

ISSPD Membership Survey: Summary of 98 responses

1. Present affiliation with ISSPD

Current Member	93	95%
Past but not current member	4	4%
Never been a member	1	1%

Total responses **98**

Current Membership Response Rate: 28.4 %
(based on 327 members for 2009)

2. Length of membership

1 year	2	2%
2 years	9	9%
3 - 5 years	34	35%
5 - 10 years	20	21%
> 10 years	32	33%

3. Geographic region

	<u>Response rate*</u>		<u>Membership 2009</u>	
Europe	51	53%	200	61%
North America	36	37%	106	32%
Asia/Australia	6	6%	16	5%
Latin America	4	4%	5	2%

*including 4 past members (North America 1, Europe 2, Latin America 1)

4. Degree (check all)

Ph.D.	50	52%
MD.	46	47%
Masters Degree	5	5%
Other	8	8%

5. Involvement in PD activities (check all)

Research		78	80%
Education/teaching		80	82%
Clinical work		87	90%
psychotherapy	79		
psychopharmacology	31		
diagnostics and testing	57		
General interest		15	15%
Neurology/genetics		6	6%
Other		8	8%

6. Learned about ISSPD (check all)

Colleagues		54	55%
Journal of Personality Disorders		33	34%
National or Regional Society		16	17%
Advertisement of International or Regional Congresses		9	9%
Internet / ISSPD Website		4	4%
Other		6	6%

7. Decision to join ISSPD (check all)

Receiving the Journal of Personality Disorders		67	69%
Access to scientific/educational meetings		57	59%
Collegial affiliation and/or collaboration		54	56%
General interest in personality disorders		52	54%
National affiliation that included membership in ISSPD		16	17%
Other		4	4%

8. Expectations on ISSPD (response rate 84%)

Information	50%
<p>Access to/information about/learn/update on/ keeping up with new knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> studies and research on PD clinical work on PD literature on PD evolution about PD current theory and other relevant issues Meetings and congresses <p>Receive newsletters with information on job openings, ongoing research projects</p>	
Collegial connection and communication	35%
<p>Collegial affiliation, belongingness, discussions, communication, contact, interaction, collaboration, exchange, sharing of ideas information and knowledge</p> <p>Joining a multidisciplinary community of people interested in improving care/experience/treatment of PD</p> <p>Connect with international researchers and PD experts</p> <p>Learn from colleagues at scientific/educational meetings</p> <p>Communicate with other <u>students</u> interested in PD</p> <p>Enjoy collegiality, feel connected, meet people from all over the world</p>	
JPD	14%
Receiving the JPD	
Meetings	
<p>Learn about and attend meetings</p> <p>Present own research/ participate in debates</p>	
Organizational connection/Network	10%
<p>Belong to an International scientific organization/community</p> <p>Enter scientific and support network of researchers/colleagues</p> <p>Stimulation, inspiration and support from the organization</p>	
Specific organizational expectations	15%
<p>Opportunities for international research</p> <p>Contribute to support new research, and improving studies and understanding of PD and their clinical impact</p> <p>Act as a forum for international developments in research on PD</p> <p>Change communities' and policymakers' views on and enhance interest in PD</p> <p>Work towards cross cultural understanding of PD</p>	

Specific professional expectations

Improve patient work

Develop ideas about teaching

Learn about research methodology

Understand the connection between PD and DSM IV and DSM V

9. Advantages with membership (response rate 81%)

JPD **46%**

Receiving JPD

Collegial connection and communication **37%**

International collaboration, exchange, sharing

Facilitate contact and communication among colleagues, researchers, authors

Enjoy collegiality, build friendships, and meet international colleagues face to face

Information **27%**

Obtain: new scientific ideas,

new knowledge

current information

update on PD research

Distribute new ideas

Meetings **20%**

Get information about and attend meetings, congresses

Advanced notification of biannual meetings

Present at congresses

Organizational activities and network **15%**

Belonging to and be involved in an international community

Develop and belong to support networks/involve in networking

Specific professional advantages **20%**

Professional learning and development

Update on treatment and education

Inspiration for teaching and new research projects

Exposure to and learning about alternative (biological/genetic) approaches
and different perspectives to understanding and treatment of PD

Facilitate publications on PD, publish own work/articles

10. Dissatisfaction with membership (response rate 79%)

Dissatisfaction:	51	53%
No dissatisfaction:	26	27%
No Reply :	20	20%

General communication and information

Incomplete/insufficient information about events, meetings, current research, etc.
 Little or absence of ongoing contact, difficulties sustaining active collaboration
 between meetings
 Old fashioned bad and slow communication
 No regular ISSPD Newsletter
 Lack of communication between Board and members

Website

Lack of modern computer usage
 Unable to pay membership dues via internet
 No links between affiliates through the website
 Too little information on the website from the officers

Membership

Nomination and voting for officers not open to members/no democratic elections
 Insufficient Regional Member representation and voting in the ISSPD Board
 Weak membership influence

Meetings

Congresses unaffordable/extremely expensive/difficult to attend
 ISSPD feels US-centered/ more conferences/lectures in the US
 Not enough regional and national meetings

General limitations of ISSPD

Only organizes conferences and provides the JPD
 Clique like organization/elitist/inaccessible/centered/biased
 Australia and NewZeeland not well represented
 Leaders remain the same, older presidents permanent members of the board
 Needs new blood
 Biased against psychodynamic research

Specific organizational tasks and initiatives

Poor promotion of research on PD, collaborative studies and educational programs, and acceptance of PD
 Poor lobbying within APA and WPA
 Lack of presence outside of PD research
 Lack of influence over funding agencies
 Little attention to attract student members and no student organization within ISSPD

Specific service related problems

Problems renewing the membership
 Problems receiving the JPD
 Amateur style of membership card
 Delayed information on New York congress
 Skip electronic submission of abstracts

11. Changes and improvements (check all) (response rate 69%)

Collegial communication	39	40%
Website service and interaction	37	38%
Information	33	34%
Meetings	26	27%
Membership influence and voting	22	23%
Publications	18	19%
Other	7	7%
No changes	3	3%

Communication and Information

Higher inter-meeting profile
 Better and more regular information, email and newsletter correspondence to members
 Send a brief report about the annual final accounts of ISSPD to the members
 More information on research, collaborative projects, grants, education, materials (instruments, manuals), publication of interest for members etc.
 More publications (formal and informal)
 Update on ISSPD Members publications
 Update on DSM V

JPD

Make the JPD more noticeable
 Include information in the JPD
 Introduce a Supplement of JPD with abstracts of papers presented at the ISSPD Congresses
 Introduce a book review section in JPD

Website

The organization should be managed through the internet
 Better update on PD publications and new research on the Website
 Better communication via ISSPDs Website with more interaction, collegial sharing and discussions,
 and exchange of ideas between members
 a web log for information
 message board for posting of recent scientific literature, discussion of articles, Q&A
 links with PD information for consultation of professionals, families and public.
 Possibility to pay for Webcasts of seminars from International congresses
 Post summary of the most important news with comments about papers and articles

Membership

Increase the added value of belonging to ISSPD
 Improve Regional member representation on the ISSPD Board
 Involve membership
 Establish voting at membership meeting at congresses
 Membership diversity
 Promote a new generation of people who wants to advance in the field
 Low membership, more members needed in ISSPD

Meetings

Cheaper annual fees and congress registration for low and middle income countries
 More regional and national meetings
 Alternate Congresses between US and Europe

Organizational operation

ISSPD needs central office staffing
 Link the national societies to ISSPD, i.e., national leadership represented on the ISSPD Board,
 joint meetings, voting arrangements
 Concerns that the organization becoming splintered. ISSPD does not have a presence such as
 in Europe or UK, e.g., BIGSPD does not appear to be related to ISSPD – would rather have
 subgroups that relate in an organized way to ISSPD
 Seek to affiliate organizations like BIGSPD through membership incentives.
 Help regional branches of ISSPD to be widespread

Specific tasks and initiatives

Taking more active role in research and education
 Create and organize research projects with the participation of several
 groups of members
 Support and promote improved ideas regarding teaching (residents, interns),
 More training/educational opportunities for advanced clinicians
 More support for younger investigators, encourage specializing in PD early in career
 More attention to attract student members, initiate a student organization within ISSPD
 Information about fellow ship

Develop advocacy

Promote more acceptance of PD

Influence Governments policies regarding assessment and treatment of PD

Information to regional and National Psychiatric Associations and
University Institutes

Summary:

1. ISSPD Membership consists of roughly three groups based on activity and involvement
 - a) Recipients of JPD and information
 - b) Actively participating, communicating and collaborating members
 - c) Organizationally interested and/or involved members
2. ISSPD has a relatively equal distribution of membership involvement in research 80%, education 82% and clinical activities 90%, and between MDs (47%) and PhDs (52%).
3. A core group of people (30%) express no dissatisfaction with ISSPD and no call for changes
4. The major areas of advantages with ISSPD Membership
 - a) Receiving JPD
 - b) Access to an international collegial/research community and involve in network, communication, and collaboration
 - c) Be informed about and attend meetings
 - d) Professional learning and development
5. The major areas of dissatisfaction and suggested changes are:
 - a) Information and communication among members and between Board and the Membership
 - b) The Website
 - c) Availability band costs of meetings
 - d) Membership influence
 - e) Organizational operations
 - f) The scope of ISSPD's tasks and initiatives

Conclusions:

Overall ISSPD is fulfilling a function and implementing its missions, satisfying a core group of members. ISSPD is on top of and well representing the ongoing research activities and clinical advancement through the Journal of Personality Disorders and the Congresses. However, the increasing demands and expectations of new technology and communication service require major initiatives and upgrades of our organizational and administrative functions. In addition, the field of personality disorders is rapidly expanding. This necessitates ISSPD to implement new and more

established means for information, advocacy, education, research and leadership, guidance and network. In other words, ISSPD need to show presence and active participation, encourage, support and award membership excellence, initiatives and contributions. The International network needs upgrading in terms of accessibility, educational initiatives, cross-cultural communication and membership influence.

Recommendations:

Information and communication

Implement active communication and information between Board and members,

Develop more means for communication between members

Feature Bylaws, Minutes from Board Meetings, Annual Financial Reports etc on the Website

Implement Newsletter, 2 – 3 times/year and elect Newsletter Editor with the task of updating the members on: research, collaborative projects, grants, education, instruments, manuals, programs, publication of interest for members, advocacy etc.

Meetings

Encourage and initiate educational meetings

Stimulate national meetings through the National Societies

Website

Upgrade and expand Website functions and capacity for information and communication:

- a) Create general area open to the public and separate area for ISSPD membership access only
- b) interactive functions for communication, discussions, QaA, message board, etc
- c) information on new research studies, educational programs, publications, meetings etc with links
- d) information on fellowships, grants, professional development and opportunities, etc
- e) function for electronic payment
- f) function for membership voting

Membership

Implement membership drives and advertisements to increase membership

Encourage and award membership initiatives and active involvement in ISSPD

Implement membership voting through the Website – means for voting accessible for all members.

Decide on a model for membership elections of candidates for ISSPD Board and Committees that are in line with the laws for non-profit incorporation in Massachusetts, US, and with the missions and structure of ISSPD.

Implement a range of Membership Status – Professionals, Students, Professionals from low-income countries, non-professionals etc

Stimulate young career membership, implement a Student/Young researcher section

Organizational Operation

Consider hiring an Administrative Director part time to be in charge of the Society's business, administrative functioning, information processing, membership service and communication to members

Implement diversified membership and congress fees for members from low-income nations.

Implement mechanisms for organizational affiliation and membership of National Societies to ISSPD

Specific tasks and initiatives

Promote collaborative international research projects

Discuss the role of ISSPD in advocacy, and institutional and governmental influence and information