

EACD Newsletter

October 2022

Message by the Secretary

Dear Colleagues,



Did you ever check EACD's mission and vision on our website? If you do, you will find EACD's values: **Collaboration, Knowledge, Inclusion and Integrity** (<https://www.eacd.org/mission-and-aims>).

But do you wonder how the mission and vision of an organization like EACD is created? Why goals are set and how the organization seeks to achieve them through strategy and policy? And how we are evolving in changing and challenging times?

Central in our organization is the '**Why**'! To what purpose and why does our organization exist? What is our primary function? What is our ultimate primary purpose? What fundamental needs do we fulfil? Who are our key stakeholders? What are we striving for? And what is our strategy? Essentially, it is about finding the right balance between desired external outcomes and existing internal capabilities. So **a good strategy** is about both the organizational outside (what do we want to achieve) and the organizational inside (what structure, culture, people and resources do we need to achieve the desired results).

Actually nothing new under the sun... but reflections from time to time are essential to keep our ambition burning and, above all, to turn it into sustainable actions. That is exactly what we will do during the upcoming midterm GMC Board meeting at the end of November. This **Strategic Planning meeting** will focus on several areas divided into six general themes centred on our core values of **collaboration, knowledge, inclusion and integrity**. As mentioned in our September and current newsletter, any thoughts, ideas or suggestions would be most welcome.

Based on previous strategic decisions, during the past four years our organization made a quantum jump in several domains, e.g. towards **professionalization of our back-office** and participation of the **Families & Users' Forum**. Also via EACD's Technology & Innovation Task Force we are already building a new present for an exciting future. Our Cross-European **RehaTech4Child survey** closed at the end of September and results will come soon. Towards sustainable actions and innovation we are broadening our views and our approach should be open for new models of cooperation and interactions.

And I ask again: '**Why**'? To realise our mission... step by step and to create more impact for our goal group. How? The key is the combination of collaboration, leveraging each other's knowledge, communicating with integrity and working with various stakeholders in the field to build an inclusive world. Broadening our view and looking at new models is always enlightening, especially if we want to increase impact for our target group. This is also why we strongly believe in the quadruple/quintuple innovation helix framework with closer interactions between Science-Public-Industry-Government-Environment. Imagine what closer interactions could create, of course with our key values in mind. Together we can much better meet the challenges.

Together we can do it!

Elegast Monbaliu, Secretary EACD

EACD Ljubljana 2023: Call for Abstracts!



**ABSTRACT
SUBMISSION**
Deadline:
21 Nov 2022

Save the dates: 24-27 May 2023



Check out 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. 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.

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. 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.

Demonstration Posters

Demonstration Posters provide the opportunity for presenting a new, innovative product, tool and/or technology relevant to the area of childhood disability and include discussion on-site. Ideally, these should be solutions that can be quickly implemented in routine practice and/or in daily life. Products, tools and/or technologies that have been piloted or implemented are encouraged. These abstracts should include information that allows session attendees to evaluate the usability and effectiveness of such a product, tool or technology. This category is intended for descriptive abstracts as well as products with more rigorous evaluations. Demonstration Posters will be sorted by theme. Each Demonstration poster will be on display 1 full day of the conference and include a dedicated poster session. Find out more [here](#) about the submission process for Demonstration posters

Family & Users' Abstract Submissions

The views of people with a childhood-onset disability, their families, friends and carers are extremely important to EACD. We want to work together with service users and their families to make sure that we are meeting individual needs and providing the treatment, care and support that people rightly expect and deserve. Users and families can provide invaluable insight and information about their current needs, challenges and barriers they experience in their lives, and identify relevant areas and/or challenges for researchers to explore. Therefore, people with a childhood-onset disability, their families, friends and carers are strongly encouraged to submit also abstracts for EACD Ljubljana 2023 and to select the subtheme 'User experience – family experience' when submitting your abstract.

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](#)

Family & Users' Forum update



EACD Family & User Forum

On October 11th, the Families & Users' Forum (FUF) had their first meeting after Summer, one of the many meetings they plan to do regularly. It was an amazing meeting with input from Elisabet Rodby-Bousquet on behalf of the EACD Education and Training Committee. The FUF members used this opportunity to share their experiences, best practices, and their main concerns. Additionally, the expectations for the FUF activities and FUF member participation/contribution on the various EACD Committees were discussed as well as the identification of activities to be carried out. A busy year lies ahead for us all.

Meet the GMC Member & Communication Officer: Jackie Casey



Hi Everyone, I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the recently appointed GMC member and Communication Officer for EACD. I graduated as an occupational therapist and have worked over several decades both in North America and in Europe in academia teaching and being a course director; clinically as a children's therapist; and in industry in complex seating assessment and product design. I presently work clinically as an occupational therapist in Specialised Seating with the Regional Engineering Centre in Northern Ireland for persons with complex posture and mobility needs, as a part-time lecturer in the University of Limerick, Ireland on their posture, seating and wheelchairs across the lifespan postgraduate programme, and earlier this year completed my PhD with Lund University, Sweden investigating the posture and mobility of children with cerebral palsy.

I'm passionate about co-production and working collectively to improve the lives and access to services for children, young people and their families.

Outside of work I like to spend time with my three grandchildren, volunteer some weekends with the Mae Murray Foundation kids clubs in Northern Ireland (participation for *all* in leisure and social settings); quilting, or travelling to meet new people and eat yummy food!

In this role with EACD I hope to continue to develop the communication strategy, sharing resources across Europe or help signpost members to useful and relevant supports and information. I look forward to getting to meet more of you over the next couple of years in person or virtually and please do feel free to send me an email at any time.

EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum

Meeting the ECRF Board Members: Erika Cloudt



We are glad to start our introductions of the EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum Board members with the current Chair of the EACD Early Career Researchers' Forum Board: Erika Cloudt! Erika has just defended her PhD thesis on Friday October 28th. The overall aim of her thesis was to increase knowledge about the development of knee contractures, determine the prevalence, analyse risk factors, follow the time to and sequence of contracture development in the lower limb and evaluate the reliability of popliteal angle measurements in children with CP. In

summary, the thesis showed that knee contractures were found to be a common problem for children with CP at all GMFCS levels and were associated with higher GMFCS level, older age and reduced muscle length in hamstrings and gastrocnemius.

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, 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

New DMCN Highlights

Editor's Choice

The latest Editor's Choice article is [The subtypes of developmental coordination disorder](#) by Lust et al. This open access cluster analysis identifies four types of developmental coordination disorder based on motor, cognitive, and visual-motor patterns, which will have implications for clinical practice and research.

Key papers this month

[Preterm postnatal complications and risk of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder](#)

This population-based cohort study of 350,000+ children investigates the association between attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and preterm birth. The authors found that preterm birth and early respiratory infection were risk factors for ADHD.

[Child neurology telemedicine: Analyzing 14 820 patient encounters during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

This longitudinal study offers an unprecedented look into the impact of telemedicine on child neurology care and how it compares to in-person encounters during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Survival of individuals with cerebral palsy in Victoria, Australia: A longitudinal cohort study spanning four decades](#)

This study of nearly 5000 children describes the rates, trends, and predictors of mortality of individuals with cerebral palsy, born in Victoria, Australia between 1970 and 2012. Hinwood et al. observed

improvements in survival for those born in the 2000s, which they suggest is likely related to a proportional reduction in complex cerebral palsy within the cohort.

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

DMCN Podcasts

[Global prevalence of cerebral palsy: a systematic analysis](#)

Author Podcast with Kate Himmelman, Sarah McIntyre & colleagues

[Emerging signs of ASD in infancy: putative neural substrate](#)

Author Podcast with Mijna Hadders-Algra

[Disabled children and the transition to adulthood: each and every need matters](#)

Podcast with Karen Horridge & Maureen Morris

Other Meeting Updates

5th Symposium Child Rehabilitation Center Ghent

On 25 November 2022, the Child Rehabilitation Center Ghent will be organising its 5th symposium on the topic 'Telerehabilitation: Remote yet close by' (Mostly in Dutch). Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

2nd Swiss Academy of Childhood Disability (SACD) Research Day

On 26th January 2023, The 2nd SACD Research Day will be held in Bern at the Unitobler. The goal of the SACD Research Day is to strengthen the transfer of knowledge from research into clinical practice and education and vice versa in Switzerland. The Call for Abstracts is open until 31 October 2022 (Today). Click [here](#) 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



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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