood Disability. The project was elaborated together with the Ministry of Health of Georgia, considering the priorities of the Government of Georgia in the sector.

[Click here for more information](#)

*Maia Gabunia, EACD National Coordinator of Georgia*

## New National Co-ordinator: Moldova



We are happy to inform you about our new National Co-ordinator for **Moldova**: Dr. Ecaterina Gincota. Dr. Gincota has been a GP who started working at the orphanage for girls with disabilities. Subsequently, she dedicated 18 years of activity to the NGO-Center of Early Intervention where she practiced physiotherapy in children aged 0-3 years. Later she did her PhD studies in Norway on the topic - "Cerebral Palsy in Moldova - prevalence, subtypes, severity, risk factors and benefits of Early Intervention", and she completed a Master's degree in Public Health.

Nowadays, she is the director of the Republican Center for Children Rehabilitation (0-18 years old) – all children across the country. Because her background is bottom-up, she is aware of all the issues that families with disabled children are experiencing, thus nowadays she is the Minister adviser in creation of the pediatric rehabilitation system in Moldova. Her main purpose of becoming a National Co-ordinator is to primarily reflect the issues developing countries are facing in the field of disabilities, to ensure regular education and exchange of information through meetings, to update the national guidelines in different types of disability, to create national databases, to foster cooperation between those active in the field of childhood disabilities in Europe and Moldova, to promote and extend research in all aspects of childhood disability in Moldova, and to create a National Academy Childhood Disability in Moldova.

On behalf of the EACD General Management Committee we are happy to welcome Dr. Gincota on board, and would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Ivan Puiu for all his work as National Co-ordinator for Moldova in the past years.

## Successful Webinar Event - Nov 8th:

### Techniques of Achilles Tendon Lengthening in Children with Cerebral Palsy

During this webinar, multiple recorded surgeries were broadcasted simultaneously from six different operating theatres in Munchen, Germany; Poznan, Poland; St. Petersburg, Russia; Barnaul, Russia; Istanbul, Turkey and Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. Surgeries and performed lectures were followed by live discussion. The participants had a unique chance to learn equine foot correction surgery with a special attention to the main indications and contraindications of the techniques.

This webinar was watched live by an audience of about 7000 people from 24 countries, with the highest number of participants from Poland, followed by the Russian Federation, Argentina, Ireland, Romania and the United States of America.



The recorded broadcast is now published [online here](#).

The organising team would like to thank all the supporters of this event: EACD, EPOS, POSNA, Mayor of Poznan City, and the technicians from Termedia Medical Publishing House whose support was crucial for this successful event and look forward to next years' webinars when we would like to expand our reach to developing countries from Africa and Asia.

With regards,

Marek Józwiak, MD, PhD  
Bartosz Musielak, MD, PhD

## Upcoming EACD Webinar Event:

### The Power of New Technologies in Childhood Rehabilitation - 7 Dec 2021, 19:30-21:30h CET

**EACD Webinar Event**

**The Power of New Technologies in Childhood Rehabilitation**

 **Prof. Elegast Monbaliu**  
EACD Secretary

 **Mr. Rowan Johnson**  
Winner EACD 2021 Technology & Innovation Award

 **Ms. Saranda Bekteshi**  
Winner EACD 2021 Early Career Researcher Award

**Save the date:**  
**7 December 2021,**  
19:30-21:30h CET



As became apparently clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, technology and innovative solutions are crucial in this day and age for providing the best possible care for people with a childhood-onset disability. As such, the European Academy of Childhood Disability will be hosting a webinar event at December 7th, 2021, 19:30-21:30h CET (Brussels time) on 'The Power of New Technologies in Childhood Rehabilitation', with presentations from the EACD Secretary (Prof. Elegast Monbaliu), the winner of the EACD2021 Technology & Innovation Award (Rowan Johnson, MSc), and the winner of the EACD2021 Early Career Researcher Award (Saranda Bekteshi, MSc).

Register now as Delegate (10 EUR) or Physician (20 EUR) for this exciting online event!

[Click here to find out more and to register for this EACD Webinar Event!](#)



## Early Career Researchers' Forum update



We are delighted to share that **Dr. Teresa Joyce** from the Steering Committee of our [Early Career Researchers' Forum](#) has successfully defended her PhD. We send congratulations! Here are some details of her doctoral thesis:

"My PhD considered the Executive Function skills of children with and without Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) with a focus on Inhibition. I also considered relationships between Inhibition and motor skills. I found that children with DCD had difficulties across a range of Executive Function measures including parent and teacher questionnaires, measures from a standardised battery, and experimental tasks aimed to isolate Inhibition. However, large individual variation was present in performance. Relationships were also found between Inhibition and motor skills and different patterns of relationships were found for those with and without DCD. This suggest that Executive Function difficulties do occur in DCD and may partly explain the motor difficulties observed. Results also suggest that Executive Function difficulties are not a defining feature of DCD but should be routinely assessed."

## Mac Keith Press update

### Book Announcement: Children with Vision Impairment: Assessment, Development, and Management

*Naomi Dale, Alison Salt, Jenefer Sargent, and Rebecca Greenaway.*



Vision impairment is a long-term condition caused by disorders of the eye, optic nerve, and brain. Using evidence-based knowledge, theory, and research, this book provides practical guidance for practitioners who are involved in the care and management of children with long-term vision impairment and disability.

- International team of experts present up to date vision and neuroscience research and assessment and management approaches.
- Multidisciplinary approaches for improving function, learning and activity in children with vision impairment.
- New approach to childhood vision impairment with a focus on assessment, function and participation.
- Covering all vision disorders and levels of vision impairment, including eye disorders, cerebral vision impairment and complex disability.

[Click here to find out more and pre-order the book!](#)

## New DMCN Publication Highlights

### [Classification of pain in children with cerebral palsy](#)

In this paper, Vinkel et al. provide an overview of pain conditions in children with cerebral palsy and propose a tool to assess pain that benefits both the researcher classifying pain and the clinician diagnosing it.

### [Long-term effects of spasticity treatment, including selective dorsal rhizotomy, for individuals with cerebral palsy](#)

MacWilliams et al. measure outcomes ranging from body structures and function to participation and quality of life to assess the long-term effects of spasticity treatment in cerebral palsy.

### [Health service use among adults with cerebral palsy: a mixed-methods systematic review](#)

This comprehensive systematic review of observational and qualitative studies by Manikandan et al. explored the proportion of adults with cerebral palsy using health services, their frequency of use, and experiences/perceptions of health services for this population.

Check out more on the [DMCN homepage](#) and the very latest releases on [Early View](#).



## European Academy of Childhood Disability

The European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) is an international not-for-profit association founded in 1989, whose members have a scientific and/or clinical interest in the area of Childhood Disability.

The mission of the EACD is to promote and support evidence-based education and research in Europe for the benefit of people with childhood-onset disabilities.

[EACD Website](http://www.eacd.org)

## SAVE THE DATE: EACD Barcelona 2022

Join us at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Meeting theme: "Networking knowledge into actions"  
18-21 May 2022, Barcelona (Spain)

[www.eacd2022.com](http://www.eacd2022.com)



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