



European Academy of  
Childhood Disability



**EACD Newsletter.**



## **EACD Spring Newsletter 2019**

### **Chairman's report**

Dear members,

As you know the 31st Annual Meeting of our Academy will be held soon, **May 23-25 in Paris**. Sylvain Brochard (President of the Meeting) and Christopher Newman (Head of the Scientific committee) and their teams have been able to built-up a fantastic program. Despite the co-occurrence of the second meeting of the IAACD, organized with the Annual AACPD Meeting and the fourth meeting of the ICPC in Anaheim (CA) on September 18-21, 2019, and many other meetings foreseen in Europe, Paris EACD 2019 has already received more than 1000 registrations and hundreds of submissions of abstracts. The motto of the meeting is "***Innovation for participation***", and it aims to bring together scientists, therapists, physicians, engineers and companies around new diagnostic and therapeutic tools for disability.

In addition to be informed and discuss the latest novelties about diagnosis, treatment and care for children with disability, being there in May will be very important for EACD members because of the many initiatives of our Academy enclosed in the programme.

The AGM is scheduled for Thursday 23th May at 18.45. The Assembly will be very important this year, for notable decisions to be made for our GMC. In a separate part of the Newsletter Dido Green and the nomination committee will present the vacancies for the position of Chair, for one GMC member as Newsletter Editor and responsible for Communication Strategy, and for another member who will replace Elegast Monbaliu, elected in Tbilisi as new Secretary, and the modality to present an application for these positions. As you know, my mandate as Chair will expire in 2020 and cannot be renewed. According to the changes in the constitution approved in Amsterdam in 2017, the new chair has to be nominated by the AGM one year in advance and therefore in Paris. For the EACD Newsletter editor position, Lorna Wales can be re-elected and I am pleased to tell you that she is available for another mandate, to continue her important task to innovate our strategy of communication.

During the AGM the GMC will report around the initiatives planned in Tbilisi and carried out afterwards. In addition, a special parallel session is included in the Paris programme on Friday May 24th afternoon, entitled "**A global agenda for children with disabilities**" where, after my introduction and update report about the results and the dissemination of EACD Austerity Survey (Karen Horridge will not be able to be in Paris), Hans Forssberg will update on the IAACD initiatives, Arnab Seal on the Global Professional Education group and initiatives and Diane Damiano around developing global IAACD and WHO guidelines for developmental disability and in particular for CP.

As for as other initiative decided in Tbilisi, I would like to remind you the first Summer School on “**Evidence Based Medicine and Research in Rehabilitation of Childhood Disabilities**” (Pisa, Italy, 15-19 July 2019). It is a 5-full days course, practical and immersive, on research in child rehabilitation and good clinical practice, organized as a University of Pisa Summer School by the EACD, with the support of the IRCCS Fondazione Stella Maris, my hospital. The teaching programme will be covering models, procedures and instruments required to plan and conduct research in rehabilitation of childhood disabilities, guided by good clinical practice. The Course Faculty is made of European experts in the field of childhood disability research. 50 young clinicians and researchers have applied, from several countries, and their selection for the 32 places available and for bursaries, both selected based on CV, will be soon completed.

My last information are related to **the next EACD Meetings**.

In December 2018 the members of the GMC visited Poznan in **Poland**, where the EACD 2020 annual meeting will be held, under the motto “From Childhood to Adulthood with Disability”, in June 16-20, 2020. The town of Poznan is interesting, the venue selected for our 32nd meeting is perfect, the organization well designed. More information will be provide by Marek Jozwiac, President of the meeting, in Paris.

The following EACD 33rd annual Meeting 2021 is scheduled in Bruges (**Belgium**), organized by Elegast Monbaliu and Bernard Dan, but according to our constitution it would be possible to vote this year at the AGM for the venue of the 2022 34th Meeting. Proposals have been discussed.

We need also to start thinking of a place for the 35th Meeting of 2023. We invite national coordinators and groups that might be interested to host it to speak with Elegast and myself in Paris to get more information and to prepare for the GMC a first draft of a bid by the end of this year.

I am sorry that my message was again quite long, but important initiatives are in progress according to the mandate we have received.

Please read carefully the issue of this Newsletter and the documents annexed and come numerous to express your opinions and votes at the AGM in Paris.



Looking forward to meeting you there.

*Giovanni Cioni*

Chairman of the EACD

## **Job vacancies on the EACD General Management Committee**

The EACD has a number of vacancies to fill for the General Management Committee (GMC) from May 2019 when the present post holders will be finishing their terms of office. These positions offer an exciting opportunity to shape and guide the activities of the EACD.

1) The second term of our current Chairman will come to an end in 2020. Following changes to the process of handover for our Chair, a '**Prospective Chairperson**' will be elected this year, who will deputise for one year in order to promote smoother transition

when our current Chairman finishes his second term next year (Term new Chairperson: 2020-2023).

**2)** We have a vacancy on the GMC for the position of **Member** (Term 2019-2022).

**3)** The first term of our **Member and Newsletter Editor** is coming to an end, and is eligible for re-election (Term 2019-2022).

#### **Roles and responsibilities of Members of the GMC:**

- To be present at the GMC meeting during the EACD conferences as well as a Mid-term meeting which may be undertaken as a web meeting, saving traveltime and expense;
- To contribute to strategic decisions of the EACD through representation of the members on the GMC;
- To read documents sent by emails and provide timely response;
- To read and evaluate abstracts submitted for EACD conferences;
- To act as Chair during different sessions of the EACD conferences.

For more details of policies and relevant documents please see <http://www.eacd.org/constitution.php>

Should you have any queries about any of the vacancies, or interest in applying for any of these positions, please contact Elegast Monbaliu, Secretary ([secretary@eacd.com](mailto:secretary@eacd.com)), or Dido Green, Chair Nominations Committee ([didogreen123@gmail.com](mailto:didogreen123@gmail.com)).

Interested individuals should send a brief CV and brief statement of motivation for applying to [didogreen123@gmail.com](mailto:didogreen123@gmail.com) by 21st May 2019.

## **EACD 2019 Paris: Family Participation**

### **A number of opportunities exist for families**

- Families may be eligible to a travel grant funded by EACD in order to ease participation of parents or disabled people who cannot fund their journey to attend
- **European Family Forum** meeting in Paris - Thursday 23rd May 15:00 to 18:30
- Family members could be **moderators** co-chairing conference sessions with a pro in order to facilitate questions from the audience to the speakers
- Participate in the **Hackathon**, Wed 22nd May from 14:00 to 17:00 working with professionals and engineers to bring techlogical solutions to your challenges

Get in touch [parents@eacd.org](mailto:parents@eacd.org)

## **A new role for EACD**

### **Dr. Marco Konings**

Dr. Marco Konings has joined the EACD since the 1st of March as the **new back-office coordinator**. In this position (20% FTE) he will assist in the further professionalization of the Academy and provide support to the General Management Committee.



Marco has completed his PhD on the regulation of exercise behaviour and fatigability at the University of Essex in January 2018. Since then he has worked as a lecturer in Physiotherapy in the Netherlands until September 2018, while he is currently working as Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the KU Leuven Campus Bruges, where he is among other involved in the research onto the evaluation, characterization, understanding and management of dystonia and choreoathetosis in dyskinetic CP.

## Facebook and Twitter

We have been asking our National Co-ordinators about social media in each of our member countries. We started a **Twitter** account (@EACDtweets) and are delighted that we already have 456 followers in many different countries. We even have some tweets in a number of languages.



We have had feedback that Twitter is not active in all European countries with **Facebook** being the favoured social media in many countries. So we now have a Facebook page too and 68 people have joined us already.

[www.facebook/edu.eacd/](http://www.facebook/edu.eacd/)

We look forward to interacting with you on whatever platform you prefer.

## New academy in Austria

Austria is some steps further to form a national academy called **AACD**. Birth of the “AACD-Baby” is expected in the second half of 2019.

In this context we would like to advertise the following event:

ICF-CY Day on the **18th September**, 2019. Together with Olaf Kraus de Camargo as Keynote speaker we are happy to share experiences and spotlights about what is happening in Austria concerning **the use of the ICF-CY in different settings**.

For further information please contact Ruth Amann (national coordinator) at [ruth.amann@aon.at](mailto:ruth.amann@aon.at)

## Update from Israel

The Israeli Association for child Development and Rehabilitation wishes all EACD members a fruitful and successful Paris conference. We are looking forward to meeting all of you. We hope to expand our EACD network group, and fortify working relationships with each and all members.

The Israeli Association is a non-profit organization representing all child development professionals working in Israel. The Israeli Association has just concluded its 22nd Bi-annual conference, which took place this January. 640 participants came to the conference to hear 12 keynote speakers from both Israel and abroad. Over 120 lectures in parallel seats on a variety of topics were held, with local and English translations available. Staying true to our organization’s vision, this year we broadened our conference reach by **offering session lectures held specifically for the parents of children with special needs**.

The association is currently **updating and expanding its website** offering to provide parents and caregivers both practical and clinical information in Hebrew and Arabic. Simultaneously they are also busy planning next year's activity and learning programs.

## **National meeting of the Spanish Society of Physiotherapy in Pediatrics**

The Spanish Society of Physiotherapy in Pediatrics (SEFIP), which I represent as president, held last November-2018 the VII national meeting with the topic: **"Activity and participation for children and youth with disabilities."**

This scientific event gave us the opportunity to bring together 160 professionals who deal with different aspects related to physical activity and the participation of children and young people with disabilities in leisure and recreational activities: physical education teachers, physical therapists, occupational therapists and physicians. There was also representation of speakers with disabilities who exposed the influence of the practice of physical activity and sports on their personal development.

The importance of the accessibility to facilities for all people was highlighted; with sports and physical activity professionals prepared and trained in diversity, working interdisciplinary with physiotherapists or professionals from other disciplines. **We advocated the need for programs adapted to children with disabilities, in the design of regular activities of public sports services** as a measure to implement physical activity and improve the health status of these children from a very early age.

Different experiences of participation in recreational situations were shown, such as extraordinary school activities, dynamic playgrounds and adapted dance as a tool to implement physical activity in a recreational manner. These activities could be favoured by the implication of siblings, relatives and other children, bringing on social aspects related to expressivity, non-verbal language and communication.

**This scientific event made us understand once again that meeting, understanding and collaboration of the different professionals is required to promote the activity and participation of children and young people with disabilities.**

Dr. Lourdes Macias-Merlo

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya

## **Must read!**



## **International clinical practice recommendations on the definition, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and psychosocial aspects of developmental coordination disorder**

These international clinical practice recommendations (CPR) for developmental coordination disorder (DCD), **initiated by the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD)**, aim to address key questions on the definition, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and psychosocial aspects of DCD relevant for clinical practice.

**Open-access** paper has been published into Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dmcn.14132>).

If you have any questions or enquires you can contact the European Academy of Childhood Disabilities via [secretary@eacd.org](mailto:secretary@eacd.org)

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