

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose.
(See the AAIDD *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

Interest Network: International Interest Network
Lead Contact Person(s): Chair: Hatice Uyanik (hatice.uy@gmail.com) Co-Chair: Renata Ticha (tich0018@umn.edu)
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: 2025/Q3 – Hatice will continue in her leadership position till the end of the next term (June 30 th , 2026). Renata will continue as the IIN Co-Chair.
2024-2025 Report For the year that just ended (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice. Past activities (2025): This year, we prepared and presented a pre-conference workshop at the 2025 AAIDD Annual Meeting in Washington DC titled <i>Mentoring Students and Scholars in Disability Related Fields in an International Context</i> . We had 3 member panelists, Atilla Cavkaytar (Maltepe University, Turkey), Antonio Manuel Amor González (University of Salamanca, Spain) and Jan Šiška (Charles University, Czech Republic). The session was well attended and sparked a number of conversations related to study abroad and Fulbright opportunities as well as mentoring of international students in the US context. Presentation PPT is available upon request to Renata. Renata also represented IIN during the 2025 AAIDD conference in the Assembly of Interest Network Meeting with IIN updates. Funds: Our selections was this year's scholarships included: Travel (\$100 stipend and lunch ticket at the conference): Gokhan Toret - Hacettepe University, Türkiye – Imitation Recognition by Minimally Verbal Young Children: A Comparison Between Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorders - Poster Reception (he did not attend the conference, so we asked to roll over the funds to next year). Complimentary Membership: Dr. Stephanie Hayes - Algoma Family Services, Canada – Maamwimadibiwig: Weaving Indigenous and Western Perspectives in the Co-development of Workshops Connecting First Nations – Concurrent Session General update: The goal of the International IN is to expand the AAIDD and IDD-related news and work outreach and dissemination in general to the international community. To do so, past and current co-chairs continue to do multiple activities, including presentation preparation (posters, concurrent session or other

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

presentations) for the conferences, member meetings, online and social media outreach to members. As a leadership team, we value informed participatory decision-making, so members are asked, valued, celebrated, and taken into consideration with their opinions and perspective prior to any decisions made final by the leadership team. Thus, these activities enhance the meaningful participation, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice for everybody.

2025-2026 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

Future projects:

The International IN will continue to work with AAIDD members around the globe to foster understanding of different IDD systems and activities within these systems in an international context and share relevant information. Thus, it will continue to do the following:

- Next year's group project: an article for an AAIDD journal on mentoring in an international context. The article will serve as an outlet of existing research and ideas generated during the AAIDD pre-conference workshop in 2025.
- We will propose to co-host a webinar in partnership with at least one other IN on a current topic relevant to the international context of IDD.
- We will submit a proposal to the next AAIDD conference representing an international topic relevant to people with IDD, their family members, and/or support staff.

Proposed expenditure of funds:

If enough funds are available, the leadership team would like to sponsor a viable award for the next year's AAIDD Annual Meeting. As this past year, the leadership team will review the abstract proposals independently and will choose the best one using the Scoring Rubric for AAIDD Conference Proposals and consistent with the following criteria: (a) conduct research that has international relevance (i.e., outside of the USA or focused on an international topic); (b) has a presentation accepted for the annual meeting; and (c) has confirmed registration for the conference with the indication of consideration for the IIN award. If enough funds are not available based on the fund balance credited in early 2026, the International IN might partner with other INs to provide an award during the conference.

As previously specified, our past, present, future activities, projects, and goals are carried out supporting the international IDD community, thus enhancing and valuing diversity, equity in an inclusive and socially just paradigm.