



# EACD Newsletter

June 2022

## Message by the Chair

Dear sir/madam,



A month has passed since the 34th EACD Annual Meeting in Barcelona and I don't know about you, but I am still buzzing from the excitement it generated! The science was superb, the hospitality of our local organisers was generous, the sunshine was abundant, and the warmth of Barcelona enveloped us all. Most importantly, we were happy to be together, in person and as a community.

The conference was aptly themed 'Networking Knowledge into Actions', a theme true to the core purpose of the EACD. Organisations like ours have stated missions and goals. Some of these goals are to do with knowledge transfer, some with research, advocacy and so on. However, none of these goals are achievable in a meaningful way without creating a strong network of individuals with shared interests who would implement the knowledge and the priorities into action.

The purpose of networking can be manifold. Within networks we share knowledge from practice and research, we find common interests, we contribute our ideas and often we find a higher purpose for why we are doing this. This higher purpose in our EACD community is to help children with disabilities and their families live happy, fulfilling and healthy lives. Generally, our annual meetings serve all these purposes very well, but the pandemic has taught us a hard lesson. While all these goals can be met by online conferences, there is a key ingredient missing, that of social connection. It is the social connections that stimulate us, mould our thinking and make us thrive as individuals and as a community. It gives us our sense of belonging, being part of a family, of making friends and having lots of fun too! And what about the important F-word 'function', I hear you ask. The function, of course, is all the amazing actions that our networking generates, our plans of how we are going to try harder, do better and achieve more.

In Barcelona we brought together our networks of professionals alongside our newly formed network of families and users, of our National Co-ordinators, of Early Career Researchers, our global partners, our Special Interest Groups, our partner organisations with shared interest and many, many more. The results of this were clear to see and feel by all of us who were there. By the end of the conference, we felt invigorated with exciting new ideas for the future.

This will be the last year of my 3 year term as Chair. At the Annual General Meeting in Barcelona, I presented you with updates on all the key strategies of the vision I laid out at the beginning of my term. We have achieved much, but there is much more to do. I am very thankful to all of you who have come forward selflessly to contribute your expertise and time. Following my last newsletter Chair address on the lifespan approach, many of you got in touch to offer help. I am very pleased to report to you that we are in the process of setting up a Lifespan Working Group led by Jan Willem Gorter. You will hear more about this soon and we will call on your generous offers of help.

In keeping with our ambitions, and for the first time in the history of the EACD, we are convening a special meeting of the EACD General Management Committee and other key committee members to plan our future strategy and priorities, to ensure that the EACD remains fit for purpose and true to its goals. If you have ideas or suggestions for the EACD's future work, I want to hear them. Please do get in touch with me at [chair@eacd.org](mailto:chair@eacd.org). I would love to hear from you.

Hope you have a great summer break filled with family, friends and fun.

Best wishes and take care!

*Arnab Seal, Chair EACD*

## EACD Barcelona 2022

### Session Recordings Now Online!



Did you miss any session during EACD Barcelona 2022? Do you want to check out the (e-)Poster presentations? Or would you like to re-watch one of the keynote lectures? The session recordings from the EACD Barcelona 2022 congress from 18-21 May 2022 are now available online! All #EACD2022 delegates can access them via the EACD2022 virtual area at the following link: <https://www.virtual.eacd2022.com/>. You can log-in here using your EACD Barcelona 2022 log-in details for the congress. The recordings will be available for all delegates for a period of three months!

## EACD Families & Users' Forum



At the Annual General Meeting in Barcelona in May 2022, the EACD Families & Users' Forum has been formally installed! The Families & Users' Forum (FUF) will be the body through which persons with lived experience, their family members, and close others participate in the organised plans and actions of EACD. The aim of the Families & Users' Forum will be to foster cooperation between people with lived experience, their family members, and close others with professionals and researchers in the field of childhood-onset disabilities in matters related to science, education and the development of better responses to the needs of people with lived experience, their family members, and close others.

This can relate to among other things:

1. Identification of the needs of individuals with a childhood-onset disability, their families and close others,
2. Organisation of, or contribution to, training sessions, scientific sessions, debates, work groups, publications, ethical advice, selection processes, ...
3. Expertise from life experience on questions raised by (groups connected to) EACD,
4. Contribution to the network of national or international societies connected with EACD,
5. Any matter in relation to the aims of EACD for which the FUF has an interest

The Families and Users' Forum shall be consulted by the EACD General Management Committee and/or Local Organisers regarding the EACD Annual Meeting and other EACD Events, and any change in the aims, values, and ethos at EACD should ask for advice from the Families and Users' Forum. The FUF has elected Niek De Taeye and Teresa Mano da

Costa as the first Forum Coordinators. For more information on the FUF please visit: <https://www.eacd.org/families-users-forum>.

We would like to thank all involved in the set up of this important body within EACD, and in particular our special thanks to Dr. Alain Chatelin, whose contribution has been invaluable toward the inclusion of the voices of users and families within the activities of EACD!

## **EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum**

### **Board Member Vacancies**



Dear EACD colleagues! Do you identify yourself as an early career researcher? Are you interested in connecting fellow early career researchers in the field of childhood-onset disabilities? And would you like to organise both formal and informal (educational) activities to improve scientific standards in the field of childhood-onset disabilities? Then you are the person we are looking for!

The Early Career Researchers (ECR) Forum board invites interested candidates to nominate themselves as new ECR Forum board members to join forces in assuring a sustainable progression of its future activities. Max. four board member positions are currently available, and the term of your ECR Forum Board membership is currently foreseen to be 2 years. How to apply? Contact us via e-mail at: [ecr@eacd.org](mailto:ecr@eacd.org) with a short introduction and motivation!

We hope to hear from you soon!

EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum

## **EACD Education Website**

### **EACD Europe 2021 Keynote Lectures**

The Recordings of the EACD Europe 2021 keynote lectures are now publicly available for everyone on the EACD educational webpage! Please visit <https://edu.eacd.org/lectures> to check out all these 11 new keynote lectures, from among other: Herman Count van Rompuy, Jörg Fegert, Rachel Martens & Jan-Willem Gorter, Beyza Ünal & Judith Heumann, and many more!

### **New tool: Recent publication on childhood-onset disabilities**

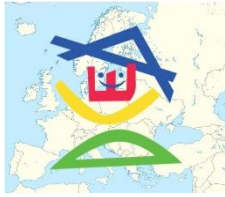
Visit <https://edu.eacd.org/latest-research> regularly to stay up to date on the latest research publications in the area of childhood disability! Listed studies are included based on an automatised search strategy on PubMed focused on keywords relevant to childhood-onset disabilities. The list is updated automatically every hour. Clicking on a text box with a study of your interest will refer you directly to this study on PubMed. Furthermore, you can share any study via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn by clicking on the Share button.



# **EACD Education**

European Academy of Childhood Disability

## Update from Georgia: New National Co-ordinator



We are happy to inform you about our new national co-ordinator for Georgia: Sofia Tatishvili! Dr. Sofia Tatishvili is a child neurologist and head of Neurorehabilitation department at Neurodevelopmental Center in Tbilisi, Georgia. Her centre serves children with varied neurodevelopmental disorders including majority with cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and risk of developmental delays, and they are also actively involved in different scientific research. Together with her multidisciplinary team, Dr. Tatishvili is participating in the development and management of services, trying to maximise their support to the children and their families. As a team leader, it is very important for Dr. Tatishvili to develop and nurture knowledge together with implementing new approaches for management processes. A few years ago for example, with the support and training from our English and Italian colleagues, we started practicing goal-directed treatment approach by using GAS scale and ICF frame. And as part of this process, we try to involve parents and families to improve the neurodevelopmental outcome. I feel a huge responsibility for serving children with disabilities from Georgia and taking up the role of National Co-ordinator will be an additional opportunity to support them and their families with new approaches and methods. Moreover, from a wider perspective, it is crucial for our country to share more experience, knowledge, and European value to provide better special services focused on child's/family's need, therefore I am very much looking forward to be part of the EACD team.

On behalf of the EACD General Management Committee we are happy to welcome Dr. Sofia Tatishvili on board, and would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Maia Gabunia for all her work as National Co-ordinator for Georgia in the past years!

## 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 emphasise 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:**

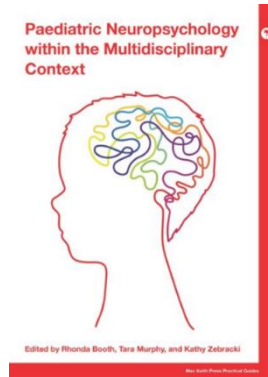
[English](#), [German](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Turkish](#), [Polish](#), [Dutch](#), [Swedish](#), [Finnish](#), [Danish](#), [Romanian](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Georgian](#), [Croatian](#), [Serbian](#), [Slovene](#), [Lithuanian](#) and [Estonian](#).

# Mac Keith Press update

## Book highlights

Now published! - [Paediatric Neuropsychology within the Multidisciplinary Context](#)

By Rhonda Booth, Tara Murphy, and Kathy Zebracki



Booth, Murphy, and Zebracki present exciting new critical insight on neuropsychological theory and its influence on clinical practice in this accessible and forward-looking publication. With new research and theory on brain-behaviour relationships supported by instructive case studies, this Practical Guide demonstrates how neuroscience and other important factors are driving clinical formulation in paediatric neuropsychology. Rather than being constricted by conventional pathology, this book invites the reader to consider typical and atypical development as nuanced processes. The content serves to inform readers on assessment and intervention for children with commonly occurring and rare conditions, which require close and complex multidisciplinary collaboration.

- Fully encompasses sensory processes, cognitive processes, and other critical factors (internal and environmental) that influence conceptualisation and intervention.
- Multidisciplinary and international team of co-authors (clinicians, and academic experts) ensuring the synthesis of research and clinical perspectives.
- Process-orientated approach with direct and relevant suggestions for assessment, diagnosis and development of excellent, evidence-based intervention strategies.
- Chapter-by-chapter case vignettes to bring the theory into practice.
- An index of critical measures for quick reference.

**Readership:** This book is an essential resource for early-career paediatric neuropsychologists, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, paediatric neurologists, neurodisability and community paediatricians, and specialist nurses.

**Author podcast:** [Paediatric Neuropsychology within the Multidisciplinary Context](#)

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

[Is cerebral palsy progressive? Why do we ask?](#)

Author Podcast with Peter Rosenbaum

[Use of health services and unmet needs among adults with cerebral palsy in Ireland](#)

Author Podcast with Manjula Manikandan

[Eye-tracking gaming performance in children with dyskinetic cerebral palsy](#)

Author Podcast with Saranda Bekteshi

## New DMCN Highlights

[Mirror movements after bimanual intensive therapy in children with unilateral cerebral palsy: A randomized controlled trial](#)

In this study, Araneda et al. randomised 31 children with unilateral cerebral palsy to either a control or treatment group. Those in the treatment group received 90 hours of Hand and Arm Bimanual Intensive Therapy Including Lower Extremity (HABIT-ILE) training, which was found to be effective in decreasing the intensity of mirror movements.

['Impairments of the brain': Global South perspectives on childhood neurodevelopmental disability](#)

This invited review by Bannink Mbazzi and Kawesa explores different interpretations of neurodevelopmental conditions in Uganda. They use the case study of 10-year-old Isma to discuss the importance of cultural concepts, family-centred care, and poverty when working with children with 'impairments of the brain'.

[Visits of concern in child neurology telemedicine](#)

Prelack et al. assessed a large sample of over 7000 telemedicine visits during the COVID-19 pandemic between March and November 2020. They set out to characterise which child neurology telemedicine visits were flagged as requiring in-person evaluation and found that in-person evaluation was required for only 5% of total visits.

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

## Other Meeting Updates

### AACPDM 2022

The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPD) is thrilled to be planning an in-person congress in Las Vegas, USA, September 21-24, 2022! You can still benefit from the Early Bird registration rates until August 15, 2022. Visit the <https://www.aacpdm.org/events/2022> for more information.

### International Development Coordination Disorder (DCD-14) Conference

Building on the knowledge that has been gained over the past 3 decades, this conference will focus on understanding "DCD in the real world". The DCD-14 conference will be hosted as an in-person event from July 6th to July 9th in Vancouver, Canada. Please visit <https://dcd14.osot.ubc.ca/> for more information.



### 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](#)

[www.eacd2023.org](http://www.eacd2023.org)



**EACD 2023**  
Ljubljana

SMARTER GOALS FOR BETTER FUTURE

24 – 27 May 2023

This message was sent to you by European Academy of Childhood Disability

*International not-for-profit association*

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