Dear Members

Voting for IASSIDD Board Directors for 2024 is now open.

Thank you to those who submitted nominations. Eight nominations for 9 positions were received and were reviewed by the Governance Committee. All eight nominees fulfill the Bylaws criteria for Directors and are all eligible to serve on the Board, if elected.

President-elect, Angus Buchanan, Professor and Head, Curtin School of Allied Health, Curtin University, Perth, Australia, was nominated and elected by the Assembly in 2019 to serve as incoming President for this term, so that position is not up for election at this time.

Endorsement of Nominees:

Members are asked to endorse, or not, each nominee through an online vote.

Closing Date

The online vote closes 5pm AEST, 4 December 2023.

Nominees for Election

The nominees are:

- **Nominee: Colleen Adnams**
  Emeritus Professor of Intellectual Disability, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa

- **Nominee: Alice Schippers**
  Professor of Disability Studies, University of Humanistic Studies and Director Disability Studies in Nederland

- **Nominee: Mindy Scheithauer**
  Associate Professor, Marcus Autism Center, Emory University School of Medicine, USA

- **Nominee: Ivan Brown**
  Adjunct Professor, Department of Applied Disability Studies, Brock University, Canada

- **Nominee: Laurence Taggart**
  Professor, Intellectual Disability Research, Ulster University, Belfast, Ireland

- **Nominee: Angela Henderson**
  University of Glasgow, Scotland
• **Name: Peter Langdon**  
  Professor, Centre for Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CIDD),  
  University of Warwick and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, England

• **Nominee: Kayla Kostal**  
  Graduate student, University of Manitoba, Canada

**Statement from Nominees**

See below.

**Questions**

Contact Jennnifer Zarcone, IASSIDD Secretary at [jzarcone@mayinstitute.org](mailto:jzarcone@mayinstitute.org).
Nominee: Colleen Adnams

Professor of Disability Studies, University of Humanistic Studies and Director Disability Studies in Nederland

Brief Statement:

I am Emeritus Professor of Intellectual Disability in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. My background is in neurodevelopmental paediatrics and my clinical-academic career has spanned over 3 decades. I have contributed to national and international initiatives relating to service provision, training and policy in the fields of child development, neurodevelopmental paediatrics and intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was instrumental in establishing the clinical academic sub-specialty of Developmental Paediatrics in South Africa. I served on the WHO Working Group for the International Classification of Diseases 11th edition (ICD-11) classification of Intellectual Disability.

My clinical and research interests include neurodevelopmental disabilities across the lifespan, health and mental health of people with intellectual disabilities, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). I have collaborated in U.S.A. National Institutes of Health funded international research focussing on epidemiological and neurobehavioural aspects of FASD. I have published widely in peer reviewed journals in the fields of FASD and intellectual and developmental disabilities and contribute to peer reviewing for numerous journals.

I have experience of serving on not-for-profit organisation boards. I am President of IASSIDD until end 2023. I have been an active IASSIDD member for 15 years and am an IASSIDD Fellow. I serve as Board Chair of Cape Town Child Welfare Society, a registered Child Protection Agency that serves children at-risk and in need of protection and interventions in that region.

Through my experience of practice, research and leadership in the IDD field and beyond, I believe I can contribute in a practical and useful way to the governance, leadership and strategic aims and direction of IASSIDD. My location in the African continent can add to an international perspective and can strengthen the IASSIDD voice from this world region. I am a seasoned mentor, and, I hope, a role model for future generations of IASSIDD leaders. I am willing to commit service to IASSIDD for a further term as a Director, over and above the one-year term of Past President. Besides interest and experience in a number of the Board portfolio areas, including congresses, governance and SIRG coordination, I have experience in not-for-profit organisation financial management. I serve on the Finance Committees of IASSIDD and of the Cape Town Child Welfare Society Board, the latter on which I am responsible for financial investments, and, as a committee member, for oversight of a large annual budget and monthly financial reporting.
Nominee: Professor Dr. Alice Schippers

Affiliation: Endowed Chair, Disability Studies, University of Humanistic Studies, Director, Disability Studies in Nederland

Brief Statement:

Alice has longstanding experience as a leader in the IDD field and she has been a hard-working contributor to IASSIDD leadership over the past several years. As a teenager, she started with a voluntary job in the disability field and from that experience onwards she acted in several roles in this field: as a researcher and leader, as a volunteer and activist, as a mother and friend. Alice has experience and skills in a number of areas covered by the Board portfolios, including congresses, (inclusive) membership and practices and partnerships. Her recognition and wide professional network within Europe and beyond would be an ongoing asset to the Board.
Nominee: Mindy Scheithauer, PhD

Associate Professor, Marcus Autism Center, Emory University School of Medicine, USA

Brief Statement:

I am excited to self-nominate to continue as SIRG coordinator. My past involvement with IASSIDD, dedication to multiple SIRGs, and experience as SIRG coordinator makes me well-qualified for this role.

I have been involved with IASSIDD since 2016, where I joined the executive committee for the Challenging Behavior and Mental Health (CBMH) SIRG and became chair in 2019. In this role, I gained experience hosting member events; facilitating review of congress submissions and tracks; engaging members through written dissemination; and creating opportunities for travel scholarships. Recently I also joined the inclusive research SIRG as their treasurer, where I have gained experience in starting and maintaining a new SIRG. Given these experiences, I was excited to start as SIRG coordinator in 2022. In this position, I have developed resources for SIRG leaders to facilitate member engagement, standardized processes for electing SIRG leaders, and am coordinating a joint SIRG effort to offer travel grants for the upcoming congress. I have enjoyed getting to know the missions, and approaches to achieve those missions, that are unique to each SIRG.

I would be honored and enthusiastic to continue in this role as SIRG coordinator. By doing so, it will allow me to continue the projects described above. More importantly though, I look forward to executing new initiatives, including more cross-SIRG collaborations for webinars and round table events that can keep members engaged between the major congresses. I would also like to create a quarterly dissemination created by the SIRGs where recent issues and topics in the field of research on intellectual and developmental disabilities are discussed with different SIRGs providing written perspectives from the work they focus on. One of the strengths of IASSIDD is the diversity of researchers that are active in the organization. I conceptualize the SIRGs as a way of organizing around individual topics, but more importantly, as a catalyst for creating collaborative activities that capitalize on the diversity of expertise present in the organization.

Last, I am passionate about improving the accessibility of IASSIDD for underrepresented groups, including individuals with intellectual disabilities, researchers from underdeveloped countries, and students from minority backgrounds. One of my goals as SIRG coordinator is to instill this priority in the SIRGs to promote an organization that is focused on inclusion and equity for all.
Nominee: Ivan Brown, PhD

Adjunct Professor, Department of Applied Disability Studies, Brock University, Canada

Brief Statement:

I am pleased to be considered as a candidate for the IASSIDD Board for 2024. Currently, I am an IASSIDD Vice-President of Policy and Education and a member of its Executive Committee. My responsibilities have included Director of IASSIDD’s Academy since 2014, SIRG Coordinator (2019-2023), and a member of other committees related to IASSIDD policy and education. It was my pleasure to lead the scientific program for IASSIDD’s 2017 congress in Bangkok, Thailand. I have been a member of IASSIDD since 1996, was confirmed as a Fellow in 2000, and acted as Chair of the Quality of Life SIRG for a number of years. I appreciate the many valuable international contacts I have made through these activities, and I learned a great deal by attending and participating in every World Congress since 1996 and every regional congress since 2005. I deeply value the friendships I have made, and the enormous learning experiences I have had through IASSIDD.

From an academic point of view, I hope I have been able to make some valuable contributions to the knowledge base in our field through the many publications I have authored and co-authored with others. I have always appreciated that our field is one where academic cooperation and support of others are fundamental values.

Most of us have personal connections with disability, and I am no exception. A lifelong friend has not only a developmental disability but also is blind and uses a wheelchair. My extended family includes people who have been diagnosed with epilepsy, ADD, and autism. I learn so much from all of them every day, and I hope I have been able to offer them some of the information and support they need. I have increasingly come to realize that much of the knowledge, and certainly most of the core values, in our field emerge from the personal experience of our dedicated professionals.

When I first took a job as a graduate student in a vocational setting for adults with “mental retardation” in 1982, I never thought this would be my life’s work. But I am sure that you, as IASSIDD members, understand that when I got to know the people, and listened to the stories about their lives, I realized that this is important work and that choosing it as a career would be incredibly rewarding. And it has been.
**Name: Professor Laurence Taggart**

Professor, Intellectual Disability Research, Ulster University, Belfast, Ireland

**Brief Statement:**

I am both an ID nurse and a psychologist working in this field over 30 years. I have been a member of IASSIDD for over 23 yrs and have played significant roles within the organization. I have also been a member of the Health SIRG since 2000 and was elected Chair of this group from 2013-19. I have led on several Health SIRG activities:

1) A co-edited book on ‘Health Promotion for People with IDD’ (Taggart & Cousins, 2014)

2) A Position Statement on the Zika Virus and

3) Organised a Health SIRG conference at Ulster University in June 2017 where 150 world academics/researchers attended for 3 days.

I have led a team of international experts from the Health SIRG and outside of IASSIDD membership from the world of diabetes from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and UK to develop the first ever International Guidelines on the Management of Type 2 Diabetes in Adults with IDD (Taggart et al., 2021).

In 2016 I took up the position of Liaison Officer to the WHO for IASSIDD, part of this role has been to provide technical support/advice on a range of global matters relating to this population. I represented IASSIDD on an international working group with representatives from WHO, UNICEF and Autism Speaks on writing the first WHO Global Report on Children with IDD (WHO, 2023). And in 2020 I further represented IASSIDD as being part of the WHO Rehabilitation Programme leading to the publication of Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation with an array of global partners (WHO, 2023).

I am the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Policy & Practice in ID (2016-present). Along with Prof Faragher, we have increased the Impact Factor and have engaged with several of the SIRGS within IASSIDD to have a Special Issue yearly that is Open Access. We have increased the quality of the articles published and reduced the turnaround time from submission to articles being published early online.

In 2019 I was awarded a FIASSIDD for my academic and research contributions to the field of IDD research.
Over the last 20 yrs I have enjoyed working with my colleagues across IASSIDD on several related activities. I’m at a stage in my career now that I would like to be part of the vision and strategy of IASSIDD and contribute to its growth and success going forward. As evidenced above, I believe I have the motivation and skill set to support the IASSIDD Board Directors in their strategic direction, governance, and oversight of IASSIDD’s operations.
Nominee: Ms Angela Henderson

Deputy Director, School of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, Scotland

Brief Statement:

My interest and passion for working alongside people with intellectual disabilities began whilst working in a non-governmental organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people with ID in Scotland. As a member of the senior management team I represented the organisation in the development of national policy and strategy, developed and managed national community development programmes and led on research and evidence generation. Following this I moved to the University of Glasgow where I worked with Professor Anna Cooper to help establish Scotland’s first specialist health observatory dedicated to improving evidence on the health and wellbeing of people with intellectual disabilities. Throughout my career in this field I have developed excellent organisational and programme management skills. I am particularly proud of the innovative work I have done alongside people with intellectual disabilities to advance more inclusive approaches to research processes, including the establishment of the first Citizens’ Jury to discuss inclusive research practices. I would welcome the opportunity to work with international colleagues to continue to grow the essential role of IASSIDD in driving positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities globally.
Name: Professor Peter Langdon

Professor, Centre for Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CIDD), University of Warwick and Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, England

Brief Statement:

I am a Professor at the University of Warwick working within the Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and a Consultant Clinical and Forensic Psychologist working with Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust. I have been working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for well over 20 years and have always held posts combining clinical and research practice. My clinical work is currently within inpatient forensic services for adults with developmental disabilities.

I have published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and been involved in grants totalling more than £15 million including multiple clinical trials of both psychological and psychiatric interventions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award for Research by IASSIDD in 2022 and I am a Fellow of the British Psychological Society. I was the previous Chair of the IASSIDD Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health SIRG for a number of years. I also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities for many years before stepping down last year.

I have led large teams and managed clinicians working with people with developmental disabilities and I continue to serve as the Associate Director of Research for an NHS Trust in England covering two English counties. I have served as a member of several national organisations in various roles involving people with intellectual disabilities including the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the British Psychological Society. I continue to serve as a member of the Building the Right Support Delivery Board, Department for Health and Social Care, HM Government and I am a Trustee of an English charity working with adults with Asperger syndrome. It is my view that I will bring a variety of skills to IASSIDD, and I hold strong positive views about the value of public service for the betterment of society, and for the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Nominee: Ms Kayla Costal

Graduate student, University of Manitoba, Canada

Brief Statement:

Since I was a child, my parents taught me many positive values. My mother always said “Treat others the way you would like to be treated”, and this statement stuck with me throughout my life. My interest for helping others and the community developed from my taught values. These values led me to participate in multiple experiences and gain skills that would be relevant to service on the board. In terms of position knowledge, I have a BA (Honours) in Psychology and graduated with First Class Honours from the University of Manitoba. In addition, I will be receiving a Master of Science in Community Health Sciences in 2024. I am currently finishing my thesis, focused on mental health among persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and am mentored by research leaders in the disability field. My previous coursework has made me familiar with Canadian legislation, policies, and programs. I also have strong research experiences and knowledge in the disability field, in which some of my research presentations have won awards, such as HSGSA Poster Award. In these roles, I partnered with stakeholders. I developed many skills from this knowledge, including high-level conceptual and analytical skills. In terms of leadership experiences and skills, I am currently enrolled in an Excellence in Healthcare Leadership course and have a number of experiences being a leader in the community. These experiences include, for example, being elected in multiple student government roles. One key role was Vice-President Internal at the Health Sciences Graduate Students’ Association, representing around 14 departments and over 700 graduate students. In this role, I was the Senior Budgeting Officer and developed a strong business and financial acumen. In addition, I was elected Co-President of the Community Health Sciences Student Council. I am currently the Co-Chair of the Program Planning committee for Health and Wellbeing Conference in Developmental Disabilities conference. I strongly advocated for students, for example by serving on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Appeals committee. I co-founded a charity at the University of Manitoba. I am a responsible, dedicated worker and provide a safe space for others to approach me. From my experiences, I developed high level decision-making, organizational, and time management skills. My leadership has won multiple awards, such as Leader Award, and Martha Donovan Women’s Leadership Development Award. I have multiple experiences mentoring others, such as being the head coach of a volleyball team and mentoring undergraduate students.