



# EACD Newsletter

March 2022

## Message by the Treasurer

Dear friends and colleagues,



I write this with a very sombre heart, to our friends and colleagues in Ukraine, you are very much all in our thoughts. A beacon of light in all of this is the speed that members of the EACD have offered very practical and important support to those that need it in Ukraine.

The conference in Barcelona is under 2 months away, the programme is packed full and the option to attend virtually or face to face makes it very accessible. We look forward to seeing many of our colleagues in the beautiful city of Barcelona. I am particularly looking forward the Gala Dinner and enjoying the wonderful Spanish cuisine! You can find below more information on how to register for this exciting networking event, in case you haven't done so already.

Furthermore, if you haven't already completed the RehaTech4Child survey, please would you consider doing it? You don't need to be using technology in your practice; it is equally as important to gain the knowledge around non-use of technology as much as used technology.

Finally, the national co-ordinators have met recently during one of the EACD National Coordinator Web Meeting led by our GMC Member Prof. Jeroen Vermeulen, where two very interesting presentations on the topic of Knowledge Translation were shared by Dr. Marjolein Ketelaar and Emma Livingstone, followed by an in-depth discussion on what we could do as EACD to facilitate this crucial transfer of evidence-based knowledge into clinical practice all across Europe. One of the key advices: Start small and Dream big!

Best wishes and take care!

*Therese Millar, Treasurer EACD*

## EACD saddened by war in Ukraine



Ukrainian Academy of  
Childhood Disability  
(UACD)

Last year we congratulated and celebrated with the Ukrainian Academy of Childhood Disability when they held their inaugural meeting in September 2021. This year the unfolding situation in Ukraine has come as a shock to us all. This week there was a respectful silence on the Zoom call of the National Coordinators as representatives from Poland, Moldova and Romania described how their countries are supporting children with disabilities and their families. Human rights literature alerts us to the fact that children with disabilities and additional health needs are particularly at risk during conflicts. The EACD are seeking ways to connect colleagues and offer support across all of our member countries.

## EACD Barcelona 2022

**Full Preliminary Programme Now Online!**



The [full preliminary programme](#) for EACD Barcelona 2022 from 18-21 May 2022 is now online. EACD Barcelona 2022 promises to offer a wonderful opportunity to share experiences, to exchange scientific ideas, and foster interactions between all professionals involved in the field of Childhood Disability! We are also happy to inform that that simultaneous translation into Spanish will be provided for all the #EACD2022 Keynotes, plus a full Spanish track throughout the entire congress programme!

## Register for the Gala Dinner!



Did you already register for the EACD Barcelona 2022 Gala Dinner? The Conference Dinner will be held at El Xalet de Montjuïc Restaurant on Friday 20th May 2022, 20:00hrs. El Xalet de Montjuïc offers unique networking opportunities and a spectacular view over the city of Barcelona. A stunning location surrounded by Joan Brossa of Montjuïc's gardens, where you can enjoy the Mediterranean and Catalan cooking with highly personal touches.

You can select the option to register for the Gala Dinner event while making your [EACD 2022 congress registration](#) by selecting 'Other Services' and then choosing 'Congress Dinner'. If you registered already for the EACD 2022 Congress, please [visit here](#), and then click on 'Modify registration'. After logging in using your EACD 2022 username and password, you can register for the Congress Dinner by clicking on 'Add Other Services'.

*Tickets are limited in number by the venue, so please book early to avoid disappointment.*



## BornToGetThere Summer School 2022

### 'From Early Detection to Early Surveillance and Intervention in Children at Risk of Cerebral Palsy'

The 5-day course is a practical and immersive experience, covering the models, the procedures and the instruments that are recommended internationally to plan and conduct clinical and research activities with infants at risk of Cerebral Palsy.



**2022**  
**11.07 | 15.07**

**From Early Detection to Early Surveillance and Intervention in Children at Risk of Cerebral Palsy**

Coordinators  
Andrea Guzzetta  
Giuseppina Sgandurra

This Summer School is organized by the University of Pisa from 11 – 15 July 2022 as a part of a project funded by the European Commission “BornToGetThere” with the support of the IRCCS Fondazione Stella Maris and of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD). This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 848201. The 5-day course is a practical and immersive experience, covering the models, the procedures and instruments that are recommended internationally to plan and conduct clinical and research activities for Early Detection, surveillance and intervention in children at risk for Cerebral Palsy (CP). It will be based on international guidelines, effective models of knowledge translation, and guided by



European Commission

good clinical and human ethics practice. The course faculty will be constituted of international experts in the field of childhood disability research and clinical care.

The aims of the Summer School are: 1) to raise awareness of the participants about the practical pathways for the implementation of Early diagnosis and Intervention guidelines of CP as feasible, sustainable and culturally modified for different environments; 2) to elevate the participants' knowledge of the surveillance and early intervention methods and models iii) to promote international collaboration for the advancement of early care and parallel research efforts with children at risk of CP and their families.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the BornToGetThere Summer School 2022!

## New National Co-ordinator: North Macedonia



We are happy to inform you about our new national co-ordinator for North Macedonia: Dr. Valentina Dukovska! Dr. Dukovska graduated from the Institute of Special Education and Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje in 2002. After graduation she worked as a special educator and rehabilitator at the PHI University Clinic for Pediatric Diseases in Skopje. In 2014 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic: "Early intervention in EINT: Tactile - kinesthetic stimulation and development in premature infants with very low birth weight. Since May 2009, Dr. Valentina Dukovska is the President of the Department of special educators and rehabilitators employed in health institutions at the Association of Special Educators and Rehabilitators of the Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, Dr. Dukovska has participated in several domestic and international professional seminars and congresses.

On behalf of the EACD General Management Committee we are happy to welcome Dr. Dukovska on board, and would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Prof. Filip Duma for all his work as National Co-ordinator for North Macedonia in the past years.

## Technology & Innovation update

### EACD 2022 Special Interest Session

**EACD Barcelona 2022**  
**Technology & Innovation**  
*Special interest session*  
**"How to turn your idea into a product"**  
Call to share your testimony about journeys to new innovative solutions!

Innovation and new technologies can change the lives of people with childhood-onset disabilities and their families. However, turning an idea into an accessible, useful product can be challenging. Therefore, we are looking for **testimonies** of people who successfully built new solutions for the benefit of people with childhood disabilities, using low-tech or high-tech solutions. During the Technology & Innovation Special interest session at EACD Barcelona 2022, we would like to give the platform to the people behind these success stories, to tell anyone interested about their journey, course of action, pitfalls, and tips and tricks.

**Would you like to share your journey from idea to product during the EACD Barcelona 2022 meeting?** please send a short summary of your testimony (max. 250 words) with descriptive title to [admin@eacd.org](mailto:admin@eacd.org)! This call is open to submissions from health professionals, users, family members, engineers, developers, etc.

### EACD RehaTech4Child Survey



The [RehaTech4Child Survey](#) is still open, and EACD invites all health care professionals active in the area of childhood-disability to participate in the survey! The knowledge gained from this survey is foreseen to help eventually in designing the future technological developments based on the feedback from professionals active in the area of childhood disability.

We would like to emphasize that also **the voices of non-users of digital technologies are really important** for the survey and the results we'll get from it!

**Click here to go to the survey: [A Cross-European Survey «RehaTech4Child»](#)**

**Available languages:**

[English](#), [German](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Turkish](#), [Polish](#), [Dutch](#), [Swedish](#), [Finnish](#), [Danish](#), [Romanian](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Georgian](#), [Croatian](#), [Serbian](#), [Slovene](#), [Lithuanian](#) and [Estonian](#).

## Upcoming General Management Committee Vacancies



The posts of **Chair-Elect** (Term 2022-2026; 1 year as Chair-Elect, 3 years as Chair), **GMC Member & Communication Officer** (Term 2022-2025), and **GMC Member & National Networks Officer** (Term 2022-2025) will be up for election at the next EACD Annual General Meeting (May 19th, 2022) during the EACD Barcelona 2022 Meeting. Dr. Arnab Seal will finish his term as Chair in 2023. Dr. Lorna Wales will finish her second term as GMC Member in 2022 and is not eligible for re-election. Prof. Jeroen Vermeulen will finish his first term as GMC Member in 2022 and is eligible for re-election. These positions offer an exciting opportunity to shape and guide the activities of the EACD. Should you have any queries about any of the vacancies, or interest in applying for any of these positions, please contact [Prof. Elegast Monbaliu](#), EACD Secretary, or [Prof. Nana Tatishvili](#), Chair of the Nominations Committee.

We would kindly like to ask members of EACD who would like to apply for any of the above-mentioned vacancies in the EACD General Management Committee to please send your Curriculum Vitae and Motivation letter to [admin@eacd.org](mailto:admin@eacd.org) by at latest March 31st, 2022 as part of the official election procedure.

## EACD 2021 Keynote Lectures are now online!



We are happy to announce an addition to our popular [EACD educational webpage!](#) The keynote lectures from the EACD Europe 2021 Annual Meeting are now available in the Meetings Archive section of our Educational Page:

<https://edu.eacd.org/eacd-europe-2021-archive>

### Day 1: Childhood Disability in the Era of COVID-19 - May 20th, 2021

[Reflections from a European perspective by the first President of the European Council](#) - Herman Count van Rompuy

[COVID-19 pandemic and child and adolescent mental health](#) - Jörg Fegert

[COVID-19 and the infant brain](#) - Carl Stafstrom

[Home-based intervention in childhood: can technology help?](#) - Giuseppina Sgandurra

### Day 2: Care, research and innovation, the new landscape of user-professional partnership - May 27th, 2021

[Just do it! Creating opportunities where researchers and parents can connect and learn about one another's experiences](#) - Rachel Martens & Jan Willem Gorter

### Day 3: Global Partnerships in a Changing World: - June 3rd, 2021

[What is the chemistry for a successful partnership?](#) - Mary Jane Platt, Andrea Guzzeta, Veronica Schiariti & Bernadette Gillick

[Nurturing partnership, strengthening care for every child's development](#) - Kate Milner

### Day 4: The Future of Childhood Disability - June 10th, 2021

[Technology and disability](#) - Annegret Kern & Robin Christopherson

[The future of disability services, towards new models](#) - Hannah Kuper, Christine Imms & Julia Hanes

[Genetics, ethics and childhood disabilities: what the future holds](#) - Laurent Servais, Jonathan Roberts & Kristien Hens

Full access to the EACD Education Hub is a great ongoing benefit of your EACD membership as the lectures are only available for EACD members. To access members-only content on Edu.EACD.org you need to press "EACD Login" button on top of the page and enter your username and password. Anyone with a clinical and/or scientific interest in childhood-onset disabilities can join us as an EACD member by following the [link here](#).

EACD membership is more than only a list of benefits. EACD membership is about supporting our mission to relieve individuals with a childhood-onset disability throughout Europe by the promotion of education and research into Childhood Disability. Nevertheless, EACD membership is accompanied with a number of [member benefits!](#)

## Mac Keith Press update

### Book highlights

**SINDA: Standardized Infant NeuroDevelopmental Assessment**  
An instrument for early detection of neurodevelopmental disorders



Mijna Hadders-Algra, Uta Tacke, Joachim Pietz, and Heike Philippi

Mac Keith Press Practical Guides

### Pre-order now! - [SINDA: Standardized Infant NeuroDevelopmental Assessment](#)

by Mijna Hadders-Algra, Uta Tacke, Joachim Pietz, Heike Philippi

Is there a way to accurately predict neurodevelopmental disability within the first year of life? Standardized Infant NeuroDevelopmental Assessment (SINDA) has been developed as a screening instrument for infants aged 6 weeks to 12 months corrected age, to assist early detection of infants at high risk of neurodevelopmental disorders. It is the first developmental instrument to allow a comprehensive (360-degree) approach including "all" dimensions of development. With assessment in less than 10 minutes, SINDA can be used quickly in virtually any environment and requires only simple equipment.

EACD Members get 20% off all books and courses published by Mac Keith Press! Click [here](#) to find the EACD Member discount code.

### DMCN Podcasts

[Child development F-words: functioning, family, fitness, fun, friends, & future](#)

Author Podcast with Peter Rosenbaum

[Development of the EDACS for young children with CP](#)

Author Podcast with Diane Sellers

[Developmental outcomes of term neonates with perinatal haemorrhagic stroke](#)

Author Podcast with Eszter Vojcek

### New DMCN Highlights

[Declining trends in birth prevalence and severity of singletons with cerebral palsy of prenatal or perinatal origin in Australia: A population-based observational study](#)

This study assesses trends in birth prevalence, disability severity, and motor type for children with pre- or perinatally acquired cerebral palsy. The authors found birth prevalence and moderate–severe disability declined in Australian singletons between 1995 and 2014, reflecting changes in care over time.

[Neurological effects of COVID-19 in infants and children](#)

In this review, Professor Carl E. Stafstrom focuses on the effects of SARS-CoV-2 on the brain in infancy and childhood, concluding that clinicians should be attentive to both the acute effects and long-term consequences of COVID-19 from a neurological perspective.

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

## Other Meeting Updates

### SFERHE 2022

The 13th Congress of the Société Francophone d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Handicaps de l'Enfance (SFERHE) is being held this year in Reims on 13-14 June 2022, under the theme: "Support for child development. Which early interventions?". [Click here](#) to learn more about SFERHE 2022.

### EPNS Glasgow 2022

The EPNS Congress from 28 April - 2 May 2022 is going ahead in-person in vibrant Glasgow, UK and virtually. In-person participants can dust off their passports and book with confidence for a unique chance to return to precious face-to-face networking whilst discovering Scotland in late Spring. Don't delay and register today! Visit the [congress website](#) to find out more.

### In memoriam: Prof. Anne O'Hare

The EACD has learned the sad news that Professor Anne O'Hare died last month. Professor O'Hare's contribution to research in childhood disability was underpinned by biopsychosocial understanding and conducted within a multidisciplinary clinical, academic and practitioner framework. The EACD will continue to adhere to these important principles in years to come, and promote this shared understanding across our community. Professor O'Hare was the president of the EACD meeting in Edinburgh 2004 which many of you will remember with fondness.



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](#)

## 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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