

# EACD Newsletter

September 2022

## Message by the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



There is a distinct chill in the air now across most of Europe. Autumn is here, and winter can't be far behind. While these seasons often bring cheer from festivities, this time it brings a huge amount of worry for many families due to the surging energy prices and the rising cost of living. Families with vulnerable children will have some of the highest need for support, but this may often be missing. Our EACD Survey on the effects of austerity on children with disabilities and their families back in 2018 (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/dmcn.13978>) had highlighted this disproportionate impact and this time it will be no different. We urge national governments across Europe to prioritise support for children with disabilities and their families. However, let us not stop there. There is much more we can do within our local communities. In my workplace in Leeds, we are starting to include routine questions for vulnerable families, including asking about any worries they have about keeping warm, having food and being safe this winter. We are connecting across agencies, including the voluntary sector, to provide information on local resources and where help can be available. I am sure whatever our context, if all of us did what we can, it will make a big difference to many.

A good news story has been our gradual emergence from the pandemic. While this is good news, we now have the challenge of backlogs, waiting lists and continued disruption to care as we knew it. The pandemic has provided newer opportunities of service provision through teleconferencing and remote rehabilitation techniques. We need to use these judiciously. Not all consultations need to be in person, and it is certainly much easier to get a MDT together in a teleconference. Equally, not all assessments can be done remotely. We need to judge carefully what is the purpose, who is it for and what means are most appropriate. In my personal experience I have seen some worrying trends where telemedicine and/or remote working methods are being inappropriately used as the default setting due to funding gaps and workforce shortages. We must guard against this.

Part of the reason for the backlogs and waiting lists across many countries across Europe is due to a shortage of skilled workforce in our field, even in countries with a developed infrastructure. As a community of professionals and families/users we can make the argument for better trained multi-disciplinary workforce in our countries. To make these arguments stronger we need data to convince national policy makers. I am, therefore, delighted that the Polish Academy of Childhood Disability (PANDa) is exploring the creation of a national database with a session on how to set up a CP Registry in the PANDa Annual Conference later this month. Properly structured registries generate good data, and good data provides evidence to ask for resources.

This week I was also privileged to be a part of the 2nd Annual Conference of the Ukrainian Academy of Childhood Disability. Our colleagues in UACD have shown us what is possible in adversity. Through these last seven months since the Russian aggression, they have worked closely with other colleagues within EACD to provide co-ordination of care and support for children with disabilities not only within Ukraine, but also across neighbouring countries and afar. They recognise that their work must go on. One way of providing continuity of services nationally is by bringing the community together through the Ukrainian Academy network meeting. The EACD is proud that the UACD is part of our family. We are proud of the work that our colleagues are doing in Ukraine and we are proud to stand with them. #StandwithUkraine.

*Arnab Seal, Chair EACD*

# EACD Ljubljana 2023: Call for Abstracts!



**Submit your abstract now!**



**Call for Abstracts**  
**Submission Deadline:**  
**21 Nov 2022**

Check out [www.eacd2023.org](http://www.eacd2023.org) regularly for the latest information and updates!

The scientific committee of the 35th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) invites you to submit abstracts for a mini-symposium, instructional course, oral communication and/or poster presentation! Be aware that only abstracts following the Guidelines for Abstract Submission (see [here](#)) will be accepted.

The motto of this EACD Annual Meeting is “Smarter Goals for Better Future”, with the intent to emphasize the importance of goal setting in all processes of care in the rehabilitation of children and youth. The program in Ljubljana will be divided into five main thematic modules: (i) The importance of timely intervention; (ii) Advances in the management of orphan diseases; (iii) Management of pain in children with developmental disorders and chronic pain syndromes in otherwise normally developing children; (iv) Goal setting: active role of the child and parent in (re)habilitation process; (v) Advances in

technological support of the rehabilitation process. All abstracts related to childhood-onset disabilities are welcome, and we invite authors from all fields and professions surrounding children and adults with childhood-onset disabilities to submit their topics.

On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing committee of the 35th European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) Annual Meeting, it is a privilege and great pleasure to welcome you to Ljubljana, from May 24th to 27th 2023. Slovenia, your host country, tells its green story. Everything is green no matter which direction you turn – towards the Alpine peaks and extensive forests, the Adriatic Sea, the mysterious Karst and nearby vineyards, and the Pannonian Plain. Ljubljana, the capital city, is a vibrant city with thousands of years of history. The European Green Capital 2016 has in a short time become a model of liveability and eco-sustainability for all medium-sized cities in Europe. Our conference venue is in the city centre, which is closed to motorised traffic.

The local Scientific and Organizing committee hopes to greet you in person. Plan your schedule to make the most of your Ljubljana visit. Build your clinical skills with scientific and educational sessions, satellite symposia, oral presentations, in-person networking opportunities, and much more! Following the outstanding line of previous EACD Annual Meetings, we will do our best in offering an excellent opportunity to share experiences, exchange scientific ideas, and foster interactions between all professionals, people with childhood-onset disabilities and their families.

## Key dates:

### **Abstract Submission deadline:**

21 November 2022

### **Notification of Acceptance to submitting authors:**

19 January 2023

### **EACD Ljubljana 2023 Congress:**

24-27 May 2023

[Click here to go directly to our EACD Ljubljana 2023 – Call for Abstracts page](#)



**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**  
**Deadline:**  
**21 Nov 2022**

**Save the dates: 24-27 May 2023**



Check out [www.eacd2023.org](http://www.eacd2023.org) regularly for the latest information and updates!

# EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum

## Online Event with Prof. Christine Imms



On September 1st, the EACD Early Career Research Forum invited Christine Imms to elaborate on her work in participation in childhood disabilities. Approximately 60 people attended and everyone present can confirm it was a marvellous session! Christine explained the different facets of participation in a very accessible way and she introduced us to the international guidelines on participation which will be implemented on a large-scale. All inspired by Christine's encouraging words, the conversation after her talk was one filled with both good questions and good ideas. Take-home message: everyone can contribute to improving participation, but don't be too hard on yourself! Start small, be open-minded and the next steps will follow soon!

(re-)watch the recorded session here: <https://edu.eacd.org/lecture/ecrf-webinar-participation>

# IAACD 24 hour virtual Listening and Sharing sessions for World CP day 2022



The IAACD 24 hour Listening and Sharing Sessions are bringing you discussions about different topics that are arriving from new ideas and are crucial for wellbeing of children and youth living with developmental conditions. The IAACD invites you to join in during one of the sessions as we travel the globe on World CP Day (October 6th, 2022)!

This year's topic will be: *"Build Back Better: Insights, Innovations and Opportunities"*. The COVID-19 pandemic brought various challenges for the daily living of children and

young people with disabilities and their families, as well as for the provision of services in the paediatric habilitation field. There were positive and negative aspects to the new situations we found ourselves in. Many lessons were learned from this period, some of the positives reported, by those who normally saw children in clinics, included being able see, during online sessions, children and families in their own homes and context, seeing directly the unique characteristics of the child's environment. The opportunity exists to take the positives from these new ways of working and incorporate them in our service delivery going forwards. Services globally are starting to do this. These Listening and Sharing sessions give the opportunity for clinicians to share their experience of rebuilding services. If we all learn from each other we truly can Build Back Better!

For more information please visit: <https://iaacd.net/kh-home/listening-and-sharing-sessions/>, or watch this [taster video](#) with Peter Rosenbaum, Arnab Seal, Jenny Carroll and Eugene Rameckers for the IAACD 24 hour Listening and Sharing Sessions 2022!

# EACD RehaTech4Child Survey

Closing today: 30 Sept 2022!



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](#).

## EACD Strategic Planning Meeting

The EACD GMC approved a two-day GMC Strategic Planning Meeting in November 2022, to set out EACD's strategic vision for the next three years (2023-2026). If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at [admin@eacd.org](mailto:admin@eacd.org), your input to EACD is highly appreciated and we would like to hear any thoughts or suggestions you may have for us to consider!

## Mac Keith Press update

### Special offers



Our courses are available for 30% off for our friends and partners. This offer is available for members of professional societies. Please email [admin@mackeith.co.uk](mailto:admin@mackeith.co.uk) for more information.

Do you want to win three free Mac Keith Press books of your choosing? Sign up [here](#) to the Mac Keith Press newsletter before 30th September, 2022 at midnight to be in with a chance of winning!

### DMCN Podcasts

[Transition to adult services experienced by young people with CP](#)

Author Podcast with Jennifer Fortune

[Self-determination of people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities](#)

Author Podcast with Synne Skarsaune

[Financial cost & QoL of patients with SMA identified by symptoms/newborn screening](#)

Author Podcast with Laurent Servais

## New DMCN Highlights

[A core outcome set for lower limb orthopaedic surgery for children with cerebral palsy: An international multi-stakeholder consensus study](#)

In this article, Almoajil et al. develop a core outcome set for lower limb orthopaedic surgery for children with cerebral palsy. They suggest that using it in the design of future clinical studies will provide a more holistic assessment of the impact of treatment while allowing meaningful comparisons and future synthesis of results from primary studies.

[Assisted reproductive technology: Short- and long-term outcomes](#)

This invited review discusses the state of assisted reproductive technology (ART), which has been shown to be associated with adverse short- and long-term perinatal outcomes. Graham et al. provide a clear description of infertility and conclude that ART is a relatively safe procedure, with single embryo implantation maximizing outcome.

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

## Other Meeting Updates

### PANDa 2022

The Polish Academy of Childhood Disability (PANDa) will be organising its third National PAND-a Conference, which will take place in Warsaw, Poland, Sept 30th – Oct 1st, 2022. Please visit the [congress website](#) 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)



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