



European Academy of  
Childhood Disability



**EACD Newsletter.**



## **EACD Newsletter** **October 2021**

### **Message from the EACD Chair**

Dear EACD members, friends and colleagues,



The last few months have been an unusual time for most of us. While we have welcomed the return of children to school and the re-opening of large parts of society, it has become clear how severe and disproportionate the impact of the pandemic has been on children and young people with disabilities, their families and services. Access to services still remains limited, with long waiting times and limited resources. As we head to this winter, it is likely that the pressures will increase. It is crucial that not only do we do our best in our professional roles, but that we all add our voices to advocate for better resources and timely access.

The EACD has been a hive of activity. In these last few months we have kept up the momentum with a number of the initiatives which came together at EACD 2021. The EACD Users' Task Force met virtually at EACD 2021 and made its recommendations. We are meeting again next month, to implement the recommendations. We are really excited by the addition of more 'users', those who will share their voices and make the partnership with users meaningful and successful. We have also forged ahead with our Technology and Innovation Task Force work. Look out for the RehaTech4Child survey in the next few weeks. We aim to roll this out across Europe in most European languages. The EACD Early Career Research Forum (ECRF) have marched ahead with further meetings and forming their organisational structure. They are already planning their activities for the coming year. It promises to be a busy year ahead!

Our work in creating networks across Europe has had a significant boost with the successful launch of the Irish Academy of Childhood Disability and the second annual conferences of the Polish Academy (PANDa) and the Ukrainian Academy (UACD). The EACD was proud to co-host two successful online workshops with the UACD and the Global Professional Education Committee of the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD). These have been giant steps for these academies and for the communities they serve.

The EACD is also very proud to be partnering with the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS) and the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) to announce the third Trans-Atlantic Surgery Webinar on the techniques of Achilles Tendon Lengthening in children with cerebral palsy, to be held on November 8th, 2021 from 2 pm (CET). This program is free and forms part of the European Academy of Childhood Disability Educational

Program. Like previous years, we are expecting an audience of well over 5000 people from all over the world to attend.

We have two really exciting meetings coming up. The 3rd IAACD joint meeting with the AusACPDM from 1st to 5th March, Better Together 2022. The program looks amazing and certainly one not to miss! Following soon after, we have our very own 34th EACD Annual Meeting in Barcelona, one of the greatest cities in Europe. We are working hard to ensure a wonderful and memorable conference. We hope to see you there. And there's plenty to look forward to over the next few years. Barcelona 2022, Ljubljana 2023, Bruges 2024, Heidelberg 2025? where should we go in 2026? I look forward to receiving your bids, or answering any queries if you are thinking about bidding, at the next annual meeting or earlier.

I hope you and your family stay well and stay safe. I look forward to catching up with you in person at the Barcelona meeting in the Spanish sunshine.

Arnab Seal, Chair EACD

## EACD Barcelona 2022

### Call for Abstracts - Oral Communications & Poster Presentations: Abstract deadline approaching!

The graphic is a blue and yellow banner. On the left, it says 'EACD Barcelona 2022' in white, 'Deadline approaching!' in yellow on a blue background, and 'Oral communications & Poster presentations' in white. Below that, it says 'Abstract submission deadline: 15 Nov 2021, 23:59h CET' in yellow. On the right, there is a logo for 'EACD 2022' with '34th ANNUAL MEETING' and 'European Academy of Childhood Disability' below it. The logo also includes the motto 'Networking knowledge into actions' and 'BARCELONA 18-21 MAY'.

The scientific committee of the 34th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD) **invites you to submit abstracts for an oral communication and/or poster presentation.** With our motto "**Networking knowledge into actions**" we invite authors from all fields and professions surrounding children and adults with disabilities to submit their topics. With improving networks of care and better web connectivity, collaborative working across

boundaries has prospered within Europe and across our global community. We would welcome submissions where such collaborations has led to a change in practice, influenced outcomes, offered benefits or thrown up some challenges. All abstracts related to childhood-onset disabilities are welcome, including those on treatment, prevention, early detection, early intervention, transition and lifespan issues, parents' and siblings' experiences, adult research, health systems, engineering in disability, basic sciences, social science research and ethics. Be aware that only abstracts following the Guidelines for Abstract Submission ([here](#)) will be accepted.

#### Oral communications & Poster presentations - Key dates:

**15 November 2021:** Abstract Submission deadline

**17 January 2022:** Notifications to submitting authors

[Click here to go directly to our EACD Barcelona 2022 - Call for Abstracts page](#)

## EACD 2022 Registration

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 34th European Academy Of Childhood Disability (EACD) Annual Meeting, **it will be a great pleasure to welcome you to Barcelona, from May 18 to May 21, 2022.** Following three highly successful Congresses in Paris, Poznan and the online Meeting Europe 2021, the 34th EACD Annual

Meeting is offering a wonderful opportunity to share experiences, to exchange scientific ideas, and foster interactions between all professionals involved in the field of Childhood Disability.

**Barcelona is a magnificent and cosmopolitan city, a perfect venue for the congress thanks to its privileged position on the Mediterranean coast.** It has been the gateway and home of several ancient cultures that have always represented the essence of art, culture and progress. The local organizing committee hopes to greet you in person, but due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, **our meeting will be fully hybrid**, with the possibility of attending in person or online. Please note that in case the maximum capacity of the congress venue will be reached in terms of on-site registrations, we anticipate that first preference for on-site participation to the congress will be given to speakers and presenters of mini-symposia, instructional courses, oral communications and/or poster presentations. Nevertheless, we would advise to please register early to avoid disappointment for anyone who is planning to attend EACD 2022 physically in Barcelona. If you can join us, we will do everything possible to make your stay in Barcelona a useful, pleasant as possible and a truly unforgettable experience!

Dr. Mercedes Martínez Moreno, MD  
*President of the Local Organizing Committee*

Dr. Lourdes Macias Merlo, PT  
*President of the Local Scientific Committee*

[Click here to go directly to our EACD Barcelona 2022 - Registration page](#)

## National Academy updates

### Irish Academy of Childhood Disability - Virtual Launch Event



The inaugural meeting of the Irish Academy of Childhood Disability took place in September. This marked the official launch of the Academy and the core vision of 'nothing about me, without me'. The event increased the profile of the Academy across Ireland and abroad. During the webinar, we were delighted to have the support of esteemed and thought provoking keynote speakers; Prof Elegast

Monbaliu and Dr Marco Konings of EACD, Prof Peter Rosenbaum of CanChild, Deirdre Fitzgerald, a parent and advocate of a strength based approach to raising her children and Lily Collison and Kara Buckley, authors of Pure Grit: Stories of Remarkable Living with Physical Disability

We heard from practice based and academic researchers in Ireland on current research. These included qualitative and quantitative research on the experiences of young people transitioning from children's to adult healthcare services; the need for specialist rehabilitation services for children with acquired brain injuries; the use of telehealth to promote physical activity and healthy habits for young people with cerebral palsy; the progression of BMI status over time in Irish ambulant children with cerebral palsy; and an exploration of the use of F-Words in Childhood Development with children with disabilities and their families in Ireland, this particular study resulted directly from relationships built between members of the IAACD Covid-19 Committee during their work in 2020.

#### Other news from Ireland

More recently, in October, the Irish Academy took part in the IAACD 24-hour Listening and Sharing Session, with the Irish session focused on the theme of Universal Design. In Ireland, much work has commenced to implement the UN Charter for the Rights of People with Disabilities. We heard from a parent, Maeve Brogan, speak of the challenges for her family and son to feel included in outdoor play and on the lack of simple inclusive solutions; Alice

Moore, a PhD student from University College Cork, spoke of her work to develop inclusive playgrounds; and Simon Lewis a Primary School Principal discussed the challenges of delivering Special Educational Supports in Ireland.

Going forward, the Irish Committee will be working on a future bid to host an EACD meeting at the National University of Ireland Galway, a historical and progressive university in a beautiful city in the West of Ireland, and a gateway to Connemara and the wild Atlantic way.

Our committee are soon to discuss our next plans which include the development of the website, continued work to form the professional and legal framework for the organization and to host an in-person annual meeting in 2022! 'From small beginnings come great things' and the commitment and effort of our committee in 2021 has started something special in Ireland that can only grow and strengthen to ensure that we have an Academy strong in representation and voice for children with disabilities.

## Ukrainian Academy of Childhood Disability - Virtual Launch Event



Ukrainian Academy of  
Childhood Disability  
(UACD)

1st Meeting of the Ukrainian Academy of Childhood Disability (UACD) was conducted 16-18 september 2021 in Kyiv (online format) .

The main topics that were discussed during the meeting:

- new directions in the diagnosis and management in the field of childhood-onset disability;
- changing the paradigm of providing rehabilitation care to children in accordance with the principles of the ICF;
- treatment and rehabilitation of children with progressive neuromuscular diseases;
- issues of diagnosis and treatment of children with epilepsy.

Oral presentations were presented from 11 participating countries, including Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Georgia, UK, the USA and Canada. The EACD National Coordinators of Italy (Andrea Guzzetta) and Lithuania (Audrone Prasauskiene) presented their reports during the of 1st UACD meeting.

This is the first time that the main members of the multidisciplinary rehabilitation team have had the opportunity to come together during a scientific event in Ukraine. And this is the main achievement of the 1st UACD meeting. The event was attended by about 600 specialists of various specialities from all regions of Ukraine, including pediatric neurologists, pediatric psychiatrists, pediatricians, doctors of physical and rehabilitation medicine, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, speech therapists, teachers for children with special needs, who work not only in health care facilities, but also in social rehabilitation centers (Ministry of Social Policy), and inclusive resources centers (Ministry of Education and Science).

As part of the conference, training courses were conducted by the Global Professional Education Committee (GPEC) of the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD):

1. Moving beyond a 'fixing' model of intensive therapy to focus on what people 'can do' and want to do.
2. Evidence-informed practice - using the best available evidence to guide decision-making at both the individual and programme levels

Training courses were conducted by Arnab Seal (UK), Peter Rosenbaum (Canada), Nana Nino Tatishvili (Georgia), Jenny Carroll (UK), Katarzyna Swieczkowska (Poland).



Oksana Nazar

*EACD National coordinator of Ukraine*

## Polish Academy of Childhood Disability (PANDa) - 2nd Annual Meeting



The second scientific conference of the Polish Academy of Childhood Disability (PANDa) was held on 1-2 October 2021. It was attended by 405 people from all over the country and several ones from abroad. We hope that this has helped to enhance the implementation of the main mission of the Polish Academy of Childhood Disability, which is to reduce the functional and social impact of congenital and acquired complex structural disabilities in children.

The main focus of the conference was on the role of family and friend support for the child with a disability (Partnership, Family, Future). It was concerned with the knowledge provided by the dynamic changes of social care, rehabilitation and social and political approach to the children's disability and support for their functioning in the community. The conference programme included 6 scientific sessions and 4 training courses. The topics covered issues of early intervention, the impact of pandemic lockdown on the functional status and social situation of children with disabilities and their families, and conceptual priorities for the management of childhood disabilities (the 6 "F-words"). There was room for presenting the structural deformities due to neurogenic reasons, the problems of the neurogenic hip in children with cerebral palsy, and diagnostic and clinical aspects of the flaccid child and tip-toeing gait were discussed.

Unfortunately, constantly under the risk of another pandemic wave, the decision was taken to carry out these activities online (but in real time), with the possibility of post-conference on-demand participation. It was a difficult decision, but certainly a safe one for the participants, both in organizational and epidemiological terms. The conference was opened by Arnab Seal - Chair of the European Academy of Childhood Disability. Distinguished clinical specialists (physicians, physiotherapists, educators) and parents/caregivers representing contemporary world opinions, and diagnostic and treatment trends aimed at reducing the effects of childhood-onset disabilities have been invited to participate as a speakers. We hope that the second scientific conference of the Polish Academy, still a very young scientific and social organization, has contributed to the realisation of its main objective: the creation of a common forum for experience exchange for all those who are close to the issues of childhood disability.

Radoslaw Rutkowski - President of PANDa

Marek Jozwiak - Vice-President of PANDa

Magdalena Chroscinska-Krawczyk - Polish EACD National Coordinator

## Transatlantic Surgery Webinar - November 8th, 2021



We are pleased to inform you that on **November 8th, 2021 at 14:00h CET** (Brussels time), the 3rd Transatlantic Surgery Webinar will be organised. This years' Transatlantic Surgery Webinar will be focused on '**Tendon Achilles Lengthening in Children with Cerebral Palsy, World Perspectives: a Review of Techniques**'. The online webinar event will be 2.5 hours, and participants will be able to join the meeting by registering through the [registration process on the webpage here](#).

Registration for this event is free of charge!

As in the previous years, this event will be a great opportunity to promote medical education to enhance the care of children with Cerebral Palsy. Moreover, we hope this event will be of great interest to a wide variety of professions, including among other physiotherapists, (pediatric) orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, paediatricians and other medical specialists from all over the world. The first webinar event in 2019 became quite successful with an audience of over 7000 people, and the following year had an audience of 12 000 people from 28 countries.

This years' webinar event is endorsed by the European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD), the European Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (EPOS), and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA), and will be organised by a truly international team, including orthopedic surgeons from Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe, as well as from North and South America.

During the webinar on November 8th, recorded surgeries covering the whole spectrum of surgical techniques used to correct the equine foot in patients with cerebral palsy will be shared online from twelve operating theatres in Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Lebanon, Poland, Russia, and the United States of America. The surgeries will be presented simultaneously and live-commented by faculty members in the e-studio. As for the educational objectives of our webinar, the organisers aim to teach the basic surgical techniques used in the management of the orthopaedic problems of patients with Cerebral Palsy, present the minimally invasive versions of the surgeries used in the equine foot, discuss main indications and contraindications for presented surgical techniques, and show tips and tricks and how to avoid possible pitfalls when performing presented surgical techniques.

[Click here to go directly to the Registration page for the 3rd Transatlantic Webinar Event](#)

## Mac Keith Press update

### New DMCN Publication Highlights:

[Neonatal brachial plexus palsy and hand representation in children and young adults](#) by Ruth Van der Looven and colleagues.

[Task-specific training for bicycle-riding goals in ambulant children with cerebral palsy: a randomized controlled trial](#) by Rachel Toovey and colleagues.

[Recurrent pain in adolescents with cerebral palsy: a longitudinal population-based study](#) by Selma Mujezinovic Larsen and colleagues.

[Research priorities for children with neurological impairment and medical complexity in high-income countries](#) by Catherine Diskin and colleagues.

[Motor performance and daily participation in children with and without probable developmental coordination disorder](#) by Laura Delgado-Lobete and colleagues.

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

### Listen to the Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology podcasts:

- Discussion of the paper 'Physical rehabilitation interventions in children with acquired brain injury: a scoping review'. Watch on [Youtube](#)
- Discussion of the paper 'Social prescribing: can it help disabled children?'. Watch on [Youtube](#)
- Discussion of the paper 'Neuroimaging findings in children with cerebral palsy with autism and/or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder: a population-based study'. Watch on [Youtube](#)
- Discussion of the paper 'Transcriptional analysis of muscle tissue and isolated satellite cells in spastic cerebral palsy'. Watch on [Youtube](#)
- Discussion of the paper 'Psychosocial impacts of genetic testing on parents of children with developmental and epileptic encephalopathy'. Watch on [Youtube](#)
- Discussion of the paper 'Interventions to improve physical function for children and young people with cerebral palsy: international clinical practice guideline'. Watch on [Youtube](#)

Check out more podcasts on the [DMCN YouTube channel](#).

## Short Meeting updates

### AusACPDM / IAACD Melbourne 2022

The Better Together 2022 | AusACPDM/IAACD 2022 Organising Committee invites you to submit a Late Breaking Abstract! Free Paper submissions are welcomed over a wide range of themes and conditions. The deadline to submit and last chance to be included in the program is 23:59 (AEDT) Wednesday 1 December 2021. Furthermore, the AusACPDM/IAACD 2022 Organising Committee is pleased to offer free passes for people with disability and their family members or caregivers that covers the cost of conference registration. For more information, please visit: (<https://bettertogether2022.org/>).



**SAVE THE DATE: EACD Barcelona 2022**

Join us at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Meeting theme: "Networking knowledge into actions"  
18-21 May 2022, Barcelona (Spain)

[www.eacd2022.com](http://www.eacd2022.com)

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34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
European Academy of Childhood Disability  
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The banner features a stylized human head profile composed of green and blue dots, with a sunburst effect behind it.