

EACD Newsletter

August 2023

Message by the Chair

Dear friends, colleagues, EACD members and well-wishers,



It is a great **pleasure** for me to write to you as the new Chair of the EACD. Standing on the shoulder of giants, we all owe much to my predecessors, who have literally made the EACD together with the membership and brought it to where we see it today. All have been outstandingly influential on our field and its evolution. Each one of them remains an inspiring role model – and a tough act to follow. I was privileged to work with Brian Neville in London, with Martin Bax, who was additionally in many ways a personification of Mac Keith Press and *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, and with Hans Forssberg, Giovanni Cioni and of course Arnab Seal as a member of the EACD General Management Committee while they were holding the reins of the Academy.

Under their exemplary leadership, the Academy has gone a long way in **improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities**. I am convinced that the current convergence of developments creates momentum for taking their actions even further, for agreeing on new actions and for implementing those in both regional and global contexts. We will be able to pursue our mission thanks to strengthened governance in a configuration of stewardship that is both efficient and agreeable, with better organisational structure and keen people involved at various levels within the EACD – some of whom joined us following the election and other nomination processes that took place in Ljubljana in May 2023. And I would like to genuinely welcome them wholeheartedly on board, Anina Ritterband-Rosenbaum (Treasurer), Giuseppina Sgandurra (GMC Member + Education & Training Officer), Annemieke Buizer (Chair of the Scientific Committee), and Rainer Blank (Meeting President EACD / IAACD Heidelberg 2025), and wish them the best of luck, wisdom and fulfilment in their respective positions within our Academy.

Over the last year or so, I have started reflecting more topically about our identity and positioning as an Academy, our values and mission, our existing collaboration with a number of groups and the potential for complementarity with other groups, our place within the IAACD and projections into the future. Great parts of this reflection have been done together with fellow EACD members and GMC members, including Arnab Seal.

We have thus engaged into an ambitious and very meaningful **strategic plan** for the EACD spanning 2023-2026. It is organised in 6 key areas to further shape our future, working together on:

- Promoting **Excellence in Research** in the area of childhood-onset disability in Europe (and beyond)
- Facilitating **Knowledge Transfer** from research to clinical practice (and beyond, including education, service, societal attitudes, culture etc.) and to deliver state-of-the-art educational material and events
- Facilitating adoption and application of **Technology & Innovation** with respect to childhood-onset disability practices
- **Co-advocacy** for their rights with people with childhood-onset disabilities, and their families.
- Fostering the development of **International, Regional and National Networks**

- And continuing to build a fair, transparent, efficient, stable and sustainable **organisational and financial structure**

As I write, the summer is still way too hot in some parts of Europe – but to a distinctive group, it will be long remembered for an immensely successful educational event some of them have experienced as foundational: the **EACD Summer School 2023** for Early Career Researchers focusing on Childhood-onset Disability. This interactive and immersive experience covered models, procedures and instruments that are required internationally to plan and conduct research in the field, guided by good clinical practice. It was hosted with seamless organisation together with the Poznan University of Medical Sciences in warmly welcoming Poznan, Poland from 17 to 21 July. We would like to thank all lecturers, delegates and our EACD Summer School 2023 Coordinator Marek Jozwiak for making this event a success.

We cannot wait to welcome you from 29 May until 1 June 2024 for a memorable, historic **EACD 2024 meeting** in the beautiful city of Bruges with its historical, cultural and culinary treasures. Many of you are preparing submission of one of more abstracts for presentation at our next Annual Meeting in Bruges (<https://eacd2024.org/>). Do not hesitate to encourage your colleagues and those from other fields working on developmental disability to do so as well, in the spirit of the theme of the meeting: '**Composing a new symphony**'. Together we will work towards new collaborations by embracing positive thinking, taking on responsibilities, and reshaping our plans to meet the needs of a changing world. And we invite you all to join us on this journey to contribute to a brighter future for ourselves and for generations to come!

Bernard Dan, Chair EACD

EACD Bruges 2024

General Call for Abstracts is now open!



The general Call for Abstracts for EACD Bruges 2024 is now open! The scientific committee of the 36th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) invites you to submit your abstracts for instructional courses, oral communications and/or poster presentations.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **October 20th, 2023, 23:59h Central European Time (CET)**. After undergoing the reviewing process, all authors will be informed by **December 11th, 2023** at latest on the formal acceptance or rejection of the submitted abstract(s). Be aware that only abstracts following the

Guidelines for Abstract Submission (see [here](#)) will be accepted.

Thank you for considering to submit an abstract for EACD2024. Do not hesitate to encourage your colleagues and those from other fields working on developmental disability to do so as well, in the spirit of the theme of the meeting: 'Composing a new symphony'.

Oral communication

Oral communication sessions consist of a group of talks within a theme by individual participants. Presentations of 7 minutes each will be scheduled in concurrent sessions of 60-minutes with space for live discussion/Q&A with all speakers of the session, led by a scientific/clinical moderator.

Please structure your abstract for an oral communication using the following headings:

- Introduction
- Patients and methods

- Results
- Conclusion

Scientific Poster

Scientific Posters provides the opportunity for presenting novel methods and findings and include discussion on-site. Scientific Posters will be sorted by theme. Scientific Posters will be on display during the conference and dedicated poster sessions will be organised.

Please structure your abstract for a scientific poster using the following headings:

- Introduction
- Patients and methods
- Results
- Conclusion

Technology & Innovative Product Poster (NEW)

Technology & Innovative Product Poster provide the opportunity to present a new, innovative product, tool and/or technology relevant to the area of childhood-onset 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. Technology & Innovative Product Poster will be sorted by theme. Each Technology & Innovative Product Poster will be on display during the conference and dedicated poster sessions will be organised.

Please structure your abstract for a Technology & Innovative Product Poster using the following headings:

- Statement of problem
- Description of the product or technology
- Findings to date
- Practical applications

Instructional Course

Instructional courses are didactic sessions of 75-min in the morning with at least 2 instructors addressing a focused theme or method with appeal to a targeted audience. Examples are new assessments, investigations, techniques, treatments etc. The courses shall be interactive and practical.

Please structure your abstract for an instructional course using the following headings:

- Objective
- Learning objectives of the course
- Summary
- Outline of the course

Abstract Submission deadline: 20 October 2023

Submit your abstracts now!

[Go to the EACD Bruges 2024 Abstract Submission page!](#)

[Visit the EACD Bruges 2024 website](#)

EACD Ljubljana 2023

EACD 2023 Keynote Lecture Recordings



EACD Ljubljana 2023 was proud to present a number of excellent keynote lectures from prestigious professionals in the field of childhood-onset disability, including: Prof. Helene Polatajko, Emma Livingstone, Dr. Minna Ståhl, Prof. Laurent Servais, Prof. Muharrem Yazici, Prof. Izzeldin Abuelaish, Dr. Ruslan Vasyutin, Prof. Sylvain Brochard and Niek De Taeye! These [EACD 2023 keynote lectures are now available to \(re-\)watch on our EACD Education website](#) for EACD members only.

Update from the Early Career Researchers' Forum (ECRF):

The ECRF is looking for new board members!



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? Would you like to organise both formal and informal (educational) activities to improve scientific standards in the field of childhood-onset disabilities? Are you interested in providing the early career researchers perspectives within the EACD? Then you are the person we are looking for!

The Early Career Researchers' Forum (ECRF) Board invites interested candidates to nominate themselves as new ECRF Board Members to join forces in assuring a sustainable progression of its future activities. The ECRF board meets online once a month for a 1 hour evening meeting. The term of your ECRF Board membership is currently foreseen to be 2 years. Re-evaluation after 1 year may take place if the attendance rate of a board member is less than 50%.

If you want to know more about the Early Career Researchers' Forum, please have a look at: <https://www.eacd.org/EACD-ECR-Forum>

How to apply?

Send a short introduction including your profession, country, research experience and a motivation via e-mail to: ecr@eacd.org. We hope to hear from you soon! We welcome applications until **September 10th, 2023**.

The new board members will be announced during the online **ECRF annual meeting on Thursday September 28 (6:15-8:15PM CET)**.

Update from Switzerland



We are happy to inform you about our new national coordinator for Switzerland: Dr. Sebastian Grunt!

Sebastian Grunt is medical leader of the subunit of Development and Rehabilitation. His research focuses on neuroplasticity after early brain lesions in relation to motor function, diagnosis and treatment of spastic movement disorders, early diagnosis of movement disorders and motor rehabilitation of children. Sebastian Grunt is significantly involved in various registries and epidemiological research of children with neurological conditions. He is founding member and current president of the steering committee of the Swiss Cerebral Palsy Registry. Sebastian Grunt completed his PhD at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam and habilitated in pediatric Neurorehabilitation at the medical faculty of Bern. Sebastian Grunt is a long-standing member of EACD and very actively involved in the work of the Swiss Academy of Childhood Disability. In his experience, interdisciplinary cooperation is essential in the field of child rehabilitation and he is very much looking forward to contribute to this via his role as National Coordinator.

On behalf of the EACD General Management Committee we are happy to welcome Dr. Sebastian Grunt on board, and would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Stephanie Jünemann for her work as National Coordinator for France in the past years!

EACD Barcelona 2022 - Keynote Lecture Recordings



The EACD Barcelona 2022 keynote lectures are now available to be (re-)watched for everyone on our EACD Education website! EACD Barcelona 2022 was proud to present a number of excellent keynote lectures from prestigious professionals in the field of childhood-onset disability, including: Prof. Christopher Newman & Prof. Bernard Dan, Prof. Mijna Hadders-Algra, Prof. Iona Novak, Prof. Peter Rosenbaum, Prof. Tom Novacheck & Prof. Wade Shrader, Prof. Roslyn Livingstone, Claudia Tecglen & Miguel López Zúñiga, and Prof. Mara Dierssen.

Please visit: <https://edu.eacd.org/34th-eacd-annual-meeting-barcelona-may-2022-archive>

IAACD Partnership Working Group

Upcoming Listening & Sharing Sessions!



The International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability ([IAACD](#)) is committed to ensuring that People with Lived Experience (PWLE) of childhood-onset disability are involved in all structures and activities of the organisation. PWLE encompasses individuals with childhood-onset disabilities, their family members and close others. One of the purposes of the IAACD Partnership Working Group is to make involvement and inclusion a reality within the organization.

Whilst some Member Academies of IAACD have made substantial progress in involving PWLE in their committees and activities, there are many IAACD Member Academies and IAACD sub-committees who would appreciate advice and guidance on how to do it. To address this need, the IAACD Partnership Working Group is planning two Listening and Sharing Webinars, each in a different time zone. The purpose of these Listening and Sharing sessions is to:

- Promote dialogue around how to involve PWLE in IAACD activities and member academies
- Identify the factors which contribute to successful involvement
- Identify the skills needed by PWLE and clinicians to “find one another”
- Share examples of good practice

These webinars will become available on the IAACD website and will serve as a resource for IAACD member academies and sub-committees wanting to ensure that there is full integration of PWLE in all activities of the IAACD. The proposed dates for the listening and sharing sessions are the 13 and 20 September. As mentioned earlier, the reason for two sessions is to cater for two time zones. Each session will cover the same topic but will have different participants. More information about the sessions will follow soon!

EACD Summer School 2023



The European Academy of Childhood Disability organised its 2nd **EACD Summer School**, together with the Poznan University of Medical Sciences from **17-21 July 2023 in Poznan, Poland!** The EACD Summer School 2023 was a 5-day training course for early career researchers from a Monday morning to Friday afternoon. The 5-day course was a practical and immersive experience, covering the models, the procedures and instruments that are required internationally to plan and conduct research in rehabilitation of childhood-onset

disabilities, guided by good clinical practice. The topics of the course sessions will cover a wide range of themes, representative of the multidisciplinary status of the EACD. Next to the course programme, the EACD Summer Schools entailed a social programme including a visit to the laboratories at the hosting site during an afternoon, and a Social Dinner during one of the evenings.

Mac Keith Press update

DMCN Podcasts

[Hospital admissions of school-age children with an intellectual disability](#)

Author Podcast with Karen Horridge

[Outcome measures for children with CP after gait corrective orthopaedic surgery](#)

Author Podcast with Maxine Fong

[School participation: young people with craniofacial microsomia & other disabilities](#)

Author Podcast with Vera Kaelin

[Wheeled mobility skill interventions in children & young people with cerebral palsy](#)

Author Podcast with Mari Naaris

DMCN - Key papers this month

[Promoting peace of mind: The importance of wellness in children with disabilities and their families](#)

Invited Editorial by Wade Shrader

[State-of-the-art therapy for Down syndrome](#)

By Nicola Lorenzon and colleagues

[Gross motor change after inpatient rehabilitation for children with acquired brain injury: A 10-year retrospective review](#)

By Jennifer Ryan and colleagues

[Chronic pain interference assessment tools for children and adults who are unable to self-report: A systematic review of psychometric properties](#)

By Meredith Smith and colleagues

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

Other Meeting Updates

AACPDM 2023 Congress

On 10-13 September 2023, the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) will be organising its 77th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Registration is still open. Click [here](#) for more information.

ESMAC Athens 2023 Congress

On 18-23 September 2023, the European Society for Movement Analysis in Adults and Children (ESMAC) will organise its annual meeting in Athens, Greece! The ESMAC 2023 team plans an exciting scientific programme for a multidisciplinary audience, including inspiring keynote lectures and many oral and poster presentations, and a pre-conference ESMAC gait course. 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](#)



This message was sent to you by European Academy of Childhood Disability
International not-for-profit association

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