

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

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

Interest Network: Research Interest Network
Lead Contact Person(s): James Lemanowicz (jlmnwc@yahoo.com), Sheida Raley (sheida@uark.edu), Ariel Schwartz (Ariel.Schwartz@unh.edu) (all co-chairs and listed in alphabetical order by last name)
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: Secretary, Member-At-Large
2024-2025 Report <p>Based on the 2023-2024 report, we shared a survey with RIN members to identify prioritized activities. Below, we note progress on these prioritized activities.</p> <p>Objective 1: Collaborate with other interest networks</p> <p><u>Planned activity 1:</u> Evaluate process of travel award management in collaboration with SECP and AAIDD office.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> We did not pursue this activity this year, as it was not identified as a priority in our survey (no progress)</p> <p><u>Planned activity 2:</u> Collaborate with SECP to identify supports that would benefit individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in student/early career roles [diversity, equity, inclusion, justice].</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> We did not move this activity forward (no progress).</p> <p><u>Funds used:</u> \$0</p> <p>Objective 2: Support students</p> <p><u>Planned activity 1:</u> Provide financial support for travel awards to AAIDD, with a focus on students and early career professionals interested in research.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> We provided 2 scholarship for SECP. To identify recipients, we engaged RIN members in abstract review.</p> <p><u>Planned activity 2:</u> Co-host SECP pre-conference Research Colloquium, and collaborate with SECP leadership to create a program that best meets the needs of diverse students and early career professionals.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> We co-hosted the SECP pre-conference Research Colloquium. This included 8 presenters. RIN</p>

Due August 1, 2025

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

members compiled feedback for presenters. The Research Colloquium was attended by over 30 people.

Funds used: \$1000 (\$500/award)

Objective 3: Advance the field

Planned activity 1: Host a webinar on a topic in IDD research.

Progress: This was not prioritized and did not occur.

Planned activity 2: Make a plan to provide small scholarships for student groups to support inclusive research in 2026 (for example, a small \$500 scholarship to provide compensation to researchers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities working on a student project).

Progress: We drafted the guidelines for this scholarship and met with AAIDD leadership to discuss steps to administer the scholarship in 2025-2026.

Planned activity 3: The RIN will explore opportunities to co-sponsor webinars/seminars with other related organizations (e.g., AUCD, IDDRRC) to enhance collaboration and dissemination in the field.

Progress: This was not prioritized and did not occur (no progress).

Funds used: \$0

Objective 4: Promote the mission, goals, and principles of AAIDD

Planned activity 1: Establish supports for a member of the RIN Leadership with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and elect a member with intellectual and/or developmental disability to have a RIN Leadership position. This position will receive a stipend to compensate them for their work.

Progress: One individual with an intellectual and/or developmental disability served as a Member at Large. They were supported by another Member at Large at the same institution. Future work will include a clear plan for supports that can be implemented in absence of another RIN Leadership Member at the same institution.

Planned activity 2: Discuss an approach for raising funds for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to become AAIDD members and RIN members. This may include having the IN fee waived and/or having an option for IN members to pay an additional fee that goes towards membership of an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Progress: This was not completed.

Funds used: \$500 (stipend for Member at Large)

Objective 5: Improve communication

Planned activity 1: Using the membership list, invite RIN members to participate in RIN events and contribute to annual planned activities (e.g., reviewing for student awards, serving as mentors at the SECP Research Colloquium).

Progress: The RIN membership was engaged in abstract review (6 members outside of RIN Leadership) and asked to serve as mentors at the SECP Research Colloquium (4 members)

Planned activity 2: Using the media outlets of AAIDD (newsletter, Facebook), advertise RIN events and relevant scholarly events and activities of RIN members.

Progress: This was not completed.

Funds used: \$0

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

Objective 1: Collaborate with other interest networks

Planned activity 1: Collaborate with SECP to communicate travel award management procedure enhancements to AAIDD office.

Planned activity 2: Collaborate with SECP to identify supports that would benefit individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in student/early career roles [diversity, equity, inclusion, justice].

Funds budgeted: \$0

Objective 2: Support students

Planned activity 1: Provide financial support for travel awards to AAIDD, with a focus on students and early career professionals interested in research.

Planned activity 2: Co-host SECP pre-conference Research Colloquium, and collaborate with SECP leadership to create a program that best meets the needs of diverse students and early career professionals.

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Funds budgeted: \$1000 (\$500/award)

Objective 3: Advance the field

Planned activity 1: Host a webinar on topics of interest to the RIN. This could include inclusive research, plain language dissemination, or moving research forward in the current funding climate. Effort will be made to collaborate with related organizations, such as AUCD, IDDRC, or funders.

Planned activity 2: Develop a process to solicit applications for and administer a small \$500 scholarship to provide compensation to researchers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities working on a student project).

Planned activity 3: Distribute a spreadsheet or online form to support RIN members to identify other members with shared interests. Members will opt into signing up and can use the spreadsheet to identify potential research collaborations or peer-to-peer mentoring/support relationships.

Funds budgeted: \$500

Objective 4: Promote the mission, goals, and principles of AAIDD

Planned activity 1: Establish supports for a member of the RIN Leadership with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and elect a member with intellectual and/or developmental disability to have a RIN Leadership position. This position will receive a stipend to compensate them for their work.

Funds budgeted: \$750 (stipend + additional supports)

Objective 5: Improve communication

Planned activity 1: Using the membership list, invite RIN members to participate in RIN events and contribute to annual planned activities (e.g., reviewing for student awards, serving as mentors at the SECP Research Colloquium).

Planned activity 2: Host biannual membership meetings to improve communication. The focus of these meetings will be to: a) Share information about RIN activities and gather feedback, and b) Solicit increased member engagement in activities.

Planned activity 3: Using the media outlets of AAIDD (newsletter, Facebook), advertise RIN events and relevant scholarly events and activities of RIN members.