

## Notes from The President

When I wrote my last notes about 8 months ago, Past President Anne Petersen, Ulman Lindenberger and I worked on a proposal for a new "Jacobs-ISSBD Mentored Fellowship Program for Early Career Scholars." This allows for a long-term support contract with Jacobs Foundation which secures funding for several of ISSBD's young scientist activities, including travel grants for ISSBD preconference workshops and the attendance of International Regional Workshops. Two different Early Career Scholarship Programs, one open to applicants from all countries in the world, the second focusing on early career scholars from "currency restricted" countries were conceptualized, with the aim of recruiting doctoral students in two "waves" or cohorts, the first starting in January, 2012.

We were very excited to learn about the positive outcome of our efforts in April, 2011. Gelgia Fetz and Simon Sommer from Jacobs Foundation informed us that the proposal was approved by the Scientific Board of the Foundation. We are very grateful to Gelgia and Simon for their continuing support and valuable advice in this complicated matter. As a main result, a total of 20 early career scientists will be supported by the Jacobs-ISSBD program over a 6-year period. Stipend advertisements were posted at several sites from early June on. The deadline for applications was August 31, 2011. The Early Career Development Committee chaired by Ulman Lindenberger will select the candidates. Ulman will organize the selection process, with administrative support by his coworker Anke Kligenbiel. The fellowships will be transferred to the successful applicants' home institutions in all parts of the world, and then will commence in January 2012. It is required that applicants hold, or anticipate receiving very soon a master's degree, diploma or equivalent in one of the relevant fields, and that they plan a doctoral project in developmental research. Half of the fellowships are reserved for students from currency-restricted countries. We very much look forward to starting an exciting new ISSBD-Jacobs early career scientist program very soon. Please check Josafá Cunha's ISSBD E-News from August 2011 for more details regarding the application procedure.

There is also good news about the ISSBD Developmental Country Fellowship program organized by Peter K. Smith. As you may know, 2010 was the first active year of the Developing Country Fellowships scheme. From a strong field of applicants, finally three candidates (Noel Malanda from Kenya, Lauren Wild from South Africa, and Bestern Kaani from Zambia) were selected and offered a Fellowship in January 2010. All three accepted. Each fellow was awarded free registration and a travel/subsistence allowance for the ISSBD conference in Lusaka, July 2010, and they all presented their research in a Poster Workshop. Peter Smith informed me that the progress reports delivered by the Fellows and documenting the work carried out during the first year of the fellowship look very promising, and that continuation for a second year is likely, depending on positive evaluations of the DCF committee.

Possibilities to increase the number of fellowships from three to six were discussed at our EC meeting in Montreal earlier this year. Although a final decision was postponed to the next EC meeting in Edmonton, Canada, July 2012, it looks like we will be able to increase the number of fellowships.

Another important issue discussed at our last EC meeting in Montreal was the next biennial ISSBD meeting in Edmonton, Canada, in July 2012. It was obvious from these discussions that Nancy Galambos, Lisa Strohschein, Jeff Bisanz, and their team are working very hard to prepare an excellent scientific program for the meeting. We have had continuous exchange about important planning steps and decisions since then, and I agree with the conference organizers that the invited program for

ISSBD 2012 is rounding into excellent shape, promising to offer stimulating contributions from developmental scientists in multiple disciplines and from many continents of the globe. The local organizers submitted a number of proposals for grants and other forms of funding, and came up with innovative ideas to secure sponsorships. Given the problem that travelling to Edmonton from continents such as Africa, Asia, and Australia is rather expensive, we hope that the request submitted by the organizers to Star Alliance (one of the largest associations of international airlines) for discounted airline rates will be eventually successful. I look forward to an exciting and truly rewarding scientific meeting in Canada next year. Please contact the ISSBD 2012 website (<http://www.issbd2012.com/>) for more information on the conference.

Please note that ISSBD just announced its call for award nominations to be celebrated at the ISSBD 2012 meeting. More details about the four awards can be found in the August issue of the ISSBD E-News. Toni Antonucci, the chair of our Awards committee, looks forward to receiving many nominations. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2011.

When this report is published, the ISSBD regional workshop on "Risk, Protection, and Resiliency among Children-at risk: Research and Action Plans", organized by Suman Verma and Deepali Sharma and held at the University of Chandigarh, India, will have just taken place. Suman and Deepali did a great job and put a lot of effort into preparing the workshop and mastering various administrative problems, including immense government formalities. They came up with a very attractive program dealing with important topics such as contexts and environments responsible for risky outcomes, successful coping and resilience, and ways of linking research on these issues with policy and practice. Given the high scientific quality of presenters at the workshop, I have no doubt that this event managed to foster international discourse on generally relevant topics and helped to significantly improve early career scientists' knowledge about these issues.

A similar event will take place in Africa later this month. Esther Foluke Akinsola and her team from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, will organize the 9th African regional workshop to be hosted by the department of psychology, University of Lagos, and to be held from November 28-30, 2011. The theme is "Consolidating and extending African early career scholars' research capacity across the life span." Given the fact that currently very few African scholars receive advanced training in research methods that would allow such research to be conducted and effectively disseminated, it seems important to organize an event having experts report on the options regarding this issue. Early career scholars will be trained in existing and innovative methods of planning, executing and managing qualitative and quantitative cross-sectional and longitudinal research in human development across the lifespan. Also, an international journal editor will be invited to provide insight about publication in international journals and tips about what editors look for in a manuscript to make it acceptable for publication.

From the very beginning of my presidency on, the development of international membership has been a major concern. During the last couple of months, the membership secretary Xinyin Chen and I sent out numerous reminder letters to members who had not yet renewed their membership, asking for reasons and advertising the advantages of ISSBD membership. We also contacted our Regional Coordinators in this regard, asking them to intensify membership recruitment strategies and to inform target scientists about the advantages of ISSBD membership. We do hope that these measures will be effective, even though it may still be too early to judge the outcome. It seems

important to note that Nancy Galambos and her team are promoting membership prior to the next ISSBD conference. There is a direct link to JOIN ISSBD on every page of the ISSBD2012 website, reminding registrants that they get a reduced conference registration fee if they become an ISSBD member. Given that we still offer a free membership for the first year, we are confident that our efforts will be successful in the long run. We also hope that the regional workshops in India and Nigeria will help in increasing membership in these countries.

Related to the membership issue, the EC members recently discussed the issue of whether we should offer hard copies of our membership directory. The EC members agreed that we should keep the electronic version, given that Kerry Barner and her team at SAGE have done a very good job with improving the member report on our website (please log into the secure site of our homepage to access these reports). On the other hand, however, several EC members saw a need to provide all those who do not have ready and continuous access to the internet with a hard copy, preferably a PDF document. A decision about this issue will be made soon.

As I already indicated in my last notes, there are plans to reactivate and reorganize the ISSBD archives located in the North Holland Archive at Haarlem, The Netherlands. At our last EC meeting, our Dutch member and IJBD editor proposed the following plan: All previous officers of the Society (presidents, secretaries, treasurers, editors) will be contacted and asked to indicate whether they already sent their materials to the North Holland Archive. All those who still keep relevant materials in their offices will be asked to submit these materials to the archives. New officers will be encouraged to do the same. Marcel will hire an assistant (paid by ISSBD) who should go through the files, categorize the materials, and also identify core documents. According to our estimates, this task should take about a year. We will then try to find suitable ways of electronic archiving of the most important documents. I very much thank Marcel for taking the lead in this business.

A final comment concerns our financial situation. First of all, it seems fair to state that our finances continue to be healthy.

Despite previous financial turbulence in the global market, the finances of the Society are solid, and we were able to make a profit in comparison to last year. No changes were made in the investment portfolios, and we have recovered nearly all of the losses we suffered in 2008/9 as a result of the global banking crisis. We will, however, rethink our investment strategies, and make sure our money brings good returns. Currently the Finance Committee is considering new investment opportunities, with the priority of maintaining a secure financial base for the society. One of our major problems with regard to finances is that neither the President nor the Treasurer can have direct access to our (American) bank accounts because they are not US citizens. Both Ingrid Schoon and I cannot act as authorized persons on our US accounts and are unable to directly influence our investments. To solve this problem, Anne Petersen created an ISSBD financial office in the US during her presidency, which has been managed by Rick Burdick since January 2010. Rick collects monthly statements of all accounts, provides quarterly updates of the accounts, and initiates payments following approval by the Treasurer and the President. Ingrid and I are grateful to Rick for the very good job he has done so far, and also to Anne who made all this possible. Thanks are also due to Liz Susman, chair of our Finance committee, who is willing to work with Rick as an authorized individual on behalf of ISSBD, and to support Rick with regard to carrying out our investment plans. With the new financial office in place, the Society can look forward to the future – being effective and prosperous in its activities.

When I write these notes, it is late August, and most of you are back from a well-deserved summer break. I hope that you are still in a good mood when you read my notes, and as optimistic as I am regarding the future of our Society. My exchanges with ISSBD members and committees continue to be very positive, and I am very impressed with the good spirits shown by all. Thank you for your continued support.

*Wolfgang Schneider*