

# 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.)

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| <b>Interest Network:</b>   | <b>Research Interest Network</b>                |
| <b>Lead Contact Person(s):</b>   | Ariel Schwartz, Sally Gould-Taylor              |
| <b>Next Scheduled Election &amp; Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:</b>  | June 2025; Co-Chair, Secretary, Member at Large |
| <b>2023-2024 Report</b><br>For the year that <b>just ended</b> (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.<br><br>We had a change in leadership halfway through the year. This change in leadership greatly impacted our activities this year.<br><br><b>Objective 1 – Collaborate with other interest networks.</b><br><br><u>Planned activity 1:</u> In partnership with AAIDD leadership, the assembly, and the SECP, evaluate the process of travel award membership to enhance efficiency, impact, and equity of awards.<br><br><u>What we did:</u> Due to change in leadership halfway through the year, we did not address this goal. We did meet with SECP several times to plan the Research Colloquium and discuss scholarships.<br><br><u>Funds used:</u> \$0<br><br><b>Objective 2 – Support students.</b><br><br><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.<br><br><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.<br><br><u>What we did-Planned activity 1:</u> The executive committee invited RIN members at-large to review 28 abstracts submitted by SECP individuals. RIN members and leadership reviewed abstracts, with each abstract reviewed by at least 1 RIN leadership member. Based on the average ranking, the RIN awarded travel awards to two students: Neev Shah, University of Louisville, School of Medicine and Elizabeth Stone, Rutgers University<br><br><u>What we did- Planned activity 2:</u> 24 individuals attended this event, with 6 students presenting (2 accepted students were unable to attend).<br><br><u>Funds used:</u> \$1,000 (\$500 each travel award) |   |

Due September 4, 2024

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

## **Objective 3 – Advance the field.**

Planned activity 1: The RIN will co-sponsor webinars/seminars held by RIN members to advance scientific knowledge and resources.

Planned activity 2: The RIN will explore opportunities to co-sponsor webinars/seminars with other related organizations (e.g., AUCD, IDDRC) to enhance collaboration and dissemination in the field.

What we did- Planned activity 1: The RIN co-sponsored one webinar about Research Ethics for All.

What we did- Planned activity 2: Not completed this year; recommended as a goal for next year.

Funds used: \$0

## **Objective 4 - Promote the mission, goals, and principles of AAIDD.**

Planned activity 1: Collaborate with RIN members to identify priority topics from NIH Working Group on Diversity (subgroup: Individuals with disabilities) to inform future research that contributes to the autonomy and inclusion of people with IDD, and access to quality health, education, vocational, and other human services and supports.

What we did- Planned activity 1: We largely did not complete this activity due to change in leadership halfway through the year. However, the RIN was engaged in an AAIDD presentation on inclusive research.

Funds used: \$0

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

What we did- Planned activity 1: We did not meet this goal.

What we did- Planned activity 2: We used media outlets of AAIDD to advertise the webinar.

Funds used: \$0

# AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

## 2024-2025 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.

### Objective 1: Collaborate with other interest networks

Planned activity 1: Evaluate process of travel award management in collaboration with SECP and 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.

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

### Objective 3: Advance the field

Planned activity 1: Host a webinar on inclusive research and/or plain language dissemination.

Planned activity 2: Explore the feasibility of providing small scholarships for student groups to support inclusive research (for example, a small \$500 scholarship to provide compensation to researchers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities working on a student project). This will be explored for implementation in future years.

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

Funds budgeted: \$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.

## AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

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.

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