



June 24-28, 2025

EACD & IAACD

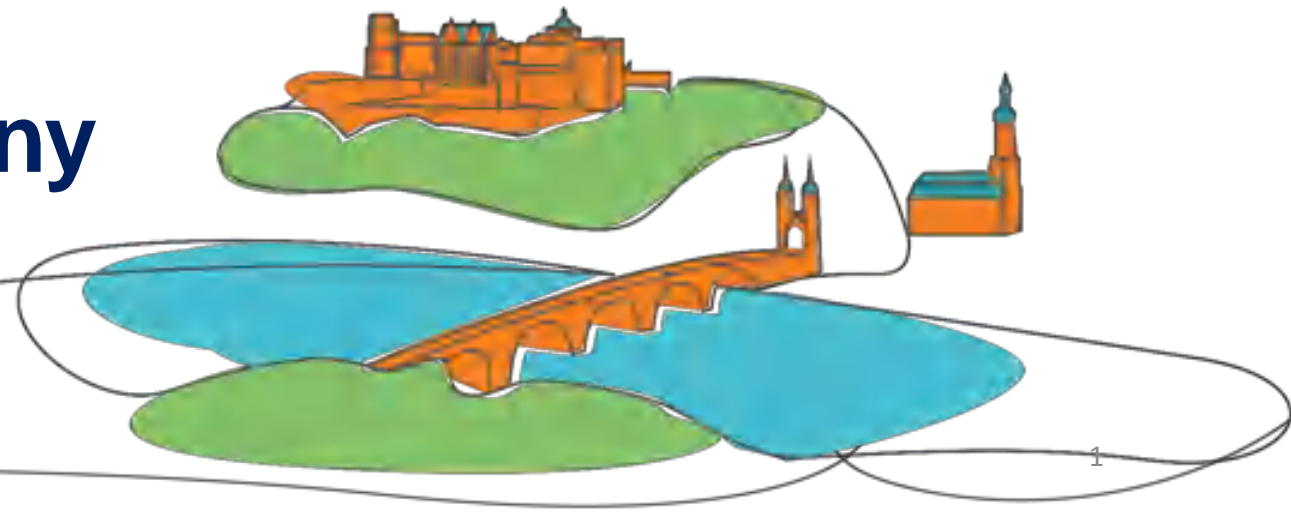
Heidelberg Germany

**„World Congress Meeting
for Childhood-Onset Disability“**

Welcome to

**4th IAACD Triennial Meeting
37th EACD Annual meeting**

HEIDELBERG / Germany





The Motto.



Developing Networks

Networks for Development



The City.



Heidelberg - a charming city

Mark Twain's „Germany in a Nutshell“



... and the surroundings

several iconic landmarks of European culture

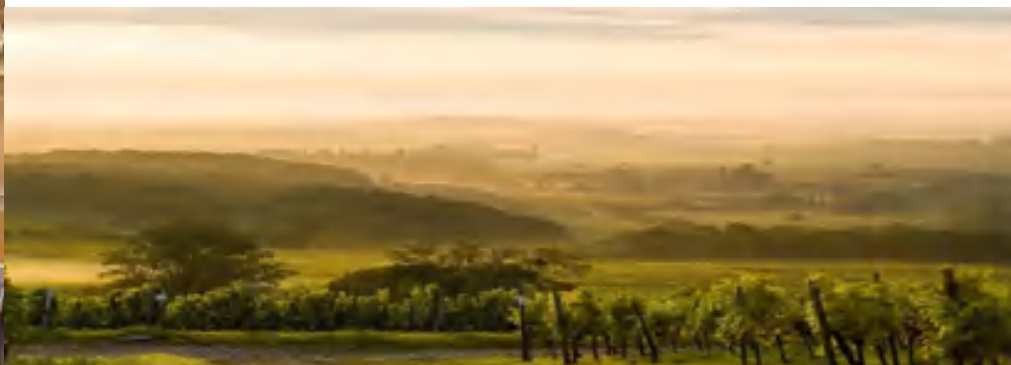
5 UNESCO world heritage sites

and other fascinating places to visit



... and landscapes.

Black Forest National Park, Alsace, Palatinate,
Mid Rhine Valley





The University.



Future since 1386

Germany's oldest university

Center of scientific excellence and innovation

Home of 29 Nobel Prize Laureates

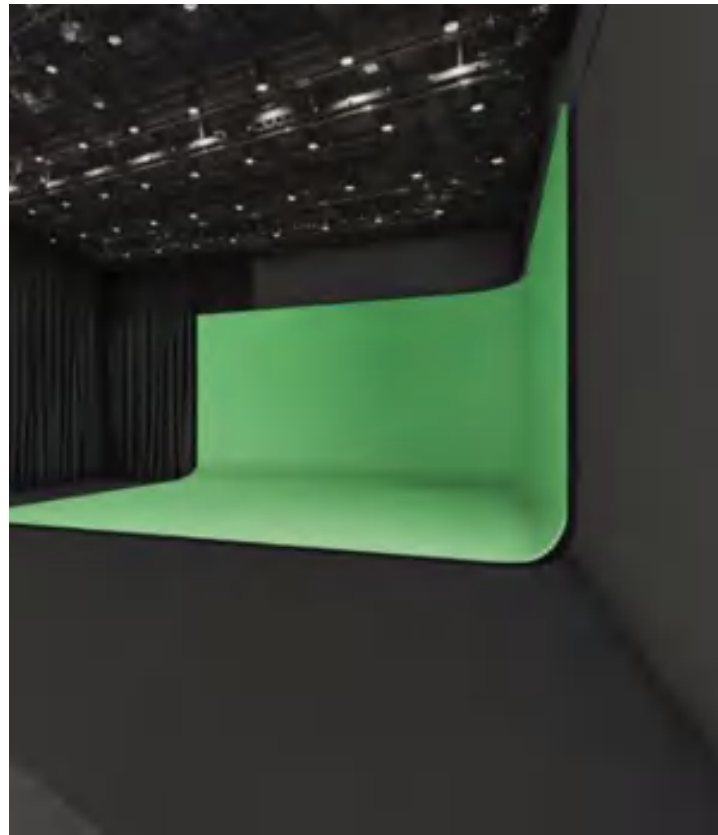
Shanghai rating „Clinical Medicine“:
Nr. 1 Germany, Nr. 3 Europe



The Venue.

The New Heidelberg Congress Center

The future of meetings in a brand-new location





The Social Event.



Perfect location for our Gala Dinner

SCHWETZINGEN PALACE

A gem of 18th century - European garden art and design.





Pre-Symposia: Science, practice and culture.



The pre-congress symposia are linked with
... cultural highlights

- **UNESCO heritage site, Maulbronn Monastery**
- University of Heidelberg and Congress Center

... Practice and Fun

- **Child Center Maulbronn**
Comprehensive Special Centre for Childhood Disabilities
(Social/Developmental Paediatric Institution)



Indoor- and
Outdoor Movement Center



The Medical Story.

DATE: June 24 to 28, 2025.



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The Participatory Process.

Our „goal“: Interdisciplinary, international and inclusive meeting


✓ **First: Organisational Structure**

- ✓ The basis to become „interdisciplinary, international, inclusive“

✓ **Second: Starting „Participatory Process“ with a Survey**

- ✓ European / International committee and national stakeholders and professional societies and clinicians
- ✓ Prioritizing the spectrum of disabilities, top themes, best presentation styles

✓ **Third: Onsite Visiting project „International Voices of Childhood-onset Disability“**

- ✓ Onsite visits and interviews of 3 to 5 professionals, 3 to 5 stakeholders, caregivers, p.w.l.e, service providers
 - ✓ Visiting 17 countries, all continents
 - ✓ Weekly video clips since January 2024, some background information on Social media
- 



The Presidents.



President

Rainer Blank, MD

Specialist in Social and Developmental Pediatrics, Neuropediatrics, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Professor, University of Heidelberg

Director of Child Center Maulbronn, Center for Child Neurology and Social Pediatrics



Vice-President

Christian Schaaf, MD

Physician-Scientist, Board-certified Medical Geneticist

Professor and Department Chair of Human Genetics, University of Heidelberg

Visiting Professor, Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA



Vice-President / IAACD

Ros Boyd, PhD

Scientific Director; Physiotherapist

Professor, University of Brisbane

QCPRRC & NHMRC Leadership Fellow
Child Health Research Centre, Brisbane

Chair, IAACD Congress Planning Committee



Organisation.

-> **GOAL: More relevant research for Users, Families, Stakeholder and Caregiver organisations**

Planning Committee (Executive Committee)

Rainer Blank (President), Christian Schaaf (Vice-President), Ros Boyd (Vice-President/ IAACD)
(Chairs/Co-Chairs (subcommittees), Awards/Scholarships, PCO/Congress management, Congress Program secretary)

Subcommittees

Scientific Committee

Sebastian Schroeder
Gudrun Rappold

35 members,
21 countries,
5 continents,
17 specialities

Family, User, Stakeholder Committee

Henriette Hoegl
Ila Eckhoff (P.w.l.e.)

14 members,
11 countries,
4 continents

All categories disabilities

Supporting Network Committee

Rainer Blank (Medicine)
Sabine Vincon (Therapy)

25 organisations,
9 medical, 7 therapy/
nurse/paedagogic,
9 stakeholder
organisations

All categories disabilities

Communication / Media

Christian Schaaf
Moritz Mall

6 Members incl.
1 P.w.l.e.
1 Communications EACD
1 Communications
IAACD

Finances and Partners

Christof Kieninger
Elodie Klevenz

5 Members incl.
RehaKind
CP Foundation
BW Foundation

European network of 32 national coordinators of the EACD



The Scientific Committee.

Members in alphabetical order (prename)

Sebastian Schröder (Chair, local)	MD, Professor, Child Neurologist	D	Guro Andersen	PhD, Professor, Pediatrician	NO
Gudrun Rappold (Co-Chair, local)	PhD, Professor, Molecular Human Geneticist	D	Gourong Wei	PhD, Professor, Physiotherapist	CHN
Ros Boyd (Co-Chair, IAACD)	PhD, Professor, Physiotherapist	AUS	Hu Hao Cougar	MD, Professor, Basic Scientist	CHN
Amina Abubakar	PhD, Psychologist, Public Health	KEN	Jacob Vorstman	MD, Child Psychiatrist	CAN
Anja van Campenhout	MD, Professor, Orthopedic Surgeon	BE	Jan-Willem Gorter	MD, PhD, Professor, Physiatrist	NL
Andrew Gordon	PhD, Professor, Psychologist	USA	Jill Zwicker	PhD, Occupational Therapist	CAN
Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige	MD, Child Neurologist	UGA	Katarzyna Swieczkowska	Master, Special Education, parent representative	PL
Asis Kumar Ghosh	MPT, Paediatric Physiotherapist	IND	Kristie Bell	PhD, Dietician	AUS
Bert Steenbergen	PhD, Professor, Human Movement Scientist	NL	Lindsay Pennington	PhD, Senior Lecturer, Speech and Language Therapist	GB
Cilla Springer	MD, Developmental Paediatrician	ZA	Maria del Consuelo Ibarra Rodriguez	MD, Professor, Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine	MEX
Christopher Newman (EACD Scientific Chair)	MD, Child Neurologist	CH	M. Wade Shrader	MD, Professor, Orthopedic Surgeon	USA
Diane Damiano	PhD, Professor, Physiotherapist, Movement Scientist	USA	MinYoung Kim	MD, PhD, Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine	KOR
Dido Green	PhD, Professor, Occupational Therapist	GB	Richard Hastings	PhD, Educational Psychologist	GB
Egmar Longo	PhD, Physiotherapist	BRA	Sylvain Brochard	MD, PhD, Professor, Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine	F
Elisabet Rodby Bousquet	PhD, Physiotherapist	SE	Tapas Kumar Som	MD, Neonatologist	IND
Eric Domelloff	PhD, Professor, Psychologist	SE	Thomas Dreher	MD, Professor, Orthopedic Surgeon	CH
Guilherme Polanczyk	MD, Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist	BRA	Tobias Banaschewski	MD, Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist	D
Gulam Khandaker	PhD, Paediatrician, Public Health	BGL	Volker Mall	MD, Professor, Social Pediatrician	D
			Xiaojie Li	MD, PhD, Basic Scientist	CHN
			Yukihiro Kitai	MD, Child Neurologist	JPN

35 researchers, clinicians and representatives from 21 countries, 17 disciplines and specialties



Main themes.

01.0 UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD-ONSET DISABILITY

02.0 EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTIONS ACROSS PROFESSIONS

03.0 ADVANCES IN CLINICAL AND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS

04.0 INTERVENTIONS: METHODS, EVIDENCE, SUSTAINABILITY

05.0 BUILDING LIFE-LONG STRATEGIES

05.0 SOCIAL IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS: INCLUSION AND SPECIAL NEEDS

07.0 EFFECTIVE SELF-/ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

08.0 ABC FOR CHILDHOOD-ONSET DISABILITY FOR LOW RESOURCE SETTINGS AND NON-PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

09.0 UNSPECIFIED



Website / Media / Communication.

Accounts for EACD/IAACD 2025

Instagram Account Name: [eacd_iaacd_2025](#)

Twitter Handle: [@2025Eacd](#)

Twitter Account Name: [eacd_iaacd_2025](#)

Facebook Page Handle: [@eacd.iaacd.2025](#)

Facebook Page Name: [EACD IAACD 2025](#)

Website: [eacd-iaacd2025.org](#)

Voices: [eacd-iaacd2025.org/networking-and-communication/international-voices/](#)

*Developing networks –
networks for development*

International Voices on Childhood-onset Disabilities –



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 Heidelberg Germany

Developing Networks –
 Networks For Development

Show all

PARENTS



Loss of a child with severe disability – a heart-breaking story of a sole mother

A mother talks about her profound grief as she has lost her daughter who had a very severe disability. Her touching story shows the intensive and strong relationship of...

→ watch on YouTube

PROFESSIONALS



Kindergarten teachers on services and attitudes of families having children with disabilities

Two educators talk about how families in Egypt deal with the disabilities of their children and about the service providers they are looking for. Often, the amount of money...

→ watch on YouTube

PARENTS



Stories of children with disabilities, everyday challenges and the role of the family

2 mothers of children describe their situation with their children having severe intellectual and also behavioural challenges. The first mother talks also about the role of th...

→ watch on YouTube

PROFESSIONALS



Physiotherapy in Egypt – development and current issues

Prof. Faten Abdul Azeem describes the development of physiotherapy in Egypt from the first chair in the Arabic world until today. She talks about the current issues...

PROFESSIONALS



From science towards general awareness

Two neuroscientists from Australia and Netherlands talk about basic issues concerning neurodevelopmental disorders, e.g. Developmental Coordination disorders DCD...

PROFESSIONALS



Service providers for users and coaching for mothers in Australia

Annette Davis, manager of SCOPÉ, one of the largest organisation in Australia which provides therapy, training and housing of people with lived experiences talks about...



Call for abstracts

March 11, 2024 until June 16, 2024

All formats with MULTIPLE speakers

Scientific formats:

- Pre-Conference Symposia (Tuesday / Wednesday)
- Main Conference: Focused Symposia, Mini-Symposia (7am – 7pm CET, Thu to Sat)
- „Night track“ Online Symposia „Around the World“ (7am – 7pm CET, Thu/Fri to Fri/Sat)

Educational formats:

- Pre-conference Courses (Tuesday / Wednesday)
- Main Conference: Instructional Courses and Seminars (7am – 7pm CET, Thu to Sat)
- „Night track“ Online Courses „Around the World“ (7am – 7pm CET, Thu/Fri to Fri/Sat)

Selection criteria: novelty / content, good scientific / educational standard, international participation, multiprofessional and/or inclusive participation



Ethical and historical message.

1945 to 2025

80 years:

since the end of World War II

80 years:

integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society after exclusion and persecution

80 years:

development of modern genetic sciences and breakthroughs instead of „sorting out“

**Inclusion, Care and Respect of the Weakest Members in our Societies
+ Developing and Building Networks in and between our Societies**

= Piece of Work for Peace in the World



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BIENVENUE À HEIDELBERG

