



*2010 Annual Report  
of the  
American Association on Intellectual  
and Developmental Disabilities*

April 2011

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
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## **Mission**

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **Principles**

AAIDD has a 13-point set of principles (*or core values*) relative to its mission:

- Achieving full societal inclusion and participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Advocating for equality, individual dignity, and other human rights.
- Expanding opportunities for choice and self-determination.
- Influencing positive attitudes and public awareness by recognizing the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Promoting genuine accommodations to expand participation in all aspects of life.
- Aiding families and other caregivers to provide support in the community.
- Increasing access to quality health, education, vocational, and other human services and supports.
- Advancing basic and applied research to prevent or minimize the effects of intellectual disability and to enhance quality of life.
- Cultivating and providing leadership in the field.
- Seeking a diversity of disciplines, cultures, and perspectives in our work.
- Enhancing skills, knowledge, rewards and conditions of people working in the field.
- Encouraging promising students to pursue careers in the field of disabilities.
- Establishing partnerships and strategic alliances with organizations that share our values and goals.

## **Goals**

AAIDD's goals are to

- Enhance the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Participate in the development of a society that fully includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Build an effective, responsive, well-managed, responsibly-governed, and sustainable organization.

## Structure

AAIDD is a membership organization, governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership and including four Officers, four Directors-at-Large, and the Immediate Past President. The components of the Association include the following:

- Regional, state, provincial, and student *Chapters*. Each region participates in the Assembly of Regions. The Chairperson and delegates represent each region.
- *Divisions*, which typically represents disciplinary, profession-specific, or special interests. Members of each professional interest Division elect a president to a two-year term. The presidents of the Divisions make up the Conference of Professional Interests.
- *Standing Committees*. The composition criteria and the charges for standing committees are articulated in the bylaws. Current such committees are the Awards & Fellowship and the Nominations and Elections Committees.
- *Action Networks or Groups* are described in the bylaws as groups that represent interest areas of concern to AAIDD members.
- The *Assembly of Regions* represents the geographical regions of North America.
- *The Conference of Professional Interests* represents the many different professions represented in our multidisciplinary organization.
- Other groups—including task forces, ad hoc committees, etc.—deemed necessary by the Board.

The day-to-day activities needed to support and maintain the Association are carried out by the national office personnel.

## Functions

The major functions of the Association are to

- Support its members' leadership in activities that affect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Publish and promote cutting edge research, tools, and materials that inform policy and practice.
- Develop and implement educational opportunities for professionals, policy makers, and others; and
- Engage in activities that promote progressive public policy.

## AAIDD Staff

### **Margaret A. Nygren, EdD**

Executive Director

### **Paul D. Aitken, CPA**

Director, Finance & Administration

### **Bruce Appelgren**

Director of Publications

### **Ravita Maharaj, PhD**

Director, Supports Intensity Scale Program

### **Joyce Martin, JD**

Director, Environmental Health Policy

### **Anu Prabhala, MA**

Publications Manager

### **Saihanjula He, MA**

Training Manager

### **Ajith Mathew**

Contracts Manager

### **Maria Alfaro**

Meeting Planner/Web Manager

### **Jason Epstein**

Communications Coordinator

### **Michelle Hart**

Accountant

### **Yvette Taylor, MA**

Senior Editor





## Summary of 2010 Activities

### Membership

#### *Divisions, Special Interest, Action, and Other Groups*

AAIDD currently supports 22 professional groups within its membership, each with specialized interests and activities. In 2010, these groups contributed to continuing education programs, maintained listservs, and promoted the adoption of cutting-edge practices and progressive policies.

#### *Chapters and Regions*

AAIDD is organized into 10 Regions and further within these regions into state, provincial, and student Chapters for its members to interact, share knowledge, advocate for shared goals, and otherwise implement AAIDD's mission. In 2010, Chapters and Regions hosted meetings and conferences, published newsletters, and educated stakeholders on issues important to people with disabilities and their families.

#### *Fellows*

AAIDD recognizes members who have made meritorious contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. As of 2010, more than 250 individual have been honored with the designation of Fellow of the Association.

### Publications

AAIDD continued to publish its two bimonthly flagship journals, *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* and *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, and added two new titles to its catalog in 2010:

- *Intellectual Disability: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Supports* (11th ed). This manual contains the most current and authoritative information, including best practice guidelines on diagnosing and classifying intellectual disability.
- *End of Life Care for Children and Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. This book dispels myths and provides insights into ethical, medical, and legal issues of end of life care.

Additional titles and assessment tools were under development in 2010 and scheduled for publication in 2011 and 2012.

### Education

In 2010, the Association

- Held its annual conference, *Imagining the Future, Celebrating the Past*, in Providence, Rhode Island, for 500 members and others.
- Co-sponsored two national conferences to advance the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities: *Reinventing Quality Conference* and *State of the Art Conference on Post Secondary Education and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.
- Hosted or co-hosted a number of webinar series on Aging & End of Life, Research and Science Environmental Health, Environmental Health Policy, and Aging and Environmental Health and provided stand-alone webinars on Individualized Supports Planning in Special Education and Fellowships for Early Career Professionals.
- Led a *People to People* Delegation to India to explore the role of government agencies and private organizations in delivering disability services.

In addition, AAIDD staff and board members made numerous conference presentations.

### Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

Published by AAIDD, the SIS is a valid and reliable assessment tool that measures the practical support needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The tool is used by private practitioners, provider agencies, and states. As of 2010, the SIS has been adopted by 17 US states and Canadian provinces and is in use in 16 other countries.

In 2010, AAIDD activities related to SIS included the following:

- Maintaining a platform and providing technical support for online data collection and storage.
- Providing training in the use of SIS and ongoing quality assurance programs.
- Conducting SIS assessments.
- Norming a new, related tool, SIS for Children.

## Summary of 2010 Activities

### Public Policy

AAIDD promoted progressive public policies in 2010 by:

- Co-sponsoring the 2010 Disability Policy Seminar with five other national nonprofit organizations on key policy issues important to people with developmental disabilities.
- Actively participating in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a coalition of about 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national policies that ensure self-determination and inclusion of people with disabilities in society.
- Participating in the Administration on Developmental Disabilities' processes to further the development of its five-year plan of action.
- Filing Amicus Curiae briefs with the Supreme Court of the United States on death penalty cases involving individuals with intellectual disability.

### Grant-Funded Projects

*Environmental Health Initiative.* Funded by the John Merck Fund, this project's goals are to raise awareness about the connection between toxic chemicals and intellectual and developmental disabilities and to promote progressive public policies that reduce environmental toxicity.

*Autism NOW.* AAIDD is a partner in a project of The Arc of the US, funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, whose goals are to gather, organize, and make publically available resources and information that promote community-based services and supports for people with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

### Annual Meeting

The 134th annual meeting of the Association was held in conjunction with the annual conference in June 2010 in Providence, Rhode Island. Activities included an open membership meeting, and meetings of the Assembly of Geographic Regions, and the Conference of Professional Interests.

### Board of Directors

In addition to fulfilling its ongoing governance functions, the Board:

- Successfully conducted an Executive Director search. Ms. Doreen Croser retired after 22 years of service to the Association and Dr. Margaret Nygren was appointed as the new Executive Director.
- Launched a search for the next Editor of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Dr. Steven J. Taylor will conclude his service as Editor in mid-2011.

### Investments in the Future of the Association

A number of investments were initiated in 2010 to support the organization's operations and activities:

- Launch of a new membership structure that allows individuals to select the package of benefits and delivery methods that best meets their needs.
- Establishment of a relationship with *Essential Learning* to provide a platform for online training and continuing education.
- Launch of an upgraded platform with *Allen Press* to support enhanced online access to the Association's journals.
- Purchase of a new association management software platform, *MemberSuite*, to manage membership data, meeting registration, abstract submissions, and email messaging.



**AAIDD Statement of Financial Activities for  
Years Ending December 31, 2010 and 2009**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Sales	\$ 1,346,833	\$ 1,040,201
Subscriptions	707,723	723,751
Dues	497,262	534,308
Fees	411,937	533,646
Grants, Awards, and Donations	245,117	156,342
Reprints and Royalties	62,144	79,257
Investment Income	122,737	102,324
Miscellaneous	32,741	25,297
Rental Income	6,000	7,206
Loss on Disposal of Property and Equipment	-	(509)
Advertising	626	664
<b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>3,433,120</b>	<b>3,202,487</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Membership	300,546	369,182
Education and Training	386,867	478,421
Publications and Assessment Tools	2,110,590	1,896,474
Management and Governance	419,768	441,135
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,217,741</b>	<b>3,185,212</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>215,379</b>	<b>17,275</b>
<b>NET ASSETS—Beginning of Year</b>	<b>1,171,028</b>	<b>1,153,753</b>
<b>NET ASSETS—End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,386,407</b>	<b>\$ 1,171,028</b>

## **2010–2011 AAIDD Board of Directors**

### ***President: Michael L. Wehmeyer, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor, Department of Special Education, University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kansas

Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, a  
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Associate Director, Beach Center on Disability, University of Kansas

### ***President-Elect: Sharon C. Gomez, FAAIDD***

Quality Enhancement Officer, Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, Inc.,  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

### ***Vice President: Marc. J. Tassé, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Ohio State  
University, Columbus, Ohio

Director, Nisonger Center at Ohio State University, a University Center  
for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

### ***Secretary-Treasurer: Patti N. Martin, MA***

Executive Director, Montgomery 310 Board, Montgomery, Alabama

### ***Past President: Joanne L. Pierson, PhD, FAAIDD***

Executive Director, The Arc of Frederick County, Frederick, Maryland

Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of  
Social Work

### ***At-Large Members***

#### ***Sandra L. Friedman, MD, MPH, FAAIDD***

Section Head, Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, The  
Children's Hospital, Aurora, Colorado

Associate Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine,  
Aurora, Colorado

#### ***Denis W. Keyes, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor of Special Education, Department of Teacher Education,  
College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

#### ***Karrie A. Shogren, PhD, FAAIDD***

Assistant Professor of Special Education, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois


#### ***Peter J. Smith, MD***

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, University of Chicago

Program Director for the Fellowship in Developmental and Behavioral  
Pediatrics and Associate Director for the Illinois LEND training program,  
University of Illinois-Chicago

Associate, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, Chicago, Illinois  
Medical Director, Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School and Illinois Center  
for Rehabilitation and Education, University of Chicago, Section of  
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Chicago, Illinois





The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and others concerned about intellectual and related disabilities.

Founded in 1876 to discuss all questions relating to the causes, conditions, and statistics of intellectual and developmental disabilities and to develop best practices in education and services, today AAIDD represents a wide variety of professionals and others in the United States, Canada, and more than 50 other countries.

AAIDD members are united by the ideal that each person with a disability has the right to develop personal potential to the maximum extent possible, to satisfy his or her individual needs and preferences, and to become an independent and useful member of the community.

